

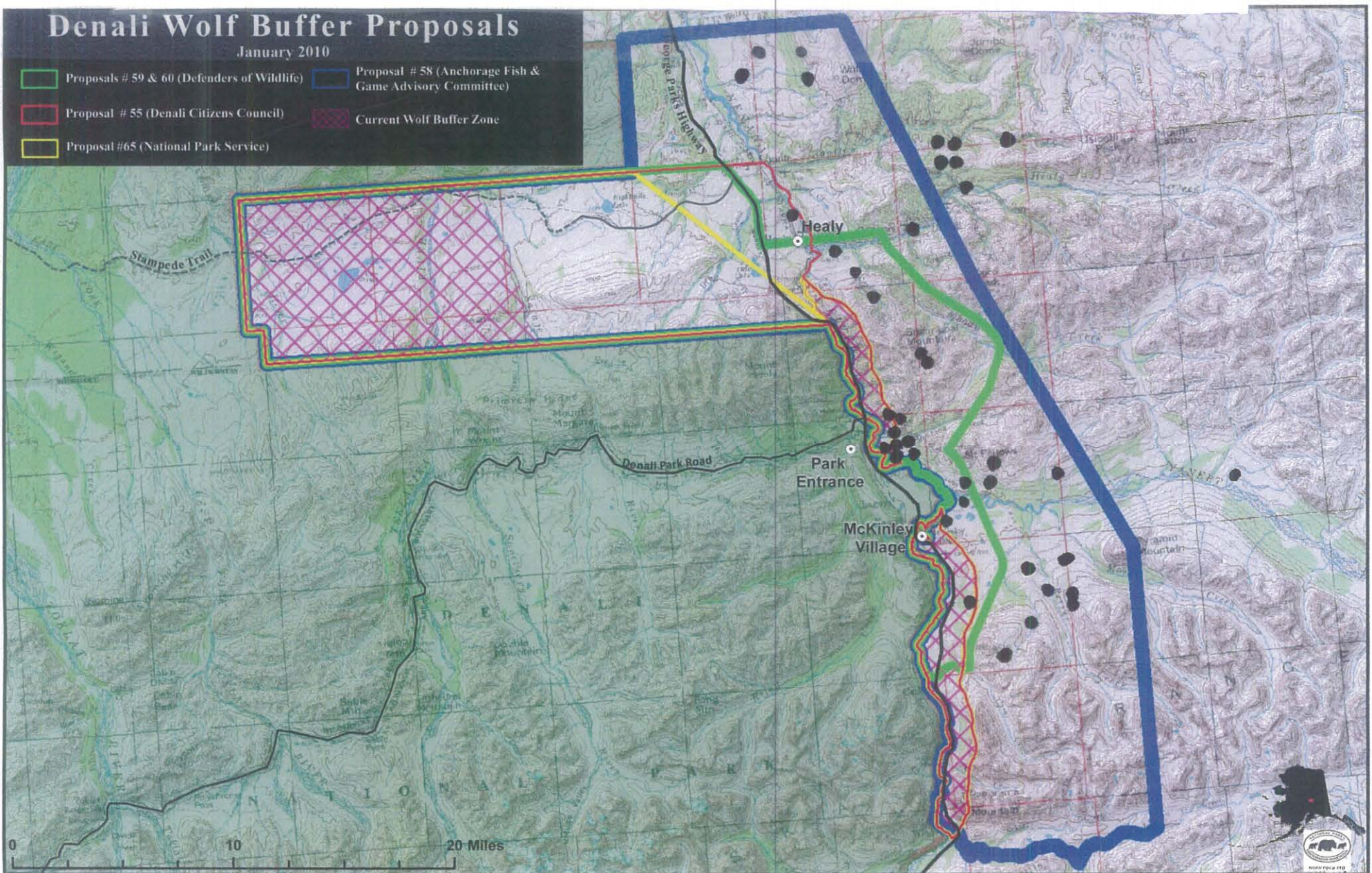
Locations of radio-collared Denali Park wolves in and near the Nenana Canyon Buffer Area, winters 1995-2002. Data from G. Haber (2002).

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Denali Wolf Buffer Proposals

January 2010

- Proposals # 59 & 60 (Defenders of Wildlife)
- Proposal # 58 (Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee)
- Proposal # 55 (Denali Citizens Council)
- Proposal #65 (National Park Service)
- Current Wolf Buffer Zone



Nic VAN BALLEMBERGHE

1991 Alaska Op. Atty. Gen. (Inf.) 227, 1991 WL 542011 (Alaska A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General
State of Alaska

File No. 663-91-0309

April 12, 1991

SUBJECT Nuchalawoyya Potlatch

Laird A. Jones
Director

Our office has been asked for an informal opinion concerning the status of the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation after the state supreme court's decision in McDowell v. State, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989), invalidated the rural limitation of the subsistence law. The regulation, 5 AAC 92.053, currently authorizes the taking of up to three moose per regulatory year for the limited purpose of use at the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. [FN1] Subsistence permits to take the moose are issued by the Department of Fish and Game to the Native Village of Tanana. [FN2] The regulation was previously authorized by AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258 and AS 16.05.330.

We were asked two specific questions concerning the regulation after the invalidation of the rural limitation by the state supreme court in the McDowell decision:

- (1) whether the Board has authority to adopt regulations which require the harvest to be used in a particular manner (in this instance, for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch), and
- (2) whether the Board has authority to promulgate a regulation which applies only to a certain geographic location or community, such as a village.

The summary answer to your inquiry is that we believe the Board of Game has the authority under the subsistence law to adopt regulations that require the harvest to be used in a particular manner so long as such regulations are reasonable and do not violate state and federal constitutional considerations. After McDowell, however, the Board of Game no longer has authority to promulgate regulations that apply only to residents in certain geographic locations or communities. Furthermore, insofar as the existing Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation delegates to the Native Village Tanana the authority to designate who receives the hunting permit we believe it is inconsistent with the McDowell decision and also is an improper delegation of the discretionary functions of the commissioner.

Authority for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch Regulation.

For purposes of conservation, development, and utilization, the Board has general authority to regulate seasons, areas, bag limits, and quotas for sport and subsistence hunting. AS 16.05.221; AS 16.05.255. The subsistence statute, AS 16.05.258, specifically authorizes the Board to provide for identified subsistence uses. This statute directs the Board to identify customary and traditional uses of game populations, or portions thereof, in order to provide for subsistence uses. The Board is directed to determine whether portions of the identified game populations can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, and, if so, how much of the harvestable portion is needed to provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the identified subsistence uses of those game populations. The Board must then adopt subsistence hunting regulations for each identified game population for which a harvestable surplus exists.

*2 Under this statutory authority, the Board has previously made a finding that there is customary and traditional use of moose for purposes of the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. The Board also determined that there was a harvestable surplus of moose in Unit 20(F) and authorized the taking of up to three moose annually for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. [FN3] See 5 AAC 92.053. The three-moose quota represents the Board's determination of what was required to provide a "reasonable opportunity" to satisfy the identified subsistence use.

Even after invalidation of the rural limitation by the McDowell decision, we believe the subsistence finding underlying permitting the harvest of moose for the identified subsistence use of the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch is still valid. There is no longer any authority, however, to limit the harvest to certain rural residents or communities. The subsistence permits would now have to be available to any Alaska resident who wished to engage in the subsistence use. Furthermore, we believe there is no longer authority under AS 16.05.330 to allow the Native Village of Tanana to dispense the permits. [FN4]

Authority to Regulate Uses of Subsistence Taken Game.

Although the Board clearly has authority to regulate the taking of moose for subsistence, the question remains whether the board has authority to require that the harvest be used for a certain purpose such as the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. We believe the Board has such authority.

The state has ownership of wild animals and the authority of the state to regulate and control such wildlife is well established. *Geer v. Connecticut*, 161 U.S. 519, 526 (1896); See *Alaska Const. art. VIII, § 3*. Because of its ownership, and in the exercise of its police power, the state may regulate and control the taking, subsequent use, and property rights that may be acquired in such wildlife. *Geer v. Connecticut*; *Lacoste v. Dep't of Conservation*, ?? U.S. 545, 549 (1923) (citations omitted); *State v. State Fish & Game Commission*, 437 P.2d 373, 376 (Mont.1968). The state's control over game extends even to restricting the use or right of property in the game after it is taken or killed. 38 C.J.S. Game § ?? (1943).

The legislature, through the state's subsistence law, has exercised its right to restrict the uses in game after it is taken. By statute, subsistence uses are defined as follows:

The noncommercial, customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources by a resident [domiciled in a rural area] of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; in this paragraph, "family" means persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis.

*3AS 16.05.940(31). The uses of subsistence harvest are restricted in a number of ways by the definition of subsistence uses. It can only be noncommercial, must be for direct personal or family consumption for only those uses enumerated.

In addition, the legislature has granted the Board general authority to regulate the uses of game after it has been legally reduced to possession by the hunter. AS 16.05.255. Subsection (3) of AS 16.05.255 authorizes the Board to establish the methods for the transportation of game after it is taken. Subsection (10) authorizes the Board to "regulate sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the conservation, development and utilization of game" (emphasis added). Subsistence hunting is identified as "the taking of, hunting for, or possession of game by a resident domiciled in [a rural area of] the state for subsistence uses by means defined by the Board of Game." [FN5]AS 16.05.940(30) (emphasis added). Read together, subsection (10) and the definition of subsistence hunting authorize the Board to regulate the possession of subsistence-taken game for purpose of conservation, development, and utilization of the resource. [FN6]

As evidenced by the above-referenced statutes and regulations, there is authority for the Board to regulate the use of

subsistence game after it is taken. We believe that the Board's general authority in AS 16.05.255 to regulate subsistence hunting as needed for conservation, development, and utilization of game, together with the statutory definition of subsistence hunting to include both taking and possession, authorizes the Board to regulate post-taking uses. These statutes, when read together with the subsistence statutes, AS 16.05.258 and AS 16.05.940(31), which require the Board to provide for identified subsistence uses and defines what these uses may consist of, is sufficient authority for the Board to authorize as a subsistence use the taking of moose for use only at the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. However, the Board should be cautious not to implement any such regulations in a manner that grants a special privilege to a limited group while denying the privilege to other groups similarly situated, so as not to conflict with the state's constitutional common-use mandates.

After McDowell There is No Authority For the Board To Restrict Subsistence Uses to Certain Areas or Communities. Since the McDowell decision invalidated the rural limitation of the subsistence law, the Board no longer has authority to promulgate regulations that provide for subsistence uses limited to Alaska residents who reside in certain areas or communities. After the McDowell decision, once the Board has identified a customary and traditional use of a game population, the opportunity to engage in that use must be made available to all Alaska residents who wish to participate as subsistence users.

Neither is there authority after McDowell for the Board to delegate to the Native Village of Tanana or any other group, community, or individual its discretionary function of determining who will be permitted to hunt for moose under a regulation. The Department of Law has previously advised state agencies that where the administrative agency (in this case the Department of Fish and Game) is charged by the legislature with the responsibility of determining who will be permitted to engage in the hunts, the agency cannot surrender the responsibilities that have been conferred upon it nor, as a general rule, can it delegate those functions that are discretionary in nature. See 1986 Inf.Op.Att'y Gen. (July 31; 663-86-0504). To grant to the Native Village of Tanana, or any other group or entity, the discretionary authority to allocate hunting resources by determining who is eligible to receive hunting permits under the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation would be an improper delegation of the discretionary function accorded the Department of Fish and Game.

*4 Conversely, however, delegations of governmental functions that are ministerial rather than discretionary in nature are much easier to sustain against a court challenge. We believe the department has proper statutory authority under AS 16.05.255(a) to delegate to the Village the ministerial functions of recording and reporting the harvest under the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch hunting permits, so long as the Village does not exercise discretion in carrying out the task.

Conclusion.

In summary, we believe the Board of Game has authority adopt regulations that require the harvest of moose taken under subsistence permits to be used only for purposes of the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch so long as the regulation does not limit participation only to residents of certain areas. However, the existing and the proposed Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulations improperly delegate to the Native Village of Tanana the authority to designate who is to receive the permits.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Bonnie E. Harris
Assistant Attorney General
Natural Resources--Anchorage

[FN1]. We understand that the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch is a traditional Athapaskan gathering of a secular nature. We are informed that the Potlatch is not restricted to certain communities or groups, but that anyone may participate.

[FN2]. In its entirety, 5 AAC 92.053 reads as follows:

Permit To Take Moose for Nuchalawoyya Potlatch. The taking of up to 3 moose per regulatory year is allowed for the celebration known as the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch, under the terms of a subsistence permit issued by the department to the Native Village of Tanana. The Native Village of Tanana shall report to the department, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks, Alaska, within 5 days after the taking of each moose, the sex of the moose taken, and the location of taking.

[FN3]. This harvest has been authorized for two years, 1989 and 1990, with seasons the first two weeks of June, which is the customary time for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch.

[FN4]. After invalidation of the rural limitation the Board no longer as authority to determine eligibility for subsistence uses based upon the area or community where the user resides. We believe that issuing subsistence permits on a community or area basis under AS 16.05.330(c) would violate the common-use mandate of the Alaska Constitution, article VIII, in the same manner as did the rural limitation of AS 16.05.258.

[FN5]. The bracketed terms were severed from the statute by the state superior court's decision in *McDowell v. Collinsworth*, Case No. 3AN-83-1592 Civ (Alaska Super., 20;19).

[FN6]. This statutory authority is consistent with other statutes that also authorize certain restrictions on the use of wildlife after it is taken: For example, AS 16.05.370 authorizes the commissioner to require reports after the taking of fish and game resources; AS 16.05.920 prohibits certain post-taking uses, such as transporting, selling, or purchasing fish or game; AS 16.05.930 authorizes the commissioner to prohibit barter of subsistence-taken fish and game in certain circumstances; AS 16.40.010 regulates disposition of surplus musk oxen and bison and requires they be used for raising and breeding; and AS 16.10.240 regulates the shipping of live crab after taking.

There are also numerous regulations which regulate the use of wildlife after it is taken: 5 AAC 92 generally regulates the lawful possession or transportation of game or parts of game; 5 AAC 92.200 restricts the purchase, sale, or barter of game; 5 AAC 92.210 restricts the use of game as bait or dog food; 5 AAC 92.220 regulates the salvage of game meat, furs and hides; 5 AAC 77.001(f) regulates personal use fish bartered or used as bait after taking; and 5 AAC 75.010 regulates the transportation of sport fish out of state after taking.

TO: Board of Game, through its Chair, Cliff Judkins,
From: Mike Kramer, 216 Sacia Ave, Fairbanks AK 99712

The Board should not adopt proposal 46. The Village of Minto is requesting a local resident preference. The stated reason for their requested Community Hunt is that they do not like waiting in line for permits with residents who live outside of Minto Village. For the past several years, ADFG at the boards direction, have distributed Minto "any moose" registration permits at Fairbanks, Minto Village and Nenana at a designated time to the first people in line. Permit distribution at Minto has been marred by disputes over how places in line are established, local residency, and other issues. People are lining up earlier and earlier. Though not an ideal method of allocating registration permits (a draw would be most fair and cause less logistical problems for staff and the public) this method has helped insure that those who needed the "any moose" tag the most could get one, by standing in line the longest.

The Village's proposal for a Community Hunt would suffer the same constitutional problems inherent in the Ahtna hunt, and lead to similar problems with hunt administration and reporting. See, ADFG report on Ahtna Community hunt, attached.

This method of distribution is intended to put a significant number of these coveted permits in the hands of Minto Villagers. While this goal may be considered admirable by some, others consider it to be an example of the Board creating a defacto rural or village preference.

The Community Harvest Hunt was originally codified as a alternative means to provide a proxy type hunt to villages who practiced "party hunting" an illegal method whereby a select few individuals routinely harvested game on the "tags" of other local residents. The creation of Community Hunts in Chalkyitsik and the Yukon Flats importantly did not exclude or limit the opportunity of non local residents to hunt for Moose around Chalkyitsik or black bear in the Yukon Flats.

The proposed Minto Community Moose hunt would limit the number of available any moose permits available to the remaining state residents. This is illegal regardless of whether the hunt is classified as open registration or tier 1.

Attached is the Supreme Court brief filed by the Attorney General in the State v Morry subsistence case. The AG stated:

"The final question is whether the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, notwithstanding that there are no first tier eligibility standards in the subsistence law, may adopt regulations that will eliminate some Alaskans as eligible subsistence harvesters. The answer is no."

Also attached is a 1991 Attorney General opinion, the relevant portion is quoted below:

After McDowell There is No Authority For the Board To Restrict Subsistence Uses to Certain Areas or Communities.

Since the McDowell decision invalidated the rural limitation of the subsistence law, the Board no longer has authority to promulgate regulations that provide for subsistence uses limited to Alaska residents who reside in certain areas or communities. After the McDowell decision, once the Board has identified a customary and traditional use of a game population, the opportunity to engage in that use must be made available to all Alaska residents who wish to participate as subsistence users.

Neither is there authority after McDowell for the Board to delegate to the Native Village of Tanana or any other group, community, or individual its discretionary

function of determining who will be permitted to hunt for moose under a regulation. The Department of Law has previously advised state agencies that where the administrative agency (in this case the Department of Fish and Game) is charged by the legislature with the responsibility of determining who will be permitted to engage in the hunts, the agency cannot surrender the responsibilities that have been conferred upon it nor, as a general rule, can it delegate those functions that are discretionary in nature. See 1986 Inf.Op.Att'y Gen. (July 31; 663-86-0504). To grant to the Native Village of Tanana, or any other group or entity, the discretionary authority to allocate hunting resources by determining who is eligible to receive hunting permits under the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation would be an improper delegation of the discretionary function accorded the Department of Fish and Game.

The proposed special allocation of 50 Moose to Minto Village is unconstitutional and divisive for a variety of reasons. Minto Moose are abundant (>5 Moose sq. Mile) and the existing two week general season for spike fork-50" bull moose provides more than reasonable opportunity to meet the subsistence need of 40 moose from the area. The local biologists can provide you with Moose densities and hunter success rates that will demonstrate a reasonable opportunity for subsistence needs can be met through the general hunt.

The Village seeks more than "a reasonable opportunity", it seeks a purely resident based preference to harvest "any moose" under significantly more liberal conditions than any other Alaskan.

The Board should reject this proposal and further find that a reasonable opportunity to meet the subsistence needs for the area is provided in the general hunt.

The board should not require ADFG to hand out registration permits in select villages where the only possible reason for doing so is to help ensure that resident so those "favored" communities have a better opportunity to obtain a permit that essentially guarantees them a moose with any reasonable effort expended. The current allocation of "any moose" tags should be a drawing hunt.

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Report to the Board of Game on the first year of the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah Community Harvest Hunt Area

29 January – 1 February 2010
Winter 2010 Board of Game Meeting
Anchorage, AK
Statewide Regulations, Cycle A

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Summary

The State Tier II Nelchina Caribou hunt was eliminated in 2009 and replaced with a Tier I hunt and a community hunt. The Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah Community Hunt for moose and caribou was implemented August 2009. Since these are the eight Ahtna villages in the region, this hunt is referred to as the Ahtna community hunt. While the State is the hunt manager, Ahtna Inc. is the hunt administrator. This is a complex hunt, with over 400 current participants. There are four types of Ahtna community hunt participants: community hunters, continuous community membership hunters, sharing hunters, and designated hunters. The hunt area includes all of Game Management Unit (GMU) 11, 13, and a portion of 12 south of the Tok River drainage. Moose can be taken in all 3 units, though Nelchina caribou may be taken only in GMU 13. The moose hunt has ended, however the caribou hunt remains open at this time and is expected to run through 31 March. Both historic and current hunting traditions for locals show they will hunt moose and/or caribou in the local area each year through whichever federal or state regulation applies at the time. The total take of moose and caribou by local area residents this year appears very similar to 2008-2009. A preliminary total of 94 moose were taken in the community hunt. Of those, 67 were considered any-bull moose and did not meet general antler restrictions. A preliminary total of 101 caribou have also been taken. Many community hunters have failed to abide by hunt conditions. Hunt administration was difficult for Ahtna, and they failed to meet several Community Harvest Area permit conditions as a result. If the community hunt is continued in 2010-2011, there must be substantial changes to the administration of this hunt to ensure hunter understanding and compliance both for harvest control and to ensure conservation concerns are met.

2009 was 1,372 (Tier II and federal hunts), well above the ANS range. Of those, 263 were taken by local (GMU 13) residents, including 34 taken in State hunts by residents of the eight Ahtna villages.

In 2009-2010, the GMU 13 Tier II Nelchina caribou hunt was replaced with a Tier I hunt and the Ahtna Community Hunt. All GMU 13 hunts have the same conventional season dates, and are not scheduled to end until 31 March. The harvest quota set for 2009-2010 was 1,000 bulls due to low overwinter survival and subsequent reduced calf production. As of 20 January, the preliminary 2009-2010 GMU 13 total caribou harvest is 592. The preliminary take by local (GMU 13) residents is 212, including 77 taken in State hunts by village residents.

Issues and Concerns

Conservation concerns

The 2009 moose harvest under the Ahtna community hunt occurred almost entirely in GMU 13 (92 of 94 bulls), and was substantially higher than the take from the eliminated tier II hunt (ave = 43 bulls from 1995-2008; TM300). While currently sustainable, the community hunt is much more liberal than the tier II moose hunt, which was limited to 150 permits, with season dates 15 Aug – 31 Aug. The harvest locations between the two hunts are very similar; occurring along the road system and in the easily accessible areas.

The 100 any-bull allocation for the community hunt was set by the Board of Game. Prior to the hunt, ADF&G allocated the any-bulls by subunit based on the population trends and expected harvest in each area. Due to a concern about exceeding the subunit allocations, Ahtna issued a closure for the any-bull portion of the hunt on 17 September in subunits 13A and 13E. Ahtna informed ADF&G of the closure the day before. It was announced on the local radio, and ADF&G put signs up around Glennallen. The closure however was not very effective given the timing and other circumstances, and two additional any-bull moose were harvested in 13E. Fortunately, once ADF&G staff reviewed all the harvest reports, it was evident that many of the reported 13E moose were actually from the Denali Highway east of the Susitna River, which is 13B. None of the subunit allocations were exceeded.

It should be noted that without the current successful active wolf management program, the current take of any-bull moose through this hunt would not be sustainable. Continued increases in the moose population are expected, which will help increase harvest unit-wide. However, if this moose hunt is continued, the localized overharvest of bulls is likely in certain highly accessible areas such as Eureka and the eastern Denali Highway.

Any time there is a long season and an any-bull bag limit, moose hunters tend to utilize highly accessible hunt areas. Hunters may make many short trips, with the knowledge they will have another opportunity should they be unsuccessful. This is much different than the three week any-bull moose drawing hunts offered in remote locations of GMU 13 this year. These hunts were developed specifically to put hunters in areas with the highest moose numbers and lowest hunting pressure.

Given the length of the community hunt (20 Aug – 20 Sept) and the high number of hunt participants (already this first year (394), we believe the GMU 13 any-bull upper limit of the community hunt will be attained next year. To avoid exceeding subunit allocations, subunit closures will likely be necessary next year at some point during the season. If a subunit allocation is exceeded, the additional take will come from the following year's allocation. Units 11 and 12 did not receive much hunting pressure this

year through the community hunt. The any-bull allocation for GMU 11 is not expected to be reached or exceeded.

The caribou portion of this hunt raises no conservation concerns as the Nelchina herd is migratory, and the location of harvest is not as important as the number taken. The herd harvest objective for 2009-2010 for all hunts is 1,000 bulls. Caribou have been very accessible throughout the hunt compared to previous years. To date, 101 caribou have been taken through the community hunt (up to 300 may be taken). Many local hunters have shifted from the federal subsistence caribou hunt to the Ahtna community hunt because of the large hunt area offered by the Ahtna hunt (all of GMU 13 versus < 2% of GMU 13 in the federal hunt). All of the community hunters, and most of the continuous community members qualify for the federal subsistence caribou hunt, for which the bag limit is 2 caribou. To date, 13 community hunters have reported taking a second caribou through the federal subsistence hunt.

Administrative concerns

We have quite a few concerns pertaining to the administration of this hunt. There are three community hunt areas in Alaska. The original two are very small remote community hunts: the Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area for moose in a portion of GMU 25D, and the Yukon Flats Community Harvest Area for black bears in all of GMU 25D. Neither hunt has had any participants in recent years, one reason has been the lack of interest in taking on the administrative duties.

Comparatively, the Ahtna community hunt has over 400 participants and a 19 page hunt plan. While this is technically a State hunt, the burden of the hunt administration legally falls on Ahtna, an organization with no experience administering this type of program. ADF&G has helped each step of the way from helping draft the hunt plan, to drafting and printing the harvest tickets, to making GIS maps, entering all the applicant information, checking the Failure to Report (FTR) list, entering all the harvest report data, calling hunters when harvest reports are not completely filled out or filled out wrong, as well as many other hunt administration tasks. Without our active participation we believe we would not be able to provide a report of activities or evaluate the success of the program. Still, because the hunt is not administered by the State, the standard protocols ADF&G has developed over many years of administering hunts are not being followed.

The initial concept for this hunt was to provide a consistent reasonable opportunity for Copper Basin residents to harvest caribou; however the additional any-bull moose allocation added complexity to this hunt. The initial court order from 29 June 2009 specifically stated the residency requirements for the community caribou hunt were to be dropped. The result was a Sharing Hunt application which allowed out-of-village residents to harvest a caribou, although ½ had to be turned in to Ahtna Inc. for distribution. The other option that was added was a Continuous Community Membership form, which allowed any out-of-village resident to fully partake in the hunt, each being able to take a moose and a caribou. These additional opportunities to participate in the hunt were very confusing to the public. We heard concerns from potential hunt participants early on who felt their applications were denied unfairly. One indicated clearly his application was denied because he was told only shareholders could participate in the hunt. We immediately expressed our concern to the hunt administrator, and the harvest tickets were issued. At some point during the hunt, Ahtna stopped requiring the Continuous Community Membership form, and started issuing moose and caribou harvest tickets to out-of-village residents simply upon name recognition. We have conveyed our concerns regarding the lack of consistency in this process.

As a State hunt, the community hunt was subject to FTR restrictions, meaning FTR listed individuals were ineligible to participate in the hunt. The hunt plan also indicated that hunters could be placed on the FTR list for not reporting as well. Ahtna approved of this process as they felt it would help in getting reports turned in. Sharing the entire FTR list with Ahtna did not seem appropriate, so Ahtna would wait for ADF&G to check the FTR list prior to issuing harvest tickets. This worked fairly well for the first few weeks. As the hunt progressed, Ahtna started issuing harvest tickets without checking on the FTR status, and five hunters on the FTR list were erroneously issued harvest tickets.

Hunter responsibility

In the previously developed community hunts, hunters would pool their State general harvest tickets and permits. The concept was simple and the main benefit was to allow anyone in the community to harvest the game. The Ahtna community hunt, however, is considerably more complex. An unlimited number of hunters can sign up, and they are allowed to harvest up to 300 caribou, 100 any-bull moose, and an unlimited number of general antler restricted moose. With such a large hunt area and high harvest potential, there had to be a set of rules for hunters to follow. Hunt conditions were printed on the application, in the Community Hunt Plan, and in the Frequently Asked Questions handout.

While hunters are generally held responsible for their own actions in terms of hunting violations, many of the issues we dealt with this year were a direct result of hunters not being informed of the hunt conditions. In addition to the main Ahtna Inc. office in Glennallen, there were tribal representatives in each of the eight villages that handed out applications, as well as delivered harvest tickets to hunters. This likely led to confusion, as each had different levels of knowledge pertaining to the hunt. When hunters are issued registration permits in State offices, they are required to read the hunt conditions before signing, and their questions are answered prior to receiving harvest tickets. As a secondary precaution, ADF&G printed the seasons and bag limits on the harvest punch tags. Harvest tags were supposed to be signed by the hunt administrator as well as the hunter to be valid, although most were not signed by either party. Community hunters failed to abide by the hunt conditions on a regular basis.

Some hunters were issued antler-restricted moose harvest tickets, meaning they were allowed to hunt during the extended community season, but they were only to take a general bag limit moose. Others were issued any-bull moose harvest tickets, which allowed any-bulls to be taken in GMU 11 and 13, but still required general season dates and bag limits to be followed in the open portion of GMU 12. On 10 August, the first day of the hunt in GMU 11 and 13, a paddle bull was taken in GMU 12 under the community hunt, although the season was closed and the bag limit was SF/50" or 4 brow tines. The hunter was cited.

Another hunt condition commonly violated was the rule that a community hunter (as well as designated hunters and other household members) could not hold other moose or caribou harvest tickets or permits during the same regulatory year. Since this was the first year of the hunt, many people had already applied for drawing permits, and had picked up harvest tickets prior to the conditions of the community hunt being released. Of the moose hunters, 83 hunters held at least one harvest ticket or permit they were not supposed to. Of those, 26 turned in their harvest ticket or report to ADF&G prior to signing up for the community hunt. Of the 57 remaining hunters, 21 reported hunting on those harvest tickets/permits. Of those, five reported hunting outside the community hunt area. One caribou was harvested, and the hunter was cited. ADF&G will consult with State troopers and warning letters will likely be mailed to the hunters who reported hunting unsuccessfully on these hunt reports.

Another concern we have relates to designated community hunters. Allowing any State resident to be a designated or proxy-type hunter was a core concept of this community hunt given the stringent State proxy regulations in recent years. By allowing anyone to be a designated hunter, individuals with no family to hunt for them, were able to have friends or neighbors harvest their moose or caribou. This concept was good, however implementation was problematic. One of the hunt conditions was that designated hunters must fill out an application prior to hunting. The rationale for this was to ensure designated hunters were aware of all the hunt conditions, as they were subject to all the same conditions as the original hunter. Of the 30 individual designated hunters who harvested moose, 11 were qualified community hunters, meaning they had seen and signed the hunt conditions. Only 3 of the successful individuals had applied as designated hunters. Of the remaining 16, one was on the FTR list and 2 were cited for failing to follow hunt conditions. An additional 23 individuals applied as designated hunters, though did not hunt or hunted unsuccessfully. Many of the designated hunters also held other moose or caribou harvest tickets or permits. ADF&G will likely mail warning letters to the designated hunters who did not apply, to ensure better hunt compliance in the future. The designated hunter process will need to be improved.

For the benefit of the hunters, there must be improved communication between the hunt administrator and ADF&G when hunt changes are made mid-season. With few moose harvested during the August portion of the community hunt, Ahtna felt additional opportunities to take moose should be given to community hunters. The hunt administrator began issuing any-bull moose harvest tickets 3 September to all new applicants (previously issued antler-restricted harvest tickets were replaced with any-bull harvest tickets upon request). No notice was issued to the public or ADF&G – so it was unclear to many hunters this change occurred. After the fact, we expressed our concern that moose hunting always tends to be more successful later in the fall, and with more any-bull harvest tickets being issued, Ahtna would need to watch the any-bull take closely. Had a subunit allocation been met, hunters would have been limited to the general antler restrictions for the remainder of the season. This concept was not well understood by the public.

Helping to explain the details of this hunt to the public after-the-fact was a tremendous additional work load for ADF&G, a situation that is not expected to improve substantially in future years unless there is more direct State involvement with the hunt administration.

Hunt Reporting

Harvest reports were collected by Ahtna, and copies were provided to ADF&G for entering on a weekly basis. At some point after 20 September (moose hunt and caribou rut hunt closure), weekly reporting seemed to stop. After multiple requests by ADF&G, weekly reporting continued in November.

One important hunt condition was the 3 day reporting requirement. While Ahtna did not track when hunt reports were received, it was evident that very few successful hunters reported within the required 3 days.

The final moose report was due 15 October 2009, as stated in the Community Hunt Permit issued to Ahtna. The report was not received until 7 January 2010, after multiple requests. Application information is still missing for approximately 70 hunters. Additionally, almost 60 moose harvest ticket numbers are missing, as well as 160 caribou harvest ticket numbers. It is unclear whether these harvest tickets were issued without applications, as duplicates, lost or destroyed. With missing applicant

information and harvest ticket numbers, it is very difficult for us to know how to enter returned harvest reports.

We recommended at least one reminder letter be sent to the moose hunt non-reporters. One letter was sent by Ahtna, with a deadline of 7 January 2010. As of today, there are still 123 (31%) outstanding moose reports. While the Ahtna letter stated the hunters would be placed on the FTR list if they did not respond by 7 January, we recommended they send a second letter. We have not heard back on this. We have concerns that hunters are not taking the Ahtna letters seriously.

In terms of final harvest numbers, we also have concerns about the hunt stipulation in SAAC 92.072(c)(E) that states the hunt administrator must provide (ADF&G) federal subsistence harvest data for community hunters. This information is available through the Bureau of Land Management (for GMU 13) and the Office of Subsistence Management (GMU 11), however they will not release hunter names to Ahtna, as a private hunt administrator. When final, this federal data, summarized by resident zone community will be requested by ADF&G, and presented with our final report.

Issues raised by the Ahtna Final Moose report from 7 January 2010

For next year, Ahtna is requesting all hunt applications be turned in one month before the hunt starts, to ensure processing and distribution of harvest tickets is done in a timely manner. This would be different than this first year, where harvest tickets were issued throughout the hunt as applications were turned in.

They would also like an explanation of the Ahtna Community Hunt to be in the State hunting regulations, to help with public outreach.

Additional community concerns

There have been concerns raised by members of the Copper Basin who do not live within any of the Ahtna villages. These individuals have expressed a general belief that the hunt is unfair to local residents living between the villages, as they have many of the same traditional hunting practices. The general response thus far has been that these individuals, generally residents of local communities such as Glennallen, Kenny Lake, Tolsona, Nelchina, Mendeltna, and Chickaloon can apply to be a community hunt administrator, just as Ahtna has. The reality is, however this application process is complicated, and not one individual indicated they have the time or knowledge to be a hunt administrator.

One substantial issue raised is that the current community hunt is named after the eight Ahtna villages, however the hunt area is all of GMU 11, 13, and a portion of GMU 12. It is unclear to the public as well as ADF&G if or how another community hunt for the same general hunt area would be administered, if applied for by another community.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The community hunt concept was initially developed for small remote communities, where the participation would be limited to the local village residents. The Ahtna community hunt in contrast occurs in a very heavily hunted portion of Region II. Of the many communities within the hunt area, only residents of the eight Ahtna villages qualify for the full hunting opportunity. Secondary opportunities were created for other locals, as well as some urban residents, although approval lies

with the regional native corporation, Ahtna Inc. The inherent delineation between community members has had a negative impact on the Copper Basin as a whole.

The hunt itself is quite complex. While consistent caribou hunting was the primary focus of this hunt, an additional 100 any-bull moose allocation complicated this hunt tremendously. The number of hunt applicants was over 400, all qualifying for different levels of hunting opportunity. This led to confusion amongst hunters, and many hunt conditions were either ignored or not adhered to for unknown reasons.

We recognize the first year of such a complex hunt would include problems. However, there were a number of permit conditions not adhered to by the hunt administrator in terms of hunt reporting in violation of 5AAC 92.072(f). Given these issues, as the hunt manager we have the option of not issuing the community hunt permit in 2010-2011. There are outstanding requests by ADF&G to Ahtna, as well as an expectation that Ahtna will finalize the caribou hunt report by 15 April. Future actions by the hunt administrator will determine whether this permit is re-issued next year.

If the BOG supports continuing this hunt in 2010-2011, the procedures involved with the administration of this hunt must be modified. The time demands on the Glennallen Wildlife Conservation staff assisting in the administrative part of this hunt were excessive and greatly interfered with other programs. It will be more efficient and the data will be of higher quality if hunt administration procedures are changed. Specifically, Ahtna would continue to determine allocation of harvest tickets and sharing opportunities, but the responsibility of issuing the harvest tickets, ensuring hunter compliance, and collecting hunt data would go to Wildlife Conservation staff. By making these changes, Ahtna will maintain the hunt administration and issues important to them, such as approving hunters, determining traditional methods, dependency of use, and community ties. ADF&G would assume technical and legal administrative duties mandated under our responsibility as the hunt manager for resource conservation.

We also respectfully request the BOG consider current moose and caribou harvests taken under other state and federal hunts within the community hunt area in relation to ANS, and re-evaluate the community hunt need.

[As a procedural note, the Ahtna community hunt area is described in codified regulation 5AAC 92.074 by the actual boundaries of GMU 11, 13, and a portion of GMU 12, however the GMU boundary language is subject to change at this statewide meeting through Proposal 45. If the new boundary language is accepted, it should be changed in the community hunt area regulation as well.]

ATTN: BOARD OF GAME COMMENTS
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
PO BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
FAX: 907-465-6094

Written Comments to Alaska Board of Game, Interior 2010 Meeting

Submitted by: Valerie Baxter, PO Box 56497, North Pole, AK 99705. (907) 451-2710 days

Proposal #33: I wrote this proposal and I support the amendment proffered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Middle-Nenana Advisory Committee. The amended proposal would read:

Where appropriate for all antlerless hunts in GMU subunits 20A and 20B: One adult or calf antlerless moose, however no cows accompanied by calves may be taken.

Comments: I submitted this proposal because I believe that calves should be a legal animal in antlerless hunts. There is no biological reason in these subunits to not harvest calves and the opposition to this is primarily social and moral in nature. I believe that wildlife in Alaska should be managed based on biology and that where possible, hunter opportunity maximized. By not allowing the harvest of calves, hunter opportunity is limited unnecessarily. I agree with the list of arguments in favor of moose calf harvest presented by ADF&G at the 2/10/2010 Fairbanks Advisory Committee meeting. A copy of those arguments is attached to these comments.

I have attended Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FAC) meetings for many years, have run for a committee seat twice, and have testified numerous times in support of moose calf harvest and many other hunting, fishing, and trapping issues. In the past 3 years I have never felt that the issue of moose calf harvest received a fair hearing from the FAC. I believe the reason for the lack of discussion on this issue is that three years ago, on election night for the FAC, a few individuals organized a group of people (approx. 100 in number) to elect five specific members to the FAC. People showing up for the AC meeting were met just outside the door and were handed slips of paper with the names of the 5 people that they were to vote for. As soon as the election was over, 90% of the attendees departed and since then, have never attended or testified at another FAC meeting. The result of this, "coup," as it is commonly called, was to create a climate of intimidation amongst FAC members and the public. The fear for FAC members is that if they go against what the "coup," group wants, they will be ousted from the committee. Members of the public that disagree with this group's agenda simply do not ever gain any support and the whole process of advocating action to the local AC is made pointless. At the most recent FAC meeting, on 2/10/2010, the Game Subcommittee chair, Mike Tinker, dismissed a full discussion of Proposal #33 on the grounds that I, the author, am the only person who has spoken in support of the proposal. In my testimony to them that night, I expressed my belief that most people feel that coming to the FAC is not only intimidating but is also an exercise in futility. In the end, there doesn't seem to be any motivation to make the effort.

My reason for including the above comments is to ensure that the Board of Game understands that I have made every effort to approach my local Advisory Committee and gain support for sound biological management. My proposal is before you due mainly to my belief in the validity of calf harvest but is also before you due to my frustration with the FAC and their unwillingness to consider this issue fully. Since the 2/10/2010 FAC meeting, I have begun gathering a list of Alaskan hunters that agree that moose calf harvest should be legal. In the last 24 hours, through only an email campaign to friends, I have ten names on my list. I will present the Board with the final list during the public testimony period of the upcoming meeting. I am not the only Interior hunter or Alaska resident that supports this issue. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Proposals #47 and #54 – I wrote these proposals and I support them. Proposal #54 is my preferred choice.

Many years ago, I submitted a proposal to the Board of Game to create an antlerless muzzleloader hunt in the Fairbanks Management Area. The Board at the time considered my proposal and in the end, created the hunt but restricted it to November 21-27 and restricted it to a section of Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge. At long last, this past fall, I drew the permit and participated in the hunt that my proposal created. And I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate not only in the hunt but also in the regulatory process. After my experience last fall however, I think it is time to revisit this hunt and address several issues that I discovered firsthand.

A seven day special weapon hunt is not easy to participate in and this one in particular has many challenges. The short time frame of 7 days and environmental factors found in late November, namely short daylight hours and potential for extreme cold, make this hunt a difficult one. In order to maximize my chances, I took time off from work and hunted every single day of the season, including the first two days of -30F to -40F degree weather. This hunt occurs during the same 7 days of the general any bull and permit antlerless moose bow and arrow seasons. Creamer's is a popular location for bow and arrow hunters and because there are only a few places within Creamer's Refuge that are both open to hunting and contain moose habitat, hunters are continually running into one another. On every single day that I hunted, I either had contact with or observed nearby between 2 and 15 other hunters. And I do not feel that it is fair for the bow and arrow hunters to have to compete with muzzleloader hunters for the same moose at the same time in such a restricted space. Nor do I think that all of the regular recreational use of the refuge that occurs over Thanksgiving weekend makes for easy hunting.

Both proposals #47 and #54 seek to alleviate some of the pressure and challenges that hunters face with this hunt, they just offer two different solutions. Proposal #47 keeps the space restriction of Creamer's Field but widens the time frame of the hunt to include the whole month of November. This mirrors the general any bull bow and arrow season (except that the bow hunt is also open September 1-30; the antlerless bow permit season is September 1 – November 27). Lengthening the season would allow hunters more time to pursue moose and would likely spread out the hunting effort and reduce overcrowding.

Proposal #54 is the same as my original proposal from years ago – an antlerless muzzleloader hunt for the entire Fairbanks Management Area with a season of November 1-30. This proposal would be my first choice but if the Board cannot support the hunt for the entire FMA, I hope that at least lengthening the season within Creamer's would be acceptable. In the deliberations years ago, there was discussion about the safety of a muzzleloader hunt within an urban area. I believe this is a non-issue and point to the hunts within the Anchorage Management Area and the Palmer-Wasilla Management Area that allow big game harvest by muzzleloader, shotgun, and bow and arrow. The Fairbanks Management Area is no more densely populated than either of those management areas and as the discharge of firearms is not allowed within the Fairbanks city limits, I feel that the safety risk is very minimal. The certification requirement for any of these special weapons options also addresses hunter behavior in the field and safety issues.

From my review of other proposals submitted, I see that there seems to be interest in muzzleloader hunts in 20B (Proposals #39 and #41). I would support amending my own proposal #57 to increase the size of the DM789 antlerless hunt to a greater area of 20B, beyond the boundaries of the Fairbanks Management Area.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

For Opinion See 836 P.2d 358

Supreme Court of Alaska.
State of Alaska and Don Wilson, Appellants & Cross-Appellees,
v.
Riley T. MORRY and Kwethluk Ira Council, Appellees & Cross-Appellants,
No. S-04632.
August 16, 1991.

Appeal from the Superior Court of the State of Alaska, Second Judicial District Michael I. Jefferies, Judge

Brief of Appellant

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FN13. *Madison v. Alaska Dep't of Fish and Game*, 696 P.2d 168 (Alaska 1985).

*17 But, unlike the situation in *Kelly* and *Madison*, here the regulations do not interpret statutes or legislative intent. They create substantive requirements that stand on their own.^(FN14)

FN14. The superior court also said that the "reasonable basis" test is the first step of the *Kelly* analysis. R. 658. Actually, the so-called "reasonable basis" test is used to review agency administrative decisions, not agency rule-making. See *Stevenson v. Burgess*, 570 P.2d 728 (Alaska 1977). The first step in *Kelly* deals with statutory authority for the regulations, not whether the regulations are reasonable in themselves.

When the confusion created by the court's misreading of *Kelly* and *Madison* is swept away, it is clear that the superior court did exactly what later cases say that it may not do: it examined the *wisdom* of these regulations. See *Meier v. State*, 739 P.2d 172, 174 (Alaska 1987); *State v. Anderson*, 749 P.2d 1342, 1346 (Alaska 1988).

The superior court decided that although these requirements serve a legitimate purpose for "general" bear hunting, they gathered "almost no information" for subsistence hunting. Essentially, it decided that the regulations were invalid because compliance with them was low in one game management unit R. 642, 644.

Thus, by deciding that these regulations do not generate enough information, the court was indeed substituting its judgment for the board's judgment in an area "where highly specialized agency expertise is involved." *Meier*, 739 P.2d at 174. The superior court was judging the *wisdom* of these regulations by how well they perform in a very isolated, limited area of the state.

*18 The superior court acknowledged that there was some compliance and that the regulations did collect some information. R. 642, 644. Because the regulations served this purpose, they were reasonable and were not arbitrary. *Meier*, 739 P.2d at 173-74. *How well* they served this purpose was not a proper inquiry of the superior court. As this court observed, "[W]e do not require a showing that the regulation is the only or most effective means of carrying out department goals. We simply determine whether the regulation is reasonable and not arbitrary." *State v. Anderson*, 749 P.2d at 1342.

IV. THE STATE SUBSISTENCE LAW DOES NOT AUTHORIZE OR GIVE GUIDANCE TO THE BOARDS OF FISH AND GAME ON HOW TO DETERMINE WHICH INDIVIDUAL ALASKA RESIDENTS MAY ENGAGE IN "FIRST TIER" SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND FISHING

A. Historic Background of First-Tier Subsistence Eligibility

To understand the question of who is eligible to participate in subsistence harvests, it is helpful to take a historic look at how this issue has evolved.

In 1978 the Alaska legislature enacted chapter 151, SLA 1978, the predecessor to the current subsistence law. The 1978 law, besides making subsistence a priority over other uses of fish and game, created two "tiers" of subsistence users. This court described the tiers in the following way:

The first tier includes *all* subsistence users. Under the statute, all subsistence uses have priority over sport and commercial uses "whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of fish to assure the maintenance of fish stocks on a *19 sustained-yield basis, or to assure the continuation of subsistence uses of such resources AS 16.05.251(b). If the statutory priority given all subsistence users over commercial and sport users still results in

too few fish for all subsistence uses, then the board is authorized to establish a second tier of preferred subsistence users based on the legislative criteria expressed in AS 16.05.251(b), namely, customary and direct dependence on the resource, local residency, and availability of alternative resources.

Madison, 696 P.2d at 174.

Thus, at this stage of evolution of the subsistence law, when there was enough fish and game for all subsistence uses, i.e., at the "first tier" of abundance, there was no authority for the Boards of Fisheries and Game to decide that some Alaskans could be subsistence harvesters, but others could not. When there was sufficient wild resources, all Alaskans were eligible to be subsistence harvesters.

Some residents could be eliminated as subsistence harvesters only when fish and game declined below a level where all subsistence uses could be satisfied. At this "second tier" level of abundance, the boards were authorized to establish criteria that allowed only Alaskans who could show customary and direct dependence on the resource, local residency, and unavailability of alternative resources to continue harvesting subsistence resources. At the second tier, other Alaskans were no longer eligible to harvest subsistence resources.

The first attempt to eliminate some Alaskans from the first tier occurred several years later. In 1980, the Board of Fisheries attempted to impose a rural/nonrural distinction *20 between subsistence harvesters. The boards did this by adopting a regulation that had ten criteria called "Characteristics of Subsistence Fisheries." *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 172 n.8. The board then applied these criteria to communities, subcommunities, groups, and individuals to determine what Alaskans were eligible to harvest subsistence fish. The result was that the residents of three villages on Cook Inlet were the only persons eligible to participate in first-tier Cook Inlet subsistence fisheries. The majority of Cook Inlet fishermen who formerly fished under subsistence regulations were eliminated. *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 172.

In 1985, this court examined the Board of Fisheries' ten-criteria regulation as a method to determine first-tier eligibility. The board had argued that it had statutory authority under the "customary and traditional" phrase of AS 16.05.940(31) (formerly AS 16.05.940(23)) to define first-tier subsistence users by their area of residence. ^[FN15] This court disagreed, pointing out that "customary and traditional" modified the word "uses" in this statute; it did not refer to users. The only place that the 1978 law applied "customary" to users was in the second-tier situation. *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 174.

^[FN15] *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 174. Former AS 16.05.940(23) is at 696 P.2d at 170 n.4.

In *Madison*, this court said, "If the legislature had intended to define the class of first-tier general subsistence users by area of residence, it would not have expressed that *21 factor with respect to only the second tier of preferred subsistence users." *Id.* Because the ten-criteria regulation was not consistent with legislative intent, this court struck it down. *Id.* at 178. Once again all Alaskans were eligible to participate in subsistence fisheries that were at the first-tier level of abundance.

The *Madison* decision left the state in a dilemma. Earlier, Congress had enacted ANILCA.^[FN16] This law says that on federal public lands in Alaska, subsistence uses of fish and game have a priority, and only *rural* Alaskans are entitled to it.^[FN17] Although ANILCA provides for federal fish and game management on federal lands in Alaska, it also says that the state can supplant this management if it enacts subsistence laws that are consistent with ANILCA's provisions.^[FN18]

FN16. 16 U.S.C.A. §§ 3101-3233 (1985).

FN17. 16 U.S.C.A. §§ 3113, 3114 (1985).

FN18. 16 U.S.C.A. § 3115 (1985).

The Board of Fisheries had adopted the ten-criteria regulation so that the state's subsistence scheme would be consistent with the federal priority for rural residents. With the regulation struck down in *Madison*, the state faced the unwelcome prospect of federal fish and game management throughout most of Alaska.

Accordingly, in 1986 the legislature amended the 1978 law to add what this court said was missing, i.e., the statutory authority to distinguish between Alaska residents at the first *22 tier of resource abundance. The 1986 law, which is the present subsistence law, is substantially the same as the 1978 law with one major exception—it explicitly restricted subsistence harvests and uses to rural residents of the state. Sec. 9, 10, and 11, Ch. 52, SLA 1986.

Three years later, this court held that the urban-non-urban dichotomy of the 1986 law was too crude for determining subsistence eligibility at the first-tier level. *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989). On remand, the Palmer superior court severed the rural criteria from this law, but left the subsistence mandate and priority intact. *McDowell v. Collinsworth*, No. 3AN-83-1592 Civil (Alaska Super., June 20, 1990); Appendix A.

B. The Superior Courts Misinterpret First-Tier Subsistence Eligibility

The Palmer court's decision raised the question of what Alaskans are now eligible to participate in subsistence harvests at the first tier of resource abundance. Several superior courts have tackled this question, but none have given a clear answer.

The first to try was the Palmer court itself. In a clarification of its decision that severed "rural" from the subsistence law, the Palmer court said:

All Alaskans will not automatically become subsistence users. The Fish and Game Boards first will determine which fish and game populations are to be used for subsistence use. For this purpose the boards will use selected criteria which may be somewhat similar to the criteria set forth in current 5 AAC 99.010(b)(1-8). Individuals then may apply for subsistence use. The boards will not be able to limit eligibility to merely granting *23 "grandfather rights" to those who have customarily and traditionally subsistence used the resource in the past. All Alaskans will not automatically qualify simply by virtue of their state residency, however. A valid subsistence use of the resource will need to be shown.

McDowell v. Collinsworth, No. 3AN-83-1592 Civil (Alaska Super., July 12, 1990); Appendix B.

Unfortunately, this created more confusion than clarity. The first sentence -- "All Alaskans will not automatically become subsistence users" -- is similar to this court's statement in *McDowell* that it "does not mean that everyone can engage in subsistence hunting and fishing." *McDowell*, 785 P.2d at 9. In *McDowell*, this court went on to say, "A classification scheme employing individual characteristics would be less invasive of the Article VIII open access values and much more apt to accomplish the purpose of the statute than the urban-rural criterion." *Id.* at 11.

The question is whether this "individual classification scheme" can now be found in the severed subsistence law, and thus can now be implemented by board regulation. Apparently, the Palmer court believed that it can. If so,

the next question is, "What is the statutory basis of an individual classification scheme?"

Here, the Palmer court failed to complete the picture. The court said what eligibility is not; eligibility is not just state residency, and it is not determined by whether a particular individual has customarily and traditionally used subsistence *24 resources in the past.^[FN19] But the Palmer court stopped short of telling what first-tier subsistence eligibility is. The court did not do this when it concluded that a person must show "a valid subsistence use of the resource." Because a person cannot show how a resource is used until after it is harvested, this cannot be a pre-condition of eligibility to harvest.

FN19. At least the court's latter statement is consistent with the *Madison* holding, affirmed in *McDowell*, that "customary and traditional" define uses and not users. *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 174; *McDowell*, 785 P.2d at 9 n.19.

The next superior court to tackle first-tier subsistence eligibility was the Barrow court whose decision is now under appeal. Citing *McDowell*, the Barrow court said that any policy statement by the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, or the Board of Game individually, declaring that "all Alaskans are now eligible subsistence users" is invalid and of no force and effect unless interpreted to mean that "all Alaskans are eligible to be considered subsistence users" if, prior to the subsistence hunting, their individual use of the fish or game meets criteria for "noncommercial, customary and traditional" subsistence uses of the particular fish and game population being harvested, under criteria established by regulation such as 5 AAC 99.010(b).

R. 950.

This seems to say that the state must ascertain, before a subsistence harvest takes place, whether a person who wishes to participate in it will use the subsistence fish and game for "noncommercial, customary and traditional" uses.^[FN20] If so, *25 the state can satisfy it by merely requiring each subsistence candidate to declare this before a subsistence season begins.

FN20. Such uses are set out in AS 16.05.940(31). The broad list includes consuming the resource as food, fuel, clothing, for transportation -- essentially, any possible way other than using it commercially.

However, problems arise when the court refers to "criteria established by regulation such as 5 AAC 99.010(b)." The Barrow court apparently is following the same misconception as the Palmer court—that the subsistence law presently has statutory standards on which eligibility regulations can be built. The reference to 5 AAC 99.010(b) is misdirected. As this court pointed out in *McDowell*, this regulation defines customary and traditional uses. *McDowell*, 785 P.2d at 9 n.19. The regulation does not define users, and so its criteria cannot be applied to them.

Unfortunately, the misinterpretation of the subsistence law does not stop there. On August 9, the Kenai superior court held that the state is collaterally estopped from asserting the validity of certain subsistence regulations in light of the Barrow court's decision on first-tier eligibility. *United Cook Inlet Drift Ass'n v. State*, No. 3KN-91-596 CI. (Alaska Super., Aug. 9, 1991); Appendix C at 12.

The Kenai court added its own twist to the eligibility question. It said that the "task is to identify those residents who use the state's wild, renewable resources traditionally, customarily, and noncommercially. Once identified, these residents would be able entitled to continue their subsistence use under AS 16.05.258." Appendix C at 13

(emphasis added).

*26 Thus, the Kenai court also fell into the trap of applying "customary and traditional" to the users. Not only is this contrary to the interpretation of Madison ("customary and traditional" applies to use, not to *users*) but it also creates a closed class whose numbers would steadily diminish. If only residents who have customarily and traditionally used subsistence resources can continue to harvest them in the future, existing Alaskans who had not used subsistence resources, as well as all future Alaskans, would not be eligible to participate in subsistence harvests. Surely, this would not satisfy the common use mandate of article 8, section 3, of the Alaska Constitution. See *Owsichek v. State*, 763 P.2d 488 (Alaska 1988).

Finally, the confusion of the superior courts is being compounded. On August 16, the superior court in Anchorage stated that it concurred with the subsistence eligibility decisions of the Palmer, Barrow, and Kenai courts. *Kluti Kaah v. State*, No. 3AN-91-4554 CI (Alaska Super., Aug. 16, 1991); Appendix D.

C. The Present Subsistence Law Does Not Contain Statutory Guidelines That Allow the Boards of Fish and Game to Adopt Criteria That Will Eliminate Some Alaskans as Eligible First-Tier Subsistence Harvesters

After *McDowell*, first-tier subsistence eligibility really turns on three questions: 1. Does the present subsistence law contain statutory criteria for determining eligibility to participate in first-tier harvests? 2. If it does, what are they? 3. If it does not, who -- the Alaska legislature or the *27 Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game -- has authority to establish such criteria?

This court answered the first question when it spoke of "individual characteristics" in *McDowell*. There, it spoke of "individual characteristics" as a system that *may be enacted*, not as a system that *already exists* for first-tier eligibility.^[FN21]

FN21. In describing first-tier eligibility before rural was severed, this court said, "Yet all rural residents may be first-tier subsistence users without regard to their individual characteristics." Further on, this court said, "The state acknowledges that *only in the second-tier subsistence context may individual characteristics* separate those rural residents who may be second-tier subsistence users from those who are ineligible." *McDowell*, 785 P.2d at 9 n.19 (emphasis added).

If individual criteria were used to distinguish first-tier users, this would violate a rule of statutory construction. This rule says that to enumerate specific terms specifically excludes those which are not enumerated.^[FN22]

FN22. The rule, known as *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*, is discussed in 2A N. Singer, *Sutherland Statutory Construction* §§ 47.23--47.24 (4th ed. 1984). It has been followed by this court in other cases. See *Burrell v. Burrell*, 696 P.2d 157, 165 (Alaska 1984); *Donnybrook Bldg. Supply v. Alaska Nat'l Bank of the North*, 736 P.2d 1147, 1154 (1987); *Zoerb v. Chugach Elec. Ass'n. Inc.*, 798 P.2d 1258, 1260 (Alaska, 1990).

This court followed the reasoning of the rule in *Madison*. After the boards adopted a regulation that inserted a rural-nonrural standard into the first tier of the 1978 law, this court said, "If the legislature had intended to define the class of first-tier general subsistence users by area of residence, it would not have expressed that factor with respect to only the *28 second tier of preferred subsistence users." *Madison*, 696 P.2d at 174.

Likewise, had the 1986 legislature intended to define the class of first-tier general subsistence users by *both* area

of residence and by individual characteristics, it would not have expressed individual characteristics, i.e., dependency, local residence and availability of other resources, with respect to only the second tier of preferred subsistence users. In fact, if individual criteria are already identified in the first tier, then the subsistence law has been misapplied since its beginning — it should have excluded nonrural residents and rural residents who did not also possess the individual characteristics. Thus, the answers to the first two questions must be, "No, there is no basis under the current subsistence law, either by individual criteria or some other method, for distinguishing between Alaskans as first-tier harvesters."

The final question is whether the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game, notwithstanding that there are no first-tier eligibility standards in the subsistence law, may adopt regulations that will eliminate some Alaskans as eligible subsistence harvesters. The answer is also no.

These boards are authorized to adopt regulations that govern the conservation, utilization, and development of the state's fish and game. AS 16.05.241, 16.05.251, 16.05.255. Regulations can only implement, interpret, and make specific statutes that have been passed by the legislature. *29 AS 44.62.640(3). They must be consistent with statutes and reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of statutes. AS 44.62.030. Because regulations are based on existing statutes, it is obvious that they cannot operate in their absence.

Apparently, the superior courts believe that the boards *can* replace the statutory standard that was severed in *McDowell v. Collinsworth* -- rural residency -- with regulations based on individual criteria, "customary and traditional," or some other limiting factors. But then the boards would be doing what they tried in 1980 when they adopted the ten-criteria regulation -- creating regulatory standards in the absence of statutory guidelines. This was struck down by Madison, and it would likely be struck down again.

V. THE SUPERIOR COURT INCORRECTLY USURPED THE BOARD OF GAME'S AUTHORITY BY SETTING THE RULES FOR BROWN/GRIZZLY BEAR HUNTS

After invalidating the brown bear tag and sealing requirements, the superior court ordered "interim regulatory measures" until the boards acted under the court's new subsistence standards. The court established an annual bag limit for subsistence brown bear hunters and required them to file a harvest report under the same terms that govern hunters who take *30 moose for funeral potlatches. R. 949, 950.^{FN23} This rule-making is improper for two reasons.

FN23. This action has encouraged another superior court to rewrite fish and game regulations. In *Kluti Kaah v. State*, No. 3AN-91-4554 CI (Alaska Super., Aug. 16, 1991) the Anchorage superior court, referring to the Barrow court's action, rewrote subsistence moose regulations for Game Management Unit 13. Appendix D at 10; Appendix E. Fortunately, this court stayed the preliminary injunction that granted this improper relief. Appendix F.

First, an attempt by the superior court to create fish and game rules violates the separation of powers doctrine. This doctrine prohibits one branch of state government from encroaching upon and exercising powers of another branch. The doctrine is implicit in the Alaska Constitution. *Bradner v. Hammond*, 553 P.2d 1, 5 n.7 (Alaska 1976).

The Board of Game, an executive branch agency, has authority to adopt rules that govern the harvest of game resources. See AS 16.05.255. The courts have no authority to take over this function.

Second, the Boards of Fisheries and Game are highly specialized agencies whose roles should not be assumed by courts or others who do not have wildlife management experience or expertise. Two courts have recognized this fact and have given appropriate deference to the boards in their rulemaking function. In *Meier v. State Bd. of Fisheries*, 739 P.2d 172, 174 (Alaska 1987), this court said, "We have no authority to substitute our judgment for the Board of Fisheries, particularly since highly *31 specialized agency expertise is involved." Speaking of the Board of Fisheries, the federal district court in Alaska said:

Firstly, the Board must bring considerable expertise to the *complex* fish management questions that come before it. This court does not have that expertise. while the court is quite comfortable (and hopes the parties will come to be also) in its role as the reviewer of agency rule-making employing the test set out in such authorities as *Citizens for Overton Park*, *American Tuna Boat Association*, and K. C. Davis, *Administrative Law Government*, at 119 (2nd B. 1975), the court should not--for lack of expertise--make the fine scientific wildlife management decisions that are called for by state and federal law. in short, the fish and game management ought to be done by the fish and game managers. This court is not qualified to make a de novo decision in that area.

John v. Alaska, No. A85-698 at 5 (D. Alaska, Jan. 19, 1990).

The state does not challenge a superior court's authority to take appropriate action if regulations are illegal. The appropriate action is to enjoin the enforcement of the regulations. If the regulations, like the game tag and bear sealing requirements, are needed for proper management of game, the appropriate action is to stop the hunts until the Board of Game has adopted new rules that serve this function.

This court, when dealing with an overbroad statute, said, "The separation of powers decreed by the state constitution requires this court to strike such a statute in its entirety, rather than re-draft it." *Veco Int'l v. Alaska Pub. Offices Comm'n*, 753 P.2d 703, 713 (Alaska 1988). See generally *Kimoktoak v. State*, 584 P.2d 25, 31 n.6 (Alaska 1978). By the same token, if the tag and bear sealing regulations are illegal for certain *32 hunts, the superior court should have enjoined the application of the rules, or the hunts, but should not have rewritten the rules.

CONCLUSION

The superior court has manufactured two new standards for fish and game regulations out of "whole cloth." Neither the "least intrusive" standard nor the notion that the subsistence regulations must protect the "character" of subsistence harvesting has any basis in statutory language or legislative history.

The "least intrusive" standard is not workable because the subsistence law does not provide anything that can be intruded upon. it does not require the boards to protect a particular method, means, or style of subsistence hunting and fishing.

Concerning eligibility to participate in first-tier subsistence hunting and fishing, the situation is as simple as this. Before *McDowell*, "rural Alaska residents" were eligible users. The Palmer superior court severed "rural." What remains is "Alaska residents." it is as straight forward as arithmetic: three minus one leaves two. "Rural Alaska residents" minus "rural" leaves "Alaska residents". If there should be new criteria to take the place of "rural," the legislature is the only body that can provide them.

In conclusion, this court should reverse the superior court's findings that there is a "least intrusive" standard in *33 the state's subsistence law and that this law protects a particular "character" of subsistence harvesting.

This court should find that the superior court used the incorrect analysis when examining the brown bear tag fee requirement, 5 AAC 92.012(c), and bear scaling requirement, 5 AAC 92.165. It should find that the tag and bear scaling regulations are valid, and it should vacate the superior court's order invalidating their application to subsistence brown bear hunting in certain game management units.

This court should find that the superior court exceeded its authority by adopting its own rules to govern hunting. It should vacate the superior court's orders establishing bag limits and new reporting requirements for these hunts.

Finally, this court should find that until the legislature enacts new standards concerning eligibility,^[FN24] all *34 Alaskan residents are eligible to participate in first-tier subsistence hunting and fishing so long as they use the harvested resources in accordance with AS 16.05.940(31).

FN24. In fact, the state administration is presently developing proposed legislation that will add to the present subsistence law individual criteria for first-tier eligibility. At this time, the statutory proposal contains the following definition of eligibility:

"Subsistence" means the taking and use of wild fish or game, as set forth by statute and regulations, by a resident for whom subsistence is and has been a principal characteristic of their way of life for three of the last five years, as evidenced by each of the following:

(A) a pattern of taking and use of wild renewable resources that is characterized by efficiency and economy of effort, cost, and transportation;

(B) a consistent pattern of taking and use of wild renewable resources which are near, or accessible in an efficient and economical manner, from the user's residence;

(C) a pattern of taking and use which includes reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of the wild renewable resources;

(D) a pattern of taking and use which provides substantial economic, cultural, social, or nutritional elements of the subsistence user's life;

(E) a pattern of taking and use of wild renewable resources which employs knowledge of fishing and hunting skills, values, and lore handed down from generation to generation; and

(F) a consistent and continuing pattern of taking and use of wild renewable resources (as evidenced by the consumption by each subsistence user of 200 pounds or more of wild fish and/or game per year, which were harvested under hunting, or sport or personal use fishing, or subsistence regulations).

Appendix not available.

State of Alaska and Don Wilson, Appellants & Cross-Appellees, v. Riley T. MORRY and Kwethluk Ira Council, Appellees & Cross-Appellants.
1991 WL 11665386 (Alaska) (Appellate Brief)

END OF DOCUMENT

Dear Chair Judkins:

Attached is a page from a recent court filing by AAG Saxby in the Ahtna v Board of Game case, where Ahtna challenged income caps for tier 2 Nelchina Caribou and also questioned whether a general hunt alone could satisfy the ANS.

One issue in the case was whether the board could create a general Moose hunt in unit 13 without providing a tier one subsistence preference, in the form of a longer season of no antler restrictions. The AAG told the court that the Board "could recognize that the harvestable portion of the applicable moose population was "sufficient to provide for subsistence uses and some, but not all, other consumptive uses, in keeping with AS 16.05.258(b)(2)"

The local ADFG biologists tell us the Board has directed them to hand out Minto any Moose registration permits in Minto and Nenana village because distribution in the Villages is "necessary to provide opportunity to harvest the ANS of 40 moose for the area."

This discriminatory permit distribution scheme is an illegal rural preference and should be abandoned in favor of a drawing hunt for the available Any Moose tags.

With a moose density of >5 Moose per square mile over much of the area, a long season during the peak of the rut, and a high success rate, the board should find for Minto, as it did in Unit 13, that the harvestable portion of Moose available in the general hunt provides a sufficient opportunity to meet the ANS without the need to offer some special advantage in the form of a registration permit scheme that serves as nothing more than a thinly disguised Village preference.

In 2007, you recognized the ANS for Unit 13 moose could be met in the general hunt. It is time to recognize the same fact in the Minto Management Area, consistent with AS 05.258(b)(2). And change the village based registration permit system to a drawing hunt where all Alaskans will have equal opportunity to participate, without having to camp out in a high tension environment for several days.

The staff that has been handing out these permits to sometimes angry and unruly crowds will also appreciate you changing this to a drawing hunt.

1
2 zero points on either set of questions designed to measure those two statutory criteria, the
3 total score for the application would be a zero.²⁰ A zero score does not automatically
4 mean that an applicant will not receive a permit, however, as low-scoring applications
5 remain within the applicant pool and may be awarded if the hunt is undersubscribed or if
6 the necessity for a lottery is triggered under 5 AAC 92.062(b) when insufficient permits
7 remain to be distributed among the lowest-scoring applicants. Ahtna has challenged this
8 regulation.
9

10
11 The Board adjusted its point system to account for the new questions and
12 maintain the 60/40 balance it has long kept between the two statutory Tier II criteria.²¹
13 Ahtna does not challenge the point spread.
14

15 The Ahtna Tene Nene' Subsistence Committee, et al., also challenges what
16 they call the Board's "elimination" of the Tier I subsistence hunt for moose.²² However,
17 this "change" was purely conceptual and resulted in no change whatsoever to the codified
18 regulations. It was merely a change in thinking. The regulations prior to the meeting did
19 not state that the hunt Ahtna is referring to was a tier I subsistence hunt, and they still do
20 not.²³ In essence, all that the Board did with its deliberation and vote on this issue was to
21 recognize that the harvestable portion of the applicable moose population was "sufficient
22 to provide for subsistence uses and some, but not all, other consumptive uses," in keeping
23 with AS 16.05.258(b)(2).
24
25
26

20 Exhibit C, p. 8.

21 Exhibit C, pp. 5-8.

22 Amended Complaint, Count II.

23 5 AAC 85.045(11), Register 178 (Exhibit E).

Comment for Proposal #17

I support this proposal, with an amendment.

I would like to include the GMU 25D in this proposal as well. The current trapping season allows for us to take lynx beginning in November, when their fur is sub-prime and not worth much. Delaying the season until December in GMU 25D would allow the fur to reach better quality before it is harvested. It is also sometimes difficult to begin a trap line in this part of the state until December anyway, since there is not always enough snow or even ice to maintain a trapping line.

On the other side of that, by removing a month on the beginning of the trapping season due to poor weather and poor fur quality, it seems fair that the season be extended until March 31st, to allow the same amount of time to trap lynx, just when their fur and weather conditions are more conducive to trapping.

Albert Carrol
Circle, AK

Yukon Flats AC Member
Albert CARROLL
Albert Carroll

RC 13

Ingrid Ruth Nixon
PO Box 665
Denali National Park, AK 99755
907-683-3330
irnixon@hotmail.com

February 11, 2010

Dear Board of Game,

As a resident of the Denali area, I urge you to retain and extend the wolf protection buffer zones around Denali National Park. It is a gross contradiction to protect these wolves part of the year and on part of their range, and allow them to be killed otherwise.

The areas that the Board previously agreed to protect are perilously near a major transportation corridor, making these animals especially vulnerable during their winter migrations. Given the liberal trapping and hunting bag limits in Unit 20, the potential for harm to Denali Park wolves is great.

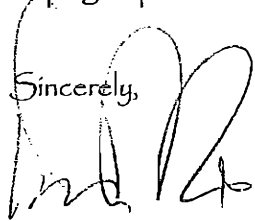
These wolves are of greater value to the Alaska economy alive than dead. Denali is one of the few places on earth where visitors stand a reasonable chance of seeing wolves without a lengthy wilderness expedition. The wolves draw visitors from all over the world, making the continued integrity of these wolf families important to the economy of the region.

These wolf packs are also tremendously valuable for research as the opportunity to study truly wild populations is very rare in the world today. It's in our best interest to keep them wild—not subject to the intensive management.

On certain state lands outside the Park, Denali wolves are especially vulnerable. The state lands within the wolf townships have been recognized as important winter habitat for Denali Park wolves for more than 25 years. Telemetry has shown that wolves move into the Wolf (Stampede) Townships from their home territories deep within the park during the winter months. This puts wolves from not only nearby but also far-off territories within Denali at risk during trapping season. Analysis of recent declines in the census numbers of Denali Park wolves shows that trapping and hunting losses have become a more

important factor in their deaths.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game pledged, through a Memorandum of Agreement in 1982, to cooperate with Denali National Park in the management of their mutual areas of interest. I call on you now to show this cooperation by recognizing the management priorities of the National Park, and helping to protect its valuable wildlife.

Sincerely,


Ingrid Nixon

Dear Board of Game Members

RC14

I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park boundary; Proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65.

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers there by allowing trapping right up to the park boundary. Please defeat 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 & 64.

People come to Alaska to hear and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaskans should treasure and protect wolves for this reason. ~~Some~~ Few individuals would be impacted by expanding this buffer zone. Why should five or so trappers be favored over thousands of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves.

Respectfully,

Lat Bayh

Feb , 2010

RC15

Dear Board of Game Members:

I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park boundary: Proposals 55, 58, 59, 60, and 65.

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers there by allowing trapping right up to the park boundary. Please defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64. People come to Alaska to learn and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaska should treasure and protect wolves for this reason few individuals should be

Impacted by expanding
this buffer zone. Why should
five or so trappers be
favored over (thousands) of people
inside Alaska who want to
protect the wolves?

Respectfully:
Jana Vasquez

February 6, 2010

RC 16

Board of Game Members:

Please pass the following proposals that expand the current buffer zone west to Denali Nat'l Park: proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 + 65.

Please defeat proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers thereby allowing trapping right up to the park boundary. Please defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64.

Alaskans + Americans on the whole treasure Alaskan wildlife and want to protect it. Thousands come to the park to see and photograph animals in the wild. Why should a handful of trappers be favored over thousands?

Respectfully
Susan Perry

February 4, 1997

10/11

Board of Game Members:

Please pass the following proposals that expand the current buffer zone next to Denali Natl.

Dark:

Proposal 55, 58, 59, 60 + 65.

Please defeat proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers there by allowing trapping height up to the park boundary.

Please defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64.

Alaskans + Americans on the whole treasure Alaskan wildlife and want to protect it. Thousands come to the park to see and photograph animals in the wild.

Respectfully,
Erica Chavez

RC18

In The Name Of GOD

Date: Feb/12/2010

Dear Board of Game Members

Please support proposals 55,58,59,60 and 65 so that you will oppose and vote down proposals that would eliminate current buffers there by allowing trapping right up to the park boundary and request you to defeat 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64.

There are a lot of People from over the World that they come to the National Park of Alaska to hear the sounds of Wolves and see them. We must to know that the Wolves are not our enemies, In fact the Humans are their enemies.

They hunt just for survive, but the Hunters kill them just for fun. The Wolves are a part of the world and they have right to live in this Earth, too. I request you to stop killing the Wolves.

**Respectfully
Amir R.H**

RC 19

FEB. 7, 2010

Dear Board of game members,

I am requesting that you not allow hunters to come set up their traps, and trap animals. I believe that animals have a right to survive and live life just like humans and every other living thing on this earth. Thousands of people come to Alaska to see these wolves and other animals. Why would you go against the majority's rule? The answer is you shouldn't because in all reality it's not right. So I am asking that you please reject proposal: 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65. It would honestly put an ease to animals and us. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Amie Daniel
(Amie Daniel)

Dear Board of Game member:

11/2/00

I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park boundary: Proposal 55, 58, 59, ~~59, 60, and 65~~, 60, and 65.

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffer zone there by allowing trapping right up the park boundaries. Please defeat proposal 56, 57, 61, 62, 63, and 64.

People come to Alaska to learn and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaskans showed treasure and protect wolves for this reason. Few individuals would ~~be~~ be impacted by expanding this buffer zone. Why should five or so trappers be favored over thousands of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves.

Respectfully,

Charli Anderson

Feb 6, 2010

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am encouraging you to
pass proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 + 65
to expand temple boundaries
and to defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62,
63 + 64 that would shrink or
eliminate them.

Sincerely,

Genny DeVries

KC22

Dear Board of Game Members:

Please pass proposals 55, 58
59, 60 & 65 that expand Denali
Park boundaries and please
defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 & 64

I am one of many who come
to Alaska with the hope of seeing
a live wolf in the wild.

Christopher Jones

RC 23

Dear board of game members

On behalf of the wolves of Alaska I would like to ask that you pass the following proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65 allowing expansion of the current buffer zone near the Denali National Park.

I would also like to ask that you vote down the following 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64. Which allows trapping of the wolves and smaller buffer zones.

Please protect your wildlife, because they too make Alaska the beautiful place that it is.

Respectfully

Eliza D. Mata

RC 24

Feb. 02, 2010

Dear board of Game Members:
I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park boundary: Proposals: 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffer. There by allowing trapping right up to park boundary.

Please defeat proposal 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64.

People come to Alaska to see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaskans should treasure and protect wolves for this reason for this reason. Few individuals would be impacted by expanding this buffer zone. Why should 5 or so trappers be so favored over throw of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves.

Respectfully
Raean Shepherd

ATTN. Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

February 12, 2010

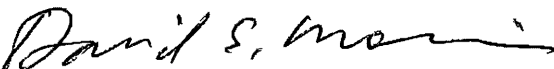
Dear Board of Game Members,

I wish to express my strong **OPPOSITION to PROPOSAL 16**, requesting modification of Dall sheep hunting dates to grant special preference to resident hunters, by allowing them a 5 day "head start" over non-resident hunters, and their required Alaska guides.

The current low success rate of resident Dall sheep hunters is due primarily to lack of hunting skills, not "the many resources guides have in place" as suggested by the drafter of this proposal. I have been guiding non-resident sheep hunters successfully amidst significant competition for well over 25 years and my "many resources" for the past 10 years consist of a couple 2 man nylon tents!

There is no justification for this proposal whatsoever from a biological or subsistence standpoint. If adopted, it will create much hardship for guides whose primary clientele consist of non-resident hunters. Sheep are very sensitive to hunting pressure and having resident hunters stumbling around the hills for 5 days prior to a guide's arrival with his client will be disastrous to a very important industry in this state.

Proposal 16 is nothing more than a selfish attempt by an Alaska resident to exclude competition from another user group who happen to fund about 80 percent of all wildlife management in the state of Alaska, and to disrupt the lives of guides who depend on that user group to support our families.

Sincerely, 
Dave Morris

KEVIN CLEMENT

Box 665
Denali Park, AK 99755
(907) 683-3330
kcalaska@hotmail.com

February 10, 2010

Dear. Board of Game,

As a resident of Denali, I urge you to retain and extend the wolf protection buffer zones around Denali National Park. It is a travesty to protect these wolves part of the year and on part of their range, and allow them to be killed otherwise.

The areas that the Board previously agreed to protect are perilously near a major transportation corridor, making these animals especially vulnerable during their winter migrations. Given the liberal trapping and hunting bag limits in Unit 20, the potential for harm to Denali Park wolves is great.

I work in tourism, and Denali is one of the few places on earth where visitors stand a reasonable chance of seeing wolves without a lengthy wilderness expedition. The wolves draw visitors from all over the world, making the continued integrity of these wolf families important to the economy of the region—including my job.

These wolf packs are also tremendously valuable for research and scientific inquiry. The opportunity to study truly wild populations is very rare in the world today. Study of these packs in their natural habitat has spanned several decades. It's in our best interest to keep them wild—not subject to the intensive management that the Board seems bent upon.

On certain state lands outside the Park, Denali wolves are especially vulnerable. The state lands within the wolf townships have been recognized as important winter habitat for Denali Park wolves for more than 25 years. Telemetry has shown that wolves move into the Wolf (Stampede) Townships from their home territories deep within the park during the winter months. This puts wolves from not only nearby but also far-off territories within Denali at risk during trapping season. Analysis of recent declines in the census numbers of Denali Park wolves shows that trapping and hunting losses have become a more important factor in their deaths.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game pledged, through a Memorandum of Agreement in 1982, to cooperate with Denali National Park in the management of their

mutual areas of interest. I call on you now to show this cooperation by recognizing the management priorities of the National Park, and helping to protect its valuable wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Clement". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Kevin Clement

Julia Potter

P.O. Box 72
Cantwell, AK 99729

akjello59@mtaonline.net
907-750-0023

February 11, 2010

Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

FAX: 907-465-6094

RE: Proposals #55, 58, 59, 60 and 65, Retention and/or Expansion of Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping in Game Management Units 20A and 20C

As a resident of Denali Borough, Alaska, I fully **support** the retention and/or expansion of the no hunting/trapping zones as proposed in the above referenced proposals.

Denali Borough relies heavily on tourism as its primary source of funding. Many Denali Borough residents, such as me, depend on tourism for our livelihoods. Denali National Park and Preserve draws more than 400,000 visitors each year to Denali Borough for the purpose of viewing wildlife. These visitors come from around the globe to view the "big five" - wolves, bears, moose, caribou and Dall sheep. There are virtually no other areas within the United States to view these magnificent animals in their natural habitat. Denali provides the best wolf viewing opportunities in the State of Alaska, and is second only to Yellowstone in the opportunity to see wild wolves in the United States.

The Board of Game is charged with providing wildlife opportunities for different user groups of Denali's wildlife - wildlife viewers are a user group. Protecting the few Denali packs is less than three percent of wolf packs in Alaska. With 95% of federal land and 99% of state land currently open to wolf hunting and trapping in Alaska, closing a very small portion of the state lands adjacent to Denali National Park would have little to no affect on hunters and trappers.

Considering that wildlife viewing generates \$581 million dollars to Alaska's economy compared to \$125 million for hunting expenditures, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, wildlife viewers would be more affected, as would Alaska's economy, if the areas currently closed to hunting and trapping were opened.

Julia Potter

P.O. Box 72
Cantwell, AK 99729

akjello59@mtaonline.net
907-750-0023

Page 2

Aside from the opportunity the Denali wolf packs provide for tourism and wildlife viewing, they also provide an opportunity for the scientific study of wolves in their natural habitat. Denali's East Fork (Toklat) pack holds enormous historical value, representing the first group of wolves ever studied in the wild. As an employee of Alaska Geographic at the Denali Bookstore, I know first-hand that Dr. Adolph Murie's book The Wolves of Mt. McKinley, describing his study of the wolves back in the 30's, is sought out by many visitors. These wolf packs continue to be important as subjects of research and scientific inquiry. With few places left to study wolves in their natural habitat it is imperative to provide adequate protection when they venture outside the boundaries of Denali National Park onto adjacent state lands.

Given the importance of Denali's wolves to wildlife viewers, tourism, Denali Borough's and Alaska's economy, and to scientific study, retaining and/or expanding the areas in Units 20A and 20C closed to hunting and trapping of wolves is a must.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Julia Potter

Feb. 5th, 2010

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing this letter longhand to show my support for Proposals: 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65 to expand the current buffer zone adjacent to Penak. Nelt. Pk. boundary.

I am in support of the efforts of the late Gordon Haber and his efforts on behalf of the Toklat wolves.

I oppose, very strongly any proposal that seeks to reduce or eliminate the current buffers allowing trappers to trap right up next to the Park boundary. (Oppose - 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 + 64)

It's a travesty that we continue to push these beleaguered animals out of their habitat - we encroach upon their native spaces without thought to the bigger picture.

Please regard these sentiments seriously for the sake of our own future

Sincerely, Jan Johnston, Minneapolis, MN

RC 29

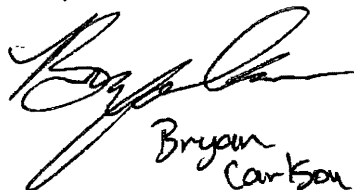
Dear Board of Game Members

I am requesting that you pass the following proposal which support expand the current buffer zone to the Denali National Park boundry: proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down prosals that would shrink or eliminate current buffer zones there by allowing trapping right up to the parks boundary. Please defeat proposal: 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64

People come to Alaska to hear and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaskans showed treasure and protect wolves for this reason few individuals would be impacted by expanding this buffer zone. Why should 5 or so trapper be favored over the thousands of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves

Respectfully,


Bryan
Carlson

Date: 2.10.10

RC 30

Dear Board of game Members:

I'm requesting that you pass the following proposals with support expanding the current buffer zone next to Denali National park.

please appose and vote down proposal 56, 57, 61, 62, 63, and 64.

people come to Alaska to hear and see wolves see and around National Park.

please protect the wolves for this reason as well as others, few individuals would be impacted by expanding ~~the~~ the buffer zone.

please look out in the wolves and the rights of many people inside and outside of Alaska who feel as I do.

Sincerely

Dear:

February, 12/2010

Board of Game Members.

RC 31

I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park boundary. Proposals *55, 58, 59, 60 and 65*.

I'm also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers there by allowing trapping right up to the park boundary. Please defeat proposals "56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64."

People come to Alaska to learn and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaska's should treasure and protect wolves for this reason. Few individuals would be impacted by expanding this buffer zone. Why should five or so trappers be favored over thousands of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves?

Thank you for these letters

Respectfully,
11/11

RC 32

202-659-0650

February 22, 2010 10:18 AM

David Lampila

109 Dennis Ave , ♦ Hornell, NY 14843

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the previous buffer zones you have designated to protect the wolves of Denali National Park from hunting and trapping outside of park boundaries. I support proposals #59 and #60 to renew and expand these buffers for the following reasons:

--Denali National Park is one of the best places in the world for visitors to see wolves in the wild and as an Alaskan resident, I value that opportunity as well.

--The percentage of park wolves killed by hunting and trapping has increased tremendously in the last six years (from 17% to 30%) and the current population is currently at 65--the lowest recorded number since the 1980s.

--Proposals #59 and #60 are reasonable and provide clear understandable boundaries.

I also urge you to support Proposal #5, submitted by the National Park Service, to exempt park lands from two new hunting rules meant to decrease black bear populations in Denali and Gates of the Arctic national preserves. Hunting bears in their dens with artificial light and allowing cubs and sows with cubs to be hunted at their dens is predator control and has no place in a national park unit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
David Lampila
109 Dennis Ave
Hornell, NY 14843

RC 33

January 26, 2010

Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee

PWSAC Conference Room - 7 p.m.

Attending: All AC members present except Vic Jones, Troy Tirrell, John Bocci

Public Comment: Bruce Cain shared a delta moose management proposal he wanted AC feedback on asking for support to increase harvest ranges. Deferred to later on agenda.

Old Business:

Dusky Geese update:

Tom Carpenter informed the committee the Western Flyway Group will be meeting in Portland on March 1st. He has summarized our earlier comments to USFWS, and will be forwarding them to the Group. Tim Joyce USFS reported on conversations his agency has had with the Flyway Alaska representative; the Queen Charlotte Island and BC out-of-season hunting is still troubling to regulators & researchers.

Delta Moose survey updates: Dave Crowley ADFG Cordova

Surveys were flown in November for 6C West (26 males/100 cows) and 6C (West Delta) (15 males/100 cows). Hasn't flown 6A East or 6B Martin Valley. Overall, numbers were good (300 counted; last year 388 at this time). There will be no cow permits this year other than in the federal subsistence draw.

Annual reauthorization of the antlerless moose hunt in 6C - Passed unanimously (11-0)

New Business:

Update on the BOF/Chitna Reclassification: Tom Carpenter updated members on details of the recent ruling requiring the BOF to revisit the 2003 subsistence classification of the Chitna Subdistrict on the Copper River. The Board will be briefed by the Department of Law at the Fairbanks AYK meeting, and a proposal will be issued to revisit the classification at the March statewide finfish meeting in Anchorage. The AC agreed to draft a letter to the BOF chair requesting a public hearing on the issue in Cordova prior to the March meeting in order to take public comment from folks unable to travel.

Student Representative on the AC: The AC voted unanimously to invite a high school student to attend AC meetings as a non-voting member with one-year terms. Mrs. Hollowell at CHS will be contacted to gauge student interest.

Statewide Finfish Comments: Copies of the statewide finfish proposal pertaining to PWS were made available to members. AC comments, if needed, will be discussed at the next meeting. Comments are due March 1, 2010. Will try to have local ADFG staff on hand for next meeting to address staff comments.

Next Meeting Date: February 16, 2010

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.

RECEIVED

FEB 17 2010

BOARDS
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Fish & Wildlife Service
Alaska Regional Office
1011 E Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503



National Park Service
Alaska Regional Office
240 W 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

February 9, 2010

RC 34

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Board Support Section
P. O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Dear Mr. Judkins:

The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have only quite recently become aware of Board of Game Proposal #131 being placed on your upcoming meeting agenda. We are working seriously to evaluate all of its implications. Unfortunately we were afforded no opportunity to discuss this proposal with Commissioner Lloyd prior to its submittal by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to the Alaska Board of Game.

At the outset, we fully recognize that this is about a State regulation governing State actions. However, because of the legal framework in place, State actions can directly affect Federal lands and the wildlife that use those lands. It has been suggested that by removing these State regulations, compliance with specific Federal laws might be avoided. We need to be clear; all of the Federal statutes which apply to park, monument, preserve and refuge lands must be fully complied with, regardless of the disposition of this State regulation. Our initial assessment of the proposal is that even if it were to pass, predator control activities within parks and refuges would require specific Federal authorization and supporting NEPA analysis.

We understand the State's concern about State management of wildlife in Alaska and do not wish to intrude upon those traditional powers; however, those powers are not absolute when we are dealing with Federal lands within the State. The discussion created by this proposal is touching upon fundamental jurisdictional issues between the Federal and State governments. We remain committed to a collaborative working relationship between our agencies and the State, recognizing that our differing legal mandates and policy frameworks create challenges and opportunities for problem-solving. We look forward to further dialogue on Proposal #131 at your meeting in Fairbanks.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey L. Haskett
Regional Director
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Sue E. Masica
Regional Director
National Park Service

To who it may concern:

I am writing with comments on several of the different propositions that the Board of Game will be considering this year. As a resident of the Denali Borough (off Stampede Road near Healy) I will be focused on those propositions that greatly impact the area that I live in. There are several regulations that are relevant to others, and I do make reference to other proposals at times. Please include relevant comments for each proposal.

Proposal 1: Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. I am writing to support this proposal, amended to include only areas determined to be near residences and heavy recreation OR within a certain distance from state- and municipality-maintained roads (for example, $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile). While the hope is that trappers will check their traps 'regularly', it is left to individual trappers to determine what 'regular' means. The end result can include wasting a perfectly good pelt (when the animal caught in a trap is preyed on by others), or causing prolonged pain and suffering (and death in some cases) of pet dogs, sometimes as close as a pet-owner's property line. A pet dog caught in a trapline that is not checked regularly can be stuck in that trap for a week if the trapper chooses to only check their lines on the weekend. Considering the proximity of traps to areas of high use (most state- and municipality-maintained roads have a somewhat regular, if not heavy amount of use), even the most considerate dog-owners can make mistakes and have a dog get loose on occasion. Dogs under voice control and in sight of the owner can suffer serious injury, even if the owner can release it quickly. Requiring trappers to check their lines regularly would also greatly reduce the number of animals that are allowed to escape from traps with injuries, or pull-up a trap that was not adequately set (or perhaps set well but not checked for so long that the animal was able to pull it free). Restricting trapping near the Parks highway in areas to the south of the state has increased the amount of trapping in areas of Interior Alaska along the highway, including the Denali Borough. It seems that many of the folks who have recently begun trapping in this area are only checking their traps on the weekends. I understand that some trappers have good reasons (family emergencies, etc) when they may not be able to check a trap for several days. While I don't think that these trappers should be punished, I am worried about the amount of trapping that is done where traps go unchecked between weekends, or for weeks at a time, simply because a trapper does not live in the area, and does not include checking his or her lines regularly as one of their priorities. If such a large number of trappers are disregarding the trapper's code of ethics, I would like to see trapping regulated so that it is done as is seen to be ethical by other states and within in this state in one region. Checking traps every seventy-two hours or 3 days is a reasonable restriction that will reduce friction and conflict between the trapping community and the general public.

Proposal 4: Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. I oppose this proposal because as has been made clear by various researchers that coyote populations expand when wolf populations are low. If the wolf buffers in unit 20C are ~~maintained~~, there is no need for increased take of coyotes.

maintained or increased

Proposal 55: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I support this proposal. Denali National Park provides one of the best wolf-viewing areas in the state. Hundreds of thousands of tourists come to the park each year, and the dollars they spend in the park come back into my community. Much of our borough's income is from tourist dollars. There has already been negative publicity in the park caused by wolves pulling snares loose and returning to the park with bloody injuries. The Board of Game is charged with protecting different uses of wildlife, and the viewability of wildlife is in danger if the wolf buffers are not maintained or expanded. The US Fish and Wildlife found in 2006 that wildlife viewing (a traditional activity in Denali National Park as well as the existing wolf buffer) brought in four times the amount of money to Alaska's economy than did hunting expenditures. I think that this is a reasonable proposal in size and scope, and would also create a positive side effect of taking care of some public safety concerns that have come up recently due to trapping near residential areas, including the Panguinge Creek Subdivision (my home, and included in this version of the wolf buffer expansion). The wolf population in Denali has not increased, but has instead decreased, due in large part to increased trapping, right up to the boundary of the wolf buffer. Please consider renewing the wolf buffers and expanding it as outlined in this proposal.

Proposal 56: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 57: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposals 58, 59, 60, : Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I support this proposal for the reasons listed under my comments for Proposal 55. This proposal would cover more of the range of certain wolf packs, which could increase the benefits that I listed under Proposal 55. I would also support maintaining the buffer at its current size.

Proposal 61: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My

community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 62: Control of predation by wolves; Predation Control Implementation Plans. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. In addition, creating a predator control plan would create an incredible amount of friction between tourism and the trapping community. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 63: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. In addition, creating a predator control plan would create an incredible amount of friction between tourism and the trapping community. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 64: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. In addition, creating a predator control plan would create an incredible amount of friction between tourism and the trapping community. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 65: Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping. I support this proposal for the reasons listed under my comments for Proposal 55. This proposal would cover more of the range of certain wolf packs, which could increase the benefits that I listed under Proposal 55. I would also support maintaining the buffer at its current size. One concern I do have is that the proposed boundary runs through the Panguinge Creek Subdivision, of which I am a resident. Current trapping runs right up to the lines of the current wolf buffer, and increased wolf trapping in the Subdivision would be detrimental to public safety. I would be supportive of this resolution with no reservations if Proposal 72 were passed as well.

Proposal 66: **Areas closed to hunting; Areas closed to trapping.** I oppose this proposal. See my reasons for support of Proposal 55 for more information on why eliminating the Stampede Wolf Buffer is a bad idea. At the very least, the wolf buffer should be maintained. In addition, creating a predator control plan would create an incredible amount of friction between tourism and the trapping community. I live off Stampede Road in the Panguinge Creek Subdivision. My community receives much of its income from tourists to Denali National Park, hundreds of thousands who list wolves as one of the main reasons for visiting the area. This proposal would be detrimental to my community's economy.

Proposal 72: **Areas closed to trapping.** I live in the proposed closure, and I support this proposal. Living on a rural, state-maintained road, I regularly walk my dogs off-leash, under voice control. To train sled dog pups to run fearlessly over different trail conditions, training includes exposure to terrain like frozen creeks and overflow. Recently a neighbor's dog was caught in a leg-hold trap in the creek valley that I walk dogs in regularly, and where I have trained pups over the last few years, less than a quarter mile from my front door. Luckily the dog's owner was close by and was able to release the dog, while meanwhile a second dog set off another trap within sight of the first. Neither of the dogs were out of sight of their owner, and were under voice control. None of the traps were marked, and were very close to the road. Trapping in my community is causing increasing problems with public safety, and also causing damage to private property (pet dogs).

Hannah Ragland
H Ragland

Mailing Address:
PO Box 657
Denali Park, AK
99755

Physical Address:
Mile 1 Mentent Rd
Healy, AK 99743



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (AKRO-SUBS)

February 11, 2010

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

We have reviewed 132 proposals before the Board of Game (BOG) beginning on February 26, 2010. Enclosed are our recommendations on proposals that affect or have the potential to affect National Park Service (NPS) areas in Alaska. We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

As you have heard from the NPS in the past, our mission and mandates differ from the State of Alaska and other Federal agencies, and may require different management approaches consistent with NPS enabling legislation and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). We recognize and support the State's fundamental role in wildlife management, while at the same time we must assure that the laws and regulations of the National Park Service are upheld. Where specific proposals might implement intensive management objectives, contrary to NPS policies, we ask that NPS areas be excluded from any regulations you may authorize in those areas. We also recognize and appreciate previous Board actions that have not authorized predator control on NPS managed lands.

NPS is concerned about proposals that implement population reduction activities for black bear, brown bear, wolf and coyote on National Preserve lands. We are also concerned about expansion of bear baiting, because NPS has a long history of trying to prevent habituation of bears to food rewards, both to protect bears and for visitor safety.

National Park Service Proposals

Proposals #5 & 65 – Adopt - GMU 19 & 24 and GMU 20 C – Affected NPS Preserves: Gates of the Arctic National Preserve and Denali National Preserve - Both are proposals submitted by the NPS. We continue to support these and recommend that you adopt them as submitted. We will have a representative from both Denali National Park and Preserve and

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve at your meeting to testify and to answer any questions you may have.

Proposals #55-61 & 63-64 - Take no action – GMU 20 A & C – Affected NPS Preserves: Denali National Preserve- These proposals recommend a number of different management actions focused on wolf management adjacent to Denali National Park. As stated above we recommend support of proposal #65.

Predator Control

Proposals # 62, #67 and (# 32 – from BOG winter 2010 meeting -Proposal was deferred) - Modify to exclude NPS managed lands – GMU 20 C and 9 C & E – Affected Preserves: Alagnak National River, Aniakchak National Preserve, Denali National Preserve, and Katmai National Preserve – These proposals involve predator control as defined in State regulations. As we have expressed to the Board on prior occasions, predator control is not allowed on NPS managed lands without the consent of the NPS. Should the Board pass these proposals, we recommend that you add language that will explicitly exclude any NPS lands that are in the predator control area.

Proposal #131 – This proposal affects both NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lands in a number of locations around the state. Our agencies have submitted comments on this proposal in a separate letter.

Intensive Management

Proposal #33 – from BOG Winter 2010 meeting (Proposal was deferred) – Adopt – GMU 9 C & E – Affects Preserves: Alagnak Wild River, Aniakchak National Preserve, and Katmai National Preserve - The NPS believes that the recommendation to review population objectives is warranted.

Proposals #4, 6, 8, 9, 29, 30, 66 - Modify to exclude NPS managed lands – Multiple GMUs – Affected Preserves: Denali National Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve – These proposals involve intensive management efforts that would be undertaken in specific areas. As we have expressed to the Board on prior occasions, intensive management of wildlife species is of concern to the NPS and is contrary to NPS policy. Should the Board pass these proposals, we recommend that you add language that will explicitly exclude NPS lands in the area targeted for intensive management regulations.

Fortymile Caribou Herd Management

Proposal #14 – Adopt and Take no action on #13,15,19,20,21

Considerable effort has been dedicated to the management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd by local advisory groups. Proposal #14 would revise the herd's Harvest Plan and is a result of cooperative efforts between a coalition of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and State Advisory Committees from Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks.

The proposed changes address issues with the management of the hunt. These changes would likely result in a more widely distributed harvest both in time and location, while providing opportunity to resident and non-resident hunters. We recommend that the Board continue to work with the coalition of groups established fifteen years ago by the Fortymile Caribou Plan, and consider their proposed revisions to the Harvest Plan as needs arise. We encourage this comprehensive and coordinated approach and feel most of the other issues raised by the individual proposals are addressed in proposal #14.

Specific Proposals

Proposal #18- Support in concept – GMU 12 – Affected Preserve: Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve – Most of the hunt will occur on Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve lands. We recommend that the regulations allow flexibility for ADF&G managers to work closely with Federal managers to implement a joint hunt that incorporates input from both the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the affected Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils while adhering to the tenets of the interagency management plan. As one of the participants in the interagency management planning process for the Chisana Caribou herd, the NPS supports the completion of the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan.

Proposal #28 – Take No Action – GMU 20 - Affected Preserve: Denali National Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve – The National Park Service is concerned about food conditioning of brown bears in NPS areas and the habituation of bears to food rewards, both to protect bears and for visitor safety.

Proposal #96-Adopt - GMU 26 B&C – Affected Preserve: Gates of the Arctic National Preserve – This proposal will make the mink and weasel season consistent with the majority of the trapping seasons in Unit 26. There are no known conservation concerns for these species and they currently can be retained as incidental catch in other trap sets.

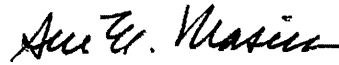
Proposal # 99 – Adopt – GMU 25 C&D & GMU 26 C – Affected Preserve: Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve – This proposal submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, shortens the nonresident season and reduces the bag limit for the declining Porcupine Caribou Herd. In 2009, the Yukon government implemented similar conservation measures and restrictions to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Proposal #102&104 – Take No Action - GMU 26B – Affected Preserve: Gates of the Arctic National Preserve -- These proposals would change the resident caribou season and bag limit. Proposal #103 with modification is the NPS recommended approach to this issue.

Proposal #103 – Adopt with Season Modification – GMU 26B – Affected Preserve: Gates of the Arctic National Preserve – The proposed modification would establish an open season of May1-June 30 for Remainder GMU 26, South of 69 degrees 30’N and would shorten the season by 30 days. Opening the season on May 1 would give greater certainty the hunted animal is in fact a barren cow based on antler loss. The proposed hunt area restriction (South of 69 degrees 30’ N) protects calving areas during this period.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with comments on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with you on these issues. Should you have any questions please contact Deborah Cooper at (907) 644-3505 or Dave Mills at (907) 644-3508.

Sincerely,



Sue E. Masica
Regional Director

cc:

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, ADF&G
Doug Larsen, Director, Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G
Kristy Tibbles, ADF&G
Tina Cuning, ADF&G
Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska
Geoff Haskett, Regional Director, FWS
Chuck Ardizzzone, FWS
Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Yukon-Charley Rivers NPRES/Gates of the Arctic NP&P
Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark NP&P
Meg Jensen, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P
Ralph Moore, Superintendent, Katmai NP&P
Paul Anderson, Superintendent, Denali NP&P
Deborah Cooper, Associate Regional Director, NPS Alaska Region
Dave Mills, Subsistence Team Manager, NPS Alaska Region
Sandy Rabinowitch, Subsistence Manager, NPS Alaska Region
Chris Pergiel, Chief Law Enforcement Officer, NPS Alaska Region

18 2010

BOARDS



*Professional Alaskan Big Game Guide & Outfitter
Henry D. Tiffany, IV*

RC 37

February 11, 2010

Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094
Total Number of Pages: 3

RE: Opposition to Proposal 16

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I am a lifelong Alaskan, born in Fairbanks where I currently reside with my wife and two of my daughters, and am an active licensed Master Guide and Outfitter.

Please accept the following comments regarding Proposal #16, which will be before your review at your Interior meeting in Fairbanks in a few weeks.

Proposal #16: Strongly OPPOSED

I do not support proposal 16, which would increase the length of the resident Dall Sheep season in all Region III units while at the same time shorten the Dall Sheep season for non-residents.

This same individual has been trying to pass similar proposals for the last few years and while I do not know this individual personal and thus hold no ill will towards them I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

According to the most recent public statistics on the ADF&G website (<http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm>) in 2008 there were a total of 2,114 Dall

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sheep hunters in Alaska that actually went hunting, excluding those that for one reason or another did not pursue Dall sheep in 2008. Of those 2,114 hunters 1,695 were resident hunters and only 419 were non-resident hunters. The resident hunters killed 91 more Dall sheep than the non-resident hunters in 2008 (352 harvested by residents and 261 harvested by non-residents).

Resident hunters generally harvest more Dall sheep rams in Alaska than non-resident hunter, who in most cases are on a guided hunt or within second-degree of kindred of an Alaska resident. It is true that guided non-resident hunters have a significantly higher success rate in harvesting rams but that is in large part due to the experience of their guides due to their extensive time spent Dall Sheep hunting as part of their profession and that should not detract from the simple facts that the majority of sheep killed each year in Alaska are killed by resident hunters and are not harvested by non-resident hunters.

I respectfully disagree with this proposal's author that this proposal will help to reduce the conflicts between resident hunters and non-resident hunters. Was this proposal, or a proposal similar to this, to be passed than in my experienced opinion there would actually, in all reality, be more competition for the opportunity to harvest a ram than there currently is and the reason for this is simple.

Currently it is illegal for a guide to hunt Dall sheep while they are in the field guiding a client. Under this proposal what would happen in my opinion is that guides, like myself, would simply go to the very same areas that they have been operating in but would arrive before this proposed resident season opening date of August 5th and then the guides themselves would hunt for the first eight days of the season and have an opportunity to harvest a ram each year for themselves, something I have not yet done in my 21 year guiding career in Alaska.

So what is proposed to reduce conflicts I suspect will only actually increase the potential for conflicts as there will actually be more "Dall Sheep hunter days" (resident, guides and non-resident hunters pursuing Dall Sheep) during that time period than as it stands now, where guides are not permitted to hunt while guiding a client in the field.

This proposal could also have a potentially significant negative impact on the revenue a guide is able to generate to help support themselves, their families and their contribution to the Alaska economy as already many potential non-resident Dall Sheep hunters are choosing to hunt in Canada and a reduction in the non-resident hunter season would just be an additional incentive for non-resident hunters to pay more to hunt in Canada and thus further hurt our guiding industry, State of Alaska economy and the ADF&G budget.

As I suspect the Board of Game is well aware, according to a University of Alaska study, the guiding industry is close to 200 million dollar a year industry in Alaska. Though some may prefer to not acknowledge that fact, it is a significant amount of money that we directly help to contribute to the State of Alaska economy. Though we as an industry have never asked for direct advertising support from the State of Alaska's

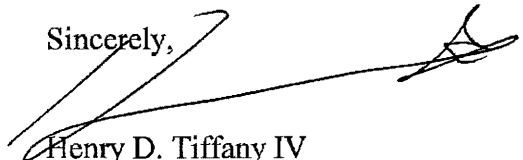
tourism advertising campaigns we have significantly helped to support the tourism advertising budget here in Alaska. As you might be aware, as a result of the federal Pittman – Robertson Act, approximately 85% of the Alaska Department of Fish & Games budget is derived from the sale of licenses and tags to non-residents of Alaska and a large portion of those very non-residents hunters that help to generate those funds for the ADF&G will not continue to come to Alaska to hunt if, in essence, they are penalized for not residing in Alaska and cannot begin hunting Dall Sheep until after residents have had a full eight days of hunting in areas.

Again, in blunt terms, resident hunters already harvest more Dall sheep than non-resident hunters do annually and as such I see no need whatsoever to lengthen and increase the season for resident hunters when they are already harvesting more sheep than the non-resident hunters. All resident hunters may not be as successful on hunts, due to a lack of experience for some resident hunters (though I know many resident hunters that are excellent and very successful sheep hunters) but as a group resident hunters still harvest more rams and I see no real basis for a proposal such as this when it will do far more harm to the overall sheep population, the guides of Alaska (such as myself that support our families in large part through guiding non-resident sheep hunters) and it will not solve the conflicts in the field but only potentially increase those occurrences.

I would strongly encourage the Board of Game to not change the resident or non-resident Dall sheep seasons in Region III but let them stand as they are now and as they have been for many, many years.

In advance, I thank you for your time and consideration and commend your efforts to regulate our fish and wildlife opportunities here in Alaska. If you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at either 907-223-3226 or 907-456-4868.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry D. Tiffany IV", written over a horizontal line.

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Lifelong Alaska Resident and
Master Guide & Outfitter

February 16, 2010 01:43 PM

Diane Kristoff

4846 Indian Cabin Road , ♦ Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RC 38

Subject: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the previous buffer zones you have designated to protect the wolves of Denali National Park from hunting and trapping outside of park boundaries. I support proposals #59 and #60 to renew and expand these buffers for the following reasons:

--Denali National Park is one of the best places in the world for visitors to see wolves in the wild and as an Alaskan resident, I value that opportunity as well.

--The percentage of park wolves killed by hunting and trapping has increased tremendously in the last six years (from 17% to 30%) and the current population is currently at 65--the lowest recorded number since the 1980s.

--Proposals #59 and #60 are reasonable and provide clear understandable boundaries.

I also urge you to support Proposal #5, submitted by the National Park Service, to exempt park lands from two new hunting rules meant to decrease black bear populations in Denali and Gates of the Arctic national preserves. Hunting bears in their dens with artificial light and allowing cubs and sows with cubs to be hunted at their dens is predator control and has no place in a national park unit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Diane Kristoff
4846 Indian Cabin Road
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/OSM/10010/CA

FEB 18 2010

RC 39

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chair
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The Alaska Board of Game is scheduled to meet February 26 – March 7, 2010, to deliberate proposals concerning changes to the Interior Region (Region III) regulations. We have reviewed the 132 proposals the Board will be considering at this meeting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, working with other Federal agencies, has developed preliminary recommendations on those proposals that have potential impacts on both Federal Subsistence users and wildlife resources. Our comments are enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on these issues. Please contact Chuck Ardizzone, Wildlife Liaison, 907-786-3871, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco,
Assistant Regional Director
Office of Subsistence Management

Enclosure

cc: Denby Lloyd, ADF&G
Mike Fleagle, Chair, FSB
Kristy Tibbles, Board Support Section
Tina Cunning, ADF&G
Interagency Staff Committee
Chuck Ardizzone, OSM

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RECOMMENDATIONS

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

Interior Region (Region III)

February 26 – March 7, 2010

Fairbanks, Alaska

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.990(7)(C)(iv). Definitions; and 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Reclassify black bear to allow trapping and the sale of hides in Units 25, 20 and 12 as follows:

Declare the black bear a furbearer under statewide regulations for Units 25, 20, and 12.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ ____ .25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations

(a) Definitions

Furbearer means a beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat, river (land) otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, marmot, wolf, or wolverine.

Trapping means the taking of furbearers within established trapping seasons and with a required trapping license.

§ ____ . 25(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish

(2) If you take wildlife for subsistence, you must salvage the following parts for human use:

(iii) The hide and edible meat of a black bear.

(3) You must salvage the edible meat of ungulates, bear, grouse, and ptarmigan.

(8) If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell the raw fur or tanned pelt with or without claws attached from legally harvested furbearers.

§ ____ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife

(b) Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited . . .

(10) Using a trap to take ungulates or bear.

(17) Taking a bear cub or a sow accompanied by cub(s).

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a proposal to reclassify black bears as furbearers in Units 12, 20 and 25 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. If adopted, the proposal would allow the sale of the raw fur or tanned pelt from black bear legally harvested under Federal wildlife regulations.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the reclassification of black bears as furbearers, but is concerned about the resulting regulations to include: harvest limits, harvest seasons, and methods and means of take.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would classify black bears as furbearers and would allow the general sale of bear hides and could lead to large scale commercial sales. Bears have low

reproductive rates and a moderate increase in harvest could lead to long-term population declines in some areas.

PROPOSAL 11- 5AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Eliminate black bear sealing in Interior Game Management Units where harvest tickets or registration permits provide necessary harvest data as follows:

(a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state, black bear of any color variation taken in Units 1 - 7, **11, 13-17, and 20B** [11 - 17, 19(D), AND 20], and a bear skin or skull before the skin or hide is sold. A seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin and skull have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department, except that

...

[(4) IN UNIT 19(D), BLACK BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 19(D) OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 92.125(F) IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE SEALED; HOWEVER, THE HIDE OF A BLACK BEAR TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31 IN UNIT 19(D) OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNIT 19 UNTIL SEALED;]

...

(b) A person who possesses a bear **taken** in a unit where sealing is required shall keep the skin and skull together until a department representative has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin. The department may require that the skull of the bear be skinned and that the skin and skull not be frozen at the time of sealing.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(j) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(1) Sealing requirements for bear apply to brown bears taken in all Units, except as specified in this paragraph, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20.

(2) You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of ADF&G in accordance with State or Federal regulations, except that the skin and skull of a brown bear taken under a registration permit in Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A need not be sealed unless removed from the area.

(3) You must keep a bear skin and skull together until a representative of the ADF&G has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin; however, this provision does not apply to brown bears taken within Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A

and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A and which are not removed from the Unit.

(i) In areas where sealing is required by Federal regulations, you may not possess or transport the hide of a bear that does not have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear.

(ii) If the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage is removed from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Bethel, Dillingham, or McGrath; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iii) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A from the area or present it for commercial tanning within the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Barrow, Galena, Nome, or Kotzebue; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iv) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 5 from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Yakutat.

(v) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 9E from Unit 9, you must first have it sealed by an authorized sealing representative. At the time of sealing, the representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support** the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would help eliminate redundant reporting requirements for black bears in units where both sealing and harvest ticket are required. According to ADF&G, information obtained from harvest tickets reports alone is sufficient to guide management of black bear populations in all of the Interior units with the exception of Unit 20B, where harvest rates are low. Research indicates that the estimated sustainable harvest rates are well above the current harvest rates. Now that harvest tickets are required, sealing data is redundant and unnecessary in Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20C, 20E and 20F. However, because harvest rates are high in Unit 20B, data collected during the sealing process as well as harvest ticket data, will allow ADF&G to closely monitor the Unit 20B black bear population for indications of overharvest.

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Authorize new resident brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska, including reauthorization of current resident tag fee exemptions as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C [UNIT 19(A) AND UNIT 19(D);]

[(5) UNIT 20(D);]

[(6) UNIT 20(E), THAT PORTION OUTSIDE OF YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE;]

[(7) UNIT 21(B), UNIT 21(D), AND UNIT 21(E);]

...

13

[(10) UNIT 25(C) AND UNIT 25(D).]

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

...
[(5) UNITS 19(A) AND 19(B), THAT PORTION DOWNSTREAM OF AND INCLUDING THE ANIAK RIVER DRAINAGE;]
[(6) UNIT 21(D);]
...
[(9) UNIT 24;]...

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **support** the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would eliminate the requirement that subsistence users must purchase a \$25 tag before hunting grizzly bears in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C. Removing this requirement is particularly important in areas where there are few vendors and local economies are in a depressed state.

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify seasons and bag limits, and apply certain motorized restrictions for the Fortymile Caribou Herd, Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C

Current Federal Regulation:

Caribou

Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20D

*No Federal open
Season*

Unit 20E—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 900 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota. During the winter season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be announced when Nelchina caribou are present in a mix of more than 1 Nelchina caribou to 15 Fortymile caribou, except when the number of caribou present is low enough that less than 50 Nelchina caribou will be harvested regardless of the mixing ration for the two herds.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Unit 25C, that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek—1 caribou, however cow caribou may be taken only from Nov. 1–Mar. 31. During the Nov. 1–Mar. 31 season, a State registration permit is required.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Nov. 1–Mar. 31*

Unit 25C remainder—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 600 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-105) was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. WP10-105 requests that the Federal Fortymile Caribou Hunt Manager be given discretionary in-season hunt management authority, including the authority to modify or restrict harvest limits, season dates, methods, means and access to hunt the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) in Units 20E and 25C.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action**.

Rationale: This proposal should first be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, prior to the Board taking any action to modify seasons and bag limits, or to apply certain motorized restrictions for caribou in the region. See comments for Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou, and 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Revise the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan by changing season dates, bag limits and permit conditions for Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C as follows:

Under discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures 5 AAC 92.052(7), (10), (12), (17), and (21), the Department of Fish and Game shall implement the following changes to the Fortymile caribou registration hunt (RC860):

In Zone 1 (portions of Units 20B and 25C accessible from the Steese highway and Chena Hot Springs Road) and Zone 3 (portions of Unit 20E accessible from the Taylor Highway).

Residents: Shorten the season to August 29th – September 30th from August 10 September 30, and change the bag limit from one caribou to one bull.

Nonresidents: Shorten the season to August 29th – September 20th from August 10 – September 20th. The bag limit will remain one bull.

In Zone 2, the roadless area between the Steese and Taylor Highways in parts of Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

Residents and nonresidents: The season will remain August 10 – September 30 for residents and August 10 – September 20 for nonresidents, the resident bag limit will be changed from one caribou to one bull, the nonresident bag limit will remain one bull.

In addition, the department shall implement temporary closures and weapons restrictions in specific areas where the harvest management problems occur and to reduce heavy roadside harvest. Furthermore, under the Fortymile caribou seasons in the hunting regulations booklet, wording should be added stating “Hunt subject to delayed opening, weapons restrictions or cancellation on short notice. Call the Fortymile hotline (267-2310) before departing for the field.” The Board of Game, Advisory Committees, and hunters need full disclosure on the effects of each requested action. To answer the concern of state hunters who believe that federally qualified hunters may take the full fall quota of 480 caribou before the state season opens, the coalition (which has three members on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council- EIRAC) recommends using the place-holder federal proposal (WP10-105) to ask for a maximum number of caribou “to be announced” before the season, but not to exceed 100 caribou, that can be taken by federally qualified hunters on federal land between August 10 and August 29. Also they will ask the federal board to consider a “bulls only” season in the fall so that the federal and state hunts can continue a joint permit. The fall state hunt quota would provide approximately 400 caribou for Zones 1 and 3.

Current Federal Regulations:

Caribou

Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20D

No Federal open Season

Unit 20E—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 900 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota. During the winter season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be announced when Nelchina caribou are present in a mix of more than 1 Nelchina caribou to 15 Fortymile caribou, except when the number of caribou present is low enough that less than 50 Nelchina caribou will be harvested regardless of the mixing ration for the two herds.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Unit 25C, that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek—1 caribou, however cow caribou may be taken only from Nov. 1–Mar. 31. During the Nov. 1–Mar. 31 season, a State registration permit is required. Unit 25C remainder—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 600 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Nov. 1–Mar. 31*

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager

after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-105) was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. WP10-105 requests that the Federal Fortymile Caribou Hunt Manager be given discretionary in-season hunt management authority, including the authority to modify or restrict harvest limits, season dates, methods, means and access to hunt the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) in Units 20E and 25C.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support** the proposal.

Rationale: This proposal was vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. The working group worked cooperatively to develop possible solutions to problems revolving around the harvest of Forty Mile caribou. The Office of Subsistence Management received a copy of State proposal 14 and spoke to the issues in the proposal while analyzing Federal proposal WP10-105. The Office of Subsistence Management recommends supporting the harvest limit change from one caribou to one bull for the fall hunt and to limit the number of caribou harvested in the first 19 days of the Federal subsistence fall hunt to 100 animals. However, the Eastern Interior Regional Council will not meet to address this issue until just prior to the Board of Game meeting and the Council recommendation may differ. The Federal Subsistence Board will take action on Federal proposal WP10-105 at its May 2010 public meeting and the Board is required to give due deference to the Regional Council's recommendation unless the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence uses.

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a fall hunting season for the Chisana Caribou Herd in Unit 12 as follows:

Establish a joint federal/state draw permit hunt for the Chisana Caribou Herd starting the fall of 2011. This draw permit hunt should be structured similar to the Cordova moose draw permit hunt, with a portion of the permits issued to federally qualified subsistence hunters, under federal regulations (federal hunt), and the rest of the permits issued to Alaska residents and nonresidents, under state regulations (state hunt).

The hunt should be managed in accordance with the recommendations in the Chisana Herd Management Plan currently being drafted by Yukon Department of Environment, White River First Nation, Canadian Wildlife Service, National Park Service (Wrangell St. Elias), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game. The total numbers of permits issued for the joint federal/state draw permit hunt, should be in accordance with the recommendation in the plan.

The draft plan currently recommends a harvest rate of 2 percent of the annual minimum population estimate to be split evenly between Alaska and Yukon. The Alaska portion of the allotted harvest should be allocated between the federal and state draw permit hunts based on recent historic Alaska harvest records of the herd. (eg: harvest records available over the past 30 years).

Bag limit: 1 Bull (this should be a bulls only season for the Federal and State Hunts as recommended in the Plan)

Season dates: September 1 through September 30.

Hunt area: Unit 12, within the White River Drainage and that portion within the Chisana River upstream from the winter trail that runs southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 12—Caribou

*Unit 12, that portion of the Nabesna River drainage within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and all Federal Public lands south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border—**The taking of caribou is prohibited on Federal public lands.*** No Federal open season

Unit 12 remainder—1 bull during the Sept. season. 1 caribou may be taken by a Federal registration permit during a winter season to be announced. Dates for a winter season to occur between Oct. 1–Apr. 30 and sex of animal to be taken will be announced by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Manager in consultation with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent, ADF&G Area Biologists and Chairs of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Sept. 1–Sept. 20 Winter season to be announced.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-104), has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. The proposal requests that a joint Federal-State draw permit hunt for the Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH) be established in Unit 12 starting fall of 2011. The harvest quota would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan, the harvest limit would be one bull and the hunting season would be September 1 through September 30. A portion of the permits would be issued to Federally qualified subsistence hunters for a Federal hunt and the rest of the permits would be issued to Alaska residents and nonresidents for a State hunt. The current OSM recommendation is to **defer** Federal proposal WP10-104 until the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan is finalized and the 2010 census is complete.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is to **defer** the proposal.

Rationale: The 2010 census should provide an estimate of current herd size, but if the Chisana Caribou Herd remains at about 700 animals, a 2% harvest quota would result in approximately 14 animals being available for harvest. When split between Yukon and Alaska, as few as seven animals could be available to harvest in Alaska. The priority on Federal public lands is to provide for subsistence use for qualified rural residents, which in the case of Unit 12 caribou includes rural residents of Unit 12, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake. Currently, the Alaskan range of the Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH) is almost completely encompassed within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, which is closed to the taking of caribou. Without action by the Federal Subsistence Board, Federal lands in the area where the herd ranges will

remain closed to harvest. Finally, since there has been no hunt on the CCH since 1994, the anticipated level of participation in a Federal subsistence hunt is unknown.

Two key components are needed before a hunt can be established for the CCH. First, the draft CCH Management Plan needs to be finalized and endorsed by all the management agencies involved with the CCH. An approved management plan will establish the biological thresholds (e.g., herd size, sex ratio, cow-calf ratio) needed for evaluating herd stability before a harvest quota can be identified. Second, the 2010 CCH census needs to be completed to estimate the current herd size. Once the management plan and census are completed, the framework will exist to establish an accurate harvestable quota. Until these two components are in place it is premature to create hunting regulations for the CCH. To establish a Federal-State draw permit hunt for CCH, support would need to come from both of the affected Regional Advisory Councils (Southcentral and Eastern Interior) and the subsistence community. However, the Eastern Interior Regional Council will not meet to address this issue until just prior to the Alaska Board of Game meeting and Southcentral Regional Council will not meet until after the Board has met. The Councils' recommendations may or may not support this proposed hunt. The Federal Subsistence Board will not take action on Federal proposal WP10-104 until its May 2010 public meeting. The Board is required to give due deference to the Regional Councils' recommendations unless the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence uses. Without action by the Federal Subsistence Board, Federal lands in the area where the herd ranges will remain closed to harvest.

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 20E as follows:

Increase the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 20E (Fortymile Caribou Herd) to the growth amount so the herd stays at current levels. That would be 7-10 percent. Watch the cow-calf ratios and revisit harvest numbers at a later date.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action.** .

Rationale: This proposal should be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. See comments for Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.052 Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Apply restrictions to the Fortymile caribou permit hunt in Unit 20E as follows:

Require blaze orange vests be worn by all hunters. Require all hunters to have hunter's education card (presented at the time the tag is picked up). Discontinue the current rifle season and change it to an archery only hunt from August 10 - 17; bow hunting safety card required. Make a new rifle season from August 17 - 24. Limit the number of tags to nonresidents to 40 tags during the rifle season and 10 tags for the archery season. These tags on a draw permit only. No drawing for resident hunters for either rifle hunt or archery hunt

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action**.

Rationale: This proposal should be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. See comments for proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Eliminate the nonresident closed area for caribou in Unit 19A as follows:

Remove all wording about non-resident closed area in Unit 19A

Current Federal Regulations:

*Unit 19A north of Kuskokwim River—1 caribou Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

*Units 19A south of the Kuskokwim River and Aug. 1–Apr. 15
19B (excluding Lime Village)—3 caribou;
however, no more than 1 caribou may be taken
from Aug. 1–Nov. 30.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-53 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board., to change the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 19A to two caribou.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would result in additional competition between user groups desiring to harvest caribou in Unit 19A. Results from the July 2006 photocensus provided an estimate of 45,000 caribou. Results from the July 2008 photocensus provided a minimum estimate of 30,000 caribou. Bull:cow ratios have been estimated at less than 35 bulls:100 cows since 2001. These estimates indicate a substantial reduction in herd size and bull:cow ratios and suggests that it is near the minimum population for the ADF&G management objectives. Providing additional harvest opportunities at this time is not recommended.

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a registration hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 19C for residents as follows:

Open by registration hunt for the communities of Nikolai, Telida, McGrath, Takotna. Three permits for each community from October 1 to March 30, no aircraft, ¾ curl or less, ewes with no lamb.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 19 – 1 ram with 7/8 curl or larger Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Traditionally, people from the named communities took dog teams after the fall snows and hunted for young rams and ewes. This proposal is requesting reinstatement of the traditional sheep hunt that was ended when the full curl/fall hunt was put into place.

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area as follows:

April 5 - 15 antlered bull moose hunt for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area downstream of the Henshaw Creek and including the Henshaw Creek drainage. The harvest quota of bulls will be determined after consultation with the State Area Biologist, Refuge Manager, BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager, and the chairs of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The quota will be based on biological sustainability of the population maintaining the bull/cow ratio management objective. The harvest quota would apply to Federal and State concurrent hunts, if applicable. The Area Wildlife Biologist is authorized to close the season once the quota is reached.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 24B – Moose

Unit 24B, that portion within the John River Drainage – 1 moose *Aug. 1-Dec.31*

Unit 24B, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River, except the John River drainage – 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 and Mar. 1 – 5, if authorized jointly by the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Manager, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager, and the Gates of the Arctic National Park Superintendent. A Federal registration permit is required for the Sept. 26 – Oct. 1 and Mar. 1 – 5 seasons. Harvest of cows accompanied by calves is prohibited. The announcement will be made after consultation with the ADF&G Area Biologist and Chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, and the Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee. *Aug. 25-Oct. 1*
Mar. 1-Mar. 5
Season to be announced

Federal public lands in the Kanuti Controlled use Area are closed to the taking of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users of Unit 24, Koyukuk, and Galena hunting under these regulations.

Unit 24B remainder – 1 antlered bull. A Federal registration permit is required for the Sept. 26 – Oct. 1 season. *Aug. 25 – Oct. 1*

Federal public lands in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area are closed to the taking of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users of Unit 24, Koyukuk, and Galena, hunting under these regulations.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-67 requesting changes in harvest seasons and limits for moose in Unit 24B, has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Subsistence users would not be significantly affected because Federal public lands within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B are currently closed to non-Federally qualified moose hunters. Although at a low density, the moose population exhibits a healthy bull/cow ratio, good productivity and recruitment. The population should be able to support some additional harvest of a few bull moose without causing conservation concerns. Additionally instituting a quota would help limit the possibility of overharvest.

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area as follows:

April 5 - 15 antlered bull moose hunt for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area with the harvest quota of bulls will be determined after consultation with the State Area Biologist, Refuge Manager, BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager and the chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The quota will be based on biological sustainability of the population maintaining the bull/cow ratio management objective. The harvest quota would apply to Federal and State concurrent hunts if applicable. The Area Wildlife Biologist is authorized to close the season once the quota is reached.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 24C and 24D – Moose

<i>Unit 24C and 24D, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge – 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during Aug. 27-31 and the Mar. 1-5 season, if authorized by announcement by the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge Manager and BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is prohibited. During the Aug. 27–Sept. 20 season, a State registration permit is required. During the Mar. 1-5 season, a Federal registration permit is required. Announcement for the antlerless moose seasons and cow quotas will be made after consultation with the ADF&G Area Biologist and the Chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committees.</i>	<i>Aug. 27- Sept. 20 Mar. 1-5 season to be announced.</i>
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Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, two proposals WP10-63 and WP10-68 both requesting changes in harvest seasons and limits for moose in Units 24C and 24D, have been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: The moose population is below management objectives in these units. Local resident harvest has increased steadily over the last 10 years, current State and Federal seasons occur in September, December and March. Adding additional harvest opportunities at this time is not recommended.

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 92.540 (8)(B). Controlled use areas. Modify the boundary of Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B as follows:

Move the boundary of the Kanuti Controlled Use Area so that it includes Fish Creek Lake as the northeast point instead of the Bettles VOR. The proposed regulation would read:
The Kanuti Controlled Use Area – the area consists of that portion of Unit 24 bounded by a line from a point at the northern most headwaters of Siruk Creek at 66° 48.557' N. lat. 153° 53.267' W. long., to the highest peak of Double Point Mountain at 66° 40.322' N. lat. 152° 30.132' W. long., to the northern end of Fish Creek Lake (including all waters of the lake) 146 at 66° 36.071' N. lat. 151° 27.936' W. long., to the east side of Old Dummy Lake (including all waters of the lake) at 66° 08.241' N. lat. 151° 49.276' W. long., to the south end of Lake Todatonten (including all waters of the lake) at 66° 07.556' N. lat. 152° 55.520' W. long., then back to the point of origination at Siruk Creek.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(24)(B) You may not use aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or moose part in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, which consists of that portion of Unit 24 bounded by a line from the Bettles Field VOR to the east side of Fish Creek Lake, to Old Dummy Lake, to the south end of Lake Todatonten (including all waters of these lakes), to the northernmost headwaters of Siruk Creek, to the highest peak of Double Point Mountain, then back to the Bettles Field VOR; however, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or moose part by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the area;

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on this proposal. However, if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to correspond.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area would differ between the State and Federal regulations.

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 25A as follows:

Unit 25A caribou - residents: Ten caribou. That portion of Unit 25A within the Chandalar River drainage west of and including the Middle Fork of the Chandalar and north of the main stem and the west fork of the Chandalar, July 1 – June 30. However, only velvet antlered bulls and antlerless cows may be taken from May 1 – June 30.

Remainder of Unit 25A July 1 – April 30.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 25—Caribou

Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D remainder —10 caribou

Jul. 1–Apr. 30

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10 -94 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board, requesting an extension of the harvest season in a portion of Unit 25A from July 1–April 30 to July 1–June 30. Only bull or antlerless cow caribou may be taken May 1–June 30. This regulation change would apply only to the Chandalar drainage, west of the Middle Fork of the Chandalar River drainage. The harvest limit is to stay the same.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support with modification** to establish a caribou hunting season from July 1 through June 30 in Unit 25A restricting the harvest to bulls only from May 15 through June 30.

Rationale: The Central Arctic Caribou Herd (CAH) has steadily increased in abundance since 1995, and currently exceeds the upper level population objectives by over 40,000 animals. Extending the hunt season will provide additional harvest opportunities for subsistence users. Furthermore, restricting the hunt to bulls in May and June will protect the calving females. The additional harvest of bulls will have little effect on the population, while providing additional subsistence opportunity. This hunt occurs in the area where CAH winters.

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Modify the salvage requirements for moose in Unit 25 as follows:

Moose taken in Unit 25 would have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

OR

All current meat salvage requirements should apply for moose taken in Unit 25.

Current Federal Regulations:

36 CFR Part 242.25(a) and 50 CFR Part 100.25(a) Definitions

Salvage means to transport the edible meat, skull, or hide, as required by regulation, of a regulated fish, wildlife, or shellfish to the location where the edible meat will be consumed by humans or processed for human consumption in a manner which saves or prevents the edible meat from waste, and preserves the skull or hide for human use.

§ _____.25(h) Removing harvest from the field

You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters and hind quarters of caribou and moose harvested in Units 9, 17, 18, and 19B prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of moose harvested in Unit 21 prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of caribou and moose harvested in Unit 24 prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. Meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, or ribs from a harvested moose or caribou may be processed for human consumption and consumed in the field; however, meat may not be removed from the bones for purposes of transport out of the field.

§ _____.25(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

(3) You must salvage the edible meat of ungulates, bear, grouse, and ptarmigan . . .

(5) Failure to salvage the edible meat may not be a violation if such failure is caused by circumstances beyond the control of a person, including theft of the harvested fish, wildlife, or shellfish, unanticipated weather conditions, or unavoidable loss to another animal.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-88 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board, requesting that all edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs from moose harvested in Unit 25 must remain on the bones until the meat is removed from the field or is processed for human consumption.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would require that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption. There has is no data concerning wanton waste in Unit 25 and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers have not issued excessive wanton waste citations in the Unit compared to other interior Game Management Units. If this proposal is adopted Office of Subsistence Management recommends the proposal be modified to apply only before October 1 when warmer daytime temperatures contribute to meat spoilage.

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (24) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a general hunting season for moose in Unit 26C as follows:

Units and bag limits
Unit 26C

Resident Season
[NO OPEN SEASON]

Nonresident Season

**One moose by registration
Permit**

Sept 5-Apr 15

**One bull with 50 inch antlers
Or 4 or more brow tines
on one side by registration
permit**

Sept 5-Nov 30

Current Federal Regulation:

Units 26B remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 3 moose (2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex) provided that no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from Unit 26C. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf. Only 3 Federal registration permits will be issued.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit, hunting under these regulations.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: The Unit 26C moose population has not increased and opening a registration permit would likely result in overharvest even if a short reporting requirement is in place. Currently Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit and without action by the Federal Subsistence Board Federal lands in the area will remain closed to harvest, except by a Kaktovik residents.



Miki & Julie Collins

**ALASKAN FREELANCE WRITERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS
LAKE MINCHUMINA, ALASKA 99757**

RC 40

February 11, 2010

Hi,

I am sorry you will not receive this by Feb. 12 but I just returned from almost 2 weeks on the trapline. Regarding the 2010 proposals...what's the deal with 2 proposal books in just a couple months?

Prop. 1: I support this; in fact beaver trapping should close before beaver give birth. If that occurs before May 31, the season should be closed earlier. This is especially important now that we no longer have to get beaver sealed.

Prop. 3: As I have said when similar initiatives came up previously, a trap-check time period would not work for those of us who run long traplines. It takes a minimum of 8 days to make a circuit of our line by dog team. This is running the dogs hard enough that after that they need a few days of rest before heading out again. Running a shorter line more often may catch more marten per mile but much, much fewer over all, ie it is NOT "more efficient". It would not reduce non-target catches. Further more we avoid traveling long distances at temperatures of -40 to -60 and colder. The record cold in our area is about -72, and we can have spells of -50 and colder that last for 1-2 weeks, much longer than the 72 hours proposed here. It takes me over 72 hours just to travel to the 60 miles to most distance corner of our trapline where marten are most concentrated, where we might catch half of our marten total off just that last 14 miles of trail. A 72 hour trap check would make it impossible to trap this area and serious reduce the productivity and efficiency of the line, increase hardship and decrease personal safety. Flooded rivers (overflow) can also prevent us from reaching parts of the line until after it freezes, which can take over 72 hours. These people do not seem to realize that trapping for many bush residents is a economic mainstay and a full-time job, not a week-end endeavor.

Prop. 4: I am opposed to open-season on fur animals when the fur is not prime or when they are raising young.

Prop. 11: I feel that sealing requirements give F&G better information than harvest tickets do. Let's get rid of harvest tickets and keep the sealing.

Prop. 12 I support eliminating the resident grizzly bear fees because most of us in this area do not "hunt" grizzlies; they are primarily taken incidentally when one causes a problem. The fee discourages getting the harvest ticket, which means we might have to shoot the bear under DLP and then both we and F&G have to deal with the consequences.

Prop. 50 & 51: Our Septembers have certainly been warmer with later frosts, later ruts, and warmer weather when meat is hanging. We usually don't even start hunting until the 15th because of that. However we have a local-rural-resident-only season going until the 30th in nearby Denali Park & Preserve which allows locals to get their meat after things cool down a little more. Overall I feel our community would support a LATER season but not a LONGER season.

Prop. 52: Oppose. I don't think we should be "reducing pressure" in one area by increasing pressure in another area where season have been established for a reason. Certainly those of us who hunt for meat (in part so we don't have to pay almost a dollar a pound just for shipping to have groceries flown in on the mail plane) do not want to see a longer season for nonresidents who are not hunting because they need food.

Prop. 53: Oppose. Just because white moose have not been documented in the area does not mean one should be shot should genetics allow it to pop out. By the way, reports of a white moose in the vicinity of Lake Minchumina 1986-2009 is probably based on the aerial sightings of our white horse. I will refrain from telling the White-Moose Carlson story.

Prop. 55-65: I do not believe that animals ranging outside the Park should be protected. I am not sure why wolves have been signaled out over moose, wolverine etc. Compared to these other species, wolves have an extremely high capacity to replace lost members and lost populations, whether lost to natural causes or human-caused. There is no biological justification for this. When wolves from the Park are caught, they have been quickly replaced. The opportunity to view wolves will remain, although hopefully those wolves will not be so badly habituated to humans. The wolves of Denali cannot be totally protected as they can range hundreds of miles away. I see trapping as reducing the incidence of lice, not increasing it.

Prop. 66-67: Oppose. I do not feel that 20C is in need of predator control. Implementing predator control should be a last resort, used when prey animals remain in a "predator pit" or when a population is actually in danger of going extinct..

Props' related to ATV and other access restrictions: I feel that terrain/habitat destruction is harmful and *if* it is occurring to a significant degree, restrictions should be put in place, such as limiting motorized activity to established trails.

I am limiting most of my comments to props affecting us and our area. Thanks for considering my views.

Yours Truly,

Misi Collins

RC 41

GASH Teleconference 2.22.2010

Members Present:

Gabe Nikolia
Ken Chase
Cliff Hickson
Arnold Hamilton
LeRoy Peters
Peter Walker
Frank Bengimin
Harry Maillelle

Not Present:

Richard Peters
Roger Hamilton

Others Present:

Josh Peirce-ADF&G
Nissa Pilcher-ADF&G
Rita St Louis-ADF&G
Randy Rogers-ADF&G

Meeting called to order-11:45am

Meeting Minutes from last meeting (1.25.2010 teleconference) waved due to teleconference

Chairman's Report-

Denby Lloyds letter to Pat Purchot-
DNR Guide Concession

Discussion on the proposals that were to be discussed by the GASH Committee

Proposal 80

Josh Peirce gave a run down on the proposal and back history of the proposal and the data behind it, gave harvest data, but stated that the department was not able to have a population survey this year. The number of moose hunters in the area has declined, as has the harvest rate- this can imply that the moose population in the area has declined as well.

LeRoy Peters and Ken Chase both agreed that the moose population has decreased

Cliff Hickson asked Josh Peirce about a survey that had been done a couple of years ago and some information that was presented at a meeting last April, that the moose were moving around a lot in this area.

Peirce- collaring on 52 moose in 21E with GPS collars, so we can figure out where and how the moose are moving

Opposed- unanimous

Proposal 81

Josh Peirce gave a run down on the proposal and back history of the proposal and the data behind it, gave the drawing history behind it, that it is undersubscribed drawing permit and the allocative history behind. Gave the survey data for the area, that the moose population appears to be stable, the bull-cow ratio is 47:100 bulls to cows. This is more all Josh Peirce gave a run down on the proposal and back history of the proposal and the data behind it, allocative, but the department is supporting this based on the moose management plan for the area- 30 moose are allowed to be taken from this area, and only 7 moose were taken last year, meaning that this area can have more moose taken from it-

Ken Chase spoke on his discussions with the author of the proposal, how the author is concerned with the later and later cold spells that are coming and that the moose just aren't in rut yet.

Gabe Nikolia-there is still a lot of competition between the hunters and he wouldn't support the extended season

Cliff- question to Josh- are the surveys occurring in the summer or the winter

Josh Peirce- Pop est. March, sex ratio in November- critical missing piece of info is the moose movement which is why the collars are going to be utilized. Our surveys are based on winter distribution, and you guys are hunting while the moose are in more of a summer distribution

Cliff Hickson- I have noticed this as well, but extending the season we can attract more hunters, but don't know if this is beneficial for the people that live here

Josh Peirce- At the moose management meeting that some of you took place in, one objective of it was to harvest up to 30 moose in this area, so the department distributes 60 permits. If we are to try to manage for this removal- can't give out more permits since this is already an underutilized hunt. We can change the hunt dates.

Cliff Hickson- concerned with the number of people that aren't getting moose that live here that need it, and there is a lot of competition with even local hunters for the moose in the area-

LeRoy Peters-I'm in the between right now on this proposal. The weather has been changing a lot in the area, and moose populations have been declining in the area

Arnold Hamilton- Shageluk is happy with the way things are, so we will be opposing it

Opposed-6:2

Proposal 83

Josh Peirce gave a run down on the proposal- that the department found that the 10 day reporting requirement was unnecessary, that the normal reporting period would work.

Support- Unanimous

Proposal 84

Josh Peirce gave a run down on the proposal and back history of the proposal and the data behind it, the Innoko working group that designed the moose management program decided a couple of things - proactive management of moose, and conservative harvest of moose, and establish a predator control program if moose were declining further. Josh outlined where this Predator control are would occur, that it would not be in effect on federal land, also gave a rundown in moose harvest reports that show success rates have dropped, and the number of people coming in from GMU 18 has decreased as well- Josh also reported on bull:cow 30:100, and calf:cow ratios, 30-40:100. This year had lower calf:cow ratios- might have been due to the flooding event that happened this last spring. Twinning rates are good, so browse is good out there.

There are 146-156 wolves in 21D- and we would need to reduce the number of wolves by 60-80%, and hold at that level for 4-6 years before you could measure the improvements in the moose population. The ecosystem needs wolves present, but studies have shown that you need to reduce the number of wolves by at least 60% to have any effect on moose populations. Sealing records show that we have been sealing about 17 wolves per year, so the department would like to do aerial wolf control when it becomes necessary. The department is not recommending that wolf control occur right now, just have it in the regulations so we could use it if we needed it- if the moose population declines any more. If the population drops below 1 moose per square mile, then we will implement this predator control- we are currently at 1.2 moose per square mile.

There was some confusion on the federal winter moose hunt and how this affects the predator control issue, which was then discussed-

Peter Walker was concerned that if there is a concern with moose populations, then why have an antlerless hunt in the winter?

Peter was encouraged to write up that that proposal if he wanted and bring it back up to the GASH AC Support-Unanimous

]

Harry Maille had to leave due to another meeting-

Proposal 85 & 86

Support for same reasons as Proposal 84

Proposal 130

Black bear is used a lot more in that area, but we might want to support it in case we want to do something similar in the future

Support

Proposal 129

Department will not support the baiting of brown bears unless it is in a predator control area, which this one is not-

Discussed but no action

Proposal 3

People in this area check their traps more often than this, but what happens if someone gets hurt or weather gets really bad- it is an ethics issue

No Support-unanimous

Proposal 12

Background given-

Not interested in paying \$25 to hunt brown bears

Support-unanimous

Randy Rogers- resolution passed by lower Yukon sub-region- looked on favorably by the legislature, which is good for the wood bison in the area. If you want to keep pushing this might want to bring resolutions, yours and the lower Yukon and the WIRAC and submit them to the BOG, and if you wanted to bring it up in front of the board, that would help this as well. Leaning to recommend the lower Yukon and Innoko sight. Might want to continue pushing this issue along. Urban area nervous is allocation issue- on federal lands could restrict the bison- might want to comment at board meeting recognize that while you want the bison to be used locally, are aware that non-local residents want to utilize the bison. Health checks were good, 10 calves to be born- looking at logistics around Shageluk with airports, coral area, cooperation with the local people. Lawmakers concerned with the possible endangered animal issue, and a supportive statement from the AC would be good for this.

AC was in line with supporting this-

Meeting Adjourned 11:50

RC 42

Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross
State Fish and Game Advisory Committee

A Resolution in Support of Wood Bison Restoration in Unit 21E
May 3, 2007

Whereas, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) conducted an assessment of potential wood bison habitat in interior Alaska and found that the Lower Yukon/Innoko River area in Unit 21E contains quality habitat that could support at least 500 wood bison; and,

Whereas, at the February 1, 2006 meeting the Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory Committee (GASH AC) heard a presentation on the wood bison restoration project and voted unanimously to support ADF&G efforts to restore wood bison in the GASH area; and,

Whereas, since that time local residents have discussed wood bison restoration in the GASH area and have expressed further support for the project and implementing wood bison restoration in the GASH area without delay; and,


Whereas, cooperative planning for wood bison restoration in the GASH area will provide additional opportunity for local residents to learn about the project and provide input before a final decision is made to release wood bison in the area; and,

Whereas, wood bison restoration would enhance the wildlife resources in the area and eventually provide opportunities for bison harvest by both local and non-local residents; and,

Whereas, wood bison have not been found to adversely affect moose or other fish and wildlife in areas where they have been restored; and,

Whereas, wood bison restoration in the GASH area would help with international wood bison conservation efforts and provide an opportunity to re-establish the cultural connections between wood bison and Athabaskan people.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the GASH AC supports wood bison restoration in Unit 21E and urges the ADF&G to proceed with cooperative planning for wood bison restoration in our area as expeditiously as possible.


Signed, Chairman of the GASH AC


Date

LOWER YUKON SUB-REGION
Resolution No. 2009 - 1125

A RESOLUTION OF THE LOWER YUKON SUB-REGION VILLAGES OF ANVIK, GRAYLING, HOLY CROSS AND SHAGELUK APPROVING THE WOOD BISON RESTORATION IN THE LOWER YUKON/INNOKO RIVER AREA.

Whereas, Wood Bison Restoration in the Lower-Yukon/Innoko river area has been discussed extensively in the past few years, and there continues to be substantial local interest in returning these animals to their historic range in this area; and,

Whereas, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) found that the Lower Yukon/Innoko river area in Unit 21E contains quality wood bison habitat that could support at least 400 bison; and,

Whereas, in February 2006, the Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross Fish and Game advisory Committee (GASH AC) voted unanimously to support ADF&G efforts to restore wood bison in the Lower-Yukon/Innoko river area; and,

Whereas, tribal representatives and ADF&G representatives were able to visit the wood bison at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Girdwood, Alaska in October 2009; and,

Whereas, the ADF&G has initiated consultation with tribal governments concerning the Wood Bison Restoration and plans to continue this cooperation with tribal leadership to the benefit of the tribes, the State of Alaska and other landowners; and,

Whereas, The Lower-Yukon/Innoko river area can provide good habitat for a large herd of wood bison, which would provide a more abundant supply of food as the wood bison migrate in herds and protect their young from danger; and,

Whereas, wood bison have not been found to adversely affect moose as moose primarily eat willows and wood bison eat grass; and,

Whereas, Wood Bison Restoration in the Lower-Yukon/Innoko river area would help with international wood bison conservation efforts and provide an opportunity to re-establish the cultural connections between wood bison and Athabaskan people as the wood bison were once inhabitants of the area and could be a vital food source for our future generations; and,

Now, therefore be it resolved, the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Lower Yukon Subcommittee which includes, the tribal governments of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross, supports the Wood Bison Restoration in the Lower-Yukon/Innoko river area and supports ADF&G to proceed to involve the tribes, local residents, Doyon, Ltd and Tanana Chiefs Conference to develop a plan for reintroducing wood bison in our homelands.

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the above resolution was duly adopted at a convened meeting of the Lower Yukon Sub-region meeting at which a quorum was present this _____ day of _____, 2009.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, with 0 abstaining.

Carl Jerue
Carl Jerue, Anvik 1st Chief

Eugene Paul
Eugene Paul, Holy Cross 1st Chief

William Painter
William Painter, Grayling 1st Chief

Randy Workman
Randy Workman, Shageluk 1st Chief

Post-it Fax Note	7871	Date	12/19	Page	1
To	Shageluk	From	R. Elswick		
Ext/Dept.		Co.	Tribal Clerk		
Phone #		Phone #	476-7124		
Fax #	663-6357	Fax #	476-7132		

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management

101 12th Avenue, Room 110, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: 1-(907)-456-0277 or 1-800-267-3997, Fax: 1-(907)-456-0208

E-mail: Vince_Mathews@fws.gov

August 12, 2009

Mr. Michael R. Fleagle, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Fleagle:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council endorses the reintroduction of the wood bison (*Bison bison athabascæ*) into the Western Interior Region. The Council has been monitoring the efforts of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with this important restoration for some time. We understand that the southwestern portion of our region in the lower Innoko River valley near the villages of Shageluk and Holy Cross offers abundant high quality habitat and winter conditions favorable to wood bison. We also understand that skeletal remains and historical accounts show that wood bison existed in Interior Alaska and played an important role with Athabascan tribes. It is the opinion of this Council that the wood bison would be beneficial in many ways to the people of the Western Interior Region.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been diligent to inform us of the progress with the wood bison reintroduction. We would appreciate updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the progress to have the wood bison designated as a nonessential experimental population under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act.

Working together will allow the wood bison to return to its former range and again be part of the traditional subsistence harvest pattern. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail our support for this restoration effort, please give me a call. I can be reached at 1-907-687-2007.

Yours truly,



Jack Reakoff, Chair

RC 4.3

Comments to the Board of Game. 2/26/2010 proposals

Proposal # 7. Open black bear baiting season earlier, April 1 for safety reasons and to effectively lengthen available hunting time when hides are prime.

The Dept of F&Gs rational for the "Do Not Adopt" recommendation does not hold up to scrutiny, is wrong, and is not substantially verifiable.

First, the Dept is wrong when it says it will not have a biological affect. It will. In these areas, break up can happen from April 21 – May 20 as witnessed by the Nenana Ice Classic dates. And the Yukon River break up is generally 10 days later. To be safe on the river with a boat, you must wait about a week after break up. So many years it is well into May before you can place a bait by boat, or well past mid May before you can use a float plane. The river ice begins to become unstable about April 1. That is the rational behind getting baits out earlier, safety. The secondary beneficial effect will be being able to hunt immediately when the rivers and lakes are open rather than placing baits then and waiting 1-2 weeks. The increase in prime time hunting will result in more and bigger and better bears being taken. All of these units with the exception of maybe parts of 20 A & B need more black bears taken.

The threat of opposition to bear baiting will always be there. I do not buy into the Depts. fear of threats of ballot measures initiatives to eliminate baiting. We must not live and allow rational management to governed by fear and threats from non- managers. They would stop all hunting if they could. Where does the fear end?

The Board has given the Dept. the discretionary authority to establish the bear baiting season. The Dept. has refused to change it. The Board will have to direct them to do so.

Proposal # 8 & 9 #8 Allowing guides to co-register a bait station for a client. #9 Allow guides to register more than 2 and up to 10 bait stations. There is a big difference between the 2 proposals and F&G missed it in their recommendations.

The Dept. missed the main intention of the effects of proposal # 8. Pay close attention here. If you adopt Proposal # 9 guides where guides are give additional baits they alone will be the registrant which requires them to be physically present "accompany" at the bait with the client. This is one of the 2 main factors in driving up the cost of a guided hunt to the point people hunt elsewhere or not at all in Alaska. Proposal # 8 will effectively remove that physically present requirement because the client is the baits' co-registrant and they can hunt his/her bait themselves with out the "physically present", "accompany" requirement.

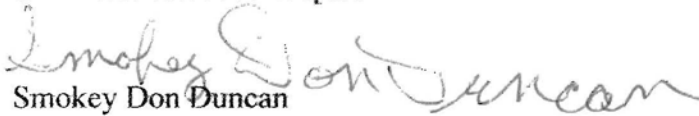
The reason for proposing both # 8 and #9 was to give the guide and client the options to contract under either set of rules. I have had many resident client tell me they would hire me except that the price is too high. The say they simply do not have the time to travel from Anchorage to Fairbanks and beyond, place a bait and then come back weeks later and hope it had been hit and wasn't cleaned out. Most residents say they do not need a

guide, they just need reasonable logistical support. They can even bring their own boat, or plane and camp. Proposal # 8 helps me the best when contracting with residents by giving me the cost savings that I can pass along to the resident hunter and it works for both of us.

#36 The Dept. correctly says the Board does not have the "Authority" because of Statute. This is another case where the Board need to address the legislature with a request to give them the discretionary authority or to take action themselves. F&G does everyone a disservice not listing a recommendation "if it were legal".

Proposal # 45 Minto Flats. Please direct the Dept. to include in the regulations the co-ordinates of Mile 118 Elliot Highway and the co-ordinates of the mouth of the Tolovana River. The western boundary is an indiscriminate line not discernable by features in between the 2 points in the field.

In several proposals the Dept. admits there is an over abundance of moose and that additional hunting opportunities should be opened by drawing permit. In those cases, the Board should allow some percentage to be non-resident permits. Since guides and non-residents get kick out first when there is a shortage, the Board should throw them a bone or 2 when there is a surplus.


Smokey Don Duncan
Master Guide #136
299 Alvin Street
Fairbanks AK 99712
907-457-8318

February 20,2010

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman, and board members, Alaska Board of Game

I am making a request that the Board of Game keep the current Wood River Controlled Use Area (WRCUA) regulations in place and unchanged. These regulations describe the geographical location, time frame, and vehicle restrictions that apply to the area

The WRCUA has been in regulation since its inception in 1976 and is one of the oldest in the state. The WRCUA has been changed and changed back, fine tuned numerous times over the life of the area by the Board to come up with what we have in regulation today. Today's regulation has taken into account the issues and problems that have developed over the years while maintaining the original spirit and intent of the Board when it was created in 1976.

A short summary of what has happened includes minor changes to boundaries and one major change to a boundary on the west side of the CUA. This larger change was requested by the local advisory committee and individuals on the western side of the CUA. The desired effect of the change was not realized, but in fact created a multitude of unforeseen problems, some so serious that the requesting AC asked the board to change the CUA back to its original form at the next Interior Alaska issues Board meeting .

The WRCUA effectively limits motorized access with the exception of aircraft to the area during the late August and September Caribou, Sheep, and Moose seasons. Because of this motorized restriction, hunters have been able to very successfully adjust their hunting methods to fit with in the restrictions. In addition to aircraft access, hunters successfully use foot access from boundary ATV trails, non motorized boat access, and horseback access. A large number of moose are killed and the desired number of caribou and sheep are taken keeping additional restrictions by ADFG out of the formula. ADFG uses the restrictions with in the WRCUA to successfully provide high levels of big game hunting opportunity with a minimum or user group conflicts.

If this area would be open for land based ATV access, during the late August/September big game season, there would be SIGNIFICANT user group conflicts develop between current allowed access users and ATV users. Resident hunters who have long established family hunting camps, guides, outfitters, and transporters who have tailored their operations to the current WRCUA restrictions would face considerable conflicts with ATV users and in many cases would not be able to provide their clients an opportunity to harvest a trophy animal. Remember that the general season moose bag limit in the CUA is the most restrictive in the state for both resident and non resident hunters requiring a 50" or 4 brow tine minimum for non-resident hunters and a spike/fork- 50" or 4 brow tine minimum bull for resident hunters.

Because this area is conducive to high levels of ATV use, significant habitat damage would be occur by un- restricted use of, modern- aggressive technology, ATV's. Every river and creek bottom, and every

ridge top in the CUA would have an access trail developed which would create chaos with the established user groups.

ATV use is currently allowed after September of each year with significant opportunity to hunt cow moose and trophy bulls under a muzzle loaded season. The very large area of GMU 20A, which is located to the east of the Wood River, is currently open to ATV use and provides a high level of harvest with a less restrictive resident moose bag limit (spike/fork or 50" or 3 brow tines) .

Big game guides who hunt this CUA , which is on state owned land are, going through a process of having their numbers reduced through a guide concession/ use program being implemented by the Department of Natural Resources. They are going to be restricted significantly and allowing ATV use in their controlled use area will further negatively affect their businesses.

The Board of Game has had many opportunities to change this area and its restrictions over the past 34 years and has found that the restrictions in place have created a very functional situation that allows a lengthy season, a high level of hunter opportunity, a finely tuned mix of resident/nonresident meat hunting and commercial activities(guides, outfitters, and transporters) which has morphed into a good user group interaction, created a high level of harvest, and provided significant protection for Dall sheep from over harvest due to unrestricted access from a large population center. The Board has looked at these issues time and again and has chosen to keep the Wood River Controlled Use area in place to continue to provide these attributes to the hunting public. The Board has found that this area is working and working well and I request that the status quo be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

David Lorrington
3530 Holden Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-687-4858



State of Alaska

Department of Public Safety

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

February 22, 2010

Chairman Judkins
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins and Board of Game Members,

Below are the comments of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) that give a brief description of our position on the proposals for the spring 2010, Interior Region meeting. As a rule, when the Board considers proposals dealing with allocation or biological concerns the AWT take a neutral position. I will only comment on the proposals that AWT feels have either a legal or enforceability issue.

Thank you for your time and efforts with this process.

Sincerely,

Burke Waldron
Captain, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Proposal 3: Neutral

Though AWT is neutral in it's position of this proposal we do want to make the Board aware that if passed this regulation will be very time consuming and expensive to enforce.

Proposal 10: Oppose

The hides of bears taken in areas where the take of sows with cubs is prohibited are the best way to determine if the sow was lactating and, therefore, possibly accompanied by a cub. If the hides are not salvaged enforcing the illegal take of sows with cubs will become increasingly difficult.

Proposal 13,14: Neutral

Though AWT is neutral in it's position for allocation issues, these proposals are complicated regulation schemes which will make them problematic to enforce.

Proposal 17: Support

The current regulation is very difficult to enforce because it is nearly impossible to determine if an animal was trapped in November, thus, making the limit of 5 lynx in November nearly unenforceable.

Proposal 68: Neutral

AWT is neutral with this proposal as well other than the fact that it will be problematic enforcing a 2500' altitude restriction. Altimeters require regular pressure calibration to be accurate and GPS altitude measurements are not reliable.

Proposal 89: Support

This proposal clarifies regulatory language and is more enforceable.

P. 01

VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Deneali

DATE: 2-19-09 PAGE 1 OF 1

Board of Game Comments for Winter 2017

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

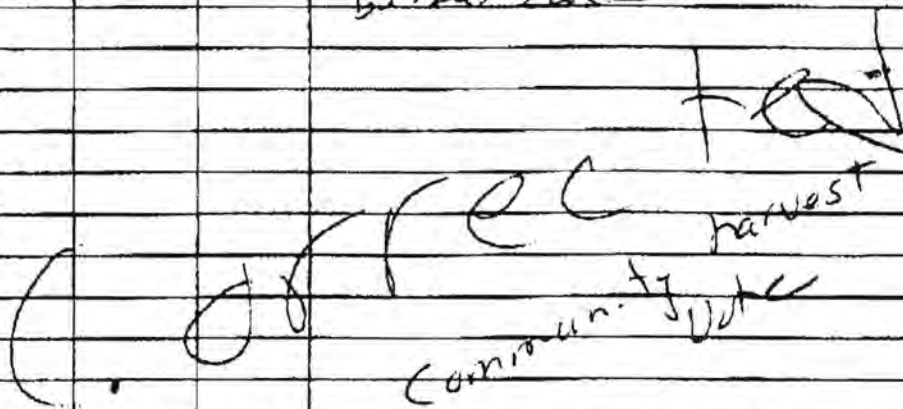
Proposal

Summary of Discussion

#	Support	Oppose	Abstain
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(include minority view)

56	8		
40	6		2
community harvest		discussion	
	7	1	
buffer zone - 1 x 1E		- Parks Highway	
8		to re-authorisation of	
		buffer zone	


 harvest
 community vote

RC 47

Koyukuk River Advisory Committee February 1, 2010
Meeting held at the Allakaket tribal office
Started at 5:18 PM

The meeting was delayed do to fog and flight cancelations in the morning. Larry Edwards Chair called meeting to order, Johnson Mosses gave benediction. Roll called, Present were: Jack Reakoff, Hudson Sam, Gilbert Vent, Max Hanft, Pollock Simon, Warner Bergman, Andy Simon, Larry Edwards, Marcus Ambrose, Hugh Bifelt, William Derendorff, and Orville Huntington was on teleconference. Quorum established. There was Mike Spindler Kanuti NWR manager, and Vince Mathews Kanuti, Yukon Flats, and Arctic Refuge Subsistence coordinator on the teleconference call. Glenn Stout Galena Area Biologist, and Tony Hollis ADF&G were present. There were about ten interested individuals from the community.

The agenda was amended and approved.

The minuets from the last 2-11-2008 meeting in Bettles were approved with very minor correction.

The chair asked the committee members to voice any concerns;

Bill Derendorff said he had just attended the BOF meeting talked about the Chinook salmon proposals. He said there was wide support to protect the first pulse of Chinook among users all along the Yukon. He discussed the mesh size proposals.

Hudson Sam stated the Koyukuk had a good run this season compared to the past several. He said the largest King salmon swim on the bottom of the river.

Stanley Ned Chief of Allakaket , said he is concerned about the Bering Sea by-catch cap being to high. He is also concerned that Allakaket/ Alatna are not meeting their needs for moose harvest for the past several years.

Homer Tobuk, Allakaket resident stated that he was concerned that the by-catch cap was too high for Chinook. He felt the subsistence priority was not being met. He felt managers should assure the subsistence needs of people.

Jack Reakoff suggested to get to the game proposals and away from the fishery issues a letter be written to the Commissioner of Fish and Game, Denby Lloyd. The letter should describe the displeasure and concern for the high by-catch limit set for the Bering Sea Pollock trawl fishery. It also would include a statement from the Committee regarding the importance of protecting the first pulse of Chinook salmon in the Yukon River, for escapement and rebuilding the stocks. The Committee voted unanimously to send the letter. Jack will draft it up for the Committee as to its wishes.

Hugh Bifelt is concerned about harvests being low for moose early in the season. The moose are moving later and people are not being as successful.

Orville Huntington says he has had trouble also getting a moose the past two seasons.

Pollock Simon told the Committee that there were only 13 moose taken this season by Allakaket and Alatna this season. They have been not meeting their needs for moose for several years now. The Caribou have been scarce also, so people are in hardship. He complained that the King Salmon are getting smaller than 20 -30 years ago. He is concerned about the by-catch in the Bering Sea and in Area M. Those interceptions affect in-river harvest. He felt the committee should have two face-to-face meetings per year to stay up on issues and address concerns.

Johnson Mosses a very respected village elder, said that it has gotten very hard to get moose around Allakaket. He wanted to know if there was high competition by other hunters flying into the areas around the Kanuti Controlled Use Area. He wanted the Committee to do something to address these issues. Stanley Ned, Chief, added he would like to know guided harvests, harvests from the Dalton Highway, and predation take of moose.

Mike Spindler Kanuti NWR manager spoke to the three transporters and the few clients they have taken on the Refuge out side of the KCUA. There are no moose hunting guides on the Refuge. Glenn Stout, also described harvest dynamics in GMU 24B and A. Generally predation is the limiting factor from bears and wolves. There is a need to look seriously at intensive management on a small scale in unit 24B.

Gilbert Vent said the local people are very frustrated by the low moose harvest. He feels strongly that the KRAC's job is to work for the people and get something done. Sampson Williams from Allakaket agreed low moose harvest is the biggest problem for the people there.

Jack Reakoff stated his highest concerns are the chronically low moose harvest that is 25% or lower than the documented harvest before winter hunts were stopped. The Western Interior has tried different proposals to address the need for winter moose hunting opportunity in unit 24B near Allakaket/ Alatna. There are proposals here at this meeting to address that issue. Protection of the first pulse of Chinooks salmon is imperative to rebuild the depleted stocks, by meeting escapement needs. The declining State Fish and wildlife protection, for the Dalton Highway and the North East corner of Alaska, are a large concern. There are thousands of hunters that use that area but there currently is not an enforcement officer present. There is bill in the legislature that would repeal the snow machine probation. Which would attract hundreds more hunter for caribou.

The committee broke for dinner at 6:40 and reconvened at 7:28PM. Chairperson Edwards brought the meeting to order.

The election of the Allakaket representatives to the KRAC was to remain the same. The Village Council had not taken up the Advisory committee seats. Vote by the Committee was unanimous.

The election of the KRAC officers was opened for nomination. Larry Edwards and Jack Reakoff were the only nominees. The Committee decided that by default they would be the co-chairs. Vote by the committee was unanimous. There was only one nominee for secretary, Orville Huntington, who was asked over the conference call if he accepted. He did and was approved by the Committee.

Chair Edwards identified proposals that were to be addressed, as well as co-chair Reakoff proposals that would affect GMU 24. All proposals taken up were moved and seconded for review.

Proposal 87 regarding aircraft use near the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. Glenn Stout gave an over view of the proposal and the department was neutral. The Committee discussed at length the drawing permits for moose and the hunt conditions. The Committee voted to take no action as the proposal issue is addressed in the hunt conditions, described by Glenn Stout. Moose cannot be transported out of the Koyukuk CUA except after being checked out at three locations, Hughes, Huslia, and the Koyukuk check station..... No Action

Proposal 87 regarding refined definition of the salvage of the moose head under the subsistence permit, and location of the Koyukuk check station. The committee felt this to be a house keeping proposal and unanimously supported the proposal.....support.

Proposal 90A was the proposal the Committee was anxious to address regarding the ADF&G's alternate proposal to #90. Co-chair Reakoff presented this proposal 90 and 90A as the Western Interior RAC generated 90 and he is chair of the RAC.

Glenn Stout described the proposal 90A was to address the continued under harvest of Allakaket/Alatna. These proposals are distraction from his other duties by the reoccurring proposals for winter hunting opportunity. Proposal 90A was described in his power point presentation. The season would be December 15 to April 15, by registration permit only available either through vendors or online, bulls only with antler at least an ear length, no aircraft use for transporting hunters or game animals, reporting in 5 days, and a sunset in four years. The hunting area is described as GMU 24 down stream of and including the Henshaw creek drainage. The proposal description is in the minuets as it was not in the 2010 BOG Region III proposal book.

The committee explored the likely hood of hunters coming from the Dalton highway to participate. Max Haft from Bettles said there are very few people that come in on the Bettles winter road to hunt caribou. Glenn said the previous problems of high participation of the prior winter moose hunt was eliminated with the displacement of the upper boundary to the Henshaw creek drainage. Co-chair Reakoff had photos of a moose ear of 11 inches, in relation to antler beams. A 12 inch ruler for scale was

in the photo. Live photos of Bull Moose antler progression. His contention is the hunt condition would not allow but a very few soft antlered bulls to be harvested in April. He also stated that it is normal for the moose to stay far away from the river until January. Sighting the preliminary moose telemetry work being done. Mike Spindler cautioned the work is on going, but shows that most moose are inaccessible, as he locates the collared moose in Knuti since March of 2008. Glenn Stout refuted that the data could be used. The Committee all agreed that indeed moose are generally way off the river until most would have lost antlers. It was felt that it is an important aspect to have about a half an ear length, so as to have a reasonable amount of bulls to harvest when the new antler growth progresses in April. It was pointed out that there multiple hunts requiring 3 or 4 brow tines and they only need to be 1 inch. The Committee amended the hunt requirement to antler of about half a moose ear length, which is very visible due to the dark velvet contrast to the light ear.

Proposal 90A , as amended was unanimously adopted. The Committee members all were appreciative to ADF&G's Glenn Stout for working to address the winter moose harvest needs in unit 24B.....support

Proposal 90 is for an April 5-15, soft antlered bull moose hunt in 24B was reviewed with 90A and was supported as the second pick alternate to 90A, unanimously adopted..... support

Proposal 91 was presented by a power point by Glenn Stout. The committee discussed the harvest of Huslia village in conjunction to the current Federal March 1-5 quota hunt on the Koyukuk NWR. It was decided the current bull: cow ratio is right near the management plan objective of 30: 100. Subsistence harvest is nearly adequate at this time. The committee unanimously did not support proposal 91...Do not adopt.

Proposal 92 clarifies proxy hunts in the Galena area. The committee was supportive of the issue as presented by Glenn Stout Area Biologist for Galena. Unanimously supportedadopt.

Proposal 94 reduce the size of the Kanuti CUA. Glenn showed a power point that displayed the portion that would be reduced. Many of the long-standing members were agitated that any would be taken off. The committee felt that the proponent should have asked for an exemption for those people that live in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, and do not have a State maintained airport. The proposal unanimously failed....Do not adopt.

Proposals 129 and 130 bear baiting in GMU 21D. These were presented by power point as they were not in the Region III 2010 proposal book, by Glenn. The Committee had several members that stated it was not traditional to bait bears. Pollock Simon expressed concern that bears would be habituated to human food and cause trouble for people. These proposals were deferred to the Middle Yukon AC

Proposal 104 Caribou season lengthen and bag limit increase to five in GMU26B. Co-chair Reakoff had Glenn Stout show on power point that the Central Arctic Herd is on the South Slope of the Brooks Range in Unit 24 and 25. The herd is healthy and expanding its range to unused areas. Reakoff lives in Wiseman village near the Dalton Highway and witnessed many hundreds of caribou hauled south from early August until mid-October. The increase in bag limit two years ago is starting to draw hunters and this season conditions allowed a much higher harvest. Concern was expressed that the five caribou bag limit will suppress the herd and augment a crash, as was seen in the Malchatna Herds decline when five caribou were allowed. The Committee was in agreement that smaller herds do not travel and can be held in low equilibrium once suppressed by high harvest. The Committee unanimously apposed proposal 104..... Do not adopt.

Proposal 105 would require a management plan for maintaining the robust Central Arctic Caribou herd. Co-chair Reakoff the author of the proposal described the biological parameters of Arctic Caribou as biologists Stout, Spindler, and Hollis listened. Caribou in the arctic rely on high numbers to maintain dominance over predators. The Departments harvest expectations of 5% of the Central Arctic Herd would not be sustainable, with high numbers of hunters and the associated wound loss. Caribou only have 60% of the productivity of moose, and it is hard to maintain sustainability if moose are harvested mixed sex at 5%. The committee expressed a desire to have larger Arctic Caribou Herds use areas through out their ranges. This allows higher harvest yield and dissemination of the harvest to many user groups. Proposal 105 was unanimously supported..... Adopt

Proposal 3 requiring traps to be checked every 72 hours. It was presented by Co-chair, Reakoff. Several committee members that are experienced trappers stated that trapping season is far below freezing. Animals are preserved well and all furs are in perfect condition for salvage. The 72 hour requirement would be burdensome physically as trap lines are long and the expense would be prohibitive. The current regulations require salvage of furs. Trappers are having very poor times due to the low prices for fur, and high expenses. This additional burden is unnecessary. The Committee unanimously apposed proposal 3..... Do not adopt.

Proposal 12 Re-authorization of the Brown Bear tag fee exemption in GMU'S including 24. The committee is fully supportive subsistence harvest of Brown Bears, and allowing the least impedance for hunters who wish to take Bears for food. Proposal 12 was unanimously supported by the Committee..... Adopt

Proposal 16 Extends the Dall Sheep season five days for resident hunters and reduce the non-resident season two days. The committee discussed the advantage of not having guided hunters competing with residents. The committee felt it would benefit residents. The Committee voted unanimously to support the proposal 16.....Adopt.

That was all of the proposals that the KRAC reviewed.

Co-Chair Reakoff was asked by Mike Spindler to facilitate to see if the People of Allakaket still wanted to have the Federal bull moose hunt for five days March 1-5 or later in late march early April. The residents wanted to have the hunt but preferred a special action request for five days in the late March Early April like last year. The hunt conditions were laid out Federal permit, 24 hour reporting, Federal lands only, close enforcement, five-bull quota. The hunters were agreeable, but look forward to a possible State hunt so as to be able to hunt closer to home with reduced expense. The committee voted on this seasons Federal hunt in unit 24B Unanimous consent to the hunt conditions.

Glenn Stout gave an in-depth power point of biological parameters of the moose population in the Koyukuk Drainage, Harvest trends, and productivity.

The Committee was exhausted by 11:30 PM and it was getting cold out side, -35, so the meeting was adjourned.

The representative was not selected to go to the BOG meeting starting February 26, 2010. The Co-chairs decided Larry Edwards would represent the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee's positions of the proposals covered. Below is proposal 90A the Committee amended and adopted, as it was not in the proposal book.

DRAFT

PROPOSAL 90A – 5 AAC 85.045(22) Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Moose.
Establish winter moose season for Units 24B and 24C.

Units and Bag Limits Season	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open
(22)		
...		
Unit 24(B), all drainages of the Koyukuk River upstream from the Henshaw Creek drainage, up to but not including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainage		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
25

Sept. 5–Sept.

antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side

Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

[1 BULL]

[DEC. 1–DEC. 10]

**for up to four years beginning
on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull
with antlers at least as long as the
ear on one side, by registration
permit only**

Dec. 15–Apr. 15

[(Subsistence hunt only)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
25

Sept. 5–Sept.

antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Unit 24(C), that portion within
the Koyukuk Controlled Use
Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration
permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 320 permits
may be issued in combination
with Unit 21(D) and 24(D),
those portions within the
Koyukuk Controlled Use
Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

[1 BULL]

[DEC. 1–DEC. 10]

[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

for up to four years beginning on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull with antlers at least as long as the ear on one side, by registration permit only

Dec. 15–Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
25

Sept. 5–Sept.

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) and 24(D), those portions within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Remainder of Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only; up to 450 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

for up to four years beginning on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull with antlers at least as long as the ear on one side, by registration permit only

Dec. 15–Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
25

Sept. 5–Sept.

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit; up to 450 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk

Controlled Use Area

1000

PROPOSAL #16 COMMENTS REGION III 2010

TOM LAMAL

RC 48

The intent of Proposal #16 is to create a quality experience for Alaska Resident sheep hunters. This proposal is not against guiding or non-residents but it is Pro-Alaskan. I purchase licenses in the "lower 48" every year and each state has a variety of programs in place that gives their resident hunters preference over the visiting non-resident hunter. Alaska should be no different.

This same proposal passed two years ago. Unfortunately, the Board of Game faced a huge backlash from the commercial operators and subsequently changed its votes at the end of the last day of the meetings. You have a difficult task but being a leader means that uncomfortable decisions have to be made and in your heart you know if the decision was made in good conscience. I would like to see the board get creative in finding ways to make this proposal work instead of looking for insignificant details that make it look like a poor idea. Two years ago the board stated that the guides would already have their areas staked out and the proposal wouldn't work. It appears the board stated the problem and did nothing to solve it.

Sheep numbers and days of hunting will be a topic of discussion with this proposal. If you feel the need to change the dates for biological reasons, the new dates should give preference to Alaska residents. I have talked to the Fish and Game area biologist in great detail and he does not believe that the dates I have proposed would significantly impact the sheep populations. There would still be an ample amount of mature rams for breeding purposes. We are still only talking about harvesting full curl rams which make up about 15% of the ram population that is two years old and older. The success rate for Alaska resident sheep hunters is only about 25%, while non-residents enjoy about a 75% success rate. Only 1 out of 4 resident sheep hunters enjoys success while 3 out of 4 non-resident sheep hunters harvest a ram. While resident hunters harvest 55% or so of the legal rams taken every year, non-residents take 45% even though they are outnumbered by five or six times. This does not make sense.

Money will be another topic of discussion during your decision making process. Please be aware that other states charge two to five times as much as Alaska for a non-resident sheep tag. The rate for a guided sheep hunt is between \$8,000. and \$19,000., so the cost of a \$425 Alaska non-resident tag is probably not a point of consideration. Non-resident sheep hunters are not going to go away if the dates are changed, even though many members of the guiding industry will make this sound like the end of the world for them. I apply for non-resident tags in other states such as Montana, which kicks all non-residents out of the sheep drawing once 10% of the tags are drawn by non-residents or 90% goes to the resident. The Fish and Game Departments of these other states keep functioning while taking care of their residents. The

land we hunt on and the animals that reside there are a public resource that belong to all of us. Many of the commercial operators guiding for our sheep are not even Alaska residents. They can't legally hunt sheep in Alaska, but they can guide non-residents with their non-resident assistant guides.

The beginning of sheep season is a busy time and this proposal would alleviate a lot of the conflict between resident sheep hunters and guides. The air services would not be so inundated with hunters trying to get dropped off on the same day. Through this proposal, most of the resident hunters would be leaving the field when the non-residents would be heading out which would make for a less crowded experience for everyone. Remember the residents are less successful and we don't have the infrastructure in place (camps, lodges, ATV'S, horses, spike camps, super cubs, assistant guides, etc.) to compete with the guiding operations.

Preference points are another issue that goes along with this proposal. Currently a resident that applies for a Tok Permit for twenty years and is not successful, has the same chance as a non-resident applying for the first time. I'm sure the guides like keeping the non-resident percentage on an equal footing with the residents since the non-resident will have to contact a guide to take him hunting. I pay ten times as much for a preference point in Montana as a resident but at least there is an opportunity. Alaska residents should have the opportunity to get preference points. Non-residents can also apply but they will pay more. The dates could stay the same for permit areas but the board should put a 10-15% cap on the number of permits that can be awarded to non-residents.

Please do not table this proposal until the state wide meeting in three years. The Board makes up changes every year and in three years we could conceivably have an entirely new board, and then we would be back to "square one," and start all over again. You now have a unique opportunity to keep adjusting this proposal with each region until you develop the best fit for a State wide proposal in three years. As you keep adjusting this proposal with each region, please keep the Alaska resident in the forefront of your thoughts and decisions. The commercial operators will be putting up a "smoke screen" of sheep populations and money to derail your efforts. Please discuss these issues with some of the Fish and Game biologists and resident hunters but keep the seven day preference in mind when you are planning for the State wide proposal. Believe it or not, some guides have told me this will give their clients a better hunt with less crowding. You're going to have to deal with some aggressive lobbying efforts from the guiding industry for the next three years, but you need to do what is best for Alaskans. This is an opportunity to create something positive for the kids you work with in Hunter Education, your kids, and all Alaskans. Your dedication and commitment to managing Alaska game resources is greatly appreciated by all Alaskans.

Tom Lamal 02/24/2010

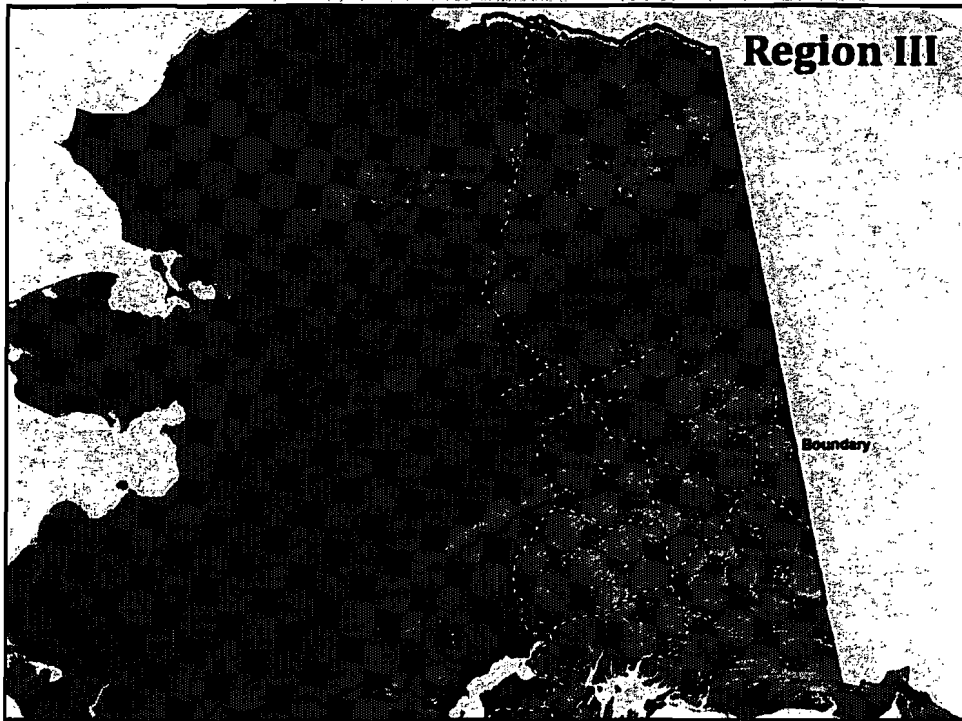
RC 49

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Region III, DWC, ADF&G
2010 Board of Game Meeting
Fairbanks, Alaska
February 26, 2010

Region III

A map of the state of Alaska is shown. The western portion of the state, including the Kotzebue Sound, Seward Peninsula, and the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve area, is filled with a black stippled pattern. This area is labeled 'Region III' in the top left corner. The rest of the state is white.



Fish & Game Advisory Committees (17 total)

- Central
- Central Kuskokwim
- Delta
- Eagle
- Fairbanks
- GASH
- Koyukuk River
- McGrath
- Middle Nenana
- Middle Yukon
- Minto-Nenana
- Northslope
- Ruby
- Stony-Hollina
- Tanana-Rampart-Manley
- Upper Tanana / Fortymile
- Yukon Flats

Region III Hunters

- In 2008
 - 12,611 moose hunters
 - 5,001 caribou hunters
 - 1,535 sheep hunters
 - 666 wolves harvested
 - 451 black bears harvested
 - 300 grizzly bears harvested
 - Other hunting activity
 - Many thousands of non-hunting-related activities

Region III Organization

- Management
- Research
- Regional Programs
- Administration

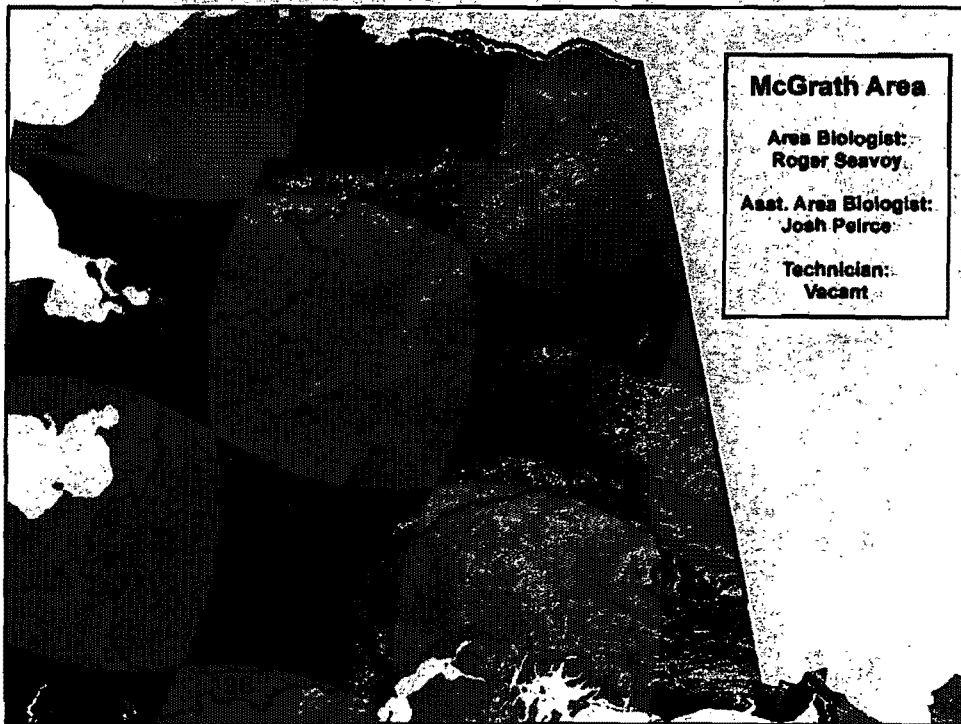
MANAGEMENT BRANCH Region III

- Roy Nowlin, Management Coordinator

- Area Offices

- Frontline

- Management Support

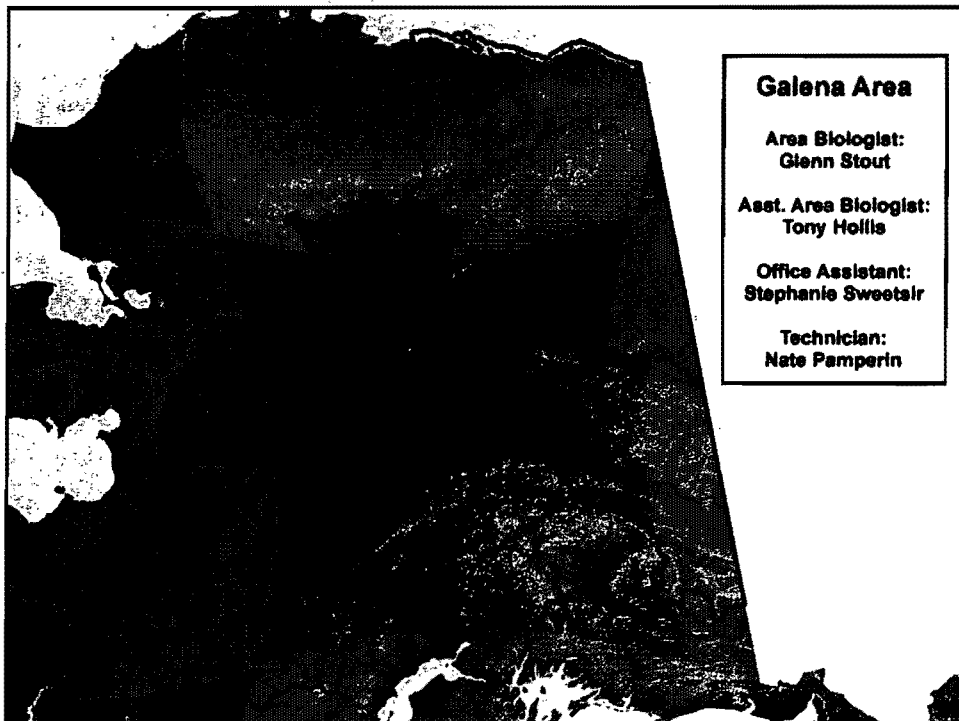


McGrath Area

Area Biologist:
Roger Seavoy

Asst. Area Biologist:
Josh Peirce

Technician:
Vacant



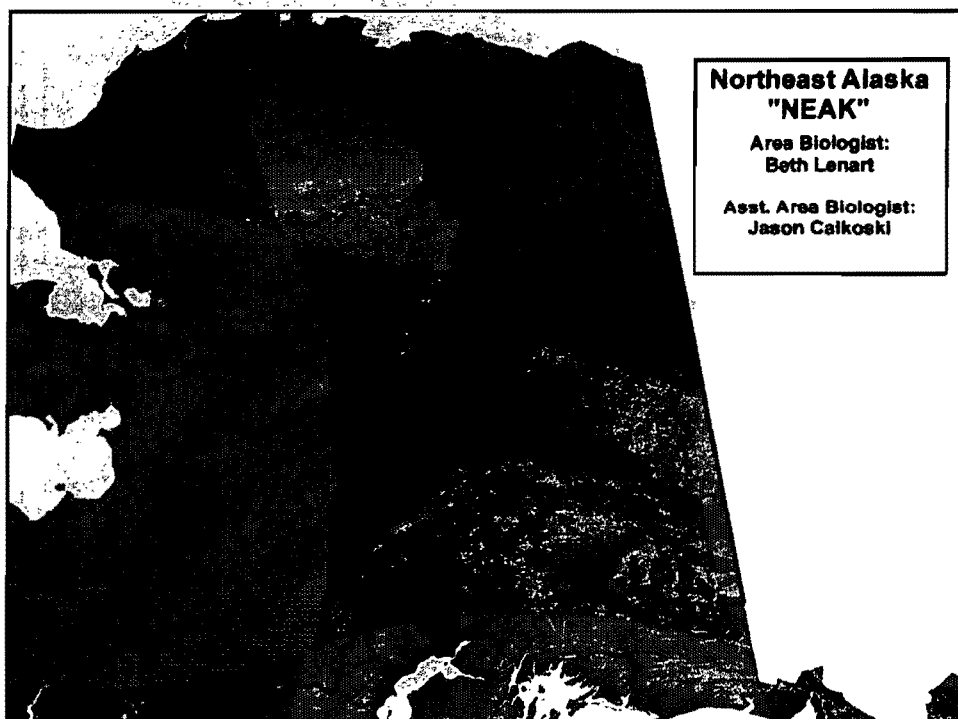
Galena Area

Area Biologist:
Glenn Stout

Asst. Area Biologist:
Tony Hollis

Office Assistant:
Stephanie Sweetsir

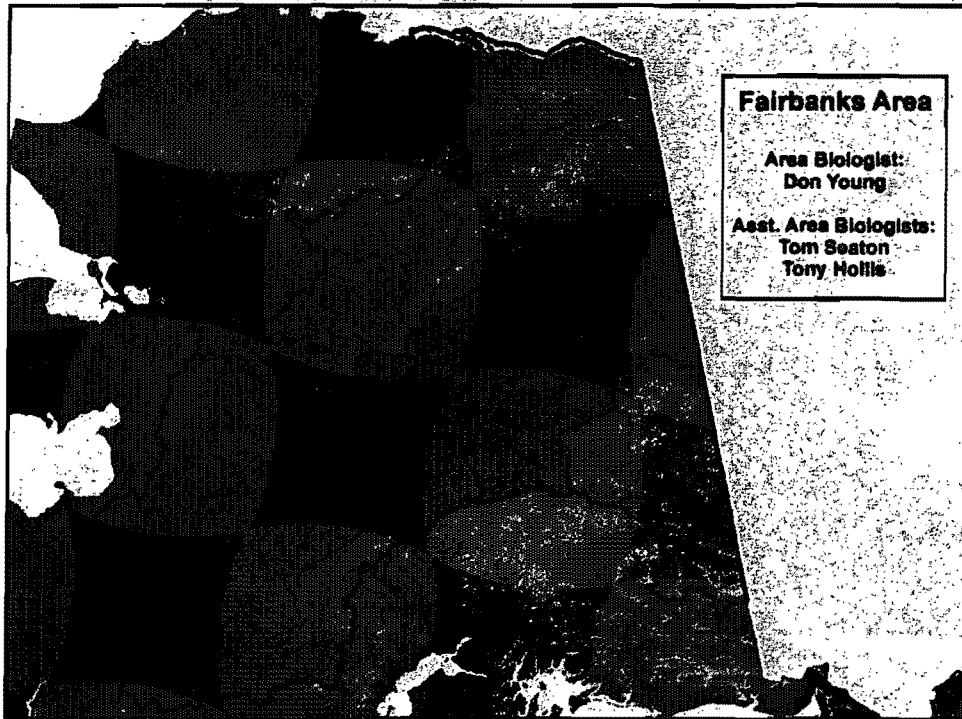
Technician:
Nate Pamperin



Northeast Alaska "NEAK"

Area Biologist:
Beth Lenart

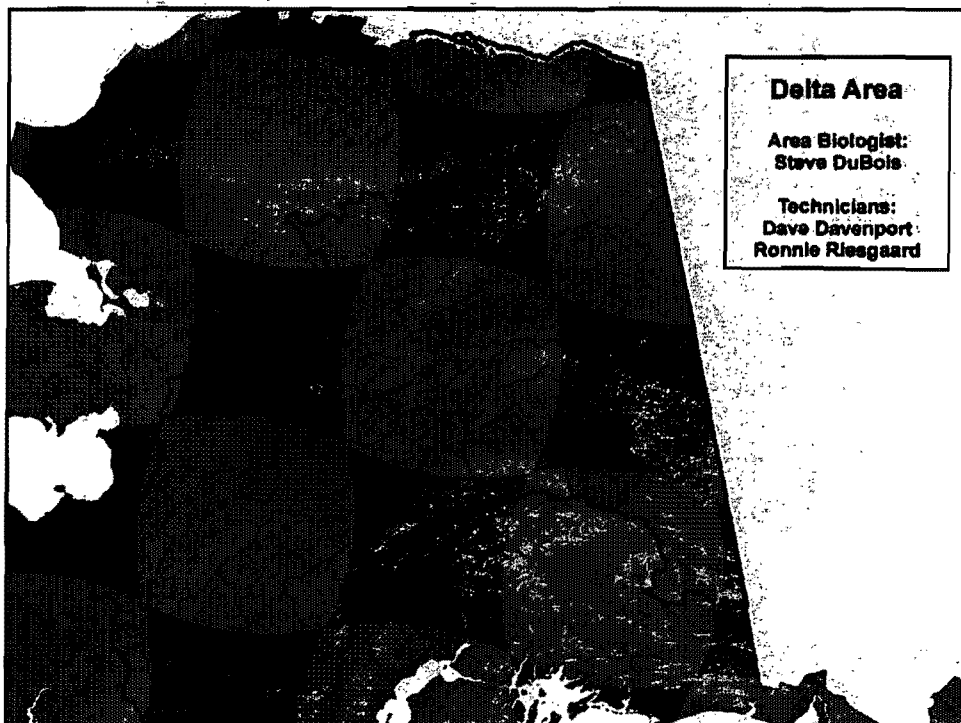
Asst. Area Biologist:
Jason Calikoski



Fairbanks Area

Area Biologist:
Don Young

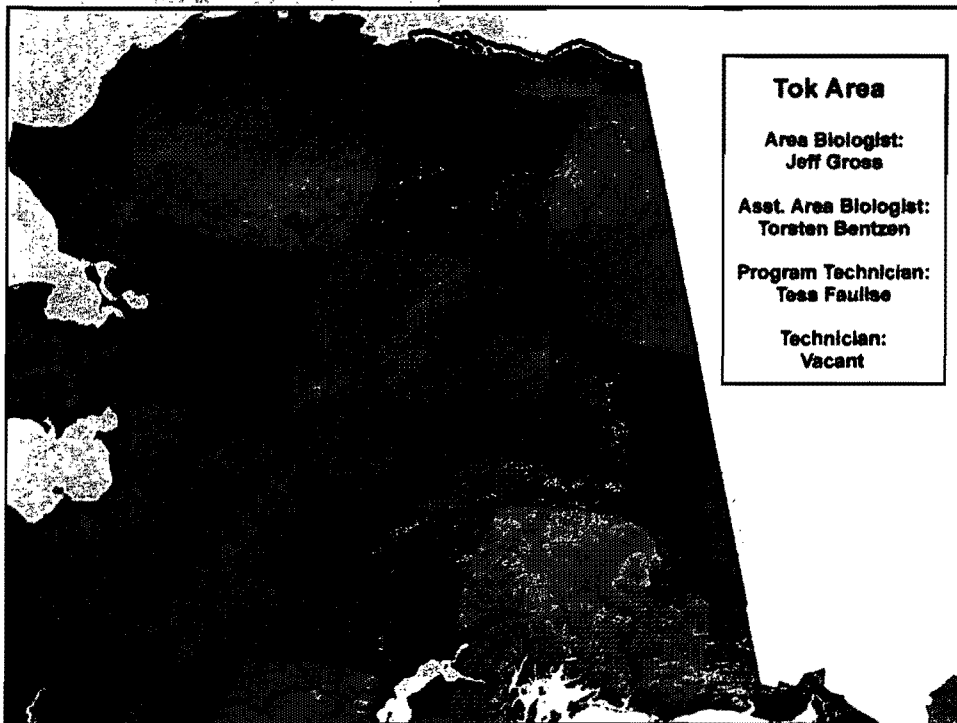
Asst. Area Biologists:
Tom Seaton
Tony Hollis



Delta Area

Area Biologist:
Steve DuBois

Technicians:
Dave Davenport
Ronnie Riesgaard



Tok Area

Area Biologist:
Jeff Gross

Asst. Area Biologist:
Torsten Bentzen

Program Technician:
Tess Faulise

Technician:
Vacant

FRONTLINE

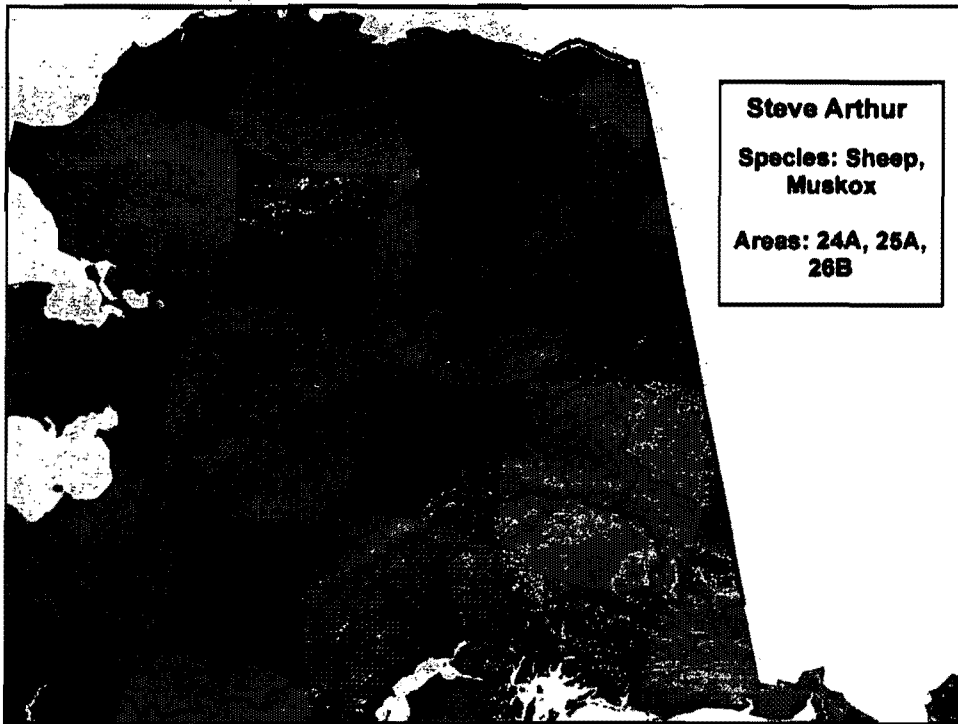
- Jackie Kephart, Supervisor
 - Brad Wendling
 - Carl Roberts
 - Nate Pamperin
 - Jeff Wells
 - Hollie Wynne
 - College intern

Management Support

- Doreen Parker-McNeill, Asst. Man. Coord
- Dale Haggstrom, Fire & Habitat Coord
- Randy Rogers, Wildlife Planner
- Rita St. Louis, Assistant Wildlife Planner
- Rob DeLong, Analyst Programmer
- Jessica Mitchell, Statistics Technician

RESEARCH BRANCH Region III

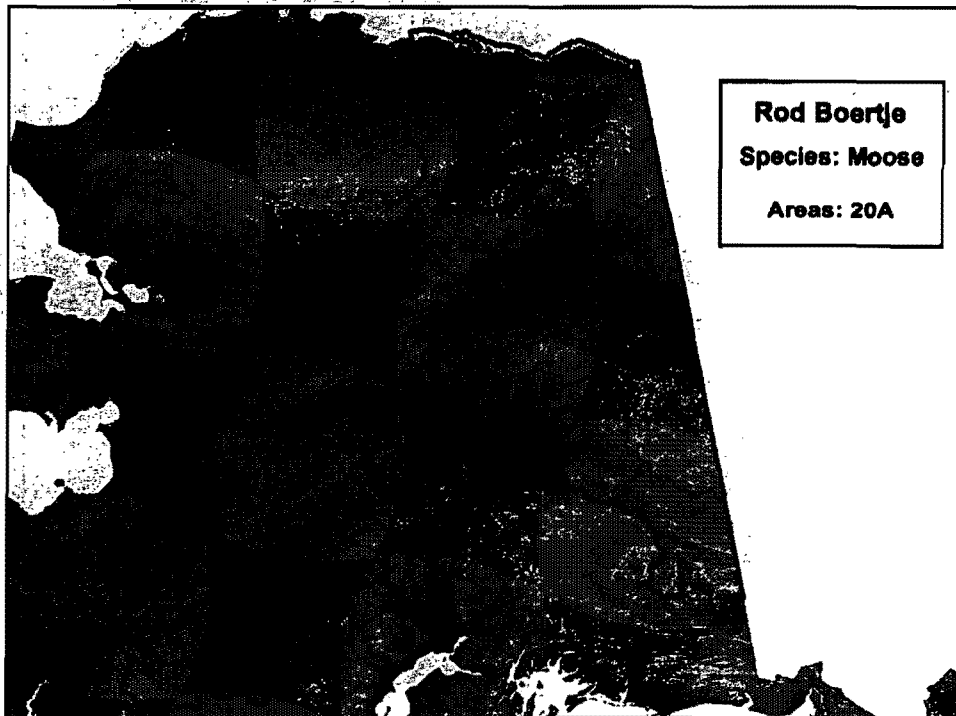
- Scott Brainerd, Research Coordinator
 - Research project leaders
 - Research support



Steve Arthur

**Species: Sheep,
Muskox**

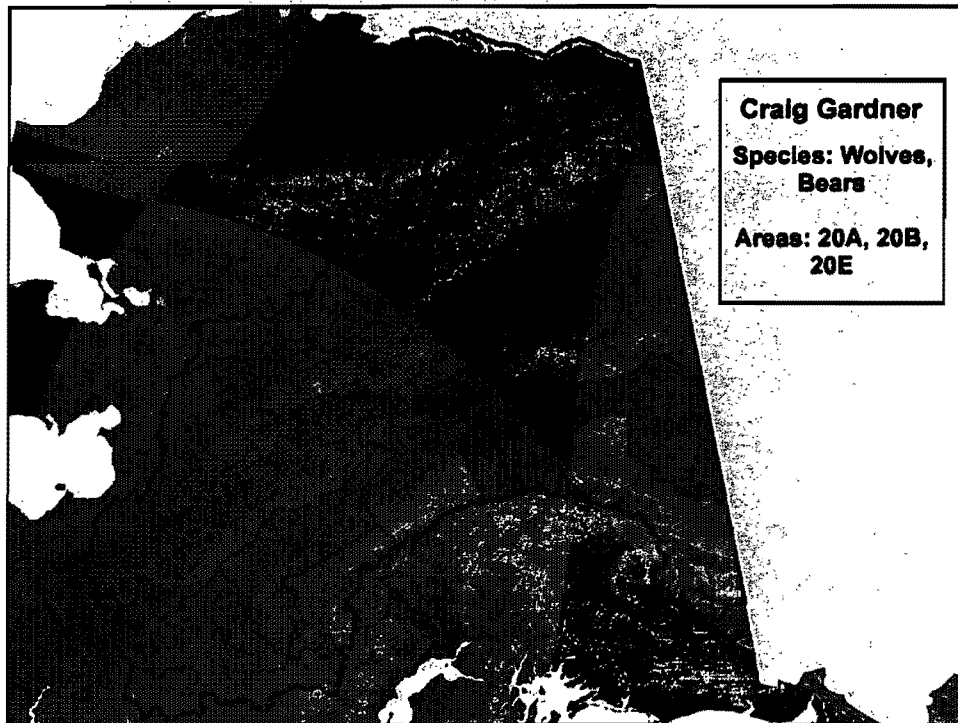
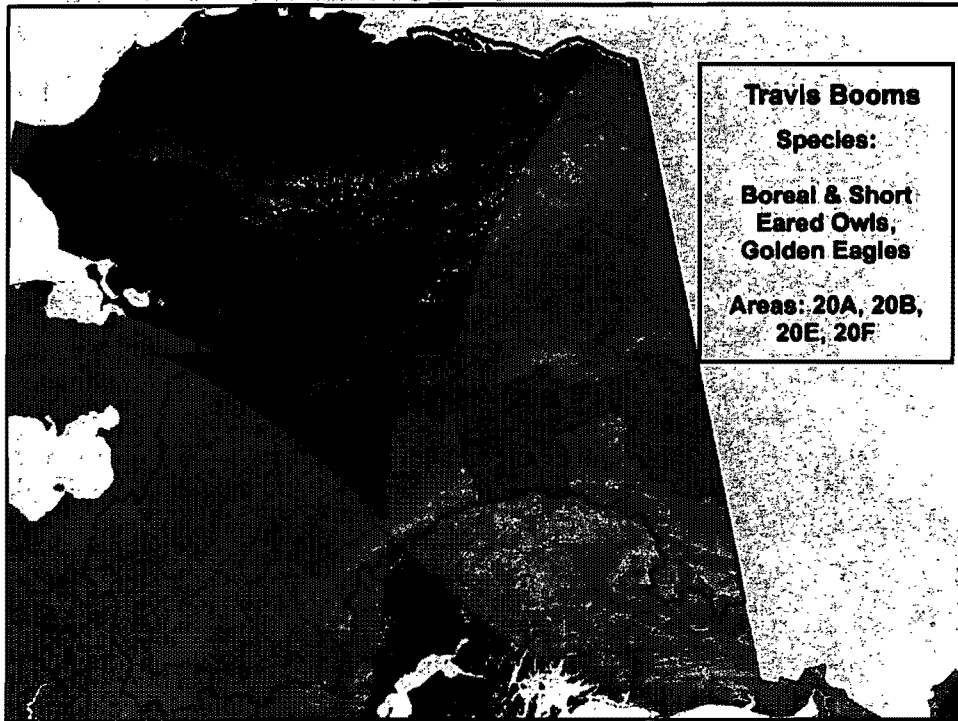
**Areas: 24A, 25A,
26B**

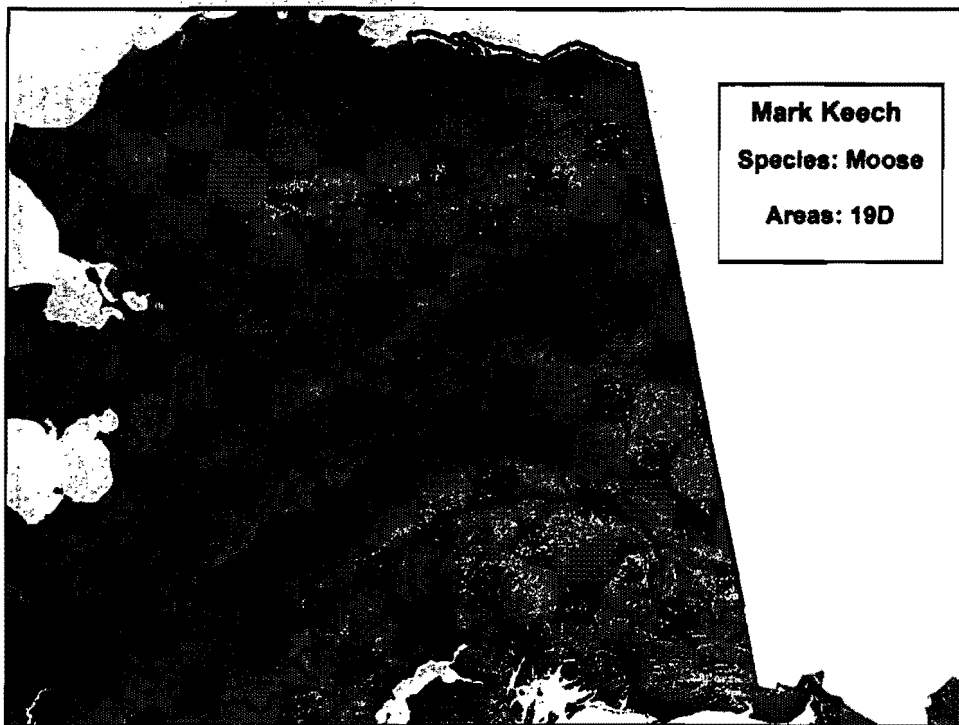


Rod Boertje

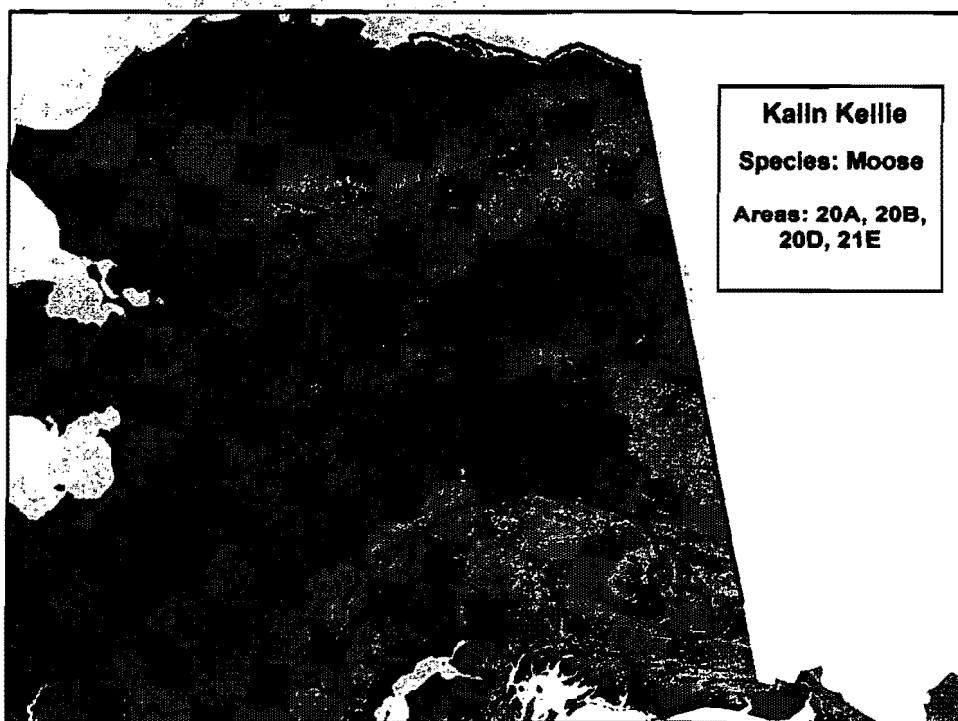
Species: Moose

Areas: 20A





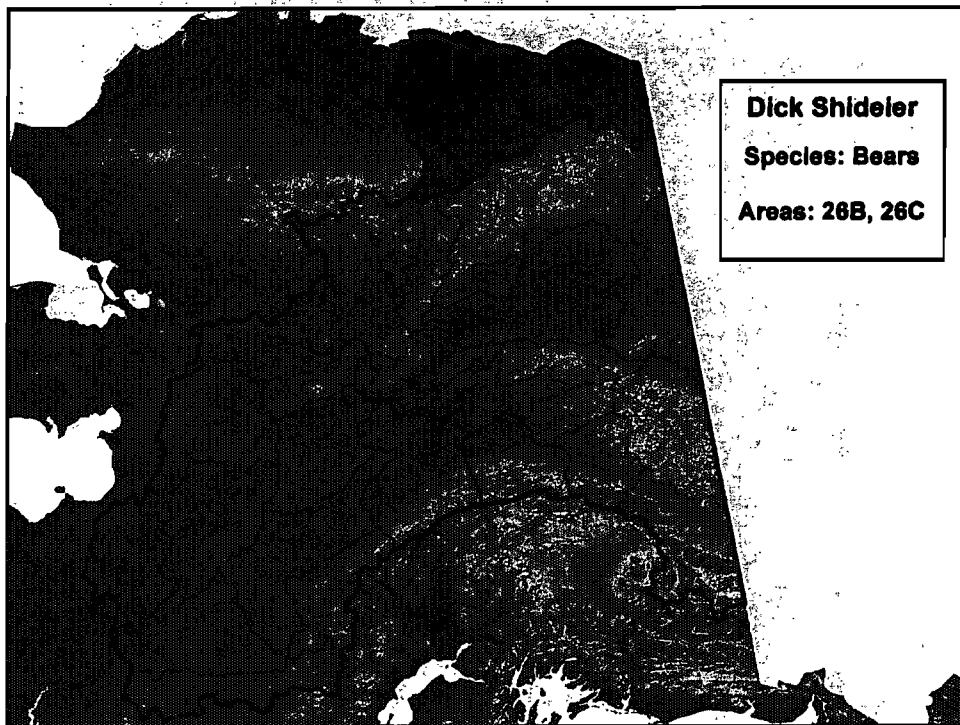
Mark Keech
Species: Moose
Areas: 19D



Kalin Kelle
Species: Moose
Areas: 20A, 20B,
20D, 21E



Tom Paragi
Species: Moose
Area: 21E



Dick Shideler
Species: Bears
Areas: 26B, 26C

Research Support

- Brian Taras, Biometrician
- Patty Del Vecchio, Research Technician
- Laura McCarthy, Publications Technician

Creamer's Field Refuge

Laurie Boeck – Refuge & habitat management

- Multiple uses – minimizing conflicts
- Cooperative Agreement with Airport
- Learning Laboratory

Mark Ross – Creamer's Education

- Creamer's school curriculum
- Fall and spring education programs
- Teacher Continuing Education
- Community Education



Hunter Ed Indoor Shooting Range

John Wyman, Management
Alex Hundertmark
Tom Halverson

- Hunter Ed Classes
- Public Shooting
- Firearms Safety Classes
- NRA Qualifications
- School Rifle Teams
- Shooting Leagues
- Electronic Range
- Hunting Heritage Center



Hunter Information & Training

Bob Hunter
Ray Johnson

- Certifications in Basic, Bowhunter, & Muzzleloader Education
- Hunter Clinics
- Bear Baiting Certification
- Youth Hunter Education Challenge
- NASP



Education and Outreach

Mike Taras

- Teacher trainings and resources for educators
- Education and Outreach support for Area Biologists and managers
- Statewide education and outreach projects
- Various wildlife classes and workshops for students and adults



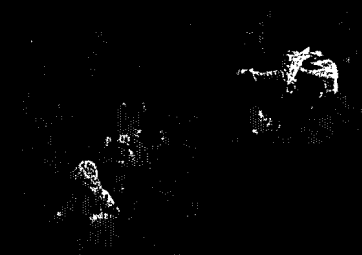
Regional Highlights

Camp Habitat

- Nature studies & awareness, ages 5-11

Alm-Au Conservation Camp

- Hunter Ed Certification, fishing, survival, ages 11-16



Regional Highlights

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

- Shooting, hunting, fishing, other outdoor skills, introductory level

Beyond BOW

- In depth outdoor skills

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES Region III

- Brenda Viers, Administrative Officer
- Kristine Toms, Administrative Assistant
- Wendy Blakeman, Accounting Technician
- Betsy Torres, Accounting Clerk
- Dawn Wood, Office Assistant

CURRENT FUNDING

Region III

- ~\$6.5 mil, total regional funding
- ~\$2.1 mil, intensive management funding

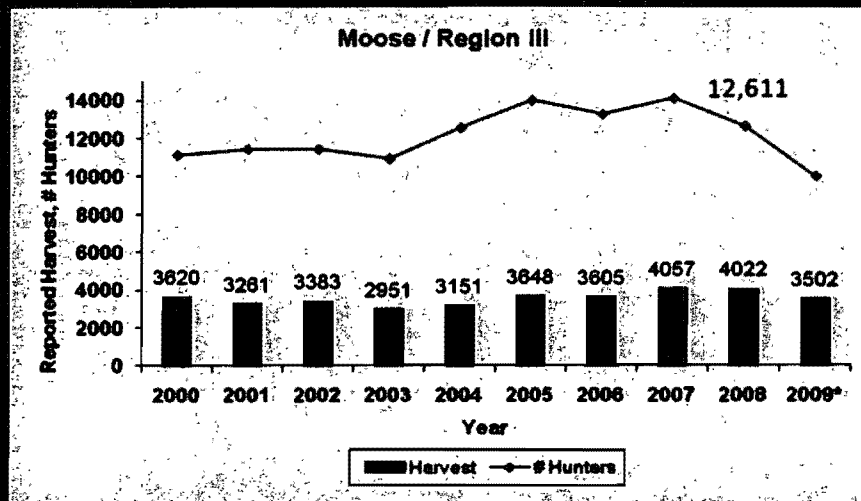
REGION III PROGRAM

- Many components to the regional program

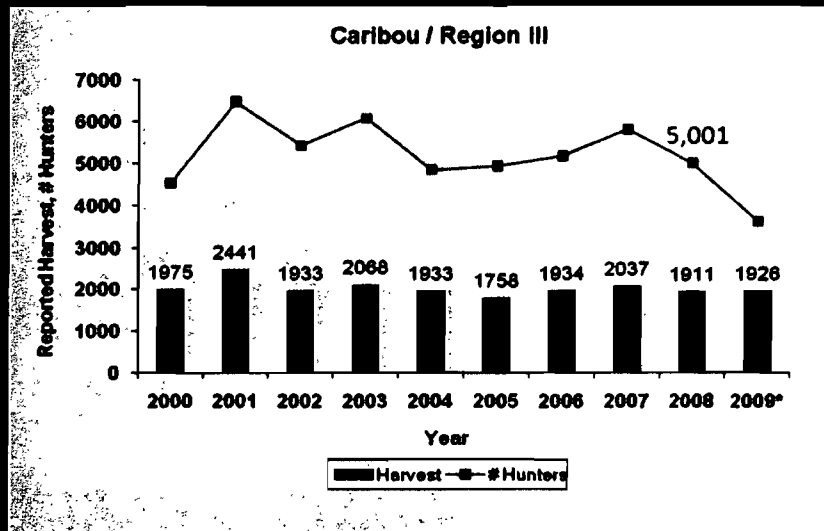
INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT in Region III

- Regional harvest performance
- Hunting access
- Hunter tolerance
- Antlerless moose harvest
- Federal management mandates
- IM geographic diversity
- Role of research in IM
- IM operational guidelines

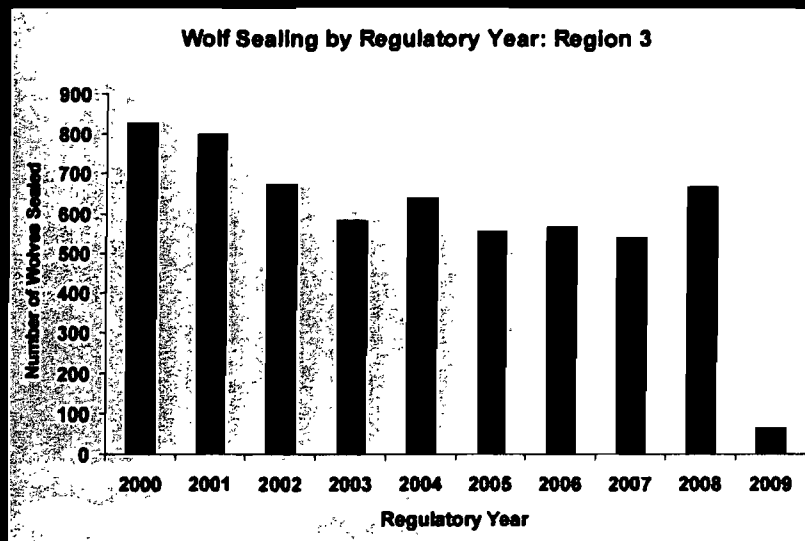
Region III Moose Harvest



Region III Caribou Harvest

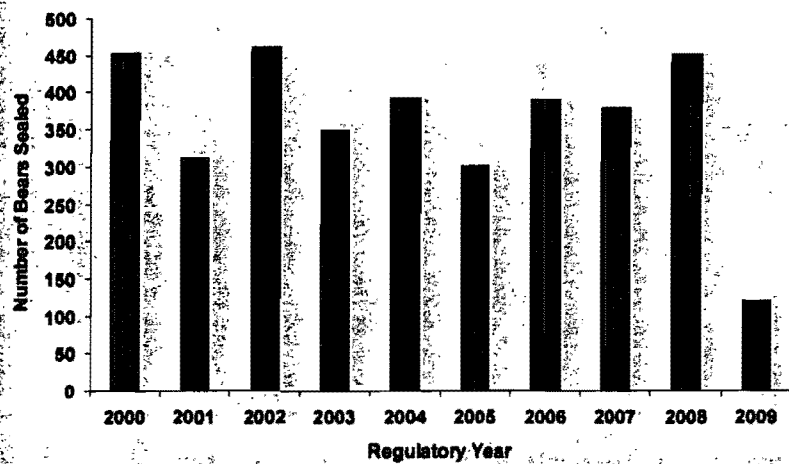


Region III Wolf Harvest & Take



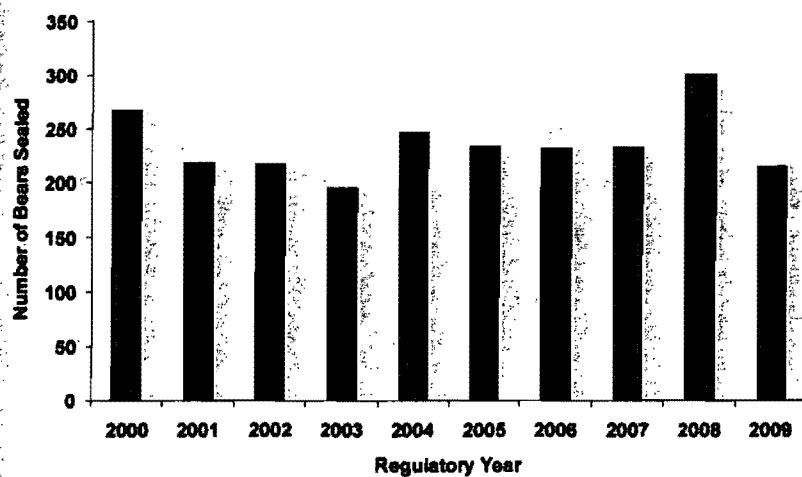
Region III Black Bear Harvest

Black Bear Sealing By Regulatory Year: Region 3



Region III Grizzly Harvest

Grizzly Bear Sealing By Regulatory Year: Region 3



Regional Harvest Performance

- Large: ~246,000 square miles
- Predator control: 45%
- IM: 22%
- Downward trend in absence of IM efforts
- Important to sustain for long periods to have large impact at regional level

Hunting Access

- IM where hunters have access
- Detailed access mapping before IM

Hunter Tolerance

- Tolerance level threshold
- AC/public involvement to identify threshold

Antlerless Moose Harvest

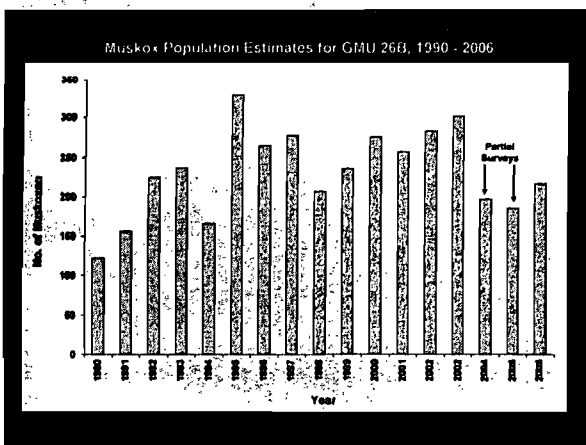
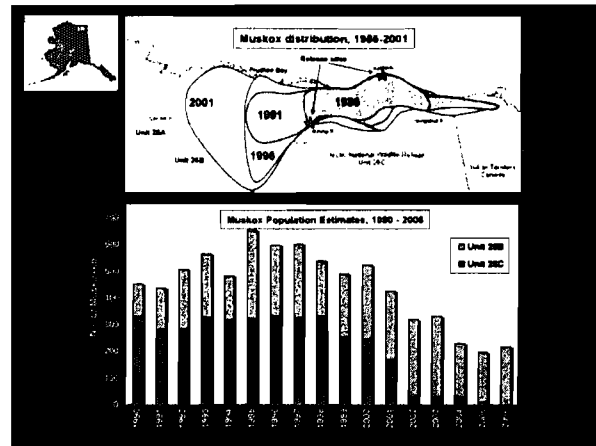
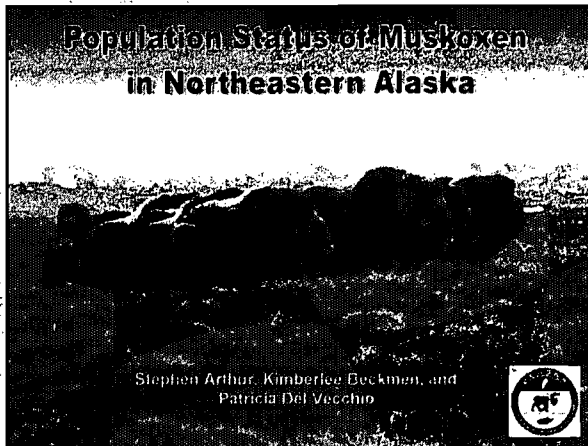
- Statutory challenge
- Lesson: small permit areas

Role of Research in IM

- Selective research
- Research tests assumptions
- IM programs compromised without Research

Intensive Management Policy and Guidelines

- Need for consolidated document
- Need to improve implementation & administration (internal)
- Need for public transparency (external)
- Previous efforts
- Current efforts
- SUSTAINABILITY



Research: Baseline Study of Demographics and Mortality Factors of Muskoxen on the eastern North Slope

Demographic parameters:

- Determine population size and age/sex composition
- Estimate minimum annual birth rates
- Estimate calf recruitment
- Determine rates and causes of mortality

Pathology:

- Survey the prevalence of infectious diseases and parasites
 - retrospective vs. current
 - NE AK vs. Seward Peninsula populations.

Nutritional assessment:

- Investigate trace element concentrations in tissues
- Compare sources of metabolized Nitrogen across the northeastern population and with other populations



Methods

- Captured 22 muskoxen (2007) to obtain blood and tissue samples and attach radio collars
- Monitor muskox groups during April-June to estimate calf production and detect mortality
- Investigate muskox deaths to determine causes and potential predisposing conditions
- Collect fecal/urine samples during late winter for nutritional analysis
- Determine population size and age/sex composition during April, June, and October



Demographic Results:

	2007	2008	2009
• April population size	196	192	196
• Minimum number of births	31	41	56
• Births per adult cow	0.51	0.84	0.59
• Calves alive in October	16	39	43
• Spring/summer calf survival	0.52	0.64	0.77
• No yearlings in April	12	14	32



Mortality Causes:

Calves

- 36 possible predation - April, May
- 7 non-predation (perinatal / stillbirth)
- 2 abandoned (after bear attack)
- 2 disease
- 1 motor vehicle collision
- 1 gored

Adults:

- 16 possible bear predation
- 4 crowning (1 during bear attack)
- 3 motor vehicle collision
- 1 disease
- 1 starvation

Serology: "New" Pathogens Identified in NE Alaska Muskoxen,
2006 - 2009

Pathogen	% NE AK	% Seward
Bovine Viral Diarrhea	16.7	7.7
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	13.3	0.0
<i>Citrusniphobia</i>	7.1	29.1
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis	5.6	3.8
<i>Cryptosporidia</i> spp.	10.0	7.8
<i>Neospora</i>	8.3	0.0
Parainfluenza 4	70.6	93.8
<i>Coxsackie burnetii</i>	5.9	6.3
Respiratory syncytial virus	5.9	0.0



Blood Chemistry: NE AK vs. Seward Populations

- ↓ Hematocrit = Anemia
- ↓ Total protein confirms anemia / slight dehydration
- ↓ Leukocytes = ↓ inflammation or infections
- ↑ Eosinophils = ↑ parasite load or diversity

Trace Element - COPPER

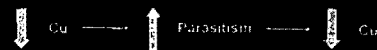
Deficiency

- Weak calves, ataxia, swayback
- Anemia
- Reduced immune response
- Reduced growth rate
- Reduced fertility, implantation failure, embryonic death, abortions, stillbirth
- Increased parasitism, bone fx, wool breaks and loss of crimp
- Hoof irregularities

Trace Elements

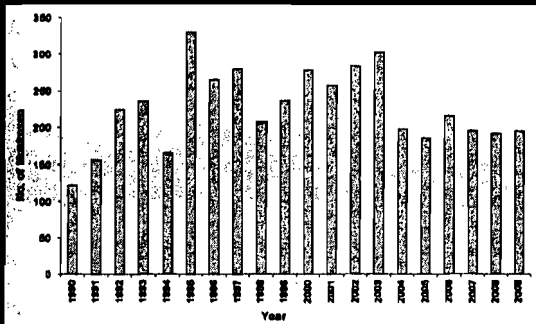
Results:

- Cu low in both NE AK and Seward populations
- Elevated levels of Fe, Zn, Mo in NE AK population further reduces Cu availability
- Feedback:



Conclusions

- Population is stable, but low (vulnerable to extinction?)
- No indication of recovery



Conclusions:

- High mortality and low recruitment
- Predation and disease were detected in all age classes
- Novel parasites and pathogens detected: lungworm, *Chlamydia*, *Pasteurella* and *Arcanobacterium*
- Diseases may reduce reproduction and increase predation
- Copper reserves in tissues appear insufficient for optimum immune function and reproduction
- Interactions with other minerals may further reduce Cu availability



Question:

What caused the disappearance of muskoxen in ANWR?



Hypothesis:

Combination of predation, disease, and mineral deficiency triggered by unfavorable climatic events

Negative Influences on Muskoxen in ANWR:

- Climate:
 - Warmer winters → icing, heavier, denser snowpack
 - Series of years with late snowmelt beginning 2000
 - Reduced mobility / increased energy demand during calving
 - Shorter growing season
- Predation, absence of alternate prey during spring
- Exposure to new diseases/parasites
- Possible density-dependent effects on nutrition (trace minerals)
- Low genetic diversity?



Supplemental information for the Alaska Board of Game, Spring 2010 meeting:

The National Park Service (NPS) would like to present some recent data to support Proposal #65, which we submitted. The proposal deals with the Stampede Closed Area, adjacent to Denali National Park.

Each year, tens of thousands of visitors see wolves along the Denali Park Road. Denali is recognized as one of the best places in the world for people to see wolves in the wild. More than anywhere else in Alaska, wolves in this part of Denali Park provide significant benefits to tourism. Wolf viewing opportunities are mostly provided by three packs of wolves that live near the park road (Figure 1).

Since 2000, certain areas adjacent to the park boundary have been closed to the taking of wolves, in order to protect wolf viewing opportunities in the park. Since 2004, when the Stampede Closed Area was retained and the Nenana Canyon Closed Area was decreased in size, these two closed areas total 122 square miles in Game Management Units (GMU) 20A and 20C. (Figure 1). Analysis of data from GPS radio collars deployed by NPS shows that in recent years, two of three most commonly viewed wolf packs in the park have occasionally traveled east of the Stampede closed area into areas where they are vulnerable to harvest (Figure 1).

In 2009, wolf numbers in the park declined to their lowest levels in more than 20 years (Figure 3). Comparing the locations where radio-collared wolves were killed by humans in the early years of wolf tracking in Denali (1986-1994) with the locations where collared wolves have been taken in recent years (2003-2009) shows that harvest has concentrated more and more on areas just northeast of the park (Figure 4). Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) sealing records from Uniform Coding Units (UCUs) 605 and 607 of GMU 20C indicate an upward trend in the number of wolves harvested in this area, with as many as 12 wolves taken in 2007 (Figure 5). Because wolves that frequent the park road are accustomed to the presence of humans, they are particularly vulnerable to harvest and not only young wolves but even older, breeding wolves are more susceptible to being trapped or shot because of their lack of fear of humans. Harvest of wolves, particularly breeding wolves, has the potential to decrease wolf numbers, alter wolf behavior, and decrease opportunities for wolf viewing by park visitors. This has little effect on larger scale wolf populations but can have significant, year-long, effects on visitor experiences.

In recent years, several known wolves that were often seen along the park road have been harvested by humans just outside of park boundaries. Wolf viewing opportunities in Denali and elsewhere depend mainly on the behavior of individual wolves and wolf packs. The degree to which wolves tolerate human presence varies widely both within and between wolf packs. It is likely that the very wolves that are most tolerant of humans, and therefore most often seen by humans, are the wolves most vulnerable to being trapped because of their lack of fear of humans.

Another effect that has been seen in recent years is the presence of wolves with broken snares or traps in areas where they are seen by large numbers of people (Figure 7). In winter 2007-2008, two wolves were photographed in the park wearing broken snares. Another wolf was seen on the park road carrying a trap on its foot. Such sightings have a detrimental effect on public opinion of trapping and wildlife management in general.

Finally, wolf capture in and near Denali National Park in recent years have shown a high incidence of wolves with lice just north of the park, but little evidence of lice from wolves living deep within the park (Figure 7). Protection of park wolf packs from harvest promotes a pattern of movement of dispersing wolves out of the park and not into it, helping to ensure that the park is a reservoir of uninfected wolves. While ADF&G has observed the maintenance of louse-free conditions in areas of GMU 20C even with moderate levels of wolf harvest, levels of harvest in some areas of GMU 20A immediately outside of Denali National Park appears to go beyond moderate levels, as evidenced by the extinction of five radio-collared wolf packs in that area within the last three years. Wolf removal on that scale creates vacancies that will be filled by wolves immigrating into the area, increasing the likelihood of lice being introduced into the park wolf population.

Analysis of data from NPS-deployed GPS radio collars on three wolf packs that frequent the park road shows that a 64% enlargement of the size of the closed area would create a nearly fourfold increase in the level of protection of the two most vulnerable and often-viewed wolf packs in Denali (Figure 6). We propose extending the eastern boundary of the Stampede Closed Area as explained in our proposal. Based on GPS data on collared wolves over the last 6 years, this boundary would provide almost complete protection of the wolves living in the Teklanika-Toklat area of the park, and would also encompass 75% of the areas where wolves in the east end of the park venture outside of park boundaries.

We investigated several options for changing the boundaries of the Stampede Closed Area, as explained in our proposal and in Figure 6. The proposed boundary in Proposal #65 makes intuitive sense, passes by several obvious landmarks, and includes only areas that are surrounded on three sides by Denali National Park. Examining data from the last 24 years of radiotracking wolves in Denali, we see that wolves that commonly live along the park road have a history of moving into all parts of the Stampede Road corridor or "Wolf Townships" as they are sometimes called (Figure 2).

We believe that the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas have protected wolves that live near the Denali Park Road, and have therefore protected wolf viewing opportunities for park visitors. Recent advances in radio collar technology have made it possible for us to get a more complete picture of wolf pack territories and a better idea of the effectiveness of closed areas in protecting the wolves that are seen by park visitors. We believe that our proposal achieves the best long-term protection of wolf viewing opportunities in Denali, allows for effective enforcement, and affects only those areas where frequently-viewed wolves are likely to be taken. We also support the maintenance of the Nenana Canyon Closed Area, which protects wolves in the park from excessive harvest along the George Parks Highway where it adjoins the park.

The NPS appreciates the past actions of the Board by establishing closed areas to protect wolf viewing opportunities in Denali. We thank the ADF&G for cooperating with the NPS on this and other issues affecting wildlife populations in the park and preserve. We look forward to future cooperation, particularly regarding the diagnosis and treatment of lice in wolves in GMU 20C.

FIGURE 1. THREE WOLF PACKS PROVIDE MOST SIGHTINGS IN DENALI. GPS COLLAR DATA, 2003-2009. GRAY SHADING SHOWS CURRENT STAMPEDE AND NENANA CANYON CLOSED AREAS.

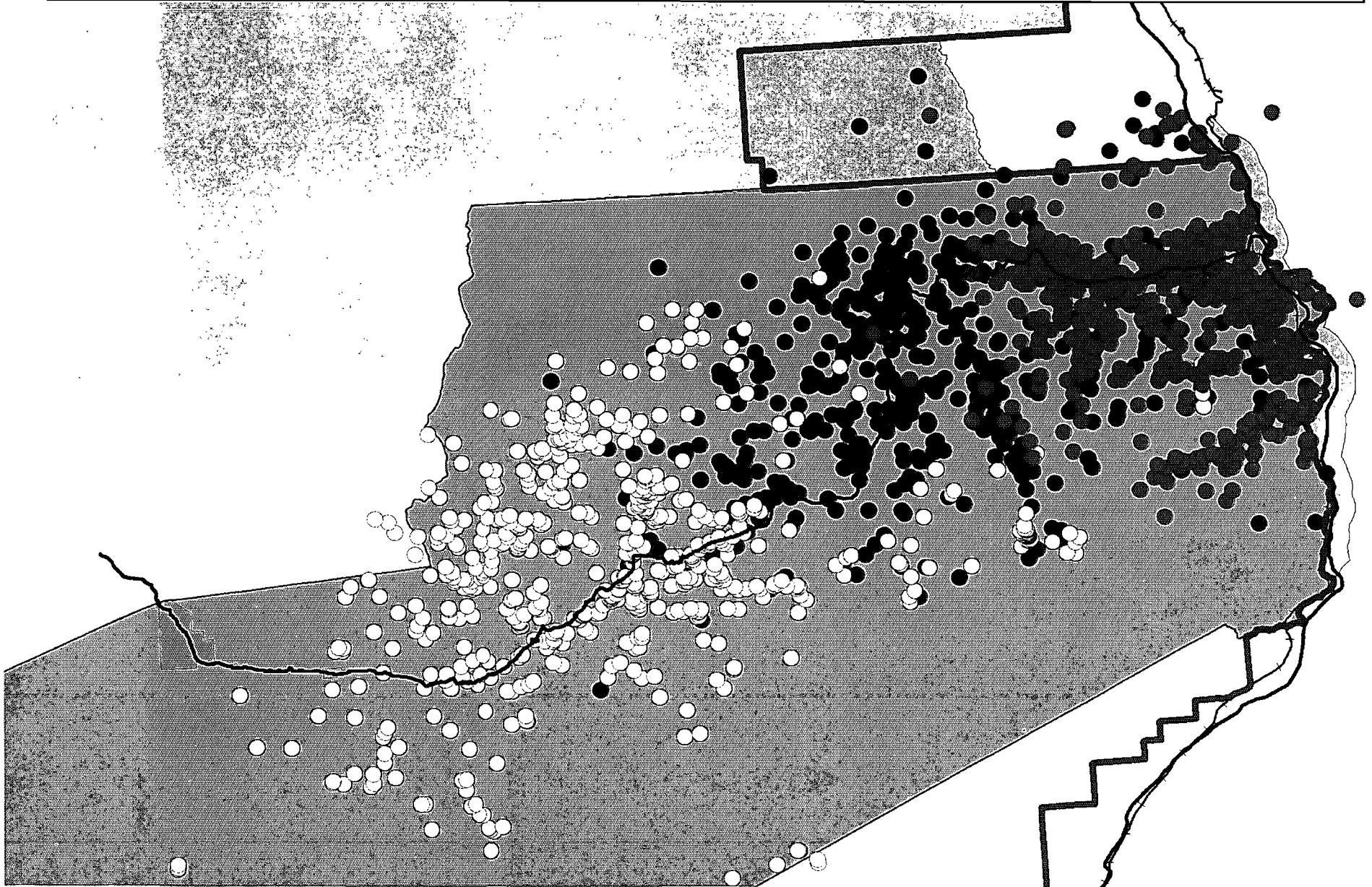
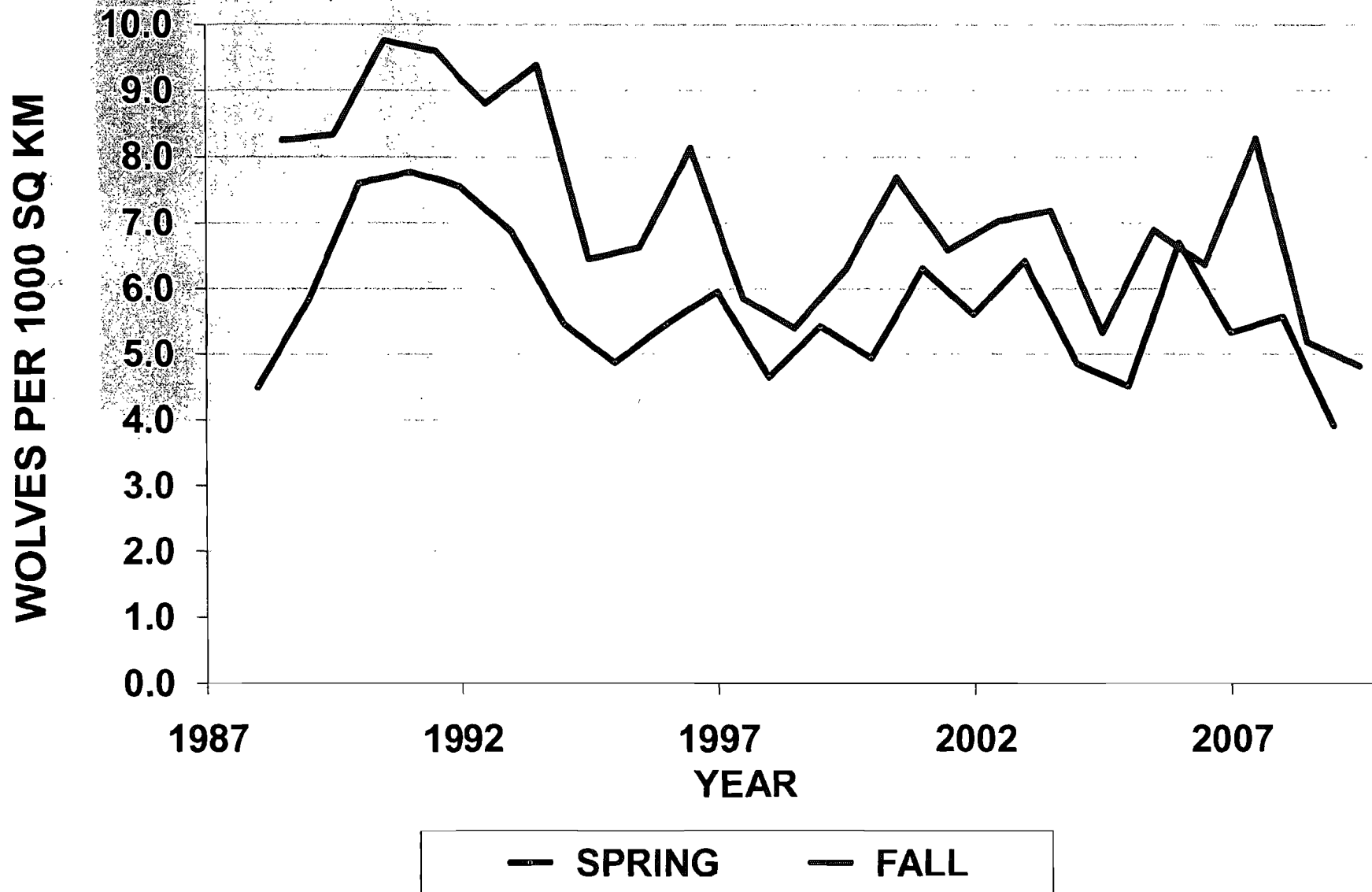


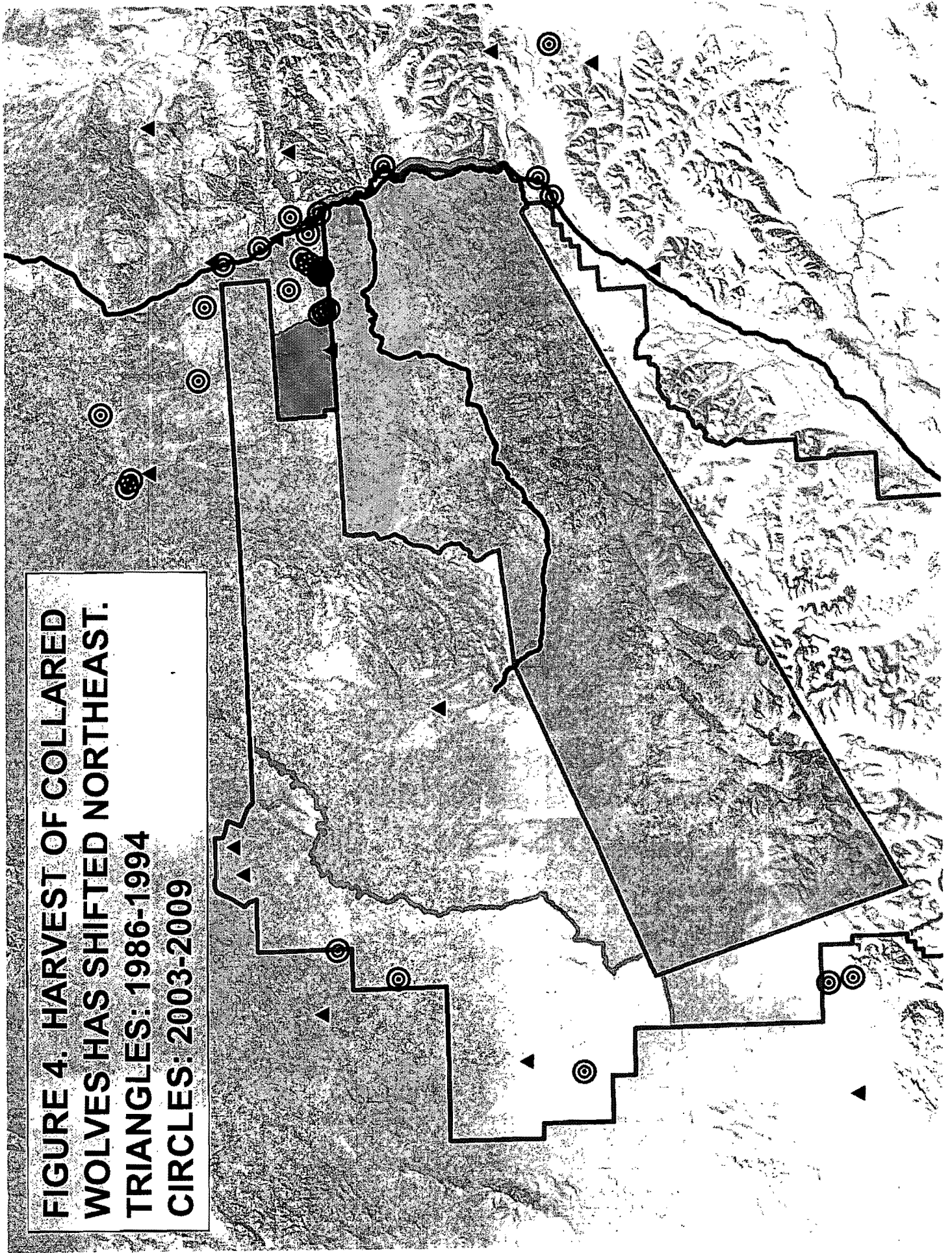
FIGURE 2. OVER 33 YEARS, WOLVES LIVING ALONG THE DENALI PARK ROAD SHOW A PATTERN OF WINTER TRAVEL TO AREAS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THEIR USUAL TERRITORIES. COLORED DOTS SHOW RADIO LOCATIONS OF WOLF PACKS THAT LIVED NEAR THE PARK ROAD, BLACK DOTS SHOW LOCATIONS OF ALL OTHER COLLARED PACKS.



FIGURE 3. DENALI WOLF NUMBERS ARE AT THEIR LOWEST POINT IN MORE THAN 20 YEARS.



**FIGURE 4. HARVEST OF COLLARED
WOLVES HAS SHIFTED NORTHEAST.
TRIANGLES: 1986-1994
CIRCLES: 2003-2009**



**FIGURE 5. ADF&G WOLF HARVEST STATISTICS FROM
GMU 20C, UCUs 605 & 607 (STAMPEDE, PANGUINGUE)**

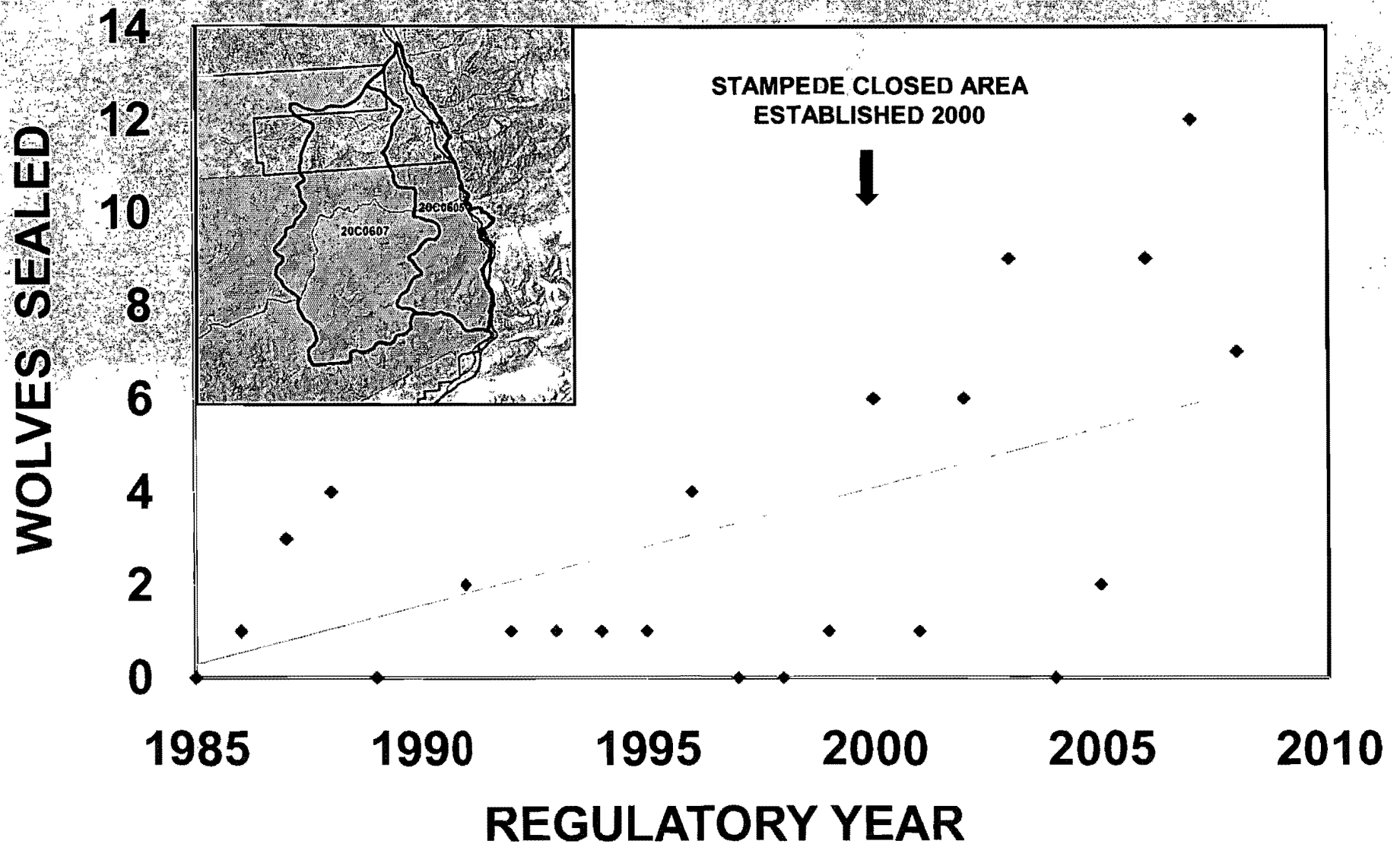


FIGURE 6. ALTERNATIVE WOLF CLOSURE BOUNDARIES AND THEIR EFFECT IN PROTECTING THREE WOLF PACKS



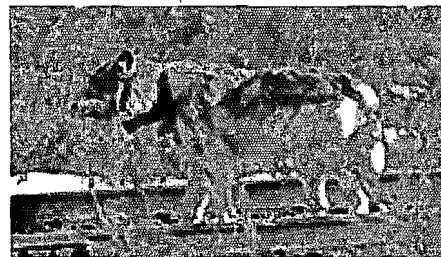
	AREA	SQUARE MILES	CUMULATIVE SQ MILES	% GC PROTECTED	% EF PROTECTED	% MM PROTECTED	COMMENT
	NENANA CANYON CLOSED AREA	30					
	STAMPEDE CLOSED AREA	92	121	100	50	8	STATUS QUO
1	TO TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY	46	167	100	50	24	
2	TO DIAGONAL	31	199	100	100	76	MOST EFFECTIVE
3	TO HIGHWAY	14	213	100	100	84	
4	TO NENANA RIVER	11	224	100	100	84	

FIGURE 7. OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

Other issues that should be considered in relation to wolf “buffer zones” are the visibility of wolves injured by snares and traps (below left, an article from the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, April 2008) and the relative absence of wolves infested with lice inside Denali (below right, red dots show capture sites of wolves with apparent louse infestations; blue dots show capture sites of non-lousy wolves).

Snared wolves roaming parts of Denali Park

By Tim Mowry

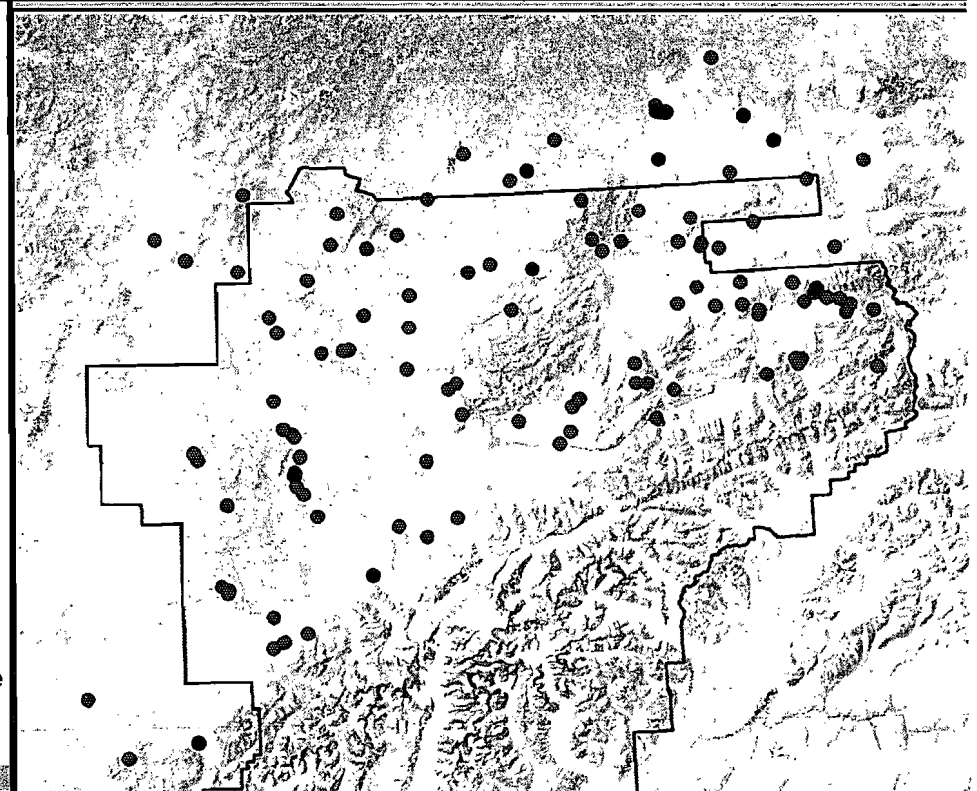


Published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, April 24, 2008

Tourists in Denali National Park and Preserve could be in for a gruesome sight this summer if two particular wolves are still hanging out in the park.

The wolves were caught in snares outside the park 3 1/2 weeks ago but managed to escape — with the snares still on their necks.

The park service began receiving reports about one of the wolves, a big, gray male, in mid-February. That wolf has been seen along stretches of the Parks Highway near park headquarters, as well as on the first 10 miles of Denali Park Road, which is open to the public.



A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME'S CONTINUED
ANTLERLESS MOOSE AND ANY BULL HUNTS IN UNIT 20A.

WHEREAS, areas of the Denali Borough in unit 20A, which traditionally sustained thriving population of moose are now without herds; and recent wildfires have concentrated many remaining moose populations in small, accessible areas, and

WHEREAS, trails in the Denali Borough have received greatly increased pressure from these hunts, resulting in destruction, impassability, or regulation of many of these trails; and

WHEREAS, increased hunter pressure has resulted in a substantial negative environmental impact both from ATV damage to pristine wilderness ecosystems and large amounts of litter and trash, and

WHEREAS, general moose harvest opportunities have decreased for residents of the Denali Borough, causing the quality of life for residents of the Denali Borough to be adversely affected by the continuation of these hunts, and

WHEREAS, these hunts have caused substantial trespass on private property, and

WHEREAS, questions and concerns of both private individuals and the Fish and Game Advisory Board have gone largely untended by managing officials of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, including not attending meetings of the Fish and Game Advisory board after being placed on the agenda to discuss these hunts, and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to address these issues, makes a mockery of the concepts of home-rule government and self-determination held by residents of the Denali Borough.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly is opposed to the continued antlerless moose and any bull hunts in unit 20A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Senate Resources Committee to review the actions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning mismanagement of wildlife resources within the Denali Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Mayor send copies of this resolution to the Governor of Alaska, The Alaska legislative representatives of the Denali Borough, all members of the Alaska Senate Resources Committee, all members of the Alaska Board of Game, all management authorities of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerned with the Denali Borough, all members of the Middle Tanana Valley Fish and Game Advisory Board, and any other groups or individuals he sees fit.

Passed unanimously by the Denali Borough Assembly, November 11, 2009

RC53

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
(907) 465-4190 PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

20C 7617,280 acre

MOOSE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Denali 2,848,000 acre

From: 1 July 2005
To: 30 June 2007¹

Size of 20C →

LOCATION

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS: 20C (11,902 mi²), 20F (6267 mi²), and 25C (5149 mi²)
DNP 1160 mi²

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION: Unit 20C includes drainages into the west bank of the Nenana River, and into the south bank of the Tanana River west of the Nenana River. Most of Denali National Park and Preserve is within Unit 20C. Unit 20F includes drainages into the north bank of the Tanana River west of Manley Hot Springs, and into the Yukon River drainage in the area between the village of Tanana and the Dalton Highway bridge. Unit 25C includes drainages into the south bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle to, but not including, the Charley River drainage; the Birch Creek drainage upstream from the Steese Highway Bridge; the Preacher Creek drainage upstream from and including the Rock Creek drainage; and the Beaver Creek drainage upstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage.

BACKGROUND

Moose densities in Units 20C, 20F, and 25C have been low for many years, presumably because of combined predation from wolves and bears (Gasaway et al. 1992) and habitat limitations. ~~Wolf and bear populations are lightly harvested.~~ Bull moose harvest is low relative to population size as indicated by the high proportion of large bulls in the harvest. If harvest rates of bulls were not sustainable, large bulls would be rare in the harvest. Thus we can conclude that harvest is a minor factor affecting population dynamics relative to predation.

These units contain some tracts of mature black spruce that are poor quality moose habitat. However, using aerial reconnaissance, it appears that many riparian areas, subalpine hills, and burns have habitat capable of sustaining moose at relatively high densities (≥ 2 moose/mi²).

~~Trends in moose populations have been difficult to identify, but densities probably fluctuate within 0.1 and 1.1 moose/mi², and more likely between 0.2 to 0.7 moose/mi² based on Alaska~~

¹ At the discretion of the reporting biologist, this unit report may contain data collected outside the report period.

Ray Hower

~~and Yukon studies in large areas (>800 mi²) with 2 or more lightly-harvested predators (Gasaway et al. 1992).~~

Moose within Denali National Park and Preserve (DNPP) have been studied more intensively than moose in the rest of this area. Radiocollared moose were monitored in movement, behavior, and reproductive studies. Also, composition surveys and population estimates have been conducted by DNPP biologists since 1970.

Moose in these units are an important source of food, antlers, and recreation for many local rural residents, other residents throughout Alaska, and nonresidents. Nonconsumptive uses are also important, particularly in DNPP.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

MANAGEMENT GOALS

- ~~Provide for a sustained harvest of these low-density populations.~~
- ~~Promote moose habitat enhancement by allowing natural fires to alter vegetation.~~

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- ~~Maintain a bull:cow ratio of $>30:100$ in areas with aerial surveys and $\geq 20\%$ large bulls in the harvest in areas without aerial surveys.~~

METHODS

No aerial moose surveys were completed in Units 20F and 25C during this reporting period (RY05–RY06). A composition survey was completed in Unit 20C during 14–22 November 2006 by pilot Marty Webb and observer Tom Seaton. The northern and eastern portions of Unit 20C were surveyed, because these areas experience the most hunting pressure in the unit. Starting along the Tanana River corridor near the village of Tanana, the survey followed a north–south transect pattern, then proceeding upstream within about 5 miles of the river. Transects were separated by the width of the geospatial population estimator (GSPE; Ver Hoef 2001, Kellie and DeLong 2006) moose survey sample units in the area. Between the Kantishna and Nenana Rivers, the survey was flown in east–west transects from the Tanana River to Denali National Park.

We completed a GSPE moose survey (Ver Hoef 2001, Kellie and DeLong 2006) in Unit 25C (5000 mi²) during November–December 1997 in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This technique does not yet commonly incorporate a sightability correction factor (SCF). However, preliminary data by Boertje and others suggests an SCF of 1.1 to 1.2 is appropriate for most of these units if October or November surveys are flown with good survey conditions (Gasaway et al. 1986, Boertje et al. 2009).

In the Lake Minchumina area (1007 mi²) of Unit 20C, DNPP biologists conducted a census using Gasaway methods (Gasaway et al. 1986) during November 1994. We completed stratification

flights associated with the GSPE technique for that portion of Unit 20C outside of DNPP on 19 December 2000.

We estimated annual moose mortality using 1) data from harvest report cards after sending reminder letters to increase response, 2) our records of telephone calls from the public concerning nonhunting mortality, 3) Alaska Wildlife Trooper records of moose-motor vehicle collisions, and 4) Alaska Railroad records of moose-train collisions between railroad mileposts 327 and 371 in Unit 20C. Also, to estimate unreported harvest in the village of Tanana, we used a 1987 study conducted by ADF&G-Division of Subsistence. Data were summarized by regulatory year (RY), which begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY05 = 1 July 2005-30 June 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

POPULATION STATUS AND TREND

Population Size

Based on the 1997 GSPE without an SCF, we conservatively estimated Unit 25C moose density at 0.46 moose/mi² of moose habitat, with a total population estimate of 2279 moose (90% CI $\pm 16.5\%$). With a conservative SCF of 1.12, the estimated moose density was 0.5 moose/mi². Both estimates are within the expected range of 0.1-1.1 moose/mi² (average ≈ 0.6 moose/mi²) found in all large areas of Interior Alaska (>800 mi²) with lightly harvested bear and wolf populations (Gasaway et al. 1992). Very few moose density estimates have been outside this range during the last 30 years, except in areas where predation is reduced by humans.

We conservatively estimated 3500-4500 moose inhabited Unit 20C moose habitat: ~~2000 within Denali National Park and 1500-2500 outside Denali National Park (including Denali National Preserve)~~. These estimates assumed an average density of 0.58 moose/mi² inside Denali National Park (Oct 1991 census; T. Meier, National Park Service [NPS], personal communication) and ~~0.25 moose/mi² outside Denali National Park~~. Based on a November 1994 survey, Denali Park biologists estimated the moose density in the Lake Minchumina area at 0.34 moose/mi² (K. Stahlnecker, NPS, personal communication).

We conservatively estimated 1000-2000 moose resided in Unit 20F. This assumed 0.25-0.50 moose/mi², with roughly 4250 mi² of moose habitat (McNay 1990).

Population Composition

During the 2006 composition survey in Unit 20C, we classified 509 moose: 317 cows, 95 bulls, and 97 calves. The ~~calf to cow ratio was 31:100~~ and the ~~bull to cow ratio was 30:100~~. These ratios suggest moderate hunting pressure and moderate predation on calves.

During the 2004 spatial trend survey in Unit 25C, the calf to cow ratio was 14:100, and the bull to cow ratio was 45:100 (Table 1). These ratios suggest light hunting pressure and high predation on calves.

Population composition data in Unit 20F (and Unit 20C in most years) were limited to the percentage of large bulls (antlers wider than 50 inches) in the harvest (Fig. 1). If harvest rates of

~~bulls were too high to be sustainable; the percentage of large bulls in the harvest would decline within a few years.~~ The percentage of large bulls in the reported harvest was 26–50% in Unit 20C between RY95 and RY06. The percentage of large bulls in the Unit 20F reported harvest was more variable than Unit 20C, ranging between 24% and 55%. These data suggest there was no danger of overharvest of bulls in these units during RY95–RY06.

MORTALITY

Harvest

Season and Bag Limit. The following hunting seasons and bag limits have been in effect since RY93.

<u>Unit and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
Unit 20C		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, white-phased or partial albino (more than 50% white) moose may not be taken.	1 Sep–20 Sep	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, white-phased or partial albino (more than 50% white) moose may not be taken.		5 Sep–15 Sep
Unit 20F, drained by the Yukon River excluding the Tanana River drainage downstream from the drainage of Hess Creek.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull.	1 Sep–20 Sep or 1 Dec–10 Dec	No open season
Unit 20F, drained by the Tanana River.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull.	1 Sep–20 Sep	No open season
Remainder of Unit 20F		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull.	1 Sep–15 Sep	No open season
Unit 25C		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull.	1 Sep–15 Sep	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull.		5 Sep–15 Sep

Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders. No Alaska Board of Game actions were taken and no emergency orders were issued during this reporting period.

Harvest by Hunters. During RY98–RY06 reported moose harvest remained stable in Units 20C and 20F, but declined slightly in Unit 25C (Table 2). During this time, the reported harvest was 97–143 moose in Unit 20C, 20–45 in Unit 20F, and 51–84 in Unit 25C.

Unreported Harvest and Estimated Nonhunting Mortality — We cannot easily estimate the number of unreported kills in Units 20C, 20F, and 25C. Harvest report cards returned by residents of Tanana, Rampart, Manley, Livengood, Central, Circle, and Circle Hot Springs likely represent minimal harvest reporting. For example, information collected by the Division of Subsistence indicates that only 10–20% of the actual harvest by Tanana residents was reported. The reporting rate for other rural communities in this area is unknown.

Illegal, other, and motor vehicle deaths were obtained from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers mortality logs. Data concerning deaths caused by train collisions in Unit 20C were obtained from the Alaska Railroad. During RY98–RY06 documented causes of accidental mortality were minimal (0–3 annually) in Unit 20F and Unit 25C, but mostly higher in Unit 20C (0–21 annually) due to deaths caused by train collisions (Table 3).

Hunter Residency and Success. ~~Between RY98 and RY06 the reported number of hunters increased slightly in Units 20C and 25C, and decreased slightly in Unit 20F (Table 2).~~ During RY04 and RY05, all 3 units saw a relatively low number of hunters and moose taken. Much of Interior Alaska was covered in a thick blanket of smoke in autumn 2004 and 2005, due to record-setting wildfires. The smoke and fire may have decreased the number of hunters in the field and their effectiveness. Also, Unit 20A had road accessible, liberal antlerless hunts in RY04 and RY05, which increased moose harvest opportunity nearby, and may have reduced the number of moose hunters in remote areas such as Units 20C, 20F, and 25C.

During RY98–RY06, as many as 6 nonresident hunters annually reported hunting in Unit 20F (Table 2), even though the unit had no open moose season for nonresidents. Reported moose harvest by nonresidents in Unit 20F was 10% of the reported harvest in RY00. Unit 20F nonresident harvest data may be attributed to misreporting by hunters, data management errors by department staff, or legitimate harvest reports from illegal nonresident hunters.

~~In Units 20C and 20F most successful hunters resided in that unit.~~ In Unit 25C, however, most successful hunters (95%) resided outside the unit, including residents and nonresidents of Alaska (Table 2). This difference can be attributed to 1) relatively few people reside in Unit 25C, 2) Unit 25C was road accessible and within 2 hours of the population center of Fairbanks, 3) motorized vehicle restrictions were uncommon in the area, and 4) it was one of the few road-system areas with a bag limit of any bull for residents and nonresidents.

Harvest Chronology. During RY98–RY06 the highest proportion of the harvest occurred during the second week of the season in all 3 units. In Units 20C and 20F, the first and third weeks shared similar proportions of the harvest (Table 4). Few moose were reported harvested during the December season in Unit 20F.

Transport Methods. ~~In Unit 20C most successful hunters used boats, airplanes, or 3- or 4-wheelers for transportation (Table 5).~~ Extensive river systems, many lakes, gravel bars, and an expanding trail system make these transport methods most useful. In Unit 20F boats were the

primary mode of transportation for successful hunters, and in Unit 25C successful moose hunters used highway vehicles, 3- or 4-wheelers, or boats. The transportation methods used throughout this area reflected access opportunities in the area.

DISCUSSION

Moose densities in areas like Units 20C, 20F, and 25C are typically limited by predation rather than forage, because predators kill a large majority of all calves produced on an annual basis (Gasaway et al. 1992; Boertje et al. 2009). However, bear densities decline in burned areas and bears are the dominant predator on moose calves in most of Alaska (Boertje et al. 2009; C. Gardner, ADF&G, unpublished data). Also, enhanced habitat can boost moose numbers by increasing moose calving rates. In remote country such as this, the most effective means of habitat improvement is wildfire. Wildfires also increase deadfall, which may decrease the efficiency of predators (Boertje et al. 1995). Several wildfires and prescribed burns have occurred in the area over the last 25 years, especially during the record wildfire seasons of 2004 and 2005. A map of the burned areas is available from BLM. Some small-scale habitat improvements are being completed in the area. BLM is reclaiming mine tailings within the White Mountains National Recreation Area in Unit 25C. Native willows are being planted to enhance the revegetation process and increase moose browse.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS/NEEDS

Harvest reporting in these units was poor. We need to contact more people in remote areas to emphasize the importance and benefits of reporting harvest. It would be especially helpful to contact young people in village schools to establish harvest reporting as a responsibility of all hunters and to promote the positive aspects of reporting.

Fire is an integral part of Interior ecosystems and is essential to producing good moose habitat in areas of climax spruce forests. We should continue to coordinate wildlife needs with the Department of Natural Resources and BLM and encourage more controlled burns to enhance habitat.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Moose populations in Units 20C, 20F, and 25C are at low densities. ~~Hunting pressure was relatively low.~~ We met our objective to maintain a bull:cow ratio of $\geq 30:100$ in areas with aerial surveys and $\geq 20\%$ large bulls in the harvest in areas without aerial surveys.

No regulatory changes are recommended at this time. We estimated hunting, other human-caused mortality, and nonhunting mortality and worked to gather information on reporting rates from rural communities to produce a more comprehensive harvest estimate. We met our goal to promote natural fires to enhance moose habitat through the department's efforts on the Interagency Fire Management Team. We met our goal of providing for sustained harvest of these low-density populations.

TABLE 1 Unit 25C fall aerial moose composition counts, 1986–2004

Year	Bulls:100 Cows	Yearling bulls:100 Cows	Calves:100 Cows	Calves	Percent calves	Adults	Moose observed
1986 ^a	103	13	21	8	9	77	85
1987 ^a	77	11	28	13	14	83	96
1988 ^a	129	37	33	16	13	112	128
1996 ^a	119	19	11	3	5	57	60
1996 ^b	160	0	20	2	7	26	28
1997 ^c	53	13	37	80	20	319	399
2002 ^a	71	16	9	4	5	77	81
2002 ^b	59	31	19	6	11	51	57
2004 ^d	45	14	14	4	9	42	46

^a O'Brien Creek count area.

^b Ophir Creek count area.

^c Geospatial population estimator moose population estimate.

^d Spatial trend survey.

TABLE 2 Units 20C, 20F, and 25C reported moose hunter residency and success, regulatory years 1998–1999 through 2006–2007

Regulatory year	Successful hunters				Unsuccessful hunters				Total hunters
	Local ^a resident	Nonlocal resident	Nonresident	Total (%)	Local ^a resident	Nonlocal resident	Nonresident	Total (%)	
<i>Unit 20C</i>									
1998–1999	87	39	14	140 (35)	185	57	13	255 (65)	395
1999–2000	98	21	13	132 (32)	196	66	17	279 (68)	411
2000–2001	87	31	13	131 (28)	222	82	25	329 (72)	460
2001–2002	89	36	16	141 (31)	198	98	24	320 (69)	461
2002–2003	85	34	12	131 (26)	237	98	31	366 (74)	497
2003–2004	59	36	10	105 (21)	252	116	26	394 (79)	499
2004–2005	66	23	8	97 (21)	228	108	19	355 (79)	452
2005–2006	86	36	7	129 (30)	204	81	19	304 (70)	433
2006–2007	92	35	16	143 (28)	218	124	35	377 (73)	520
<i>Unit 20F</i>									
1998–1999	29	15	1	45 (29)	83	23	3	109 (71)	154
1999–2000	25	7	1	33 (25)	69	27	2	98 (75)	131
2000–2001	27	9	4	40 (24)	89	38	2	129 (76)	169
2001–2002	20	9	0	29 (20)	80	33	3	116 (80)	145
2002–2003	25	12	2	39 (28)	70	28	4	102 (72)	141
2003–2004	12	8	0	20 (15)	85	29	0	114 (85)	134
2004–2005	18	7	0	25 (22)	60	26	1	87 (78)	112
2005–2006	27	8	1	36 (29)	64	23	2	89 (71)	125
2006–2007	27	12	1	40 (33)	58	22	2	82 (67)	122
<i>Unit 25C</i>									
1998–1999	5	68	11	84 (34)	23	130	13	166 (66)	250
1999–2000	8	47	14	69 (26)	21	156	19	196 (74)	265
2000–2001	7	53	19	79 (24)	29	198	20	247 (76)	326
2001–2002	2	50	9	61 (19)	23	218	26	267 (81)	328
2002–2003	7	54	13	74 (21)	23	224	33	280 (79)	354
2003–2004	3	43	6	52 (17)	20	210	19	249 (83)	301
2004–2005	4	41	6	51 (21)	15	164	15	194 (79)	245
2005–2006	3	56	4	63 (17)	17	248	39	304 (83)	367
2006–2007	3	53	6	62 (18)	18	226	41	285 (82)	347

^a Hunters who live within the unit in which they reported hunting were considered local.

TABLE 4 Units 20C, 20F, and 25C reported moose harvest chronology by month/day, regulatory years 1998–1999 through 2006–2007

Regulatory year	Harvest chronology by month/day ^a				<i>n</i>
	9/1–9/7	9/8–9/15	9/16–9/20	12/1–12/10	
<i>Unit 20C</i>					
1998–1999	35	54	42		131
1999–2000	35	52	39		126
2000–2001	41	48	36		125
2001–2002	28	58	49		135
2002–2003	33	61	31		125
2003–2004	21	55	26		102
2004–2005	30	26	36		92
2005–2006	31	50	43		124
2006–2007	49	47	38		134
<i>Unit 20F</i>					
1998–1999	11	25	6	3	45
1999–2000	5	18	4	5	32
2000–2001	10	21	5	4	40
2001–2002	5	13	9	1	28
2002–2003	9	21	8	1	39
2003–2004	5	6	7	1	19
2004–2005	7	11	8	1	27
2005–2006	9	14	11	1	35
2006–2007	12	18	9	0	39
<i>Unit 25C</i>					
1998–1999	35	47			82
1999–2000	31	37			68
2000–2001	28	50			78
2001–2002	22	36			58
2002–2003	18	55			73
2003–2004	22	27			49
2004–2005	23	29			52
2005–2006	23	36			59
2006–2007	25	32			57

^a Does not include kills reported outside open hunting seasons or hunters that did not report date of kill.

TABLE 5 Units 20C, 20F, and 25C reported moose harvest percent by transport method, regulatory years 1998–1999 through 2006–2007

Regulatory year	Harvest percent by transport method							Unk/Other	n
	Airplane	Horse/Dogsled	Boat	3- or 4-wheeler	Snowmachine	Other ORV	Highway vehicle		
<i>Unit 20C</i>									
1998–1999	16	1	33	24	0	19	5	2	140
1999–2000	15	2	38	20	0	18	5	2	131
2000–2001	22	0	36	23	1	12	5	1	130
2001–2002	23	1	33	20	0	13	10	0	142
2002–2003	21	1	41	14	0	18	4	1	131
2003–2004	27	5	24	24	0	12	7	2	105
2004–2005	30	1	27	22	0	14	5	0	99
2005–2006	21	1	32	25	1	13	3	3	134
2006–2007	29	1	27	27	0	10	3	3	143
<i>Unit 20F</i>									
1998–1999	0	2	56	16	4	2	20	0	45
1999–2000	3	0	33	27	12	6	15	3	33
2000–2001	5	0	45	30	8	0	10	2	40
2001–2002	0	0	48	24	3	7	14	3	29
2002–2003	10	0	30	28	3	15	15	0	40
2003–2004	0	0	50	30	5	10	5	0	20
2004–2005	0	0	37	22	4	11	26	0	27
2005–2006	6	0	28	31	3	6	25	3	36
2006–2007	5	0	33	31	0	18	13	0	39
<i>Unit 25C</i>									
1998–1999	4	0	21	40	0	5	28	2	85
1999–2000	9	0	26	39	0	3	24	0	70
2000–2001	5	0	24	38	0	6	25	1	19
2001–2002	6	0	26	55	0	6	5	2	62
2002–2003	4	1	25	45	0	3	20	1	75
2003–2004	6	0	29	44	0	8	12	2	52
2004–2005	4	0	17	46	0	4	27	2	52
2005–2006	0	0	30	48	0	6	14	2	63
2006–2007	6	0	21	53	0	6	13	0	62

Proposals

29,30,67

RCSY

Bear Sealing Reports Report

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Bear Sealing Reports

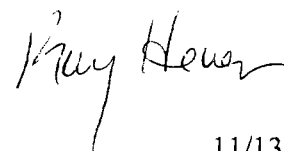
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Total Harvest Summary

Black Bear Harvest

Year	GMU	Season	Species	Hunting Mortality						Other Mortality		Total Killed
				Males	% Males	Females	% Females	Unknown	% Unknown	DLP	Other	
2008	20C	F	Black	2	50%	2	50%	0	0%	0	0	4
2007	20C	F	Black	3	50%	3	50%	0	0%	0	0	6
2006	20C	F	Black	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0	1
2004	20C	F	Black	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0	5
2008	20C	S	Black	22	64.7%	12	35.3%	0	0%	0	0	34 + 4 = 38
2007	20C	S	Black	26	57.8%	19	42.2%	0	0%	0	0	45 + 6 = 51
2006	20C	S	Black	16	53.3%	14	46.7%	0	0%	0	0	30 + 1 = 31
2005	20C	S	Black	17	70.8%	7	29.2%	0	0%	0	0	24
2004	20C	S	Black	16	44.4%	20	55.6%	0	0%	0	0	36 + 5 = 41
Total				105	56.8%	80	43.2%	0	0%	0	0	185

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Bear Sealing Reports Report

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11/13/2009 10:16:29

Total Harvest Summary

Year	GMU	Season	Species	Males	Hunting Mortality					Other Mortality		Total Killed
					% Males	Females	% Females	Unknown	% Unknown	DLP	Other	
2008	20C	F	Brown	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0	4 + 1
2007	20C	F	Brown	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1
2006	20C	F	Brown	6	85.7%	1	14.3%	0	0%	1	0	8 + 2
2005	20C	F	Brown	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1
2004	20C	F	Brown	5	83.3%	1	16.7%	0	0%	0	0	6 + 2
2008	20C	S	Brown	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1
2006	20C	S	Brown	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0	2
2004	20C	S	Brown	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0	2
Total				19	76%	5	20%	0	0%	1	0	25

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Brown bear harvest



Welcome,
JACKIE KEPHART

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Results

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5 records returned.

Reg Year	GMU	Number
2004	20C	55
2005	20C	51
2006	20C	51
2007	20C	42
2008	20C	50

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Proposal 51

Delay the moose season in Unit 20C

- **DEPARTMENT COMMENT:** Delaying the resident moose hunting season from September 1–20 to September 5–25 is likely to increase harvest, as bulls become more susceptible to harvest during the rut. This will likely lower the bull:cow ratio below the management objective of 30 bulls:100 cows. The Unit 20C moose population is currently meeting this objective, indicating that the 10-year average annual resident and nonresident harvest of 124 bulls (range = 92–140) is appropriate.
- The Department has no bull:100 cow surveys to support their comments, and this estimated increase in harvest will only serve to bring the annual harvest closer to the intensive management harvest objective of 150-400.
- I also do not know how the Department can make a statement on the moose population meeting population objectives when their comments on **Proposal 62** was *“Although there is no current population estimate for moose in 20C, limited survey data, incidental observations, and anecdotal information suggest that there is no loss of productivity in the moose population.”*
- I would be willing to go to spike fork 50 inches and three brow tines.

Proposal 66

Establish an intensive management area in Unit 20C

Proposal 62

Establish a wolf predation control area implementation plan for 20C

Proposal 57

Eliminate the Nenana Canyon Closed Area in Unit 20A and 20C

Proposal 61

Eliminate the Stampede Closed Area in Unit 20C

- I am strongly opposed to the continued existence of any wolf buffer zones. Denali National Park provides over 2,000,000 acres of protected habitat, and the supporters of these zones will never be happy with what they have. 20C is in need of some serious predator management.
- **DEPARTMENT COMMENT:** The first funding increment for 20C is anticipated in fiscal year 2011 (July 2010 – June 2011). This will be supplemented in the next few years with funding reallocated from existing intensive management areas (such as 20A) when information needs from these areas start to taper off.
 - If the decision to act on and fund intensive management is left to the department I am not confident that we will get a reasonable priority.
- **DEPARTMENT COMMENT:** This incremental approach to developing an intensive management plan for 20C will also allow time to resolve lingering doubt and opposition on the part of some advisory committees and some members of the public concerning the harvest of cows and calves, crucial to sustaining elevated levels of harvest of moose in neighboring 20A and 20B.

- The Department is using IM to leverage support from the local AC's for harvesting calves and cows even though the local constituency is not in favor of this management tool.
- **DEPARTMENT COMMENT:** The average harvest of moose in Unit 20C has been 131 for the past 5 years. The intensive management harvest objective is 150-400. The intensive management population objective is 3,000-4,000 (department left out: outside of Denali National Park). Although there is no current population estimate for moose in 20C, limited survey data, incidental observations, and anecdotal information suggest that there is no loss of productivity in the moose population. Additionally, recent fires have set the stage for successional growth of vegetation advantageous for moose.
 - Please refer to the Moose Management Report 2005-2007 and 1999-2001 submitted as late comment by Ray Heuer, Department est. 1500-2500 outside of DNP as of June 2007 IAW a moose management report released by the Department.
 - These reports indicate that the Department is aware of a **loss of productivity**. In the background portion of these reports the first sentence states "Moose densities in Unit 20C, 20F, and 25C have been low for many years, presumably because of combined predation from wolves and bears (Gastaway et al. 1992) and habitat limitations." Furthermore it states that harvest is a minor factor affecting population dynamics relative to predation.
- I am concerned that we are protecting predators (wolves) in this unit when we are not meeting the intensive management objectives of 3,000-4,000 population objective and 150-400 harvest objective outside of DNP. 20C population Estimates are 1500-2500 moose outside of DNP and a five year average harvest of 132. I would like to see the Board delete these wolf buffer zones or take no action and let them simply sunset!
- When speaking with the Department of Forestry, it appears these burned areas will recover, but at a somewhat slower rate than other areas of Alaska. Tracts of sand dunes, permafrost, and the removal of the organic layer leaving only a thin layer of ash for seed bed material, are a few of the complicating factors of recovery.
- Access into the area for hunting appears most commonly via boat, 3- or 4- wheeler, other ORV's, and airplane. Smaller numbers use highway vehicle, horse/dogsled, and other unidentified methods for access.

Below is my interpretation of the IM implementation guidelines and I believe it to be very clear that the only legal course of action is to implement IM now. The Departments plan for a staggered approach is not supported in the administrative code.

5AAC 92.106 Intensive Management

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

- *harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:*
 - (iii) the average annual harvest meets or exceeds the 100 moose required.
 - The five year average harvest of 20C is 132 moose per year.

- **(B), the area is very accessible to harvest.** Access into the area for hunting appears most commonly via boat, 3- or 4- wheeler, other ORV's, and airplane. Smaller numbers use highway vehicle, horse/dogsled, and other unidentified methods for access.
- **(C), A population that is used primarily for food,** Less than 20 hunters utilizing this area are nonresident hunter (this population of hunters is typically hunting for trophy animals), the remain hunters are resident hunters and all Alaskan's are subsistence users. The assumption is that the primary use of game in this unit is primarily for food.
- **(D), Level of hunter demand: as reflected by total hunter effort, number of applications for permits, or other indicators.** The number of moose hunters using this unit has slowly increased over the years (with a small decline during the 2005 and 2006 hunting seasons) up to 520 hunter reporting hunting in 2007. While this area may be remote, many Alaskan residents have recreational property on the ample lakes and rivers that run through the subunit. Some of the private holdings include, but are not limited to the Teklanika I, II, & III; Teklanika Channel Lake; Dune Lake; Kindamina Lake; Bear Lake; and homesteads on the Zitziana River, Kuskokwim River, and Cosna River.

*This area has been identified as an area where consumptive use of game is the preferred use of game.

(2) The Population Objectives are already set; this portion of the administrative code is none applicable for this argument.

(3) find that depletion of a big game prey population or reduction of the productivity of a big game prey population has occurred when:

- ***(A), the number of animals, estimated by the department, that can be removed by human harvest from a population, or portion of a population, on an annual basis without reducing the population below the population objective, preventing growth of the population toward the population objective at a rate set by the board, or altering a composition of the population in a biologically unacceptable manner is less than the harvest objective for the population; and***
 - 20C moose population Estimates are 1500-2500 moose outside of DNP, since we are below the population objectives for this unit see (B) below.
- ***(B) the population size is less than the population objective for the population;***
 - The population objective for moose in 20C are 3,000-4,000 moose outside of Denali National Park,
 - Current estimates are 1,500-2,500 moose outside of Denali National Park.

(4) determine whether a finding made under (3) of this section may result in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population;

- Harvest objectives for moose in 20C are 150-400 moose.
- The five year average of 132 moose per year is well below and could be classified as a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.

(5) not consider as significant:

- (A) any reduction in taking that continues to allow a level of harvest equal to or greater than the minimum harvest objective established by the board; or
- (B) any reduction in taking that is intended or expected to be of a short-term and temporary nature and is necessary for the conservation of the population.

(6) utilize active management of habitat and predation as the major tools to reverse any significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.

- 1/6th of unit 20C has been rehabilitated by fire during the 2009 fire season, but the lightly harvested bear and wolf populations in this unit have been identified as the limiting factors in moose populations in 20C.
- Liberalizing wolf and bear hunting and trapping techniques would be more successful than traditional hunting techniques for reducing predation on the moose population.

Proposal 67

Establish a bear predation control area implementation plan for Unit 20C

Proposal 29

Allow the taking of brown bear over bait and extend the hunting season in unit 20C

Proposal 30

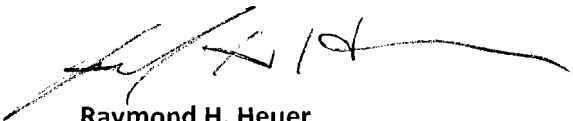
Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in unit 20C

- **DEPARTMENT COMMENT:** The department does not support baiting of brown bears outside of active predator control areas. Brown bear baiting is a controversial method of take that should be applied only in predator control areas where implementation plans have been adopted by the Board. These plans require thorough analysis of predator and prey populations and harvest, and assure that predators will be maintained as part of the ecosystem.
 - **Department Comment on Proposal 33 for shooting moose calves was:** The primary argument against the take of calves and cow accompanied by calves is one of ethics or human values, opinions that the department respects, but takes no position. I find it odd that the Department takes a liberal stance on ethics or human values when it comes to harvesting moose calves, but they are afraid of taking a similar stance when it comes to harvesting brown bears so they have some moose calves to even argue about shooting.
- Brown Bear Management Report 2004-2006
 - First, according to Dean (1987) and Eagan [1995] the best brown bear habitat in this subunit lays in the boundaries of Denali National Park (est. 5355.9 square miles of subunit 20C are within the boundaries of Denali National Park where brown bear are not subjected to hunting pressures) which is a little less than half of the subunit. Eagan classified the mountainous portion of Unit 20C into the super-density stratum of 52-78 bears/1000 square miles, while Dean estimated 88bears/100 square miles. In other words, the portion within Denali National Park (DNP) is the densest and most productive brown bear habitat in 20C.
 - Secondly, The Management Objectives are to maintain a closed season on grizzly bear hunting in Denali National Park.

- Finally, if baiting is used to increase harvest success of brown bear hunting in 20C, then the Department of Fish and Game would have discretionary authority to close bear baiting for brown bears as this is a registration hunt.
- On average 5 brown bear per year are harvested (25 brown bear harvested between 2004-2008).
- Some individual s will claim that brown bears will become habituated to feeding by humans if harvesting brown bear over bait becomes legal. Brown bear have already become habituated to black bear baits in the area, but are allowed to walk away from the bait stations.

General Information

- 20C is 7,617,280 acres, 2,848, 000 of which are Denali National Park.
- 749,511.8 acres burned in subunit 20C during the 2009 fire season, a little over 1/6th of the area outside of Denali National Park.
- While this area may be remote, many Alaskan residents have recreational property on the ample lakes and rivers that run through the subunit. Some of the private holdings include, but are not limited to the Teklanika I, II, & III; Teklanika Channel Lake; Dune Lake; Kindanina Lake; Bear Lake; and homesteads on the Zitziana River, and Cosna River.

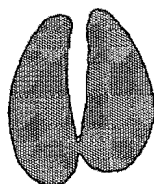
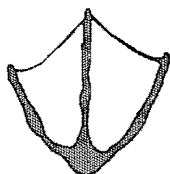
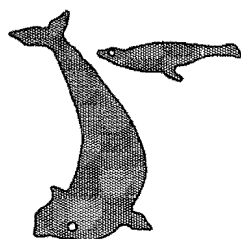


Raymond H. Heuer
424 Terrace Drive
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RC56

**Friends
of
Animals**

February 26, 2010



**Testimony from Friends of Animals before Alaska's
Board of Game in Favor of Proposal 58 – Expanding
the Buffer Zone to Protect Denali's Wolves**

I'm Priscilla Feral, president of Friends of Animals, an international animal advocacy group. At Friends of Animals, we acknowledge the inherent value of wolves. Regardless of whether we deem them endangered or plentiful, and whether or not we see them and believe they are beautiful, their individual lives and their freedom have meaning to them.

One need not subscribe to a specific view of hunting, trapping, or Alaska's predator control programs to agree that Gordon Haber's 43 years of year-round wolf research in the Denali, Fortymile and other areas of Alaska are key scientific studies on wolves here. Gordon, a longtime Denali resident who lived within the buffer area, studied Denali wolves year-round -- with more intensity than anyone will ever likely match. Up until the tragic accident on October 14, 2009, Gordon Haber pressed for a protective buffer zone for the wolves of Denali National Park, to protect them from hunting and trapping.

Gordon emphasized that the current buffer areas do almost nothing to protect Denali wolves on their extraterritorial forays, which are underrated in importance. They constitute about 9 percent of the wolves' winter travel. And when they involve areas of easy hunting or trapping, Gordon added, or the heavy development around Denali's east and northeast boundaries, "it becomes a crapshoot to make it back home intact." [Gordon C. Haber, "New Buffer Zone Provides Only Token Protection for Denali Wolves" - Friends of Animals' *ActionLine*; Spring (2003)]

Hence, the Board should reinstate the 600 sq.-mile east and northeast boundary buffer, virtually identical to one an earlier Board created in November 1992 but -- as Gordon wrote after Gov. Hickel halted several wolf control plans the Board had wanted in Alaska -- "spitefully rescinded three months later."

The goal of re-establishing meaningful protection for Denali's wolves is best achieved by supporting Proposal 58, which has the full support of Friends of Animals, and our hundreds of members who reside in Alaska. There's scientific justification for this full 600 sq.-mile buffer, including Gordon Haber's research.

Priscilla Feral, President
Friends of Animals, Inc.

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Troy Dunn, a North Pole resident, and a pilot who flew Gordon for 10 years to monitor wolves, says Denali's wolves face a gauntlet of traps and snares set by recreational trappers just inches from the Park's boundaries. When winter food is scarce, the wolves follow caribou past the Park's northeastern boundary, across a no-hunting area into a valley with lichens, which caribou seek. That valley is only half covered by the current buffer.

Trappers -- including Coke Wallace and Chris Brockman, a Department of Fish & Game biologist who lives in Palmer -- use snow-machines to move with snares and traps along the Park's boundary and existing buffer area. In the last couple of years, Brockman's traps have decimated the Margaret and Lower Savage family groups, as well as the Toklat and Eagle groups' wolves. Stampede and Toklat Springs wolves are groups also vulnerable to Brockman's trap lines.

Gordon wrote that Brockman and four or more other trappers already know there's important long-term research going on in this area, by the National Park Service as well as Gordon. It's evident by the radio collars that some of the trapped and snared wolves were wearing when caught.

These trappers exploit their legal ability to reduce Denali's wolves to ruffs for the hoods of winter parkas, arguing that such deaths assure more moose and caribou for human hunters.

As Gordon stressed in his October 2002 research paper "Delineating a Protective Buffer Zone for Eastern Denali Wolves," which helps define Proposal 58, "the buffer is a response to a problem generated largely by human activity and access, not a back-door attempt to expand the Park."

Next summer, a half-million residents and tourists will enter Denali in the hope of seeing a wolf in the 6-million-acre National Park. If they do see wolves, they'll surely feel, as I have, that they've had the most treasured outdoor privilege of their lives. If they know the wolves are respected within and on their forays outside of the Park, the good will Alaska generates will have no boundaries.

Priscilla Feral, President
Friends of Animals



Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet:

Chisana Caribou Herd, GMU 12, Upper Tanana – White River Area

Prepared by the
ADF&G Division of Subsistence for the
February-March 2010 Alaska Board of Game meeting

Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use

A long-term consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.

Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use, continued

- A well documented component of the annual harvest cycle of the Ahna and Upper Tanana Athabascan people of the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Residents in Upper Tanana and Copper River basin communities continue to be active in caribou hunting. 1980s research documented that Northway caribou hunters traveled south to the Mentasta and Nutzotin mountains to hunt caribou from the Chisana and Fortymile herds.

Chisana caribou harvests, 1981–1994

[illegible]

Criterion 2: Seasonality

A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

- Historically, the Chisana and Upper Nabesna bands of Athabascan Indians hunted caribou primarily in October - December and April -June (Guédon 1974; Marcotte 1991; McKennan 1959).
- 1980s ADF&G research documented caribou hunting areas by Northway residents from 1974 through 1984.
 - At this time, Northway residents hunted caribou from the Chisana and Fortymile herds (Case 1986).
- Contemporary use has been governed by regulation during the month of September. Currently, no open season for the Chisana herd.

Criterion 3: Means and methods of harvest

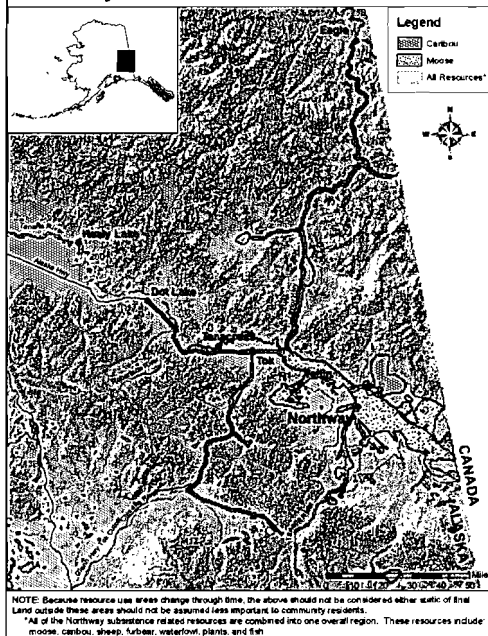
A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

- Historically, caribou were taken by groups of Upper Tanana residents along caribou fences and in corrals
- Historically, hunters primarily used snares during spring and fall migrations. Hunters equipped with bow and arrow and snowshoes also pursued caribou, and firearms quickly replaced these traditional methods in the late 19th/early 20th century.
- Today, hunters from the Upper Tanana and Copper River basins report using aircraft, off road vehicles, or boats to access hunting areas.

Criterion 4: Geographic areas

The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock and game population has been established.

Northway Subsistence Harvest Areas, 1974-1984



Criterion 5: Means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing

A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

- Historically, caribou were used primarily for food and their skins for clothing and tents in small settlement areas (Marcone 1991; McKennan 1959; Vitt 1971:70, 98).
- Caribou and moose hide also was used as boat covers, to carry heavy loads, or to cross rivers.
- Today, most caribou meat is typically used fresh or frozen for later use.

In Northway, 95% of households froze their caribou meat; 63% processed into sausage, and 32% dried caribou meat (Koskey *in press*).

Criterion 6: Intergenerational transmission of knowledge, skills, values, and lore

A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

- Historically, mobile camps organized along family lines.
- Knowledge of hunting resources was shared within family context through direct participation, observation of hunting and processing practices, and wintertime storytelling (e.g., Guédon 1974:200).
- McKennan (1959) and Vitt (1970) document some of the lore and values associated with caribou hunting and use.

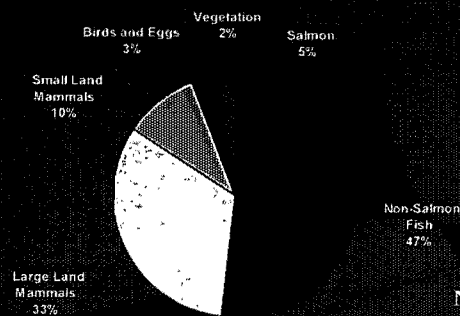
Criterion 7: Distribution and exchange

A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

- Historically, caribou meat was widely traded among Upper Tanana bands.
- Area residents continue to share caribou among community households.
 - In 1987-1988, estimated 64% of households reported using caribou, 49% attempting to harvest caribou, and only 20% of households actually reported harvesting caribou.
 - More than one-third of Northway households obtained caribou through sharing (Marcotte 1991:122).
- In Chisana, where a small number of current residents participate in a guiding and outfitting operation, extra meat from non-local hunters is widely available.

Criterion 8: Diversity of resources in an area; economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements

A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide variety of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.



Northway, 1987

**Proposal 14 – Modify Fortymile Caribou
Hunt season dates, bag limit and hunt
conditions.**

Submitted by: Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-
Fortymile, and Fairbanks Advisory Committees and
Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

Effect of Proposal: Modify fall Fortymile Caribou
Hunt to address hunt management issues and short
season length.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile & Eagle ACs: Support

ADF&G Recommendation: Adopt



Proposal 14

■ **FCH Hunt – 4 Recommended Changes**

- 1) **Later season opening in Zones 1 & 3**
 - Change from August 10th to August 29th
- 2) **Resident bag limit – fall hunt**
 - Change from either-sex bag to bulls only
- 3) **Temporary Closures and Weapons Restrictions**
 - Address specific problems
 - Reduce heavy roadside harvest
- 4) **Hunting Regulation wording**
 - Insert wording "Hunt subject to delayed opening, weapons restrictions or cancellation on short notice."

Current Fortymile Harvest Management

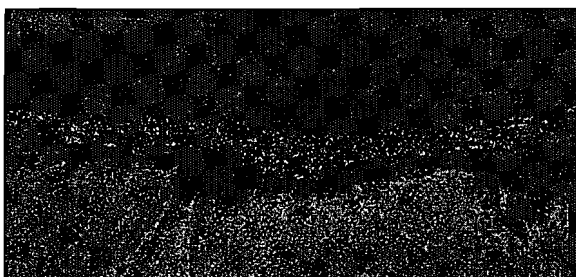
■ Guided by 2006-2012 Fortymile Harvest Management Plan

- **Developed in 2005 by:**
 - 5 Fish and Game ACs (Central, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks and Upper Tanana/Fortymile)
 - Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
- **Input from:**
 - Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
 - Yukon Department of Environment
 - Yukon First Nations
- **Endorsed by:**
 - Alaska Board of Game (March 2006)
 - Federal Subsistence Board (May 2006)

Purpose of Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt - 3 Primary Issues Identified

- 1) **Hunt Management**
 - **2009 Fall Hunt (RC860)**

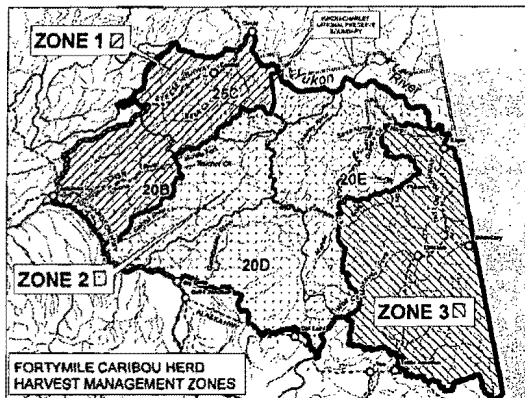


Purpose of Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt - 3 Primary Issues Identified

2) Heavy roadside harvest

- Contrary to FCH Harvest Plan



Purpose of Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt - 3 Primary Issues Identified

3) Short season length

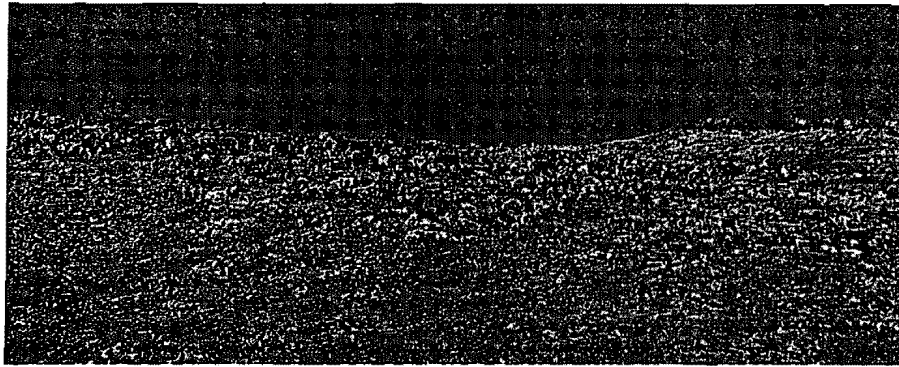
- Reasonable Opportunity for State Subsistence Hunters? (Subsistence Law)



Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt – 4 Recommended Changes

- 1) Later season opening in Zones 1 & 3
 - August 10th to August 29th



Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt – 4 Recommended Changes

- 2) Resident bag limit – fall hunt
 - Change from either-sex bag to bulls only
 - Reduces flock shooting
 - Cow harvest reserved for winter subsistence hunt

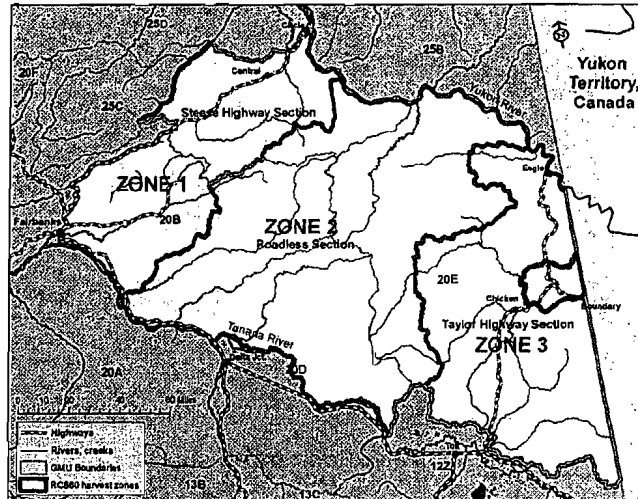


Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt – 4 Recommended Changes

3) Temporary Closures and Weapons Restrictions

- **Specific problems**
- **Roadside harvest**

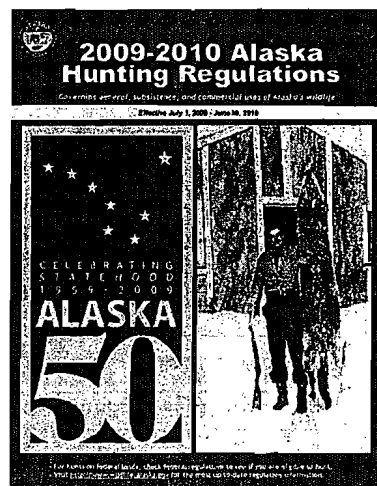


Proposal 14

■ FCH Hunt – 4 Recommended Changes

4) Hunting Regulation wording

- **Insert wording**
“Hunt subject to
delayed opening,
weapons
restrictions or
cancellation on
short notice.”



State Subsistence Procedures

Board Findings for Fortymile caribou:

- Is there Customary and Traditional Use of the Fortymile caribou herd?
 - *Yes in Units 12, 20D, and 20E, 1987*
- Is there a "Harvestable Surplus" of the Fortymile Caribou Herd in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C?
 - *Yes*
- What is the Amount reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)?
 - 350-400
- Does the harvestable surplus allow for all or only some uses?
 - This is a Board determination.

8 Criteria under 5 AAC 99.010 for Fortymile Caribou

1. Length and consistency of use
 - a. 1987: Board found C&T use of Fortymile caribou in Units 20D, 20E, and 12
 - b. 1989: Board established ANS of 325 for rural subsistence users
 - c. 1992: Board reestablished an ANS of 350-400 for Alaska residents.
 - d. 1996: Board adopted a revised C&T worksheet for Fortymile Caribou (see RC 59)
2. Seasonality
 - a. Traditional harvests occurred during May through June and August through October. Currently, many are taken August through September, and December through January if snow conditions permit, until recently because of restrictions.

8 Criteria under 5 AAC 99.010 for Fortymile Caribou

3. Methods and means of harvest:
 - a. Traditionally, with caribou fences, snares and arrow
 - b. Customary and traditional pattern of use continues to involve using firearms and accessed with trucks or off-road vehicles along Taylor Hwy (Aug – Sept), Steese Hwy, and Alaska Hwy, on foot, by snow machines aircraft, and all-terrain vehicles on associated trails as documented in the 1996 C&T worksheet (see RC 59)

8 Criteria under 5 AAC 99.010 for Fortymile Caribou

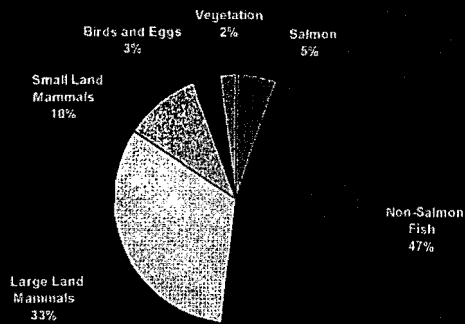
4. Geographic Areas
 - a. Use areas for Upper Tanana communities documented in Case 1986, Marcotte 1991, and Martin 1983.
 - b. Specifically, these communities reported hunting in areas accessible by road, river, or trail, most often along the Taylor Hwy corridor.
 - c. 1996 C&T worksheet also documents uses along the Steese Hwy in the 1920s and 1930s.
5. Means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing
 - a. Historically, caribou meat was cut into strips and preserved by smoking; this method continues to be used today. Freezers are commonly used today for storing meat not eaten fresh. Meat is sometimes canned.

8 Criteria under 5 AAC 99.010 for Fortymile Caribou

6. Intergenerational transmission of knowledge
 - a. Parents and grandparents were traditionally responsible for teaching hunting skills and cultural values associated with caribou hunting.
 - b. Hunting skills are commonly taught by family members, or learned among friends today.
7. Distribution and exchange
 - a. In 1987, an estimated 12% of Upper Tanana households gave caribou meat to other households while 38% received caribou meat such that an average of 53% of households used caribou.

8 Criteria under 5 AAC 99.010 for Fortymile Caribou

8. Diversity of resources in an area



Northway, 1987

Reported Harvest Fortymile Caribou 1996 – 2009, Fall hunt

FALL	Central/ Circle	Chickover/ Boundary	Delta Jct/ Fl Greely	Dot Lake	Eagle	Northway	Tedlin	Taracross	Tok	Other AK residents	Total AK Residents	Non Residents	UNK	TOTAL HARVEST
1996	1				13				4	65	83	17		100
1997	2	1	1		17				6	69	96	7		103
1998	6	1			2				2	75	86	7		93
1999	4		1		3	1			8	74	91	4		95
2000	6				3				7	85	101	9		110
2001	5	1	2		15				14	244	281	48		329
2002	2	4	8		44	1			81	457	597	57	2	656
2003	10		6		9	1			18	418	462	85	2	549
2004		1	1		3				26	422	453	77		530
2005		1	3		2	1			30	370	407	58	1	476
2006			5		3				21	365	394	89		483
2007	2		11		10				34	432	489	114		603
2008	6	1	4		11				27	550	599	117		716
2009	4	2	19		11				47	877	960	95		1055

Reported Harvest Fortymile Caribou 1996 – 2009, Winter hunt

WINTER	Central/ Circle	Chicken/ Boundary	Delta Jct/ Ft Greely	Dot Lake	Eagle	Northway	Tetlin	Tanacross	Tok	Other AK residents	Total AK Residents	Non Residents	UNK	TOTAL HARVEST
1996										0			45	45
1997		1							25	14	40		0	40
1998	3	2	2		14				21	20	62		0	62
1999	2		5		5	1			20	19	52		0	52
2000	10				6				7	12	35		0	35
2001	3				15			1	29	312	360		0	360
2002	8				10	1			23	159	201		0	201
2003	7				18				33	191	249		0	249
2004	6	1	3		8				59	238	315		0	315
2005			8		17				73	167	265		0	265
2006	12	3	2					1	79	272	369		0	369
2007	4		1		16	1			44	343	409		0	409
2008		1							37	158	196		0	196
2009		1			4				18	3	26		0	26

Regulatory History for Fortymile Caribou

- **1960s:** Season was long, ~234 days, 3-4 caribou
- **1970s:** Herd experienced decline, hunting restricted to ~15 – 42 days, 1 caribou
- **1980s:** fall and winter seasons together provided ~132 – 142 days of opportunity, 1 bull
- **1990s:** Season ~ 142 days, 1 bull by registration permit; closed by E.O. when quota reached
- **2000s:** Season ~ 142 days, 1 caribou; closed by E.O. when harvest quota reached.

Hunting Opportunity, 1996 - 2009

YEAR	AK residents seasons in 3 zones: Steese (20E), Remote (20B and 20D), and Taylor (25C) Total Fall Quota of 100 bulls			AK resident only hunt, Total Winter Quota of 50 bulls	
	Steese	Remote	Taylor	Steese	Taylor
	(out of 52 days of opportunity)			(out of 90 days of opportunity)	
1996	51	22	51	26	26
1997	52	27	52	33	33
1998	12	18	23	3	3
1999	12	14	42	2	2
2000	12	9	27	1	1
2001	52	42	52	23	7
2002	52	52	29	7	2
2003	48	42	52	23	90 ¹
2004	52	52	52	3	90 ¹
2005	52	34	10	90	90 ¹
2006	52	52	8	9	14 ¹
2007	52	52	4	2	2 ¹
2008	5	44	7	4	14 ¹
2009	3	40	3	0	0
1. Cancelled Hunt in Portion of the Hunt Area for Nelchina Herd protection					
2. Closed 1 Mi corridor along portion of Steese Hwy					
3. Delayed hunt opening; EO - Hunt Opened on Dec 6					

Board Considerations:
“reasonable opportunity” for subsistence

- Consideration of reasonable opportunity provisions of Fortymile hunt given additional proposed restrictions to subsistence hunting.
- Reconsideration of the Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) given the harvest history
- Amend the nonresident season after consideration of restrictions to resident hunting restrictions (season, bag limit, temporary closures, weapons restrictions).

Proposal 14
Modify Fortymile Caribou Hunt
season dates, bag limit and hunt
conditions.

ADF&G Recommendation:

Adopt

RC 58

Proposal 13 – Modify Fortymile Caribou Hunt.

Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Modify seasons and bag limits, and apply motorized restrictions for the Fortymile Caribou Herd in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: Take No Action



RC 58

Proposal 21 – Modify Fortymile Caribou Hunt.

Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Modify seasons and apply other restrictions for the Fortymile Caribou Hunt.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: Take No Action



Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet

Caribou: Subunits 12, 20D, and 20E Fortymile Herd

Prepared by the Divisions of Wildlife Conservation and Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

March 1996

Background. In 1987, the Board of Game found that there were customary and traditional subsistence uses of Fortymile caribou in Units 20D, 20E, and 12. In 1989, the board established 325 caribou as the number necessary to provide for rural subsistence uses along the Taylor Highway in Unit 20E. In 1992, the board readopted the finding of subsistence uses of Fortymile caribou in Units 20D, 20E, and 12, and established 350-400 as the amount necessary for subsistence use by Alaska resident subsistence users. A history of harvest management of the Fortymile herd is attached as Table 1 and a Fortymile caribou regulatory history as Table 2.

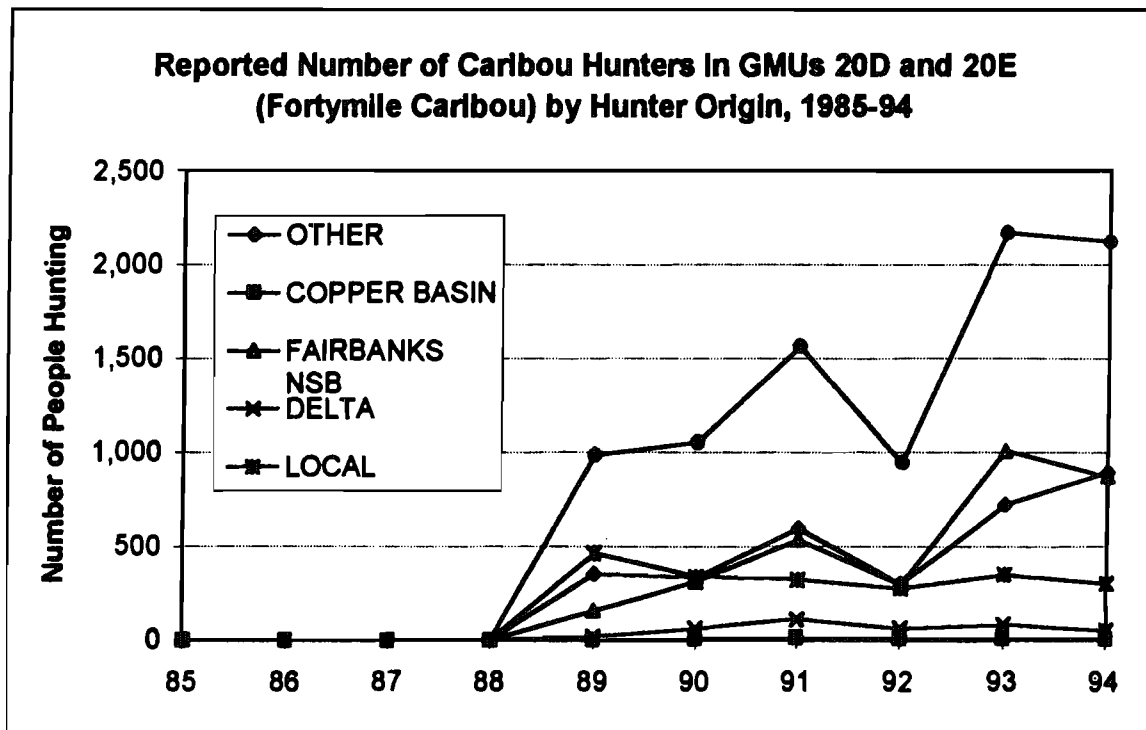
Criterion 1. A long term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the game caused by migratory patterns.

During the early historic era (circa 1880s-early 20th century), Fortymile caribou was a major source of food of Alaska Natives and non-Native residents of the Upper Tanana-Fortymile River valleys in Alaska and of the western Yukon Territory of Canada. The seasonal movements and settlements of the Upper Tanana Athabaskans were designed in part to harvest caribou as they migrated in large numbers from calving to winter ranges. Caribou fences in the area indicate the long historic use of caribou in this part of Alaska. Miners, trappers, and other residents of the area hunted caribou for personal consumption and for local trade during this early historic period.

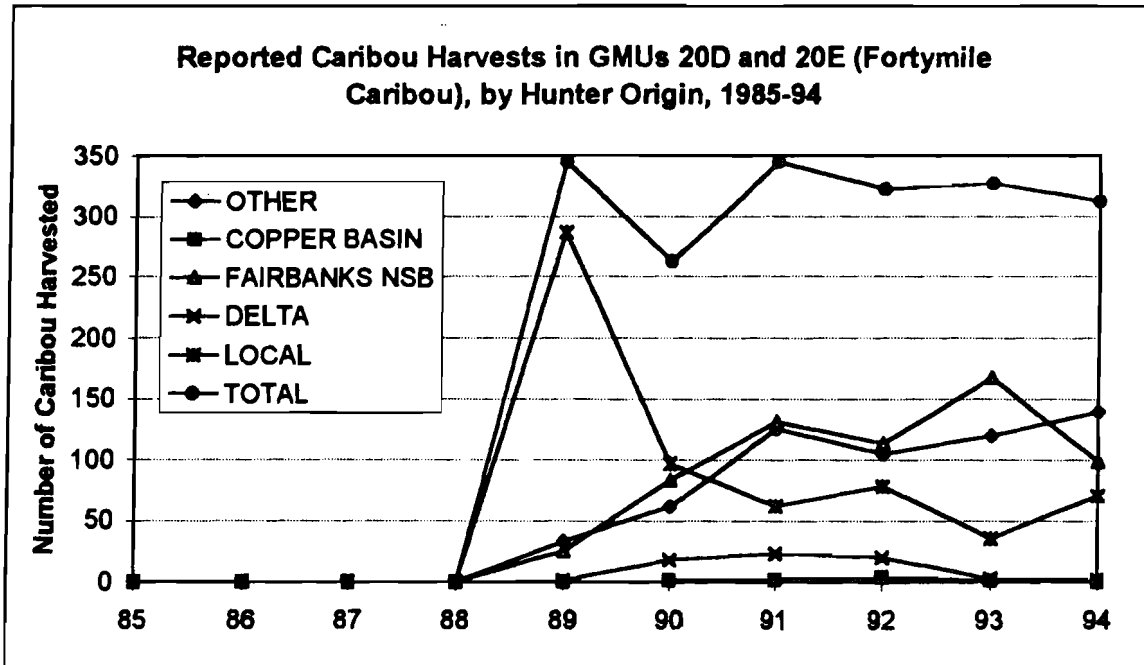
Access to the herd by hunters has changed with the successive improvement of the area's transportation network. After 1898, thousands of miners used the "All-American" route to the Klondike gold strikes, following trails from the Copper Basin through the Fortymile River area. The Richardson Highway linking Fairbanks and Valdez by 1910 passed through Big Delta and provided a commerce link to the Upper Tanana area. The Alaska Highway, which was opened for civilian travel by 1946, created new settlement patterns in the region, as people moved to Dot Lake (formerly a winter trapping camp), Tok (a highway construction camp), and Northway (across the river from Nabesna Village). The area's road system was basically established by 1952 with the completion of the Taylor Highway.

Fortymile caribou have been consistently harvested during the 20th century in the Upper Tanana area, although harvest numbers probably have fluctuated considerably with the herd's population size (the herd is thought to have been relatively high in the early 1920s, low in the early 1940s, high during the 1950s-60s, low during the 1970s-80s, and rebuilding during the 1990s) (Skoog 1968; Urquart and Farnell 1986). Table 1 summarizes harvest estimates for the Fortymile herd since 1951. Annual harvests were not recorded prior to 1951. During the 1950s and early 1960s, the Fortymile herd numbered over 60,000 caribou and annual harvest levels were high (more than 2,000 animals in some years) unless the herd avoided the Taylor Highway until after the road drifted in with snow. Between 1960 and 1973, the bag limit was three caribou (four caribou in 1964-65), a period when the herd was in decline. Managers allowed the high harvest because poor quality range was considered a major factor in the herd's decline and harvest was considered to be primarily compensatory. By 1973, when the herd had fallen to less than 6,000 caribou (Valkenburg et al. 1994), hunting regulations became very restrictive and harvest declined substantially for all user groups.

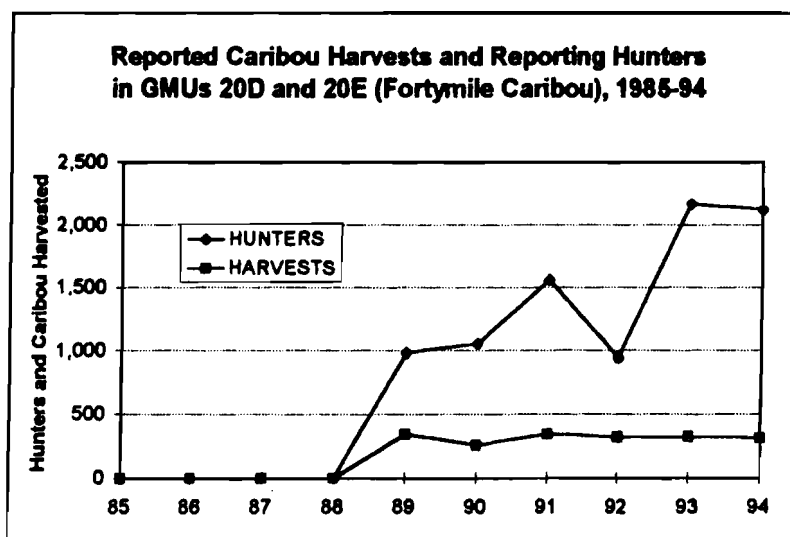
Recovery of the Fortymile herd began in 1976. Harvest regulations varied during this period but generally included fall and winter seasons while maintaining harvest below a level which could limit herd growth. Since 1976, annual harvest estimates have ranged from about 30 caribou (1978) to 795 caribou (1988), and averaged 243 per year between 1976 and 1988; however, estimates for some years probably understate the actual harvest. Harvest records improved after 1989, when a registration system was used and the harvest management goal ranged between 395 and 450 caribou (since 1992, harvest goals have been set at 2% of the herd size, due to herd trend). Since 1989, total estimated harvests ranged from 323 caribou (1994) to 505 caribou (1991) (Table 1).



Since 1989, hunters who reported hunting Fortymile caribou have numbered between 945 (1992, when hunting was limited to a 5-day season) and 2,121 (1994), with a mean of 1,472 hunters. From 1989-94, about 27% of hunters were from communities in Units 12, 20D or 20E (including 4% from the Delta area), 36% of hunters were from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, 1 percent of hunters were from the Copper Basin, and the remaining 36% of hunters were from other Alaska places, primarily the Anchorage and Matsu areas.



From 1989-94, reported harvest records show about 37% of the harvest was by hunters from communities in 20D or 20E, 32% of the harvest by hunters from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and 31% of the harvest by residents from other Alaska places (primarily the Anchorage and the Matsu areas).

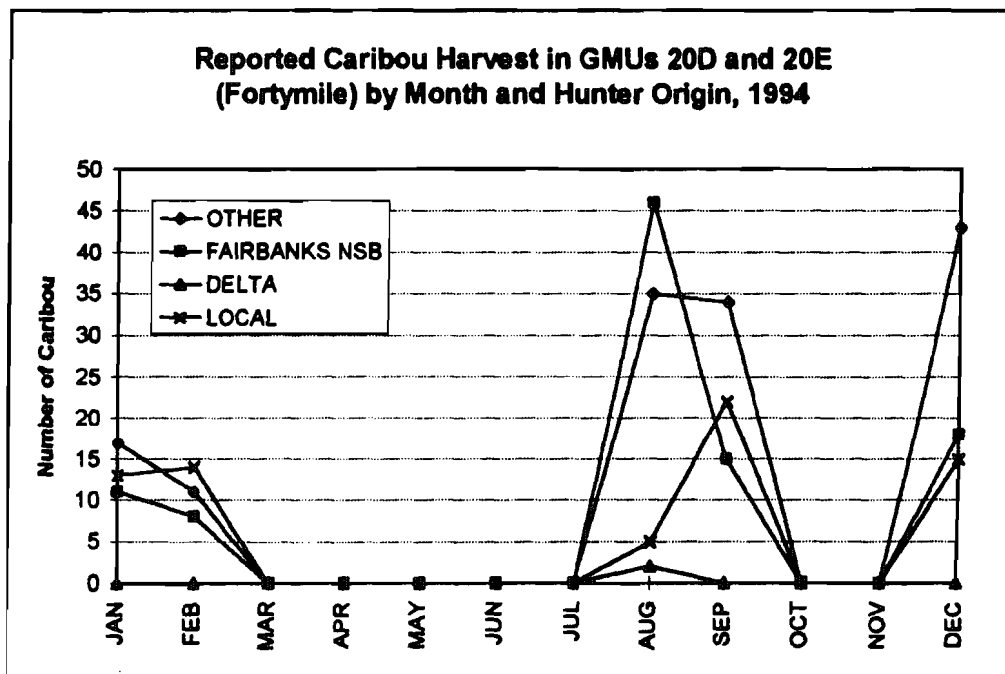


The number of Alaska residents participating in the Fortymile caribou hunt has increased since 1989. The growing participation is attributable to (1) the 1989 *McDowell* decision, which expanded subsistence eligibility to all Alaska residents; (2) changes in herd movement patterns during the early 1990s which brought the herd into greater contact with hunters during August; and (3) more restrictive hunting regulations for other road accessible caribou herds around the state.

Hunting participation also has increased in a winter hunt for Nelchina-Mentasta caribou in Unit 12, which has been open four of the last five years. After a hiatus of about 40 years, large numbers of Nelchina caribou began migrating into Unit 12 during the late 1980s. This hunt is opened by emergency order if sufficient numbers of Nelchina caribou are present to minimize possible harvest of Mentasta caribou. The hunt has been opened in late October or early November. The early winter hunt in Unit 12 has produced reported harvests of 299 caribou (1991), 212 caribou (1993), and 275 caribou (1994). In those three years, reported harvest records show about 42% of the harvest was by hunters from communities in Units 12, 20D or 20E, 29% of the harvest by hunters from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and 28% of the harvest by residents from other Alaska places (primarily the Anchorage and the Matsu areas). An estimated 247 caribou were harvested in the 1995 early winter hunt.

Criterion 2. A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

During the early historic period, caribou were commonly harvested during the herd's spring and fall migrations, in May through June and August through October. August was a primary harvest period for Upper Tanana Athabaskans, who constructed caribou fences in the Lake Mansfield-Kechumstuk area and took large numbers of caribou to provide food for winter.



In more recent decades, hunting has occurred during fall and winter periods. In recent years, harvest seasons have been set during August-September and December through February to correspond to those seasons. Reported harvests in 1994 by month and hunter origin are shown in Fig. 1. While fall is the period when most harvests occur, the winter opening has been an important time for some people who hunt Fortymile caribou, particularly hunters who were not successful during the fall season. Also, the winter hunt is used by hunters who may not have refrigeration.

Until 1973, the hunting season was long (generally August 10 to March 31) and bag limits liberal (3 or 4 caribou/hunter). Following the herd's decline during the 1960s and early 1970s, more restrictive regulations were enacted reducing the bag limit to one caribou (in 1973-74) and shortening the season to avoid the road crossing period (in 1977-78).

Criterion 3. A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

The Upper Tanana Athabaskans historically used caribou fences, snares, spears, and bow and arrow to harvest Fortymile caribou. Snares were set along fences near the edge of timber, or two fences converged to form a corral, where the trapped caribou were killed with spears or arrows (McKenna 1959). Harvest areas were accessed either by foot trail or birchbark canoe and later by boat. After the 1880s, with the increased hunting by miners and trappers, hunting of caribou shifted to firearms, and caribou fences with snares fell into disuse.

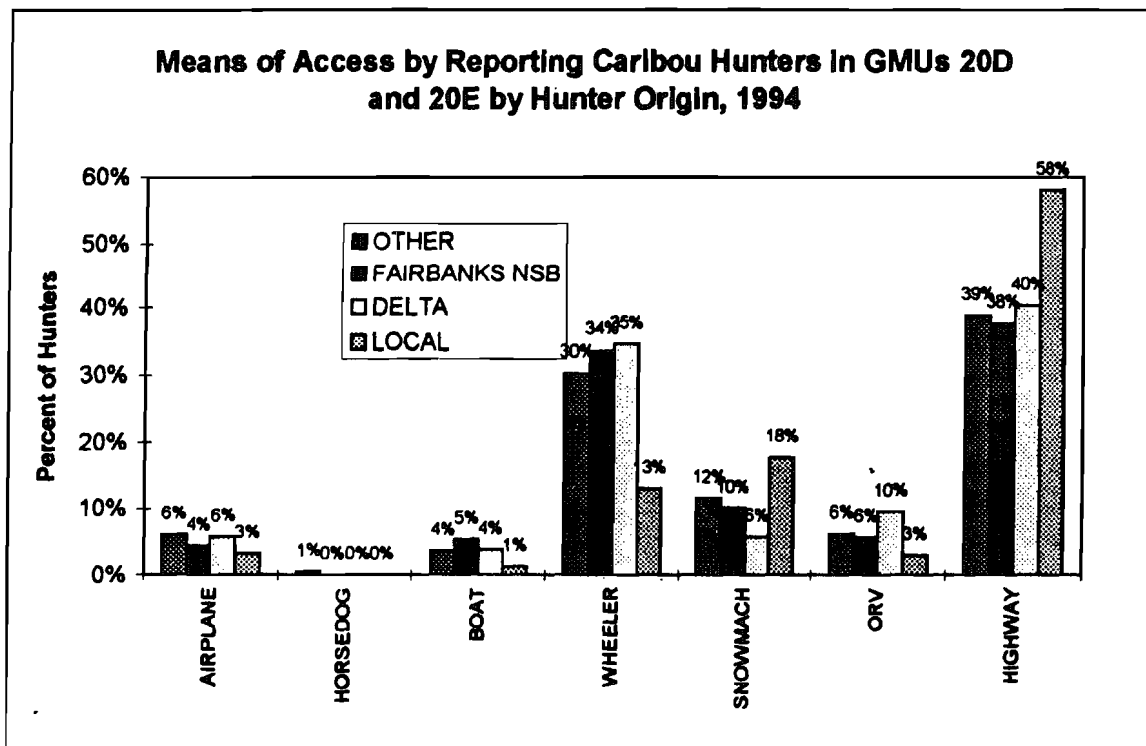
As stated above, access to the herd has shifted over time. Prior to the 1930s, hunters accessed the herd primarily over river and trail systems. Some hunting with highway vehicles occurred north of Fairbanks along the poorly-maintained Steese Highway. The road was upgraded in the late 1920s and between the 1930s and 1940s provided the main access to the herd for hunters who used the road system. Hunters on eastern side of the herd's range still used the river and trail systems. Use of highway vehicles to access the herd increased considerably with the completion of the Taylor Highway in 1952, which made the Fortymile herd much more accessible to local residents, hunters from Alaska's population centers, and hunters from Dawson and Whitehorse in Yukon.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Fortymile caribou were taken by rifle and were primarily accessed by highway vehicles (40-50% of all hunters) during August and September along the Taylor Highway; some were taken off the Steese Highway, by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) along trails associated with the Taylor and Steese Highways (10-30 %), airplanes in western 20E, northeastern 20D, and eastern 20B (20%), and snowmachines along traplines and trails in the winter season.

Since 1990, the means used to access the herd during the fall season has seen an increased use of four-wheelers and a declining use of airplanes. Since 1990, 40% of all reporting

hunters have reported using four-wheelers and 6% using airplanes. Hunters using four-wheelers have taken almost 50% the average annual harvest since 1990, compared to about 20-30% between 1981 and 1989. The use of ATVs has increased each year beginning about 1983. Between 1983 and 1989, most of the hunters using this means were local residents. The influx of nonlocal residents using ATVs started in 1990.

Means of access by reporting caribou hunters in 1994, by origin of hunter, are shown below. The largest percent of hunters reported using highway vehicles (from 38% by Fairbanks origin hunters to 56% by local community hunters). Four wheelers ranked next for hunters (except for local-origin hunters), followed by snowmachines.



Criterion 4. The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the game population has been established.

Figures 2-4 show the areas used by three Upper Tanana communities to hunt Fortymile caribou and other resources during specified time periods: Northway: 1974-1984 (Case 1986); Tanacross: 1968-1988 and Tok: 1968-1988 (Marcotte et al. 1991). These communities reported hunting for caribou in areas readily accessible by road, river, or trail. Fortymile caribou were sought most often along or west of the Taylor Highway corridor. Maps for the period 1946-1982 show that Dot Lake residents hunted caribou primarily south of the Alaska Highway near community (Martin 1983). Maps depicting harvest areas for Tetlin in 1974-1984 do not depict caribou hunting areas, as caribou generally were unavailable to hunters during that period. Mapped documentation for hunters from other areas are not available.

As stated above, upon completion of the Taylor and Top of the World Highways in the 1950s, most harvest originated from these two roads and from the Steese Highway. Following the herd's decline in the 1960s and early 1970s, Fortymile caribou became very scarce along the Steese Highway and virtually all harvest occurred in areas accessible from the Taylor Highway or from the central portion of the herd's range accessible only by airplane. Most harvest between 1973 and 1988 along the Taylor Highway occurred when the herd crossed the road near American Summit, Jack Wade, or Mt. Fairplay. The use of the trails leading off the Taylor Highway occurring until 1983 involved local residents. During years the herd did not cross the road in the hunting season, most harvest occurred in the central portion of the unit by hunters using airplanes.

A few hunters used the Chicken Trail in the 1970s, and until 1983 most who did were residents from Upper Tanana communities. Beginning in 1988, as more hunters became familiar with the trails near Chicken and Taylor Mountain, higher harvests occurred along the trail systems in those areas. Since 1990 an average of 48% of the annual harvest occurs along the Chicken Trail, a substantial increase over the estimated 10-15% (range 5-35%) in the 1970s and 1980s. Because of the higher harvests along Chicken Trail during the past five years, a large number of hunters utilize the trail especially during the first two weeks of the season.

Criterion 5. A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

Historically, caribou meat was cut into strips and preserved by smoking. Freezers are commonly used today for storing meat not eaten fresh. Dried meat continues to be highly regarded by some hunters. Meat is sometimes canned.

Criterion 6. A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

Parents and grandparents were responsible for educating the young among Interior Athabaskans, with fathers teaching their sons such hunting skills as building caribou fences, tracking animals, harvest techniques (including not killing the leaders of migrating species), and processing meat and hides. Grandparents taught the myths, moral stories, taboos, and other knowledge concerning fish and wildlife resources and their proper treatment. Certain rules governing harvest practices and hunting behavior were enforced by the chief of the band; such practices today often exist as customary laws and traditions of the community. Today, in Native and non-Native families, hunting skills are commonly taught by family members, or learned among friends. Some hunters learn hunting skills and rules in hunter safety and furbearer trapping courses.

Criterion 7. A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

Caribou meat, like other wild resources, is routinely shared among hunting partners and between families and friends. The percentage of households that received caribou from other households in 1987 is shown for six communities in the Upper Tanana area:

Percent of Households Using, Trying to Harvest, Harvesting, Receiving, and Giving Caribou, 1987									
Community	Year	Harvested Caribou	Use	Try	Harvest	Receive	Give	Caribou Per capita	Total Per capita
Tanacross	87	8	63%	52%	19%	44%	15%	10.5	250
Tetlin	87	1	10%	15%	5%	5%	5%	1.6	214
Tok	87	113	60%	42%	25%	37%	9%	13.5	149
Dot Lake	87	4	67%	40%	20%	53%	13%	8.0	116
Northway	87	32	64%	49%	20%	49%	16%	12.8	278
Total Surveyed		158							

In 1987, sharing was common. For instance, while 20% of households harvested caribou in Dot Lake in 1987 (taking a total of 4 caribou), 53% of households received caribou, and 67% of households used caribou that year. Elders who no longer hunt commonly receive meat from other people. In these communities, meat that is surplus to the needs of a household is provided for use at community and ceremonial functions. Estimates of the sharing of caribou among Fortymile caribou hunters from other places is unavailable.

Criterion 8. A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.

Caribou is commonly part of a more diverse pattern of fish and game use by hunting families. As shown in the above table, per capita harvests of all resources ranged from about 116 lbs per person (Dot Lake) to 278 lbs per person (Northway) among six surveyed communities in the Upper Tanana area. The number of different resources used by 40 percent or more of the households in these communities was as follows: Dot Lake (15 resources); Northway (13 resources); Tanacross (13 resources); Tetlin (11 resources); and Tok (9 resources). In this area, moose, caribou, whitefish, salmon, waterfowl, and edible berries are major resource categories used; other birds, small game, furbearers, and black bear also were used by many households. Estimates of resource use patterns among Fortymile caribou hunters from other places are unavailable.

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TABLE 1. FORTYMILE CARIBOU HARVEST DATA, 1951-1994.ⁱ

Year	Total Reported Harvest	Reported % Females	Total Estimated Harvest	Remark
1951	567	No data	No estimate	
1952	164	No data	No estimate	
1953	50	No data	No estimate	
1954	984	48	1,300	
1955	1,631	46	2,325	
1956	621	40	842	
1957	484	33	648	
1958	No data	No data	No estimate	
1959	No data	No data	No estimate	
1960	No data	No data	1,234	
1961	1,685	52	2,019	
1962	640	No data	850	Includes 325 in Yukon
1963	264	No data	335	Taylor Highway closed early by snow
1964	104	No data	270	Actual harvest probably much higher
1965	90	No data	800	Actual harvest probably much higher
1966	No data	No data	1,900	Major road crossing at Mt. Fairplay
1967	503	No data	505	Actual harvest probably much higher
1968	292	33	579	Light harvest; caribou not close to road
1969	342	23	492	Light harvest; caribou not close to road
1970	889	31	1,386	Check station continuously operating during road crossing
1971	1,994	45	2,360	Check station continuously operating during road crossing
1972	974	52	1,330	Check station continuously operating during road crossing
1973	46	18	75	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 season to avoid road crossing period; one caribou bag limit
1974	29	9	45	
1975	34	35	75	
1976	33	15	52	
1977	60	8	95	Season reduced to Sept. 1-15
1978	16	38	30	
1979	9	0 ⁱⁱ	30	Bag limit reduced to one bull
1980	10	0	50	
1981	58	0	100	Season extended to Aug. 10 - Sept. 30
1982	115	0	200	Bag limit increased to 2 bulls
1983	219	0	294	Chicken Trail "discovered" by ORV users
1984	245	0	450 ⁱⁱⁱ	Early snow and migration across road cause season closure by emergency order
1985	261	0	441	Bag limit reduced to one bull
1986	223	0	380	
1987	142	0	249	Caribou distributed away from road and trail system

Year	Total Reported Harvest	Reported % Females	Total Estimated Harvest	Remarks
1988	401	0	795	Caribou loosely distributed near roads and trails
1989	424	0	501 ^{iv}	Caribou distributed away from road and trail system
1990	313	6	343	
1991	441	0	505	
1992	396	0	467	Fall season closed after 5 days; no winter season was held
1993	326	0	346	
1994	313	0	323	

ⁱ Modified from Valkenburg et al. 1994. 1951-1976 data are from Davis et al. 1978. In most years prior to 1968 biologists subjectively estimated the unreported kill based on the distribution of caribou and hunters and the knowledge that check stations were not operated continuously. Estimates of crippling loss were not included except for a 10% factor used in 1960 and 5% in 1962. All known illegal (vs. unreported) kills were added to the totals. In years prior to 1973 large differences between reported and estimated harvest also reflected the addition of estimates of harvest from the Yukon. Yukon harvest was insignificant after 1973.

ⁱⁱ From 1979 to 1989 regulations did not authorize the harvest of cows

ⁱⁱⁱ The reporting rate of successful hunters was estimated to be 63% in 1984 (Kelleyhouse 1986); this figure and the known illegal kill were used to estimate total harvest from 1984 to 1990.

^{iv} Between 1989 and 1993 hunters in the Taylor Highway area were required to report under a mandatory registration permit. After 1992, this requirement was extended to all Fortymile caribou hunters.

**TABLE 2. STATE OF ALASKA CARIBOU HUNTING REGULATIONS, GAME
MANAGEMENT SUBUNIT 20E, 1960 - 1996**

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
1960-63	Aug.20 - Dec.31	134	3 caribou
1963-64	Aug.10 - Mar.31	234	3 caribou
1964-65	Aug.10 - Mar.31	234	4 caribou
1965-73	Aug.10 - Mar.31	234	3 caribou
1973-74	Aug.10 - Dec.31	144	1 caribou
1974-77	Aug.10 - Sept.20	42	1 caribou
1977-79	Sept.1 - Sept.15	15	1 caribou
1979-81	Sept.1 - Sept.15	52	1 bull
1981-82	Aug.10 - Sept.20 Dec.1 - Feb.28	132	1 bull; only antlerless bulls from Dec.1 - Feb.28; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1982-83	Aug.10 - Sept.20 Dec.1 - Feb.28	132	2 bulls; only antlerless bulls from Dec.1 - Feb.28; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1983-84	Aug.10 - Sept.20 Dec.1 - Feb.28	132	2 bulls; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1984-85	Aug.10 - Sept.20 Nov.20 - Feb.28	143	2 bulls; only antlerless bulls from Dec.10 - Feb.28.
1985-86 ^a	Aug.10 - Sept.20 Nov.20 - Feb.28	143	1 bull; only 1 may be taken Aug.10 - Sept.20; only antlerless bulls may be taken Dec.10 - Feb.28.
1986-87	Aug.10 - Sept.20	42	1 bull
	Dec.1 - Feb. 28	90	1 antlerless bull; open only to residents domiciled in GMUs 12 north of Wrangell-St. Elias Nat. Preserve, 20D north of the Alaska Highway, and GMU 20E.






^a In 1985-86, hunting seasons were divided into subsistence and general hunts.

CARIBOU HUNTING REGULATIONS - GMU 20E (continued) - 2

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
1987-89 ^b	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb.28	143	1 bull; open to subsistence hunters only; only antlerless bulls from Dec.1 - Feb.28.
	Aug.10 - Sept.20	42	1 bull; resident/nonresident hunters.
1989-90	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou; open to subsistence hunters only; that portion of GMU 20E drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug.10 - Sept.20	42	1 bull; open to all resident hunters; that portion of GMU 20E drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec. 1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou by registration permit; remainder GMU 20E; open to subsistence hunters only; season will be closed when 325 caribou have been taken.
	Aug.10 - Sept.20	42	1 bull by drawing permit; remainder GMU 20E; resident hunters; 750 permits issued.

^b In 1987, residents of GMU 12 north of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, GMU 20B, and GMU 20E were found to have customary and traditional use of Fortymile caribou in GMU 20E.

CARIBOU HUNTING REGULATIONS - GMU 20E (continued) - 3

	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou; that portion of GMU 20E drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec. 1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou by registration permit; remainder GMU 20E (that portion accessible by the Taylor Highway and associated trails); only bulls maybe taken prior to Dec.1; season will be closed when 500 caribou have been taken.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou; that portion of GMU 20E drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec. 1 - Feb.28	143	1 caribou by registration permit; remainder GMU 20E (that portion accessible by the Taylor Highway and associated trails); only bulls maybe taken prior to Dec.1; up to 500 caribou may be taken.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb. 28	143	1 bull by registration permit only; up to 450 bulls may be taken.
	Aug.10 - Sept.30 Dec.1 - Feb.28	143	1 bull; by permit only; up to 450 bulls may be taken.

 Alaska residents became eligible for subsistence hunts.


 1992, the Board of Game determined that 350-400 Fortymile caribou was the amount necessary for subsistence use of this herd.

Fig. 1. Reported Caribou Harvest in GMUs 20D and 20E (Fortymile) by Month and Hunter Origin, 1994

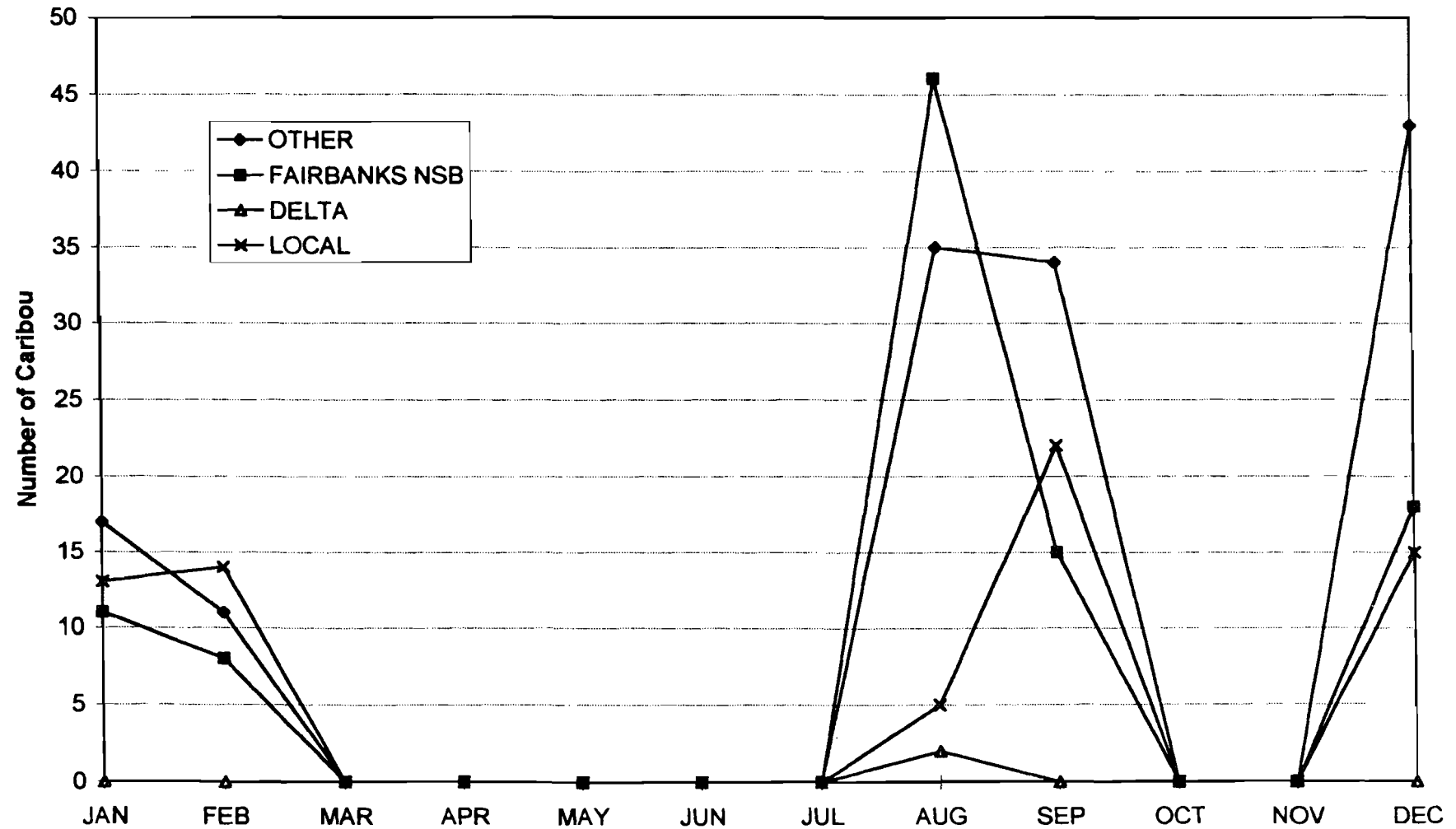


FIG. 2. CARIBOU HUNTING AREAS
USED BY RESIDENTS OF
NORTHWAY, 1974-1984.

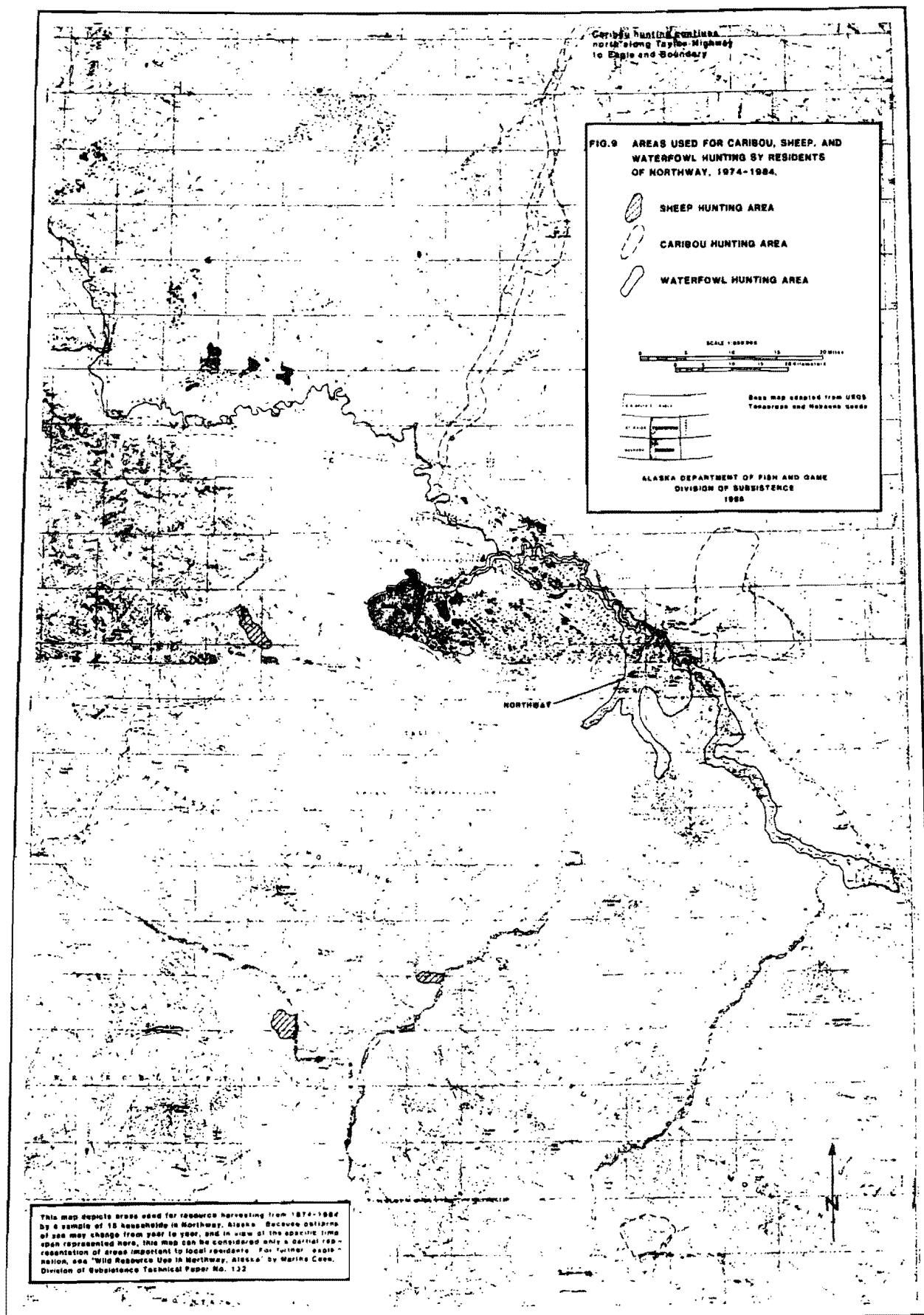
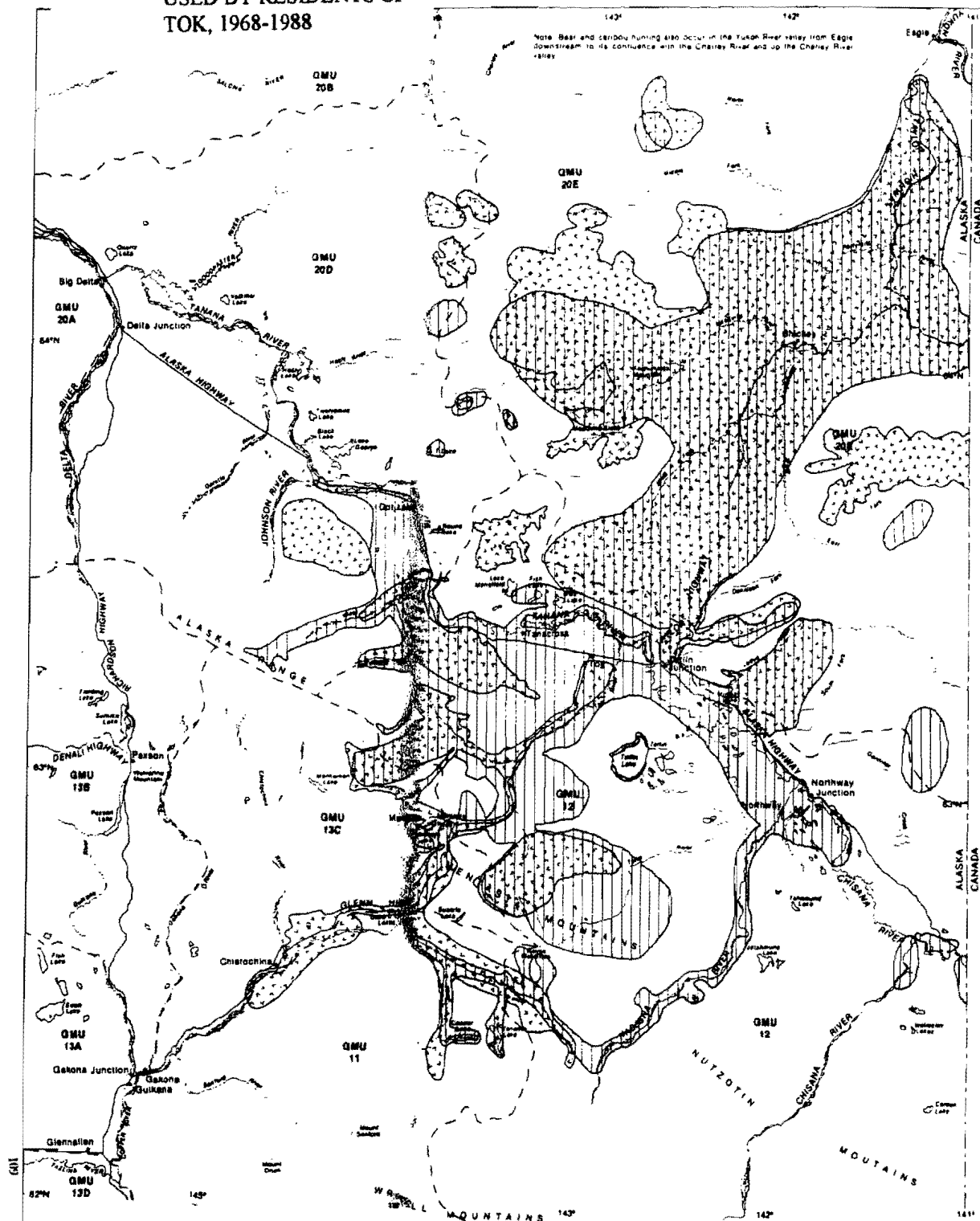





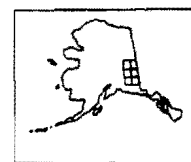
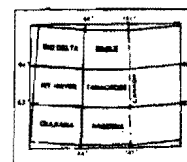
FIG. 3. CARIBOU HUNTING AREAS
USED BY RESIDENTS OF
TOK, 1968-1988



Use areas are based on a key respondent sample of 19 communities
(with additions made during a community review.)

-  BEAR HUNTING
-  CARIBOU HUNTING
-  GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

This map depicts areas where use of fish and wildlife resources by residents has been documented. Those areas shown are known to have been used during the 1968-1988 time period. Undocumented use of areas other than those depicted may occur. Consult with local committees for definitive information.



Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

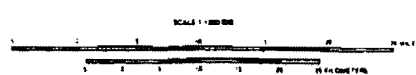
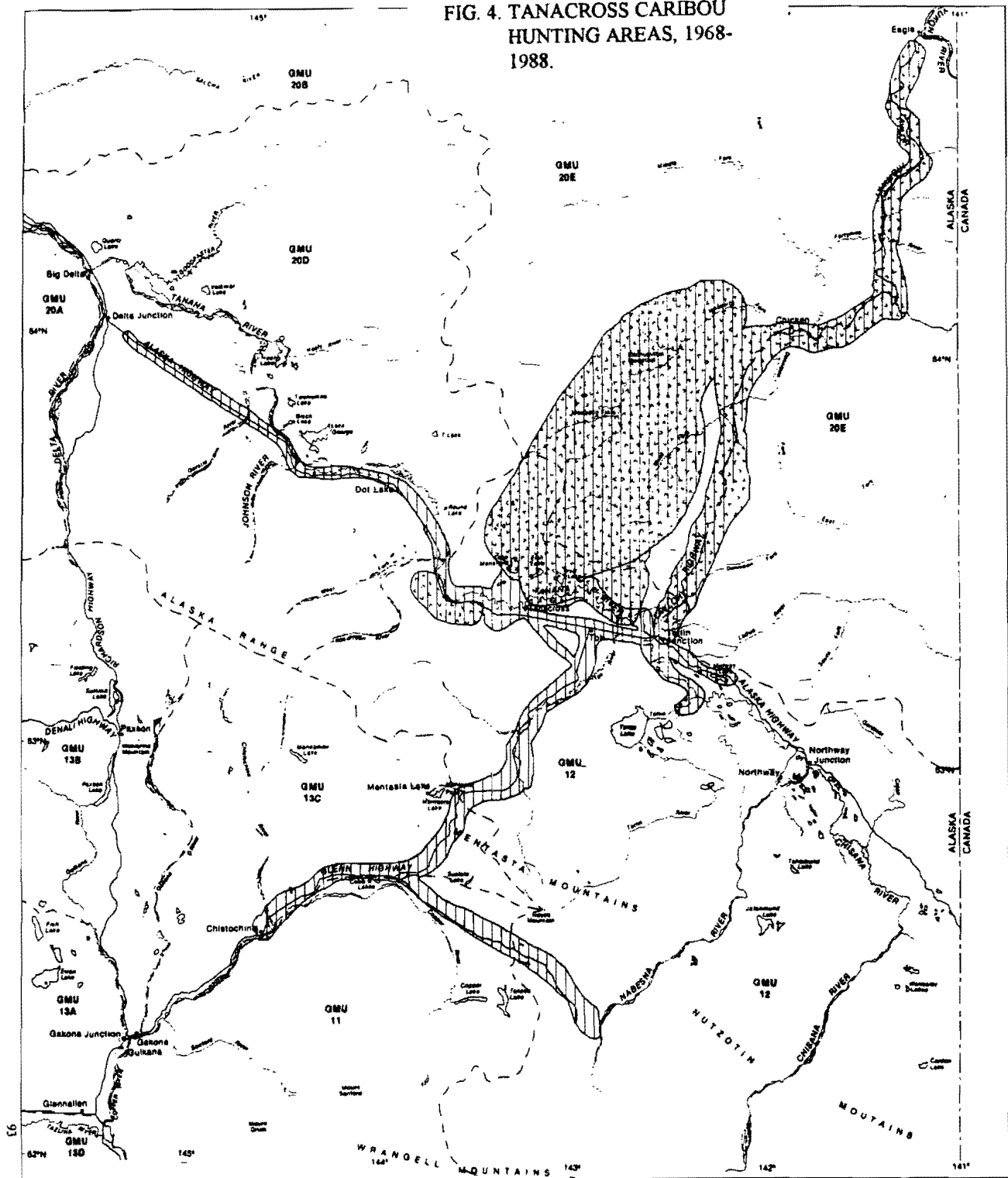


FIGURE 19. TOK BEAR AND CARIBOU HUNTING AREAS, 1968-1988

FIG. 4. TANACROSS CARIBOU
HUNTING AREAS, 1968-
1988.



Use areas are based on a key respondent sample of 19 community households
[with additions made during a community review.]



BEAR HUNTING

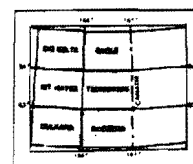


CARIBOU HUNTING



GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

This map depicts areas where use of fish and wildlife resources by community residents has been documented.
Those areas shown are known to have been used during the 1968 through 1988 time period. Undocumented use
of areas other than those depicted may occur, consult with local communities for definitive information.



1:250,000
LOCATION MAP



1:250,000
LOCATION MAP

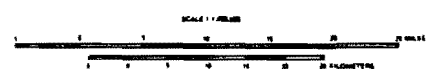


FIGURE 13. TANACROSS BEAR AND CARIBOU HUNTING AREAS, 1968-1988

FORTYMILE CARIBOU (GMUs 20D AND 20E) STATISTICS, 1985-94

HUNTERS

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	Mean <u>89-94</u>	Percent
OTHER	0	0	0	0	528	418	711	335	891	1,094	663	34%
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	1	8	18	10	14	15	11	1%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	204	394	580	323	1,250	1,111	644	33%
DELTA	0	0	0	0	33	80	130	72	96	72	81	4%
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	688	566	548	424	635	543	567	29%
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1,454	1,466	1,987	1,164	2,886	2,835	1,965	100%

HUNTERS WHO HUNTED

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	Mean <u>89-94</u>	Percent
OTHER	0	0	0	0	351	331	593	298	720	894	531	36%
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	8	14	9	9	10	8	1%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	154	313	529	297	1,005	867	528	36%
DELTA	0	0	0	0	20	63	107	64	83	52	65	4%
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	459	339	318	277	350	298	340	23%
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	984	1,054	1,561	945	2,167	2,121	1,472	100%

HARVEST

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	Mean <u>89-94</u>	Percent
OTHER	0	0	0	0	33	62	128	105	120	140	98	31%
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	1	0	1	0%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	25	84	132	114	167	99	104	32%
DELTA	0	0	0	0	1	18	23	20	3	2	11	4%
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	286	97	62	79	36	71	105	33%
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	345	262	345	322	327	312	319	100%

SUCCESS RATE

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	Mean <u>89-94</u>
OTHER	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	19%	21%	35%	17%	16%	18%
COPPER BASIN	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	14%	44%	11%	0%	16%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%	27%	25%	38%	17%	11%	20%
DELTA	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	29%	21%	31%	4%	4%	17%
LOCAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	62%	29%	19%	29%	10%	24%	31%
TOTAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	35%	25%	22%	34%	15%	15%	22%

HUNTERS AND HARVESTS

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
HUNTERS	0	0	0	0	984	1,054	1,561	945	2,167	2,121
HARVESTS	0	0	0	0	345	262	345	322	327	312

FORTYMILE CARIBOU (GMUs 20D AND 20E) STATISTICS, 1985-94**HUNTERS**

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	528	418	711	335	891	1,094
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	1	8	18	10	14	15
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	204	394	580	323	1,250	1,111
DELTA	0	0	0	0	33	80	130	72	96	72
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	688	566	548	424	635	543
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1,454	1,466	1,987	1,164	2,886	2,835

HUNTERS WHO HUNTED

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	351	331	593	298	720	894
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	8	14	9	9	10
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	154	313	529	297	1,005	867
DELTA	0	0	0	0	20	63	107	64	83	52
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	459	339	318	277	350	298
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	984	1,054	1,561	945	2,167	2,121

HARVEST

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	33	62	126	105	120	140
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	1	0
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	25	84	132	114	167	99
DELTA	0	0	0	0	1	18	23	20	3	2
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	286	97	62	79	36	71
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	345	262	345	322	327	312

SUCCESS RATE

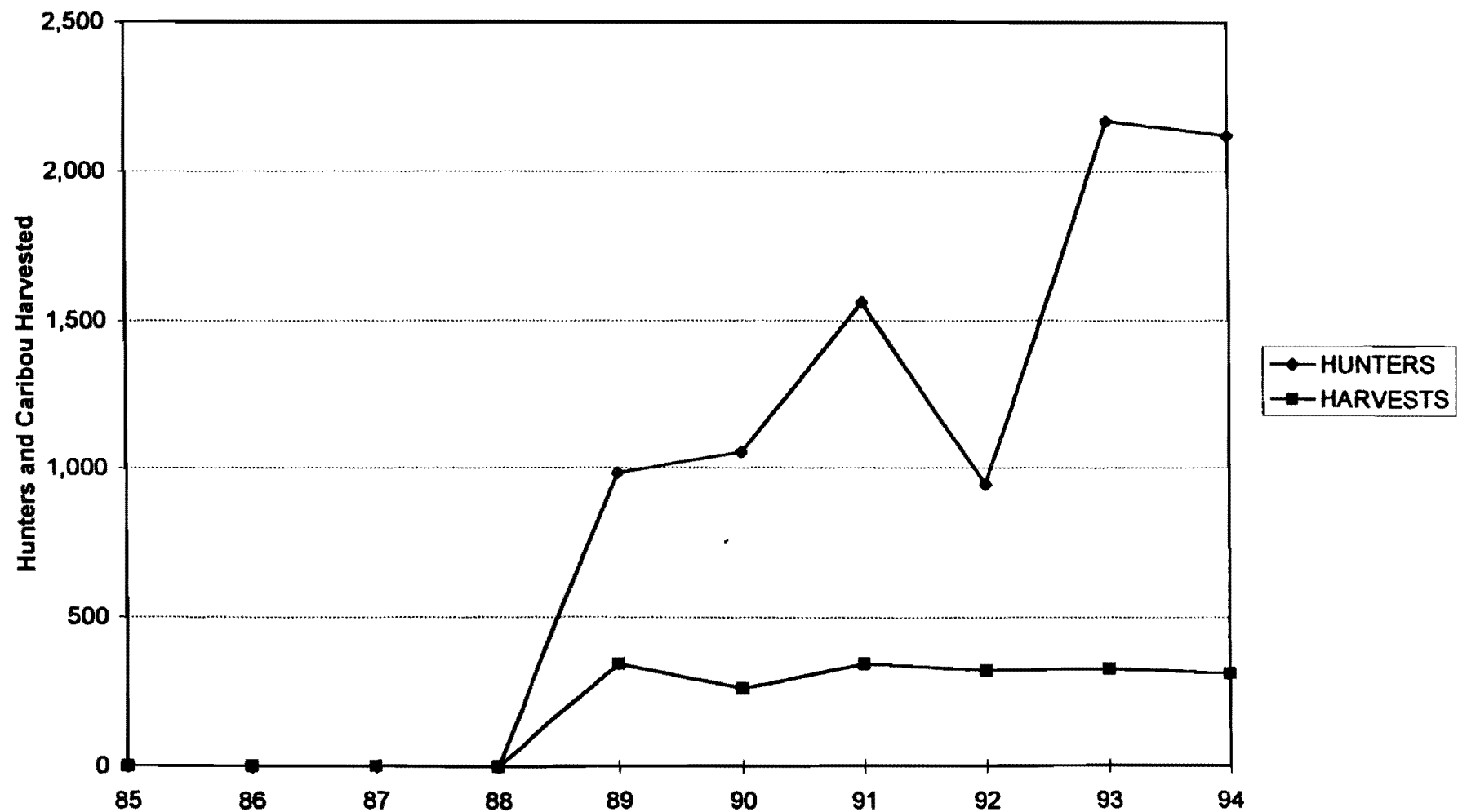
	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	19%	21%	35%	17%	16%
COPPER BASIN	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	14%	44%	11%	0%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%	27%	25%	38%	17%	11%
DELTA	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	29%	21%	31%	4%	4%
LOCAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	62%	29%	19%	29%	10%	24%
TOTAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	35%	25%	22%	34%	15%	15%

HUNTERS AND HARVESTS

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
HUNTERS	0	0	0	0	984	1,054	1,561	945	2,167	2,121
HARVESTS	0	0	0	0	345	262	345	322	327	312

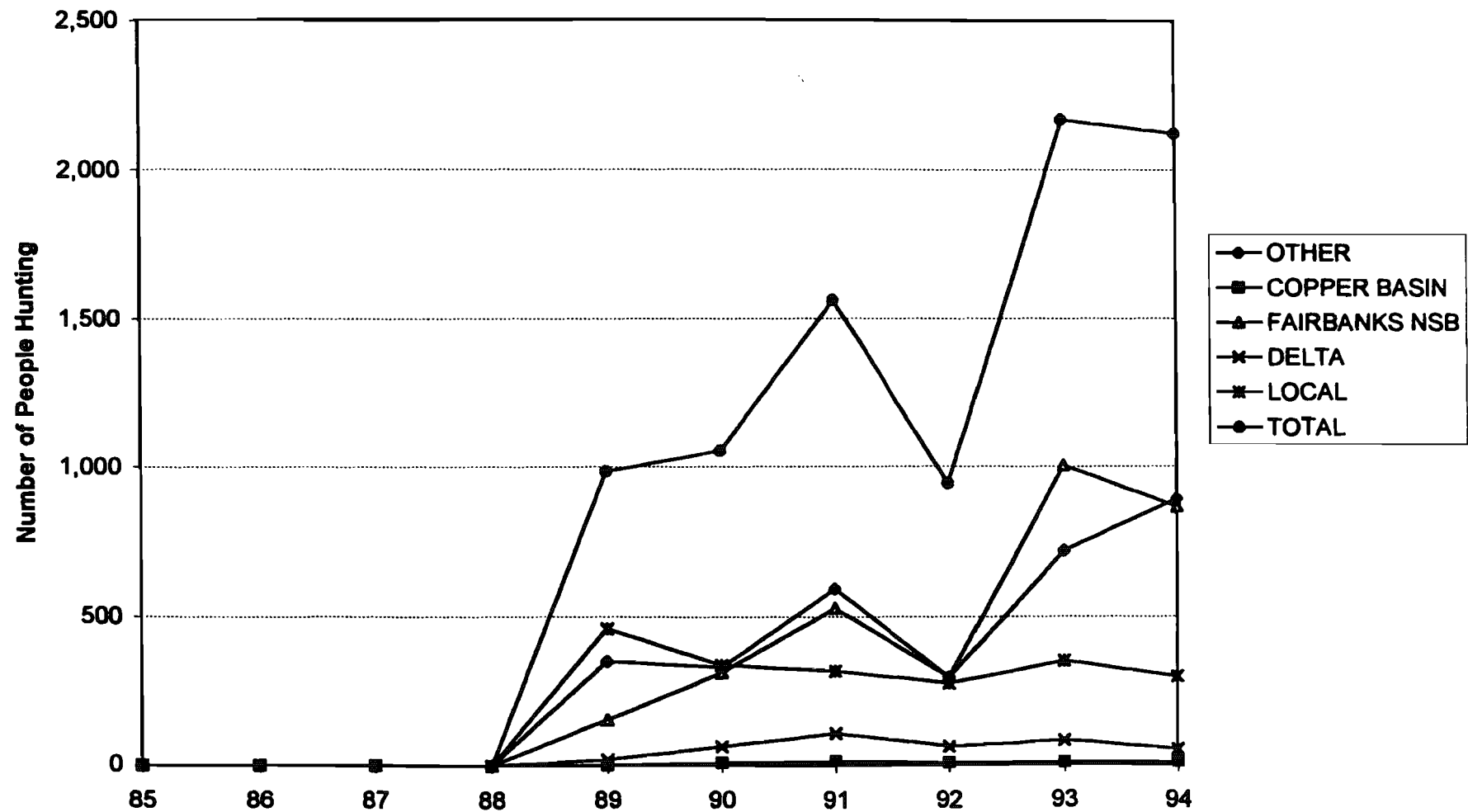
85-94 Chart 1

**Reported Caribou Harvests and Reporting Hunters in GMUs 20D and 20E
(Fortymile Caribou), 1985-94**

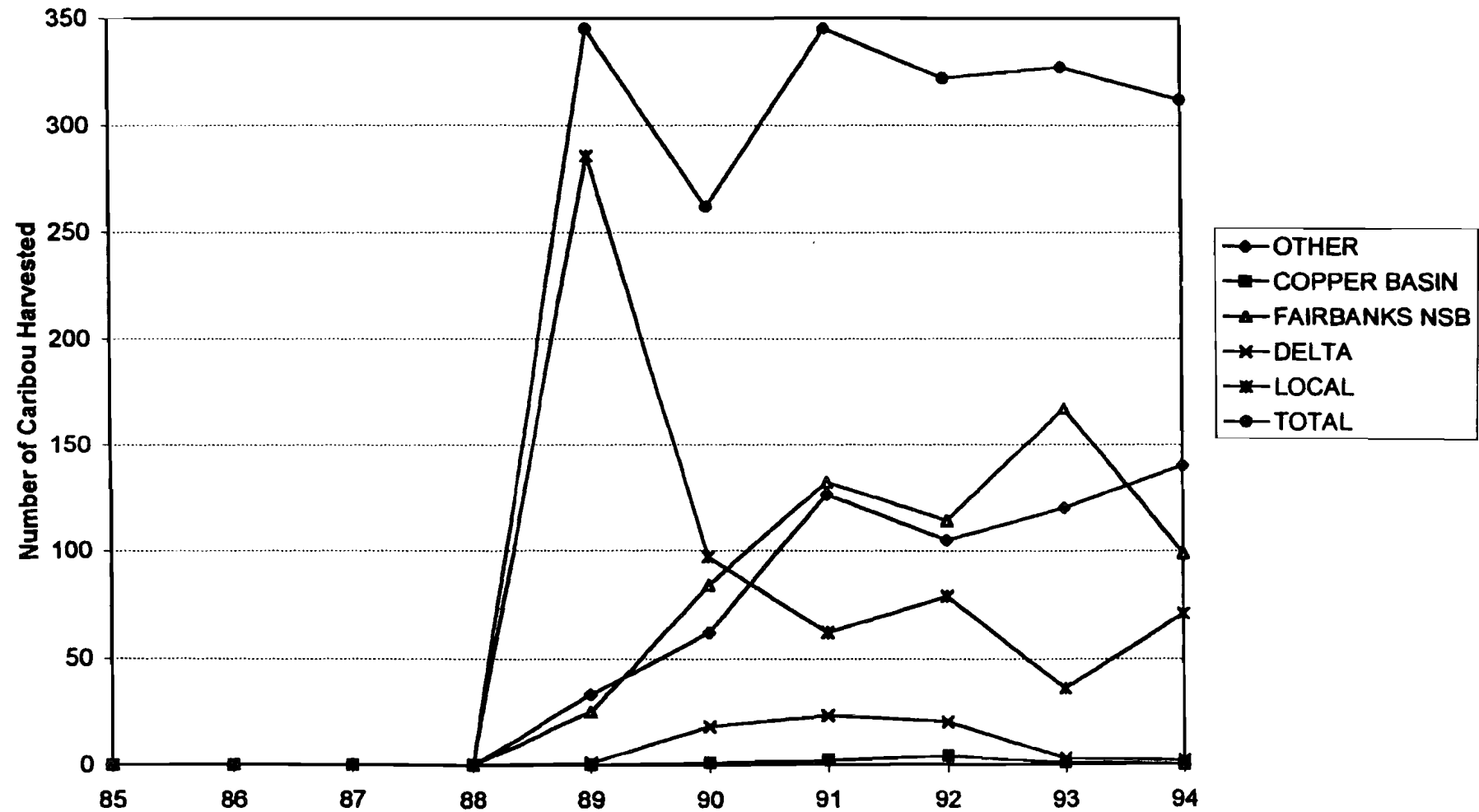


85-94 Chart 2

**Reported Number of Caribou Hunters in GMUs 20D and 20E (Fortymile Caribou)
by Hunter Origin, 1985-94**

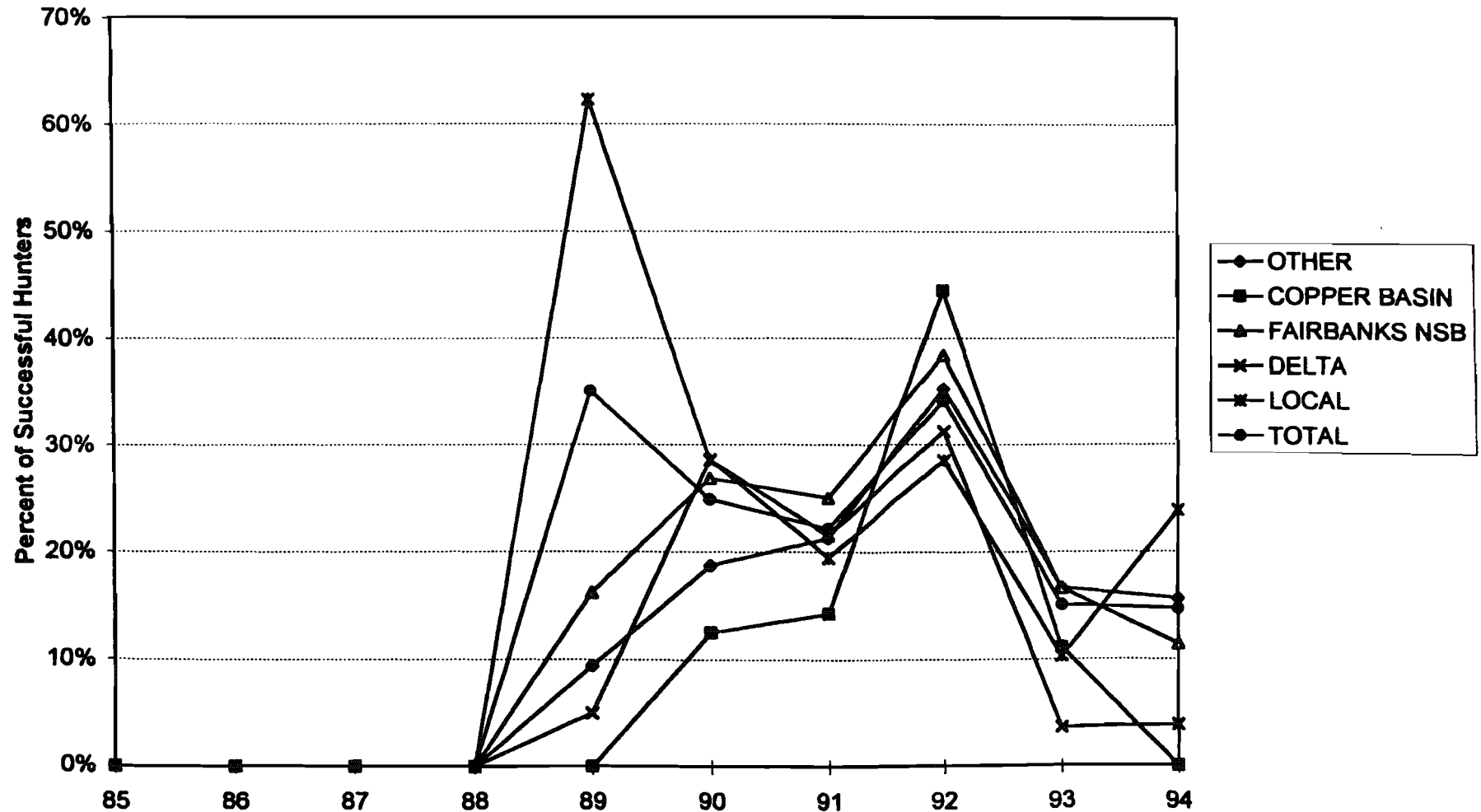


**Reported Caribou Harvests in GMUs 20D and 20E (Fortymile Caribou), by Hunter
Origin, 1985-94**

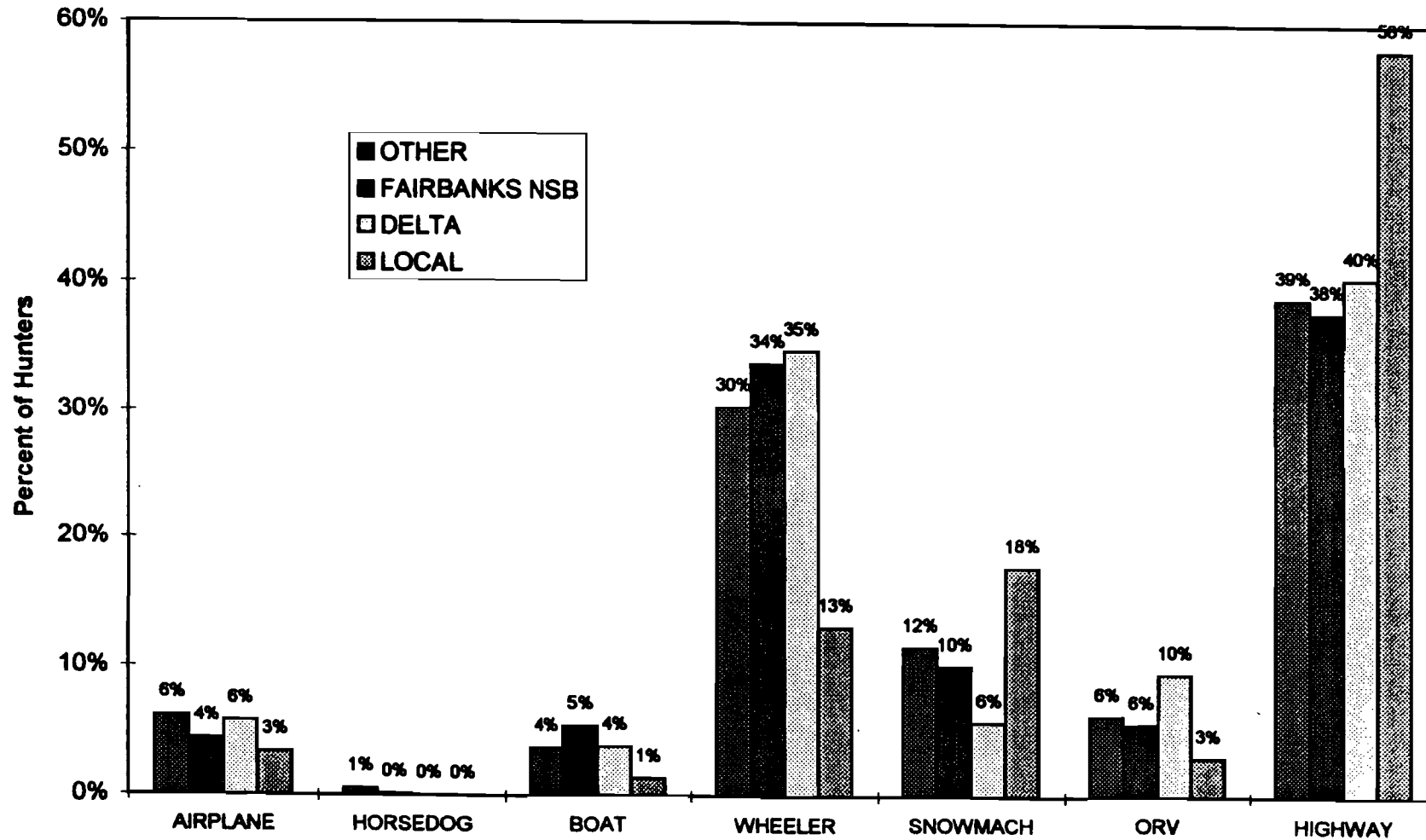


85-94 Chart 4

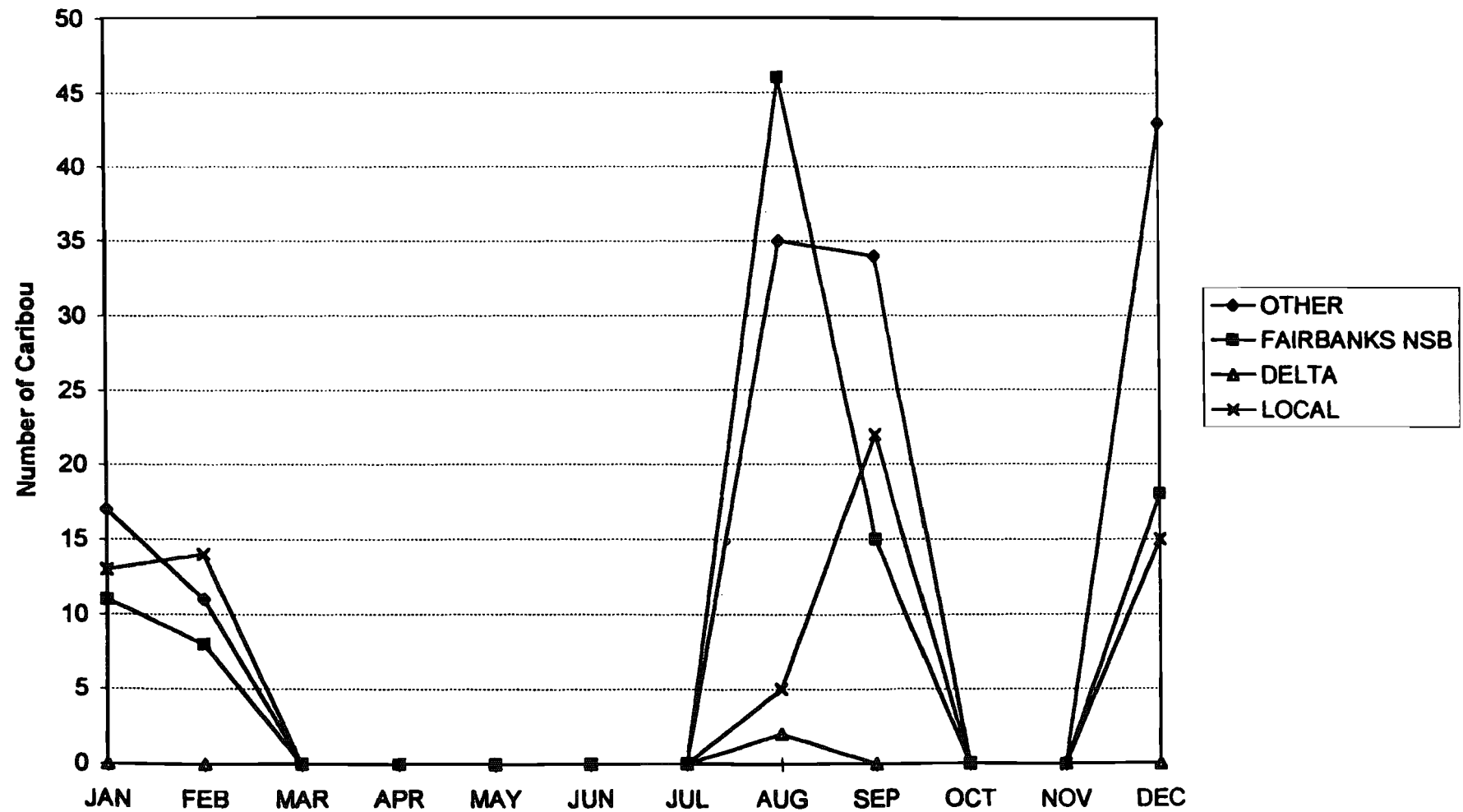
Hunter Success Rates for GMUs 20D and 20E (Fortymile Caribou) by Hunter Origin, 1985-94



Means of Access by Reporting Caribou Hunters in GMUs 20D and 20E by Hunter Origin, 1994



Reported Caribou Harvest in GMUs 20D and 20E (Fortymile) by Month and Hunter Origin, 1994



NELCHINA-MENTASTA CARIBOU (GMU 12) STATISTICS, 1985-94

HUNTERS

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	0	150	246
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	8	6
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	0	148	340
DELTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	23	44
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	488	0	391	439
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	941	0	720	1075

HUNTERS WHO HUNTED

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	0	127	230
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	4
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	0	141	325
DELTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	20	42
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	0	256	324
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	712	0	549	925

HARVEST

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0	58	68
COPPER BASIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
FAIRBANKS NSB	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	0	49	108
DELTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	6	7
LOCAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	98	91
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	0	212	275

SUCCESS RATE

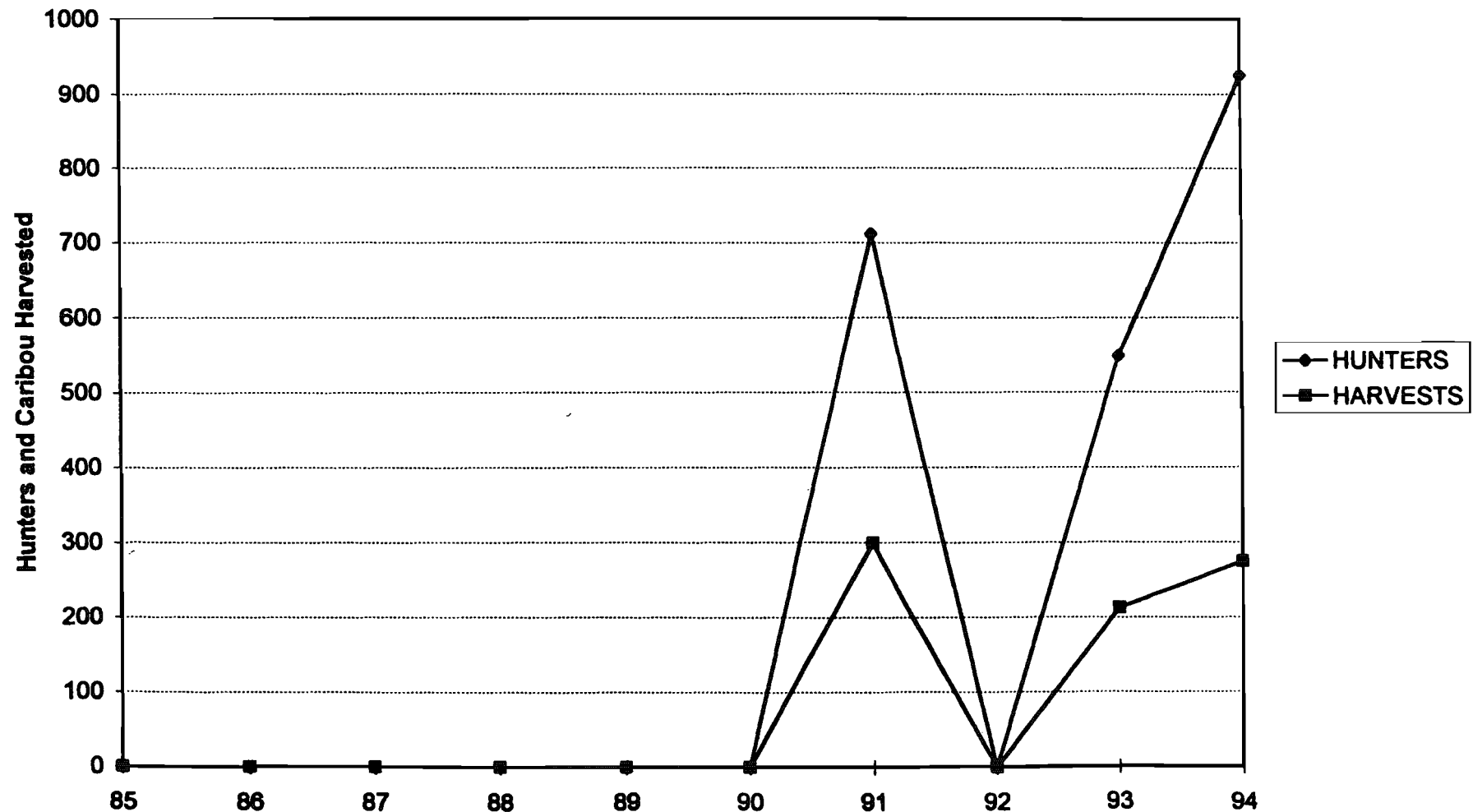
	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
OTHER	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	42%	0%	46%	30%
COPPER BASIN	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%	20%	25%
FAIRBANKS NSB	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	46%	0%	35%	33%
DELTA	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	0%	30%	17%
LOCAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	38%	28%
TOTAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	42%	0%	39%	30%

HUNTERS AND HARVESTS

	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>
HUNTERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	712	0	549	925
HARVESTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	0	212	275

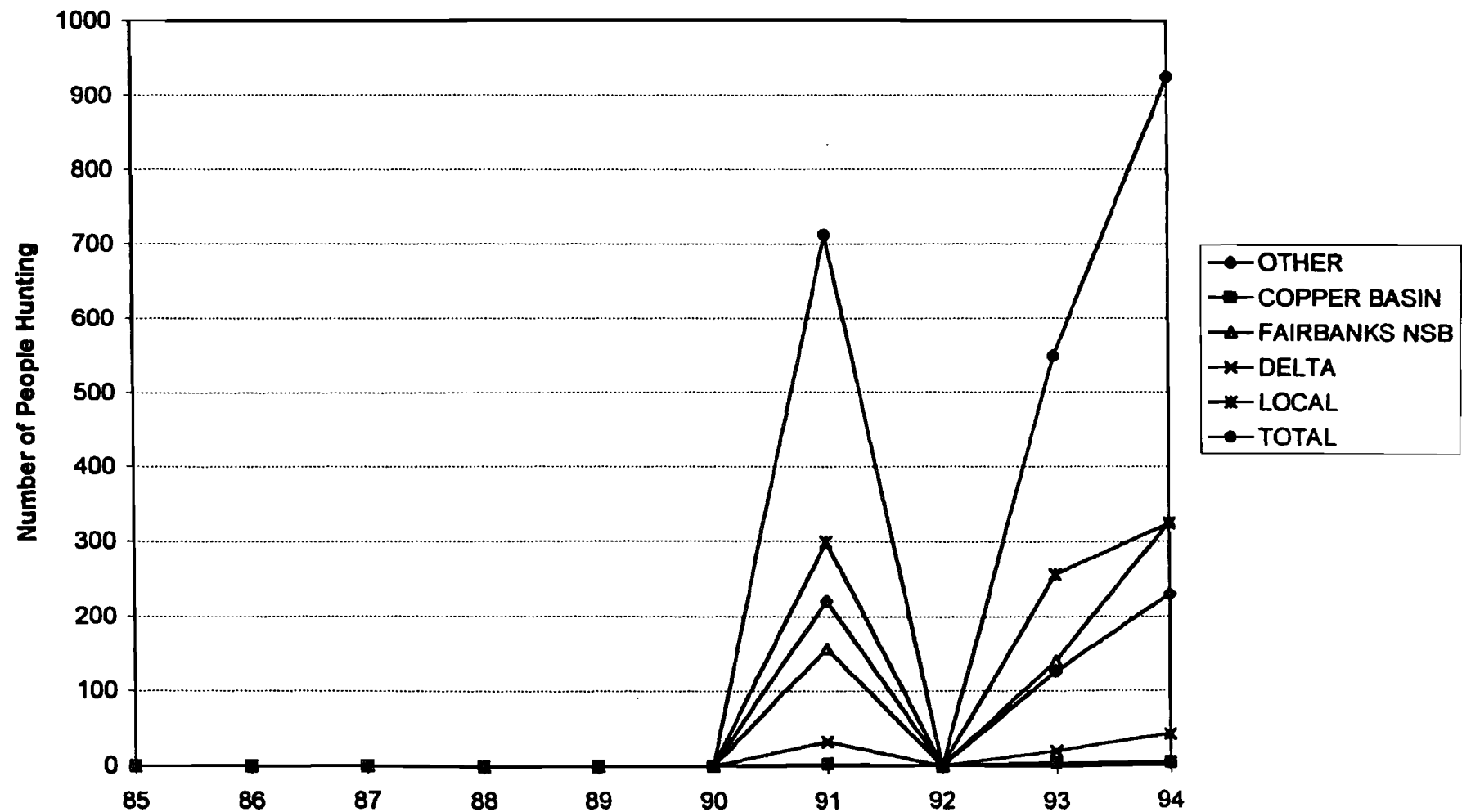
85-94 Chart 1

Reported Caribou Harvests and Reporting Hunters in GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta), 1985-94



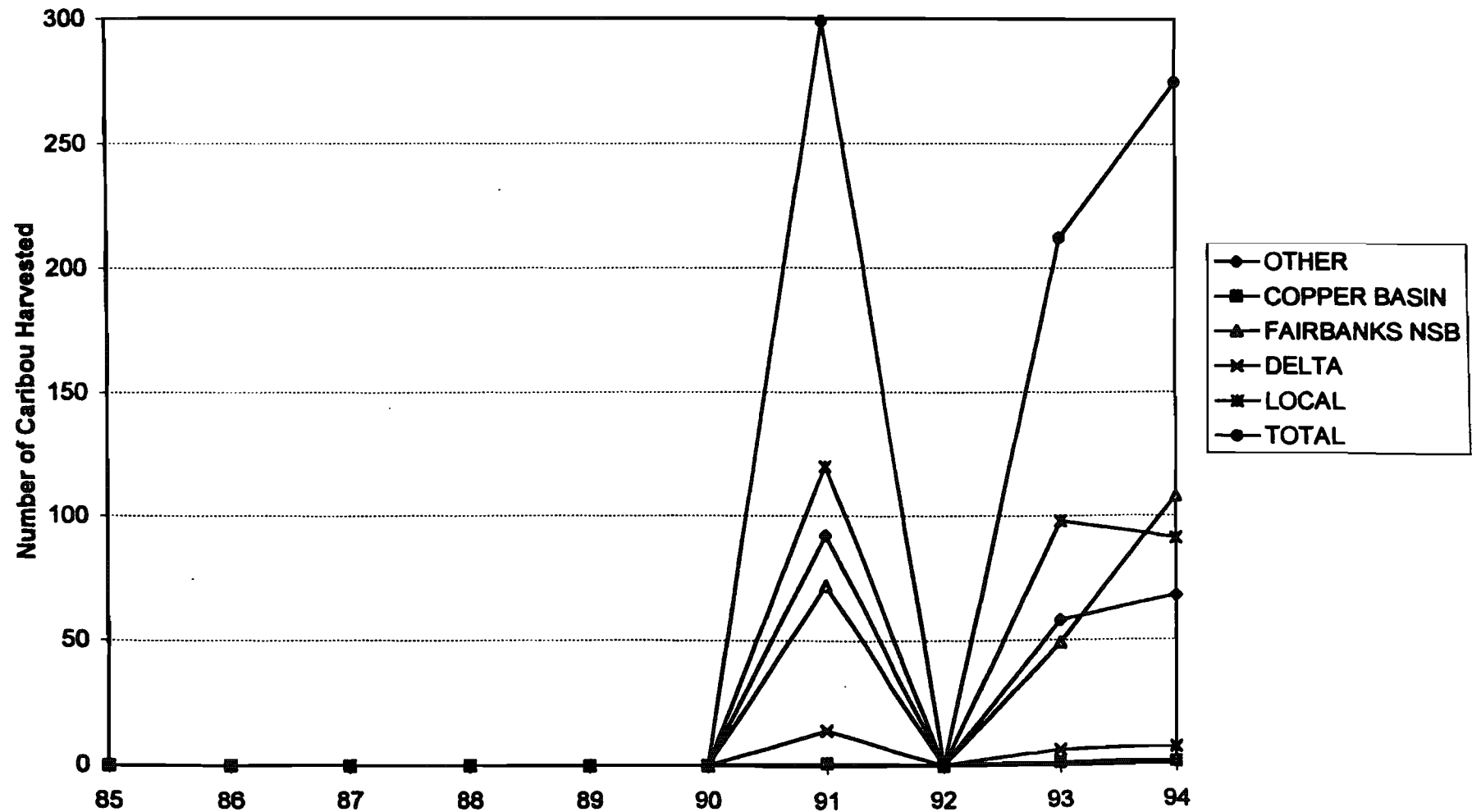
85-94 Chart 2

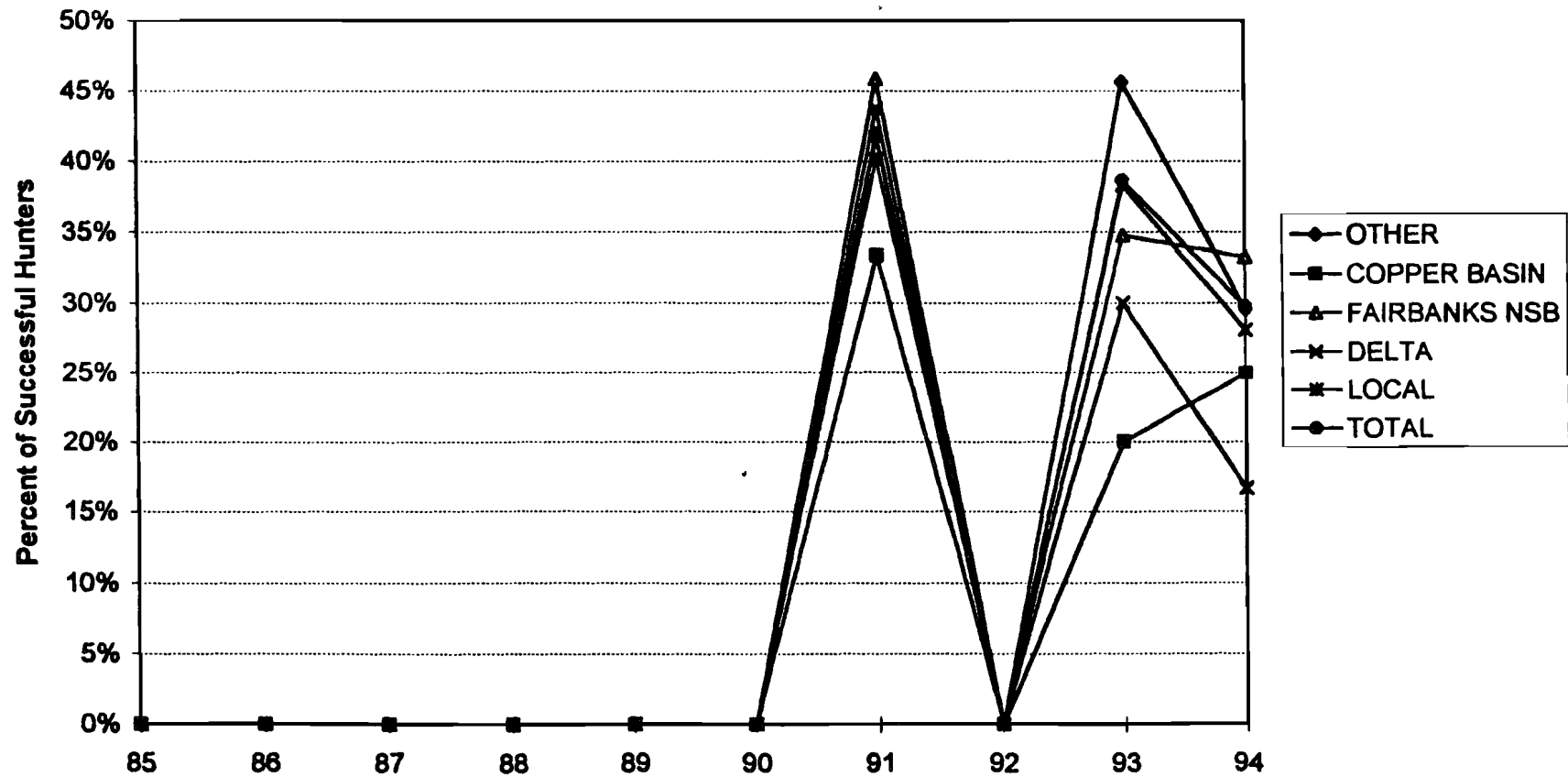
Reported Number of Caribou Hunters in GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta) by Hunter Origin, 1985-94



85-94 Chart 3

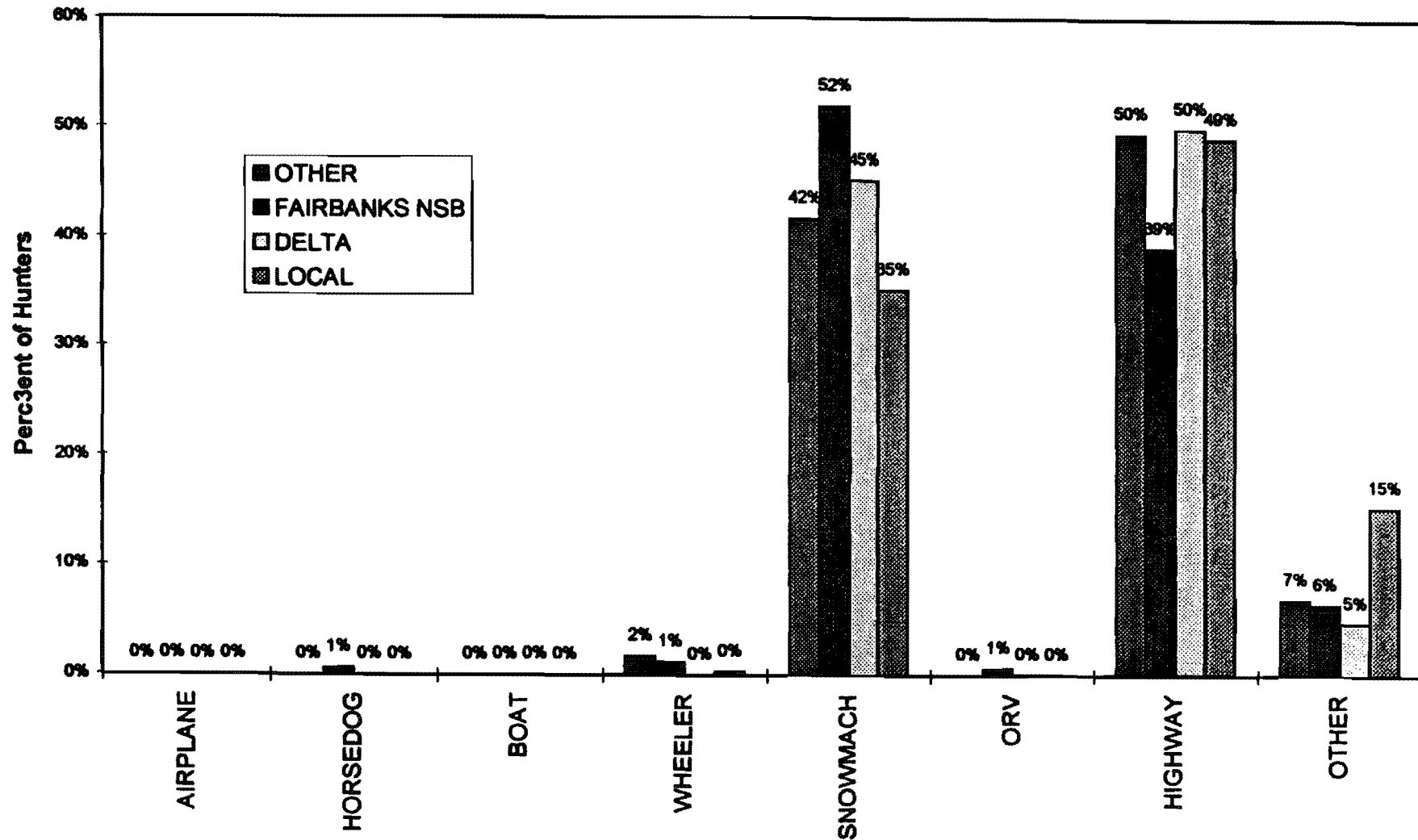
**Reported Caribou Harvests in GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta) by Hunter Origin,
1985-94**



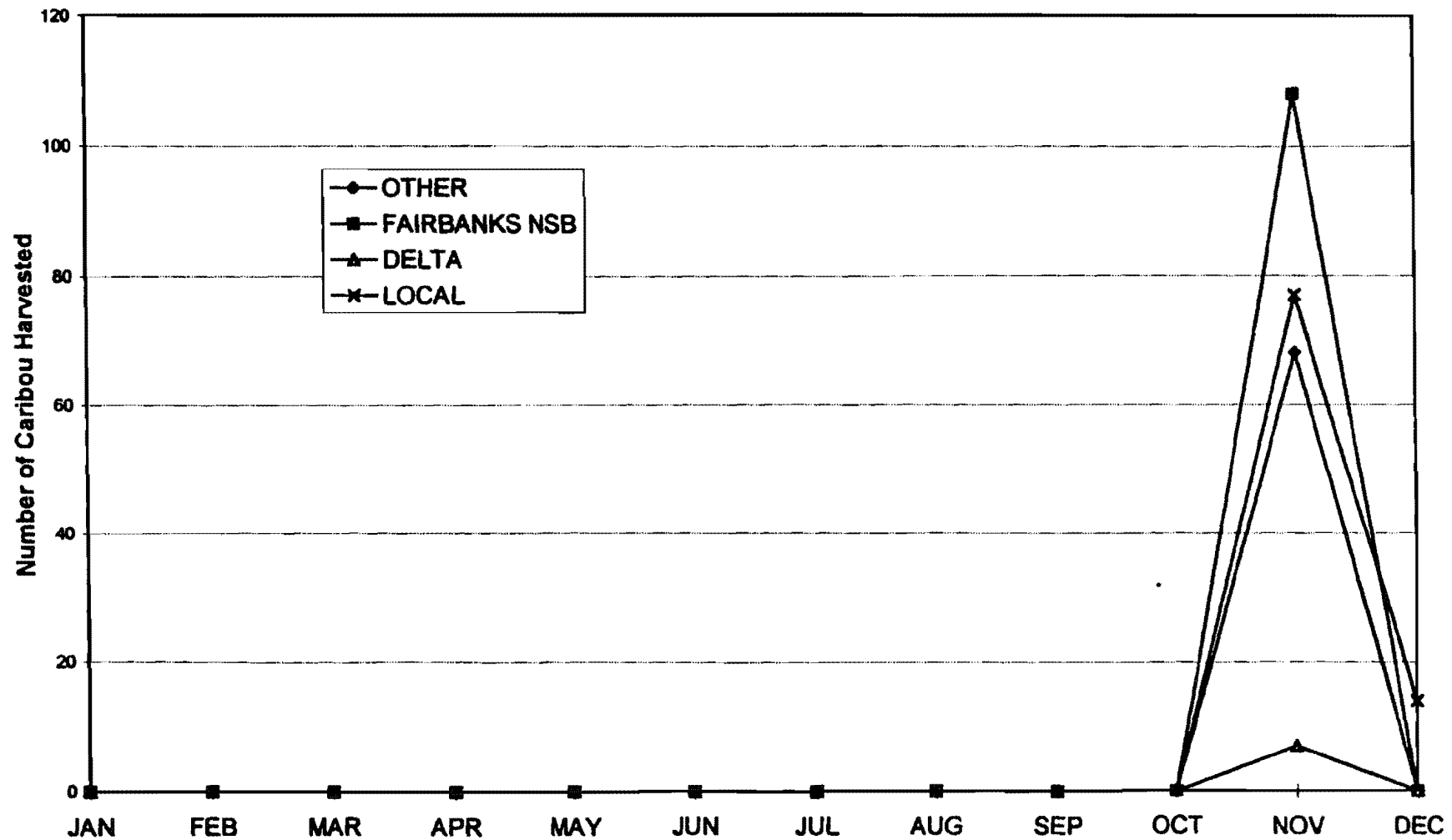
Hunter Success Rates for GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta) by Hunter Origin, 1985-94

1994 Chart 1

Means of Access by Caribou Hunters in GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta) by Hunter Origin, 1994



Reported Caribou Harvests in GMU 12 (Nelchina-Mentasta) by Month and Hunter Origin, 1994



Caribou Hunting Regulations, 1961-2010
Game Management Unit 20(E)

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
1960-1963	Aug. 20-Dec. 31	134	3 caribou
1963-1964	Aug. 10-Mar. 31	234	3 caribou
1964-1965	Aug. 10-Mar. 31	234	4 caribou
1965-1973	Aug. 10-Mar. 31	234	3 caribou
1973-1974	Aug. 10-Dec. 31	144	1 caribou.
1974-1977	Aug. 10-Sept. 20	42	1 caribou
1977-1979	Sept. 1-Sept. 15	15	1 caribou
1979-1981	Sept. 1-Sept. 15	15	1 caribou bull
1981-1982	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	132	1 caribou bull; only antlerless bulls from Dec. 1-Feb. 28; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1982-1983	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	132	2 caribou bulls, only antlerless bulls from Dec. 1-Feb. 28; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1983-1984	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	132	2 caribou bulls; closed by E.O. if estimated harvest exceeds 500 bulls.
1984-1985	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Nov. 20-Feb. 28	143	2 caribou bulls; only antlerless bulls from Dec. 10-Feb. 28.
1985-1986 ^a	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Nov. 20-Feb. 28	143	1 caribou bull; only 1 bull may be taken Aug. 10-Sept. 20; only antlerless bulls may be taken Dec. 10-Feb. 28.
1986-1987	Aug. 10-Sept. 20	42	1 caribou bull
	Dec. 1-Feb. 28	90	1 antlerless caribou bull ^b .
1987-1989	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou bull; open to subsistence hunters only; only antlerless bulls may be taken Dec. 1-Feb. 28.

^a In 1985-1989, hunting seasons were divided into subsistence and general Alaska resident hunts.

^b In 1986-1987, only residents domiciled in Units 12 north of the northern boundary of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, unit 20D north of the Alaska Highway, and Unit 20E were eligible to participate in this hunt. In 1987, residents of GMU 12 north of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, GMU 20(D), and GMU 20(E) were found to have customary and traditional use of Fortymile caribou in GMU 20(E).

Caribou Hunting Regulations, 1961-2010
Game Management Unit 20(E)

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
1989-1990	Aug. 10-Sept. 20	42	1 caribou bull; resident and non-resident hunters.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou; open to subsistence hunters only; that portion of GMU 20(E) drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the Middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 20	42	1 caribou bull; open to all resident hunters; that portion of GMU 20(E) drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the Middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou by registration permit; remainder GMU 20(E); open to subsistence hunters only; season will be closed when 325 caribou have been taken.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 20	42	1 caribou bull by drawing permit; remainder GMU 20(E); resident hunters; 750 permits issued.

Caribou Hunting Regulations, 1961-2010
Game Management Unit 20(E)

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
1990-1993 ^c	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou by registration permit; that portion accessible by the Taylor Highway and associated trails ^d , as described in the permit hunt supplement; only bulls may be taken prior to Dec. 1; the season will be closed when 500 caribou have been taken.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28		1 caribou by harvest ticket; that portion of GMU 20(E) drained by the Yukon River downstream from and including the Seventymile and Charley Rivers, the North Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Independence Creek, the Middle Fork Fortymile River upstream from Fish Creek, and the Mosquito Fork Fortymile River upstream from and including Ketchumstuck Creek. ^e
1993-1996	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou bull by registration permit only; up to 450 bulls may be taken. ^f
1996-2001	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou bull by registration permit only. ^g
2001-2002 ^h	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou by registration permit; that portion of GMU 20(E), Fortymile.
	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou by registration permit; GMU 20(E) remainder.
2002-2004	Aug. 10-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Feb. 28	142	1 caribou by registration permit; that portion of GMU 20(E) draining into the middle fork of the Fortymile River upstream from the drainage of the north fork of the Fortymile River.
			1 caribou by registration permit; GMU 20(E) remainder
2004-2010 ⁱ	Aug. 10-Sept. 30	52	1 caribou by registration permit available in person in Central, Douglas, Anchorage, Palmer, Tok, Delta Junction,

^c In 1990, all Alaskan residents became eligible for subsistence hunts. In November 1992, the Alaska Board of Game determined that 350-400 Fortymile caribou was the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of this herd.

^d Nonresident season in this portion closed.

^e Nonresident season for 1 caribou bull Aug. 10-Sept. 20 in this portion.

^f From 1993-1996, nonresident caribou hunting season in GMU 20(E) closed.

^g From 1996-2001, nonresident caribou hunting season in GMU 20(E) closed.

^h From 2001-2008, nonresident caribou hunting season throughout GMU 20(E) Aug. 10-Sept. 20 for 1 caribou bull.

Caribou Hunting Regulations, 1961-2010
Car Management Unit 20(E)

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
			Eagle, and Fairbanks beginning Aug. 2 ^j ; Unit 20(E) Fortymile herd.
	Dec. 1-Feb. 28	0	1 caribou by registration permit available in person in Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, and Central, beginning Nov. 17 ^k .

ⁱ Resident and nonresident registration ~~permits~~ became available on-line in the 2005-06 regulatory year.

^j Fall registration permits (resident and ~~nonresident~~) became available on Aug. 4 instead of Aug. 2 in 2008-2009 regulatory year.

^k Winter registration permits became ~~available~~ on Nov. 16 instead of Nov. 17 during the 2005-2006 regulatory year and continued through the 2008-2009 ~~regulatory~~ year. In 2009-2010 winter permits became available again on Nov. 17.

Moose Hunting Regulations, 1961-2006
Game Management Unit 20B Minto Flats Management Area

Regulatory Year	Seasons	Total Days	Bag Limit, Areas Affected, & Conditions
<i>East of the Tolovana River:</i>			
1961-1963	Aug.20-Sept.30 Nov.10-Nov.30	63	1 bull
1963-1973 ¹	Aug.20-Sept.30 Nov.1-Nov.30	72	1 bull
1973-1975	Aug.20-Oct.7 Nov.1-Nov.30	79	1 bull; 100 antlerless moose may be taken by permit only
1975-1976	Sept.1-Sept.20	20	1 bull
1976-1977	Sept.1-Sept.10	10	1 bull
1977-1978	Sept.1-Sept.20	20	1 bull
1978-1979	Sept.5-Sept.15	11	1 bull
<i>West of the Tolovana River:</i>			
1961-1963 ²	Aug.20-Sept.30 Nov.10-Nov.30	63	1 bull
1963-1964	Aug.20-Sept.30 Nov.1-Nov.30	72	1 moose
1964-1966	Aug.20-Oct.7 Nov.1-Nov.30	79	1 moose
1966-1967	Aug.20-Oct.3 Nov.1-Nov.30	75	1 moose
1967-1971	Aug.20-Oct.4 Nov.1-Nov.30	76	1 moose
1971-1975	Aug.20-Oct.7 Nov.1-Nov.30	79	1 moose; Bulls may be taken only from Aug.20-Sept.30 and Nov.1-30; antlerless may be taken only Oct.1-Oct.7
1975-1976	Sept.1-Sept.20 Nov.1-Nov.10	30	1 bull
1976-1978	Sept.1-Sept.20	20	1 bull
1978-1979	Sept.5-Sept.15	11	1 bull

¹ Beginning in the 1963-1964 regulatory year, GMU 20 was divided into subunits.

² From 1960 to 1963, this area was included as part of GMU 21. From 1963 to 1981, the area was included as part of GMU 20C

*Minto Flats Management Area*³

1979-1980	Sept.5-Sept.15	11	1 bull by registration permit
1980-1981	Sept.5-Sept.10 Dec.10-Dec.15	12	1 bull by registration permit, 15 bulls may be taken
1981-1982	Sept.5-Sept.10 Nov.10-Nov.15	12	1 bull by registration permit, 15 bulls may be taken
1982-1983	Sept.1-Sept.10 Nov.10-Nov.15	16	1 bull by registration permit, 15 bulls may be taken
1983-1984	Sept.15-Sept.25 Nov.10-Nov.15	17	1 bull by registration permit, 15 bulls may be taken
1984-1985	Sept.17-Sept.21 Jan.10-Feb.28	55	1 bull by registration permit, 7 bulls may be taken Sept.17-21; 8 bulls may be taken Jan.10-Feb.28
1985-1986 ⁴	Sept.3-Sept.18 Jan.10-Feb.28	66	1 bull by Tier II permit, 60 permits will be issued, 7 bulls may be taken Sept.3-18; 8 bulls may be taken Jan.10-Feb.28
1986-1987 ⁵	Sept.3-Sept.18 Jan.10-Feb.28	66	1 bull by registration permit available only to residents of Minto and Nenana, 15 bulls may be taken
1987-1990	Sept.1-Sept.20 Jan.10-Feb.28	70	1 bull by registration permit available only to residents of Minto and Nenana, 15 bulls may be taken
1990-1991 ⁶	Sept.24-Oct.10 ⁷ Jan.10-Feb.28	67	1 bull by Tier II permit, 50 bulls may be taken
1991-1993	Sept.1-Sept.20 Jan.10-Feb.28	70	1 bull by Tier II permit, 150 permits may be issued
1993-1995	Sept.1-Sept.20 Jan.10-Feb.28	70	1 bull by Tier II permit; 250 permits may be issued
1995-1996	Sept.1-Sept.20 Jan.10-Feb.28	70	1 moose by Tier II permit
			OR
	Sept.6-Sept.20	15	1 bull with spike-fork or 50" antlers, or with at least 4 brow tines on at least 1 side
1996-2004	Sept.1-Sept.20 Jan.10-Feb.28	70	1 moose by Tier II permit
			OR

³ Minto Flats Management Area was established in 1979.

⁴ In 1985-1989 hunting regulations were divided into subsistence and general hunts.

⁵ In 1987, residents of Minto and Nenana were determined to have customary and traditional use of moose in the Minto Flats Management Area.

⁶ In 1990, all Alaskan residents became eligible for subsistence hunts.

⁷ Fall season to be announced.

	Sept.11-Sept.20	10	1 bull with spike-fork or 50" antlers, or with at least 4 brow tines on at least 1 side
2004-2007	Sept.1-Sept.25 Jan.10-Feb.28	75	1 moose by registration permit; limited number of permits available in person in Minto and Nenana; one permit per household
	Sept.11-Sept.25	15	OR 1 bull with spike-fork or 50" antlers, or with at least 4 brow tines on at least 1 side
2007-2010	Sept.1-Sept.25 Jan.10-Feb.28	75	1 moose by registration permit; limited number of permits available in person in Fairbanks, Minto, and Nenana; one permit per household
	Sept.11-Sept.25	15	OR 1 bull with spike-fork or 50" antlers, or with at least 4 brow tines on at least 1 side

RC 62

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management

- Moose population decline prompted MFMA (1979) with registration permit for quota of 15 bulls.
- Early 1980s increase in moose population lengthened general hunting season.
- In 1990, when all Alaskans became eligible to participate in subsistence, a Tier II hunt was established with harvest quota of 50 bulls.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In November 1992, Board of Game established an Amount Necessary for Subsistence of 20-40 bull moose in MFMA.
- The ANS was based upon the only available data on subsistence use patterns in MFMA:
- Residents of Minto harvested an estimated 19 moose in 1983-84 and 27 moose in 1984-85.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In 1995, Board bifurcated moose management in MFMA into two discrete populations:
 - Bull segment
 - Cow/calf segment
- Board determined that Tier II was no longer needed for bull segment and established a Tier I hunt for SF50.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In 1995, Board determined that harvestable surplus of cow and calf moose was insufficient to provide for all subsistence uses of MFMA moose and,
- Established a Tier II hunt with 60 permits issued for a cow/calf winter hunt in order to provided a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of MFMA winter hunt.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- Points to consider thus far:
 - Non-local Alaskan resident harvests have not been included in the ANS.
 - ANS is 18 years old & related to bulls when populations were lower.
 - In 1990, all Alaskans became eligible subsistence users.
 - Tier II management already indicates a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses does not exist.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In Spring 2004, ADF&G recommended revising ANS to 40-70 moose based upon 5-year average Tier II moose harvest of 56 moose, 53% of which was taken in winter.
- 313 MFMA Tier II applications had been submitted in 2003-04 with 100 permits awarded, which provides a measure of demand.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- The Board of Game eliminated MFMA Tier II hunt TM785 in Spring 2004.
- In Spring 2004, the Board adopted a limited registration permit hunt for MFMA moose based upon first-come, first-serve with 30 permits issued at Minto and 20 at Nenana in Fall 2004.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In Sept. 2004, Board received petition requesting a return to MFMA Tier II moose management due to problems with the first permit distribution.
- Petition suggested that receiving a permit was based not on a person's actual need as identified in law, but ability to stand in line for long periods of time.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- On October 6, 2004, the Board received a letter from the Chairman of the Minto-Nenana fish and game advisory committee requesting a return to MFMA Tier II moose management because the subsistence needs of Minto residents were not met through the limited registration permits.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- Subsistence Division research conducted in 2004-2005 documented moose harvests by residents of Minto, Manley Hot Springs, and Nenana.
- Minto harvested an estimated total of 42 moose, Manley Hot Springs 10 moose, and Nenana 62 moose, not all of which came from MFMA.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In 2006, Minto-Nenana AC submitted Proposal 87 to the Board for consideration at the March 2006 meeting in Fairbanks.
- Proposal 87 requested a reinstatement of Minto Flats Management Area Tier II moose management.
- The board denied Proposal 87 because the annual harvest of 100 moose exceeds ANS.

History of MFMA Subsistence Moose Management - continued

- In 2008, a member of the Fairbanks public submitted Proposal 24 to the Board for consideration at the March 2008 meeting in Fairbanks.
- Proposal 24 requested a reinstatement of Tier II MFMA moose management.
- Proposal 24 failed.

State Subsistence Procedures

Board findings on Moose in the Minto Flats Management Area:

- Is there Customary and Traditional Use of Moose in 20(B)?
 - *Yes, 1987.*
- Is there a “Harvestable Surplus” of any moose in Unit 20(B), that portion within the MFMA?
 - *Yes, 70 antlerless moose and 140 bulls, based upon biological information.*

State Subsistence Procedures - continued

- What is the Amount reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)?
 - *20-40, November 1992*
- Does the harvestable surplus allow for all or only some uses?
 - *This is a board determination.*

Current State Regulations

- Subsistence Hunts
 - One moose, Sept. 1-25, by limited registration permit available on Aug. 6 in Minto, Nenana, or Fairbanks; 1 permit per household.
 - One moose, Jan. 10-Feb. 28, by limited registration permit available on Jan 6 in Minto, Nenana, or Fairbanks; 1 permit per household.
- General Hunt: 1 bull SF/50/4+br, Sept. 11-25

Proposed State Regulation

- The Village of Minto submitted Proposal 46
- Proposal 46 requests establishing a community hunt for Minto for any moose with a harvest quota of 50 moose.
- The proposal states that Minto residents are not getting the moose they need to fulfill their subsistence needs.

Proposed State Regulation - continued

- The proposal states that other solutions considered included a return to Tier II management, but the board has repeatedly rejected this option.
- Dept. of Law comments should be reviewed as the board considers this proposal.
- Clarification of why community hunts are not limited to communities might be useful.

Adopt subsistence finding standards as follows:

Add a new section in 5 AAC 99 as follows:

5 AAC 99.0XX. Board of Game subsistence finding standards. In the identification by the Board of Game of game populations or portions of game populations that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses under AS 16.05.940 (33), "subsistence way of life" means a way of life that is based on consistent, long-term use, when available, or resources taken by "subsistence fishing" ((AS 16.05.940 (31))) and/or "subsistence hunting" ((AS 16.05.940 (32))).

Note: Under Issue, following, the definitions AS 16 need to recognize that in or about 1992, the Alaska Supreme Court removed the preference for "Rural" found in the published definition.

ISSUE: This proposal is substitute language to be pro-active to this Joint Board regulations and is generated to best respond to the Decision and Order from the state superior court in Fairbanks in the case of *Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund v. State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries*, Case No. 4FA-09-1515 Civil (Alaska Super. Ct. December 31, 2009). The case challenged the Board's findings for customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict. The court ruled in part:

because the board failed to properly articulate the standard being applied with regard to criterion eight of 5 AAC 99.010(b), this case is remanded to the board with instructions to 1) define the term "subsistence way of life" as used in 5 AAC 99.010(b)(8) using an **objective standard** (emphasis added by the sponsors of the substitute) supported by law; 2) provide the plaintiffs with an opportunity to supplement the record in light of that definition; 3) re-apply 5 AAC 99.010(b) consistent with that definition and in light of the supplemental record.

Decision and Order at 34. In the same decision, the Court, in upholding the validity of 5 AAC 99.010(b)(8), also ruled that the Board could properly apply that criterion as follows:

The statutes and common law of Alaska provide ample guidance in determining what standard should apply when evaluating subsistence activity or a subsistence way of life. The Board can turn to this law when determining the meaning of the term "subsistence way of life."

What better way to provide the definition requested by the Court than to use the Alaska Statute (Title 16) language that define "subsistence fishing", "subsistence hunting", and "subsistence uses".

The Statutes are "law of Alaska" and they provide ample guidance for defining the "standard" needed by the Board of Fisheries to comply with the orders of the Court. In fact, this definition should be adopted by both the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries in order to remove any differences as they apply the standard to the eight criteria.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Fisheries (and perhaps the Board of Game) will be out of compliance with the superior court's order and directions. (And out of consistent definition with respect to the Board of Game.)

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Board and the public in general because there will be an articulated standard for application adopted by both Boards and for those who wish to submit comments and information for the Board of Fisheries consideration relative to 5 AAC 99.010(b)(8). And, all Alaska residents who have been confused by the non objective standards previously used by the Boards.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Let the Board of Fisheries adopt the original language in Proposal 200 which is unlikely to meet the "objective standard" requirements of the Court. Request the Board of Game to adopt this language prior to the Board of Fisheries meeting (March 16, 2010) in which case the Board's could adopt the same language thus removing the need for a Joint Board meeting (thus not worrying about whether or not there was a Joint Board meeting scheduled this year).

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee and others.

AS 16.05.940(31) (with "rural" removed as it should have been by 1994) "subsistence fishing" means the taking of, fishing for, or possession of fish, shellfish or other resources by a resident of the state of, domiciled in the state, for subsistence uses by means defined by the Board of Fisheries."

AS 16.05.940(32) (rural removed) "subsistence hunting" means the taking of, hunting for or possession of game by a resident of the state, domiciled in the state, for subsistence uses by means defined by the Board of Game."

AS 16.05.940(33) (rural removed) "subsistence uses" means the noncommercial, customary and traditional uses of wild renewable resources by a resident of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption, in this paragraph, "family" means persons related by blood or marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis.

Alaska Board of Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RC 64

February 23, 2010

Dear Alaska Board of Game

This letter is in response to Randy Zarnke and the Alaska Trappers' Association's posted public comments to proposal 72 (GMU 20 C). To say that I am shocked after reading their 100% false comments is an understatement. As one of the authors of this proposal, myself and Barbara Brease spent many months and countless hours on this proposal. We devoted much of our lives during this time to researching and gathering information from individuals who have made a point to contact us over the past two years regarding many incidents with either themselves or their pet dogs getting caught in traps in the area, in both winter and summer. These individuals contacted us and some also attended public meetings at the Denali Community Center and the Healy Library regarding the trapping problems in the area. These individuals are honest citizens who did not make up these stories and they were quite emotional and angry about what happened to them or to their pet(s).

Randy Zarnke states: "The proponents mention that humans have been caught in traps. We investigated all reports of such incidents. We were unable to identify any specific dates or people involved. We conclude that these stories are nothing more than rumors."

This statement is a lie. How could Mr. Zarnke have known who to "investigate" if he has never bothered to ever contact me and ask me or Barbara the names of these individuals? I have not made the names of these individuals public until now, so if he wanted to investigate these incidents, he would have had to know the names of the individuals and he did not. He has my contact information, as I have corresponded with him in the past over trapping problems in the area. He never made a single effort to contact me by mail, phone or email in the past two years to investigate these true incidences. So, as it is abundantly clear, Mr. Zarnke lied outright to the board in his statement. Two individuals who contacted me with incidents of personally stepping into traps themselves are veterinarian Jayne Hempstead and summer DOT employee Jessica Brewster. The board needs to call these individuals and investigate for themselves.

Mr. Zarnke also states: "The real problem is free-ranging dogs. We recommend that the proponents identify and educate irresponsible dog owners to keep dogs on leash."

Again, this is a false statement. Many of the dogs trapped have been either on a leash, being walked by their owner(s), or very close by, within voice command of their owner(s). In fact, within the PAST WEEK, we have had yet another incident of a dog ON LEASH being caught in a trap in a subdivision, behind a home here in Healy. Healy resident Barb Walters was walking three dogs when one of the dogs on a leash stepped into a trap right on a popular walking trail in her own neighborhood here. She is now another irate community member among many, posting signs around town about the incident. She, like many community residents, is not free to walk in her very own neighborhood now, which is shameful. This is what local trappers are doing to our community! Dog owners here are responsible and consider

their dogs members of their family. These are not "free-range" dogs running wild all over the area! To have the right to be out recreating with our dogs taken away from us by irresponsible trappers is infuriating and wrong! We and our family pets have the right to be safe in our own neighborhoods! So, to Mr. Zarnke's statement, it does not matter if our dogs are on leashes or not (by the way, there is no leash law in this area); they still continue to get trapped on leash! Area residents whose dogs have been caught in traps (leg hold, snare or conibear) in the past two years, which have resulted in many amputations, include: Tara Berg (three dogs on three separate occasions, two in leg holds and one in a snare), Lee and Matt Cloward (caught in a leg-hold on private property for 14 days), Marc Danner (leg hold), Anja Phenix (leg hold), Jayne Hempstead (leg hold while harnessed to a dog team), Phil and Barbara Brease (conibear on private property), Barb Walters and more (who have been stated in public comments to the board by other individuals from the area). The emotional and financial tole (high vet bills for amputations and follow-up treatment) these incidents have taken on these individuals and their pets is beyond measure.

After spending so much time and effort on this proposal, I would sincerely hope that the board will investigate Mr. Zarnke's blatant false statements and very unprofessional behavior regarding this proposal. To have someone state lies publicly is very hurtful and frustrating when we have spent so much time on this and have written only facts. Barbara and myself are thorough, educated, intelligent people who would not put any false statements in a proposal; it would completely defeat the purpose of our proposal.

What has been happening here in Healy for two years now has to stop. The community is outraged and Mr. Zarnke's public comments on this proposal have only furthered this outrage. (I can produce emails from people who have emailed me in response Mr. Zarnke's lies).

Sincerely,

Gretchen Shaw
P.O. box 493
Healy, AK 99743
(907)683-2019

Please include in public comments to the board:
Submitted by Gretchen Shaw

RC 65

Public comments posted on the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer website in favor of
proposal 72 (GMU 20 C):

« **backwudspimp wrote on Thursday, Jan 28 at 12:10 PM »**

First of all, I think trapping is great and should be protected. Therefore, in order to keep from giving trappers a bad name it only makes sense not to trap in neighborhoods or heavily used trails. When I think of a trapper I think of someone who has the balls to tough out the elements and goes "out" into the wild. MRALASKA, you sound like a wuss defending those who trap in neighborhoods. JOEPARKS, you obviously haven't been to Healy. GLACIERWOLF, these women don't have a problem with trapping, they simply don't want it in neighborhoods, makes sense....dah! SINCE1971, your comment made me laugh, however these wussies that trap in neighborhoods don't deserve to be called trappers, be a man (or a tough woman) and go out into the wild. Alaska is big enough where people don't need to try and trap the neighborhood fox and catch Fefe instead. Trapping in neighborhoods only shows how much of a wimp you are. Bottom line, get out into the real wild, bushwhack, explore, get away from civilization and trap there. That's what the real trappers of yesterday did.

report abuse

« **joswy wrote on Wednesday, Jan 27 at 06:17 PM »**

TrapS don't belong in neighborhoods and on trails where people and their dogs go out to enjoy nature. Trappers need to go outside of town to do their bloody business. Let the folks who want to ski or walk with their dogs and enjoy LIVING nature have a place to go.

report abuse

« **cbnfvr wrote on Wednesday, Jan 27 at 02:15 PM »**

To set straight some incorrect information that is being posted in response to this article:

There are NO leash laws in Healy. People in Healy are not required to keep their dogs on a leash. For those who have not attended any of the community meetings regarding this matter, several dogs were caught in traps while walking next to their owners on recreational trails, NOT running free deep in the woods. Many traps have been found on private property in Healy as well. Also, for those of you who are not informed, it is not required by law that trappers in Alaska mark their trap lines. However, in the Trappers Handbook (which is not by any means law, just a suggestion of proper trapping policy) it does say that trappers in Alaska will not trap in places where they might catch a "non-target" animal, but they do so anyway.

report abuse

« **JaniceFbx wrote on Wednesday, Jan 27 at 01:59 PM »**

Arvay, well said. There is no reason why trappers who use poor practices should not be accountable. And bravo to the folks in Healy who are asking for changes.

report abuse

« **Arvay wrote on Wednesday, Jan 27 at 12:36 PM »**

What is you folks' opinion on setting baited traps JUST past the property line of private property? Yes, there is a leash law, but when you let your dogs out to pee at night, they don't think to themselves, "Ooh. I'm not going to touch that snack since it's outside my property line". What about traps on multi-use trails in residential neighborhoods? Sometimes I take my nieces berry picking in an area where traps have recently appeared. Don't you think trappers ought to

have the courtesy and consideration to put a sign warning people of traps in the area?

GOOD trappers all follow the rules of common decency and consideration. Unfortunately, not all trappers are good trappers. If all people were good people, we could eliminate laws against theft, rape, kidnapping, vandalism, and murder. Unfortunately, that's not the case, so we need to outlaw foolish and inconsiderate trapping as well. These laws would not affect GOOD trappers, who already don't do the stupid things outlawed, anyway.

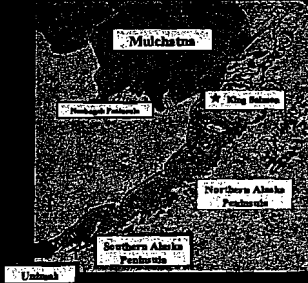
report abuse

« AlaskanAnnie wrote on Wednesday, Jan 27 at 08:46 AM »

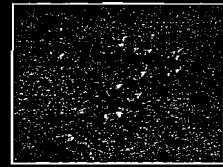
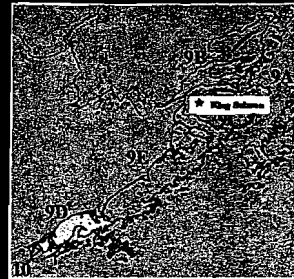
It is extremely saddening to see others attacking the person instead of the message. "These two so called females" are true-hearted and well-intending in their proposal. I don't read it as they are trying to end trapping, merely creating a plan to protect the lives (and limbs) of humans and their animal-babies. Alaska has leash laws to protect other people and animals; is it so unreasonable to also add these protections with the same goal in mind?

report abuse

GMU 9 Predator Control

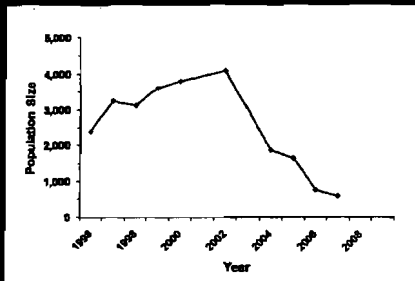


Active Control Plan Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (SAP - GMU 9D)

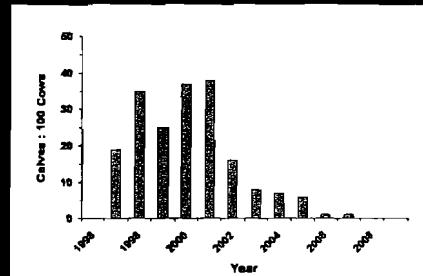


Population Size: 800
Status: Increasing under
Predator Control

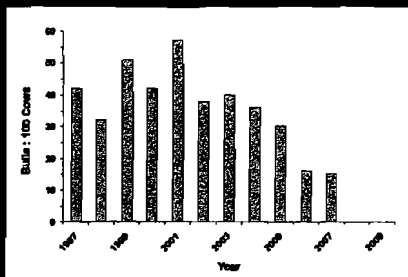
SAP - Subunit 9D 2007 Population Status



SAP - Subunit 9D 2007 Fall Calf Ratio



SAP - Subunit 9D 2007 Bull Ratio

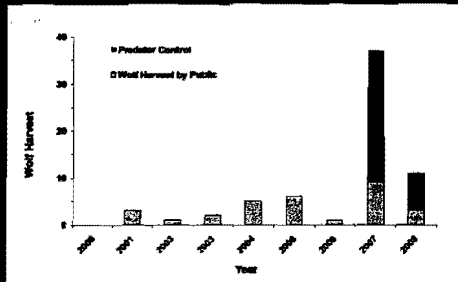


SAP - GMU 9D Good Candidate for Predator Control



- Calving occurred in traditional areas on State lands
- Adult female pregnancy rates are good (88% - 2 year average)
- High calf mortality
 - 99% of calves died annually
 - Reasonable to believe that 94% of calves died due to predation prior to predator control (inferred)

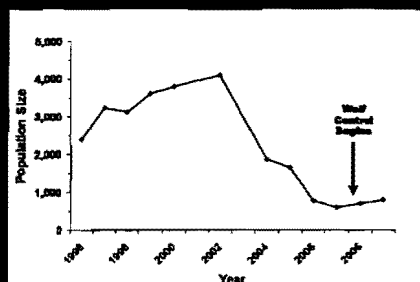
Wolf Harvest – GMU 9D



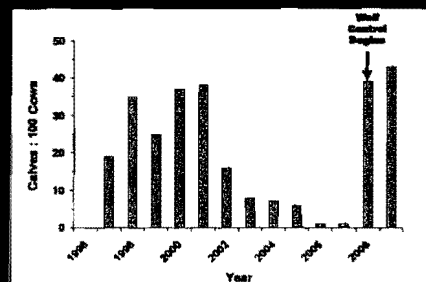
SAP – GMU 9D Calf Survival Increase

	Pre-Wolf Control		Wolf Control	
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Calf Survival to 1 month of age	-	< 1%	57%	71%
Fall Calf Ratio (calves:100 cows)	1	< 1	39	43

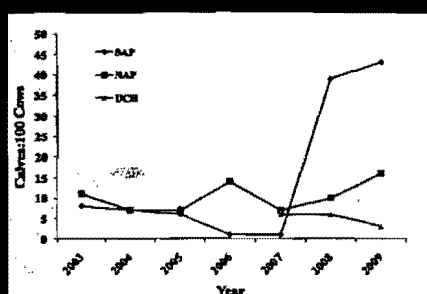
SAP – Subunit 9D Population Trend Reversed



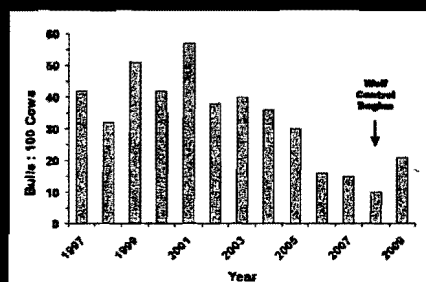
SAP – Subunit 9D Fall Calf Ratio Measureable



Neighboring Caribou Herds Calf Ratio Comparison



SAP – Subunit 9D Bull Ratio Increasing



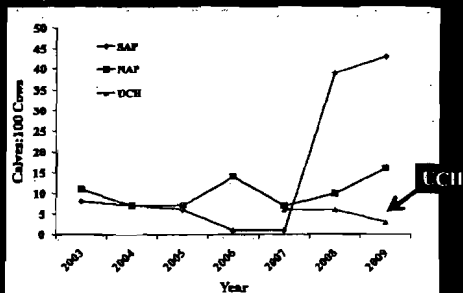
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
 - Increased calf survival
 - Increased calf recruitment
 - Improved age distribution
 - Increased bull ratio
- 13% annual increase in population size

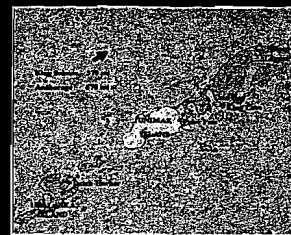
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
- Continue Project
 - Objectives have not been reached yet
 - Bull ratio below objectives
 - Calf recruitment below goal
 - Incorporate periodic evaluation of thresholds and capacity (K)
 - Seasonal indices
 - Evaluate survival and recruitment of calves without controlling wolf predation

Unimak – Control herd New Crisis

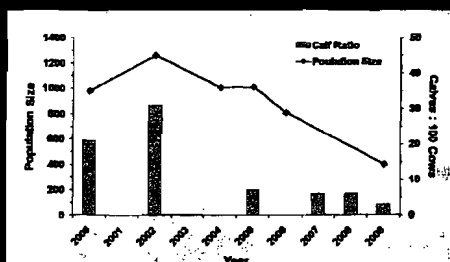


Unimak Caribou Herd (UCH)

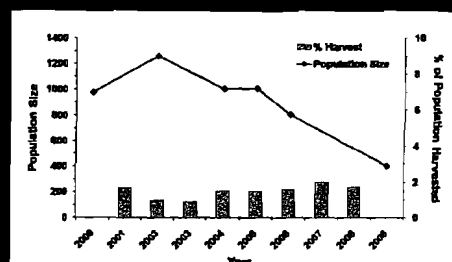


Population Size: 400+
Status: Critical
No hunting

UCH – GMU 10 Population Status



UCH – GMU 10 Population Size and Harvest



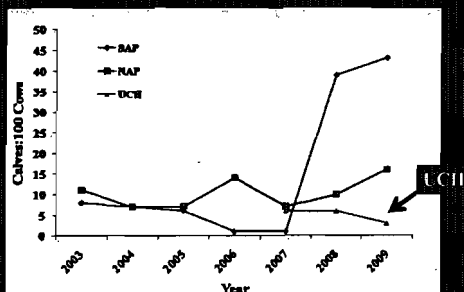
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
 - Increased calf survival
 - Increased calf recruitment
 - Improved age distribution
 - Increased fall rate
 - 13% annual increase in population size

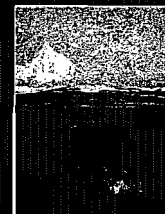
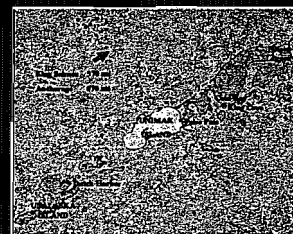
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
- Continue Project
 - Objectives have not been reached yet
 - Fall rate & calf objectives
 - Recruitment not reached
 - Incorporate periodic evaluation of thresholds and capacity (K)
 - Nutritional Indices
 - Evaluate survival and recruitment of calves without controlling wolf predation

Unimak – Control herd New Crisis

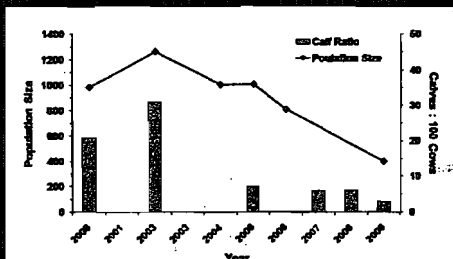


Unimak Caribou Herd (UCH)

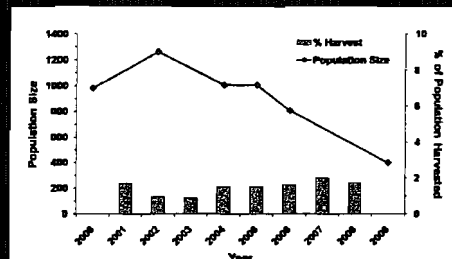


Population Size: 400+
Status: Critical
No hunting

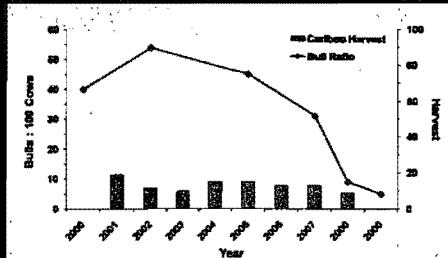
UCH – GMU 10 Population Status



UCH – GMU 10 Population Size and Harvest



UCH – GMU 10 Bull Ratio



UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS (primary landowner)
 - No action
 - Relocate bulls from SAP
 - Predator control on federal lands
 - Predator control combined with relocation

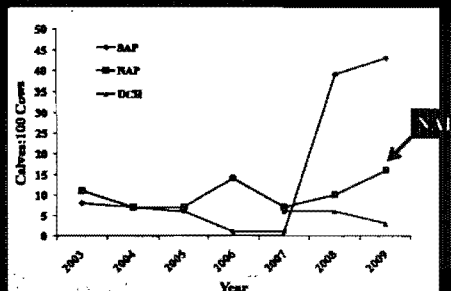
UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS (primary landowner)
- Discuss Predator Management with BOG
 - Not an IM herd
 - Important resource for human use (subsistence and other)
 - Federal lands
 - Potential loss of the population

UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS (primary landowner)
- Discuss Predator Management with BOG
- ACR approved by BOG
 - March 2010 BOG
 - Proposes creating an Unimak Wolf Management Area

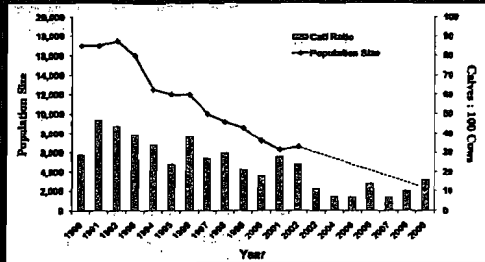
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd - NAP



Proposed Plan Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E



NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Population Status



Status: Slow Decline

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Proposed Plan

- Repeatedly requested (1999-2009)
- IM Herd
- Below IM Objectives
 - Population Size
 - Harvest (no hunting since 2005)

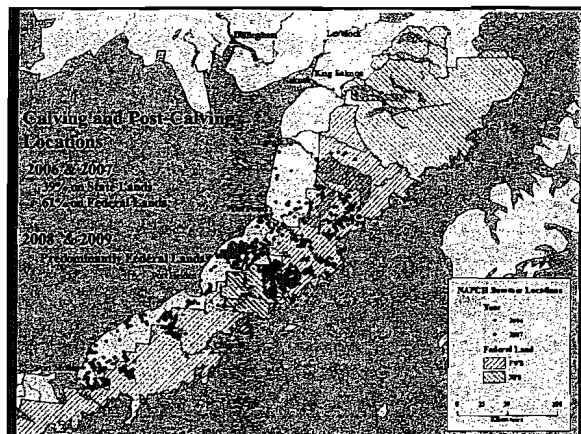
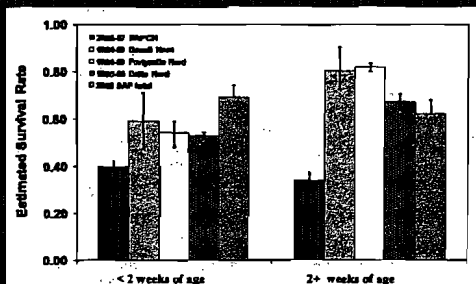
NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Research Projects

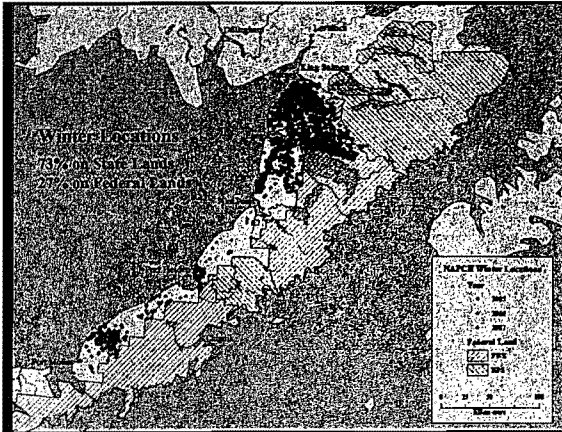
- Health Assessment (2005-2006)
- Calf Mortality Study (2005 - 2007)
- Parasite Study (2005 - 2007)

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Factors Influencing Recruitment

- Poor Body Condition
- Low Pregnancy
 - 54% to 80% in Cows ≥ 2 years of age
- Calf Mortality (2005 - 2007)
 - Calf weights
 - Males 7.9kg
 - Females 7.5kg
 - Calf Survival
 - 40% ≤ 2 weeks of age
 - 34% > 2 weeks of age

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Calf Survival Comparison





NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E IM Options

• Predator Management

Bears

- Only important during first 2 weeks of life
- Significant mortality for calves 2+ weeks of age that is not caused by brown bears
- Reduction not feasible
- Relocation from calving grounds not practical
- Predation varies with location

Wolves

- Reduction is potentially feasible
- Significant limitations imposed by federal lands
- Improve calf and/or over-winter survival
- Improve adult survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E State Lands

• Wolf Reduction conducted on State lands only

Calves

- No significant increase in early calf survival
- Late Mortality is not likely to change significantly
- No significant change in overall survival rate
 - Currently 14% survival
 - Best case 18% survival
 - Difference is not statistically significant

Adults

- Prime aged animal have good survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E State and Federal Lands

• Wolf Reduction on both Federal and State lands

Main benefit is reducing predation on calving grounds

Calves

- Max. 10% increase in early calf survival
- Late Mortality may not change significantly
- Some improvement in overall survival rate
 - Currently 14% survival
 - Best case 30% survival
 - Calf recruitment is still low (20-24 calves/100 cows)

Adults

- Prime aged animal have good survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Recommendations

- Verify improved nutritional status
- Investigate late calf mortality
- Evaluate feasibility of a wolf management program

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Recommendations

• Proposed Plan:

Implement only if Federal lands are included

Implement in phases

- Initially implemented on primary range (80% of herd)
- Expand to secondary range (20% of herd)

Primary work done by public – aerial control

State "mop up"

Monitor nutrition indices (k) and response

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- 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans

(xx) **Unit 15A Northern Kenai Intensive Management Area.** GMU 15A encompasses 1314 square miles (840,960 acres) and includes that portion of GMU 15 which is north of the north bank of the Kenai River and the north shore of Skilak Lake. Approximately 80% of the land mass in GMU 15A is managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct an intensive management program on the Kenai Peninsula in Unit 15(A):

(1) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:

(A) the Northern Kenai Peninsula moose population information is as follows:

(i) the Northern Kenai Peninsula moose population information is as follows:

(a) the most recent moose population peak occurred in 1971; the near absence of wolves from 1913-1968, and the increased moose productivity following the 1947 wildfire (approx. 309,000 acres) were two events that led to increased moose numbers throughout the 1950's and 1960's, although harvest seasons were long and either-sex harvest was allowed, the moose population increased beyond carrying capacity and extensive over-browsing occurred by the late 1960's,

(b) a wildfire in 1969 (approx. 79,000 acres) that initially reduced moose habitat in GMU 15A, coupled with harsh winters in 1971-1974 caused the moose population in GMU 15A to decrease by 58% (from 5900 to 2500) by 1975; after the low number in 1975, new habitat created by the 1969 burn and more favorable winter condition, allowed the GMU 15A moose population to grow until the mid-1990's; the ADF&G conducted moose censuses in GMU 15A during February of 1991, 2001, and 2008 with respective point estimates of 3,432, 1942, and 1670;

Comment [t1]: 2500 is 42% of 5900 however, a decline from 5900 to 2500 is a 58% decline

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(c) since 1991 moose harvest followed a similar pattern with annual variation over this same time period; the peak reported harvest during this period (1991-2008) was 282 animals in 1998 and the 2008 reported harvest was 113 moose.

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(d) 75% of the collared adult cows in GMU 15A were pregnant in March 2007, as identified from blood samples; this compares to pregnancy rates of 85-90% in the sub alpine portion of GMU 7 which is adjacent to GMU 15A; lower pregnancy rates in the lower elevations indicate habitat may be limiting the growth of the population;

(e) the percent calves in the moose population for GMU 15A is about half of what it was during the 1990's (down from about 22% to 11% during our last full composition survey in 2005).

(f) over-all bull ratios have been consistent since the 1990's.

(g) the intensive management objectives for moose are as follows: Moose population objective of 3000—3500 moose; harvest objective of 180-350 moose.

(ii) the predator population and human use information is as follows

(a) wolves are a major predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula;

(b) the wolf population in GMU 15A is believed to be stable, anecdotal evidence obtained from biologists, pilots, trappers, and local residents indicates that the wolf population is healthy throughout the area;

(c) an average of 8 wolves (range of 2 to 16 wolves) have been harvested annually in GMU 15A since 1991/92;

(d) brown bears are also considered to be a predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula, but the extent of their predation has not been documented; while brown bears have been known to kill adult moose opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 6 weeks of life;

(e) anecdotal information combined with available data indicate the Northern Kenai Peninsula supports a healthy brown bear population.

(f) human caused brown bear mortalities in GMU 15A have averaged 7 (range, 1—16) brown bear annually from 2000 to 2008;

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(h) black bears are also an important predator of moose calves during the first 6 weeks of life;

(i) black bears are considered abundant in GMU 15A with a 1991 population estimate of 205 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1947 burn and 265 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1969 burn, black bear harvests have averaged 44 bears annually during 1991/92 – 2007/08, this compares to an annual average of 27 bears from 1973/74-1977/78;

(B) moose habitat information is as follows:

(i) the history of fire on the Kenai Peninsula has generally involved human caused fires. Natural fires from lightning strikes are rare, but have increased in frequency in recent years.

(ii) the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge initiated a fire management program in 1985 in part from the objectives set in their moose habitat management plan.

(a) since 1970, wildfires have only burned about 15000 acres in GMU 15A.

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(b) since 1995, controlled burns have encompassed 1795 acres in GMU 15A;

(iii) moose population objectives for Unit 15A are to maintain 3000-3500 moose, the moose population objective for Unit 15A is not currently being met;

(C) the commissioner may initiate a habitat enhancement program with the concurrence of the land owners to increase the moose population given the following thresholds:

(i) the bull-to-cow ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf-to-cow ratio can be sustained above 20 calves per hundred cows; or pregnancy rates above 80% for adult cows ;

(ii) the population can grow at a sustained rate of 2% annually until we are within our intensive management objectives

(D) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(i) for up to 10 years beginning July 1, 2010,

(ii) annually the Department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring meeting a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose population, and

recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

Deleted: ISSUE: At the March 2009 meeting, the Board of Game (BOG) directed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to address the moose situation in Game Management Unit (GMU) 15A. Specifically, Unit 15A has been below the Intensive Management (IM) moose harvest objective (180-350) for 9 of the past 10 years (1999-2008), and the last census where the moose population estimate was within the IM population objective (3000-3500) occurred in February of 1991 (subsequent censuses in February 2001 and February 2008 produced results below the IM population objective). Given this information and because most of GMU 15A is within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), the BOG directed the ADF&G to cooperate with the KNWR to draft and present a habitat based adaptive management plan at the January 2010 BOG meeting.¶

¶ If this situation is not addressed it is our opinion that GMU 15A moose will remain below IM harvest and population objectives.¶

¶ **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population may continue to decline to a lower density and the Department's management objectives will not be achieved.¶

¶ **WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes¶

¶ **WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters and wildlife viewers will benefit as the herd recovers.¶

¶ **WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** With large habitat enhancement efforts some wildlife may be displaced and some traditional hunting areas may be temporarily disrupted. Smoke from controlled burns may drift into populated areas. ¶

¶ **OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Predator management may be considered however land status and timbered forests would make success of this program questionable.¶

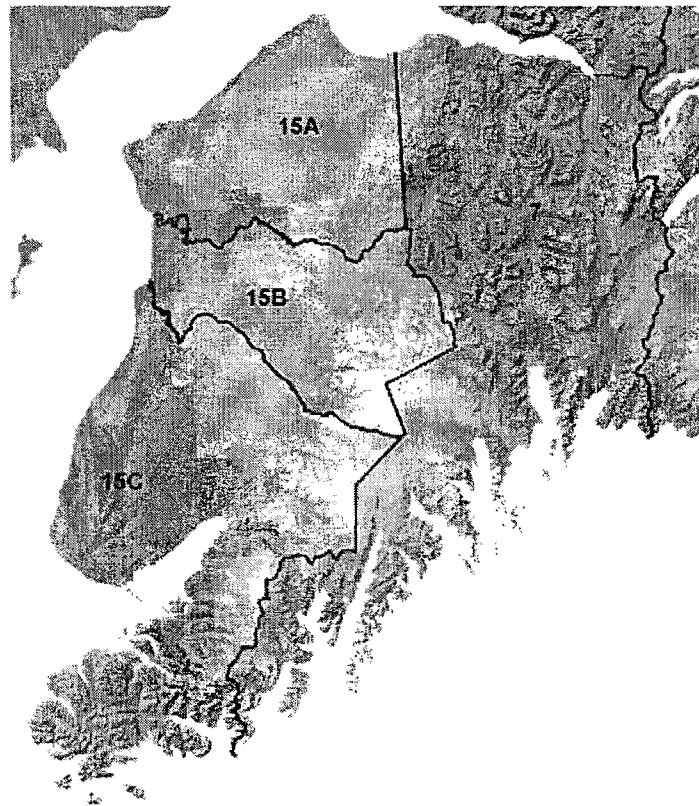
¶ **PROPOSED BY:** ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME¶

¶ *****¶

¶ **INTRA-DIVISIONAL COORDINATION:** Region II S [1]

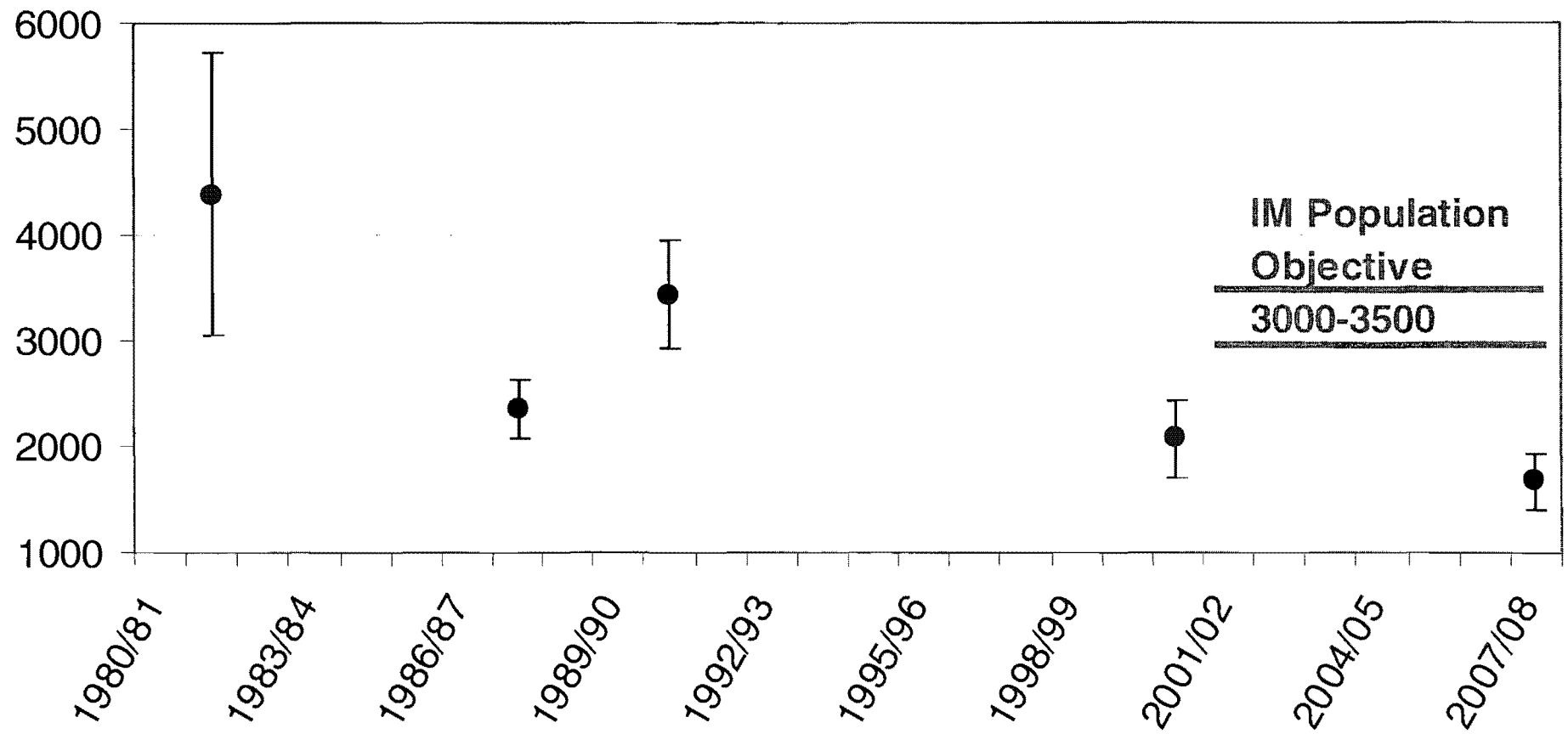
Proposal 34

Establish a new intensive management plan
for Unit 15A

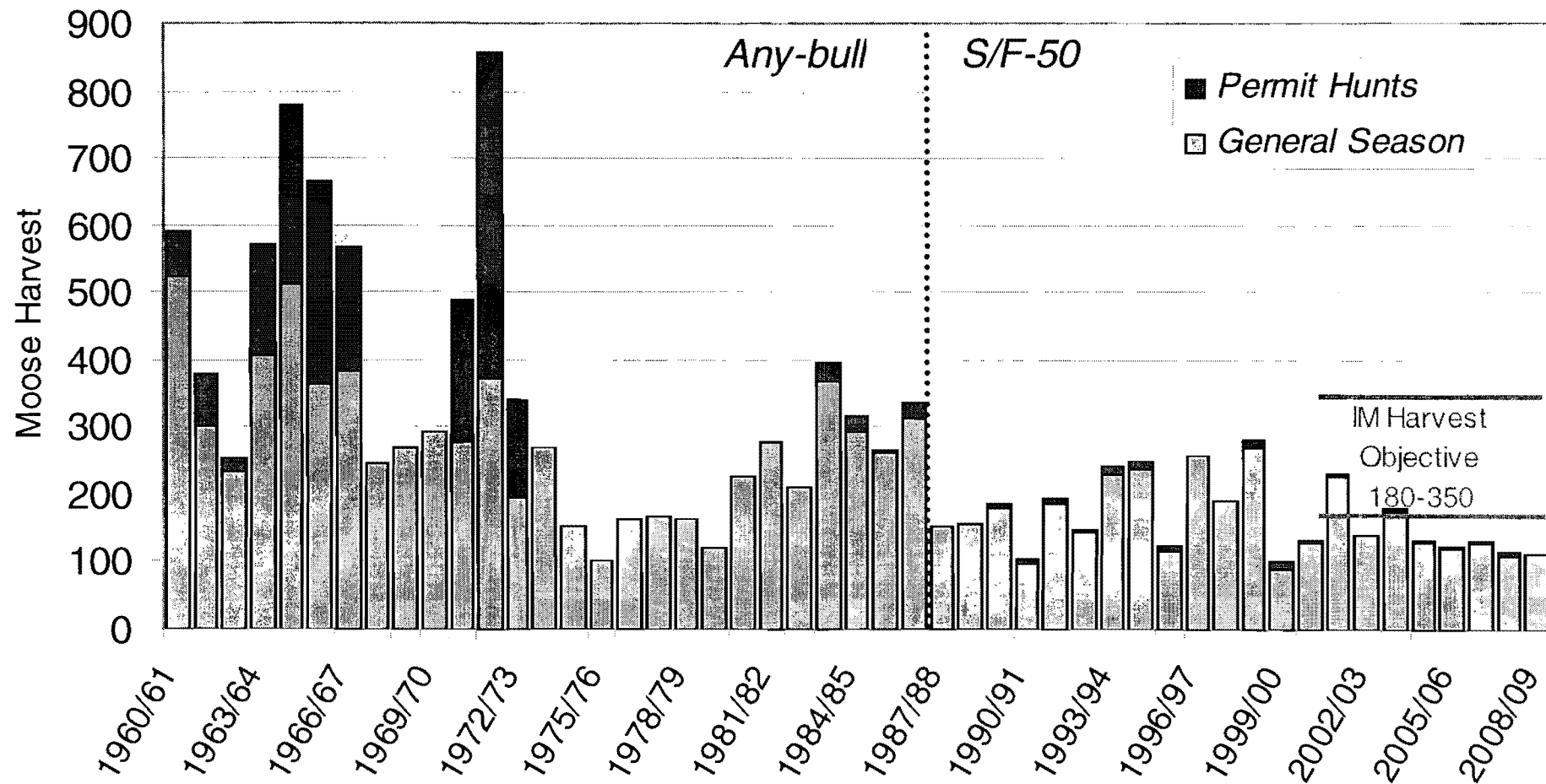


RC 68

Unit 15A Moose Population Size Estimates



Moose Harvest in GMU 15A 1960/61 - 2008/09



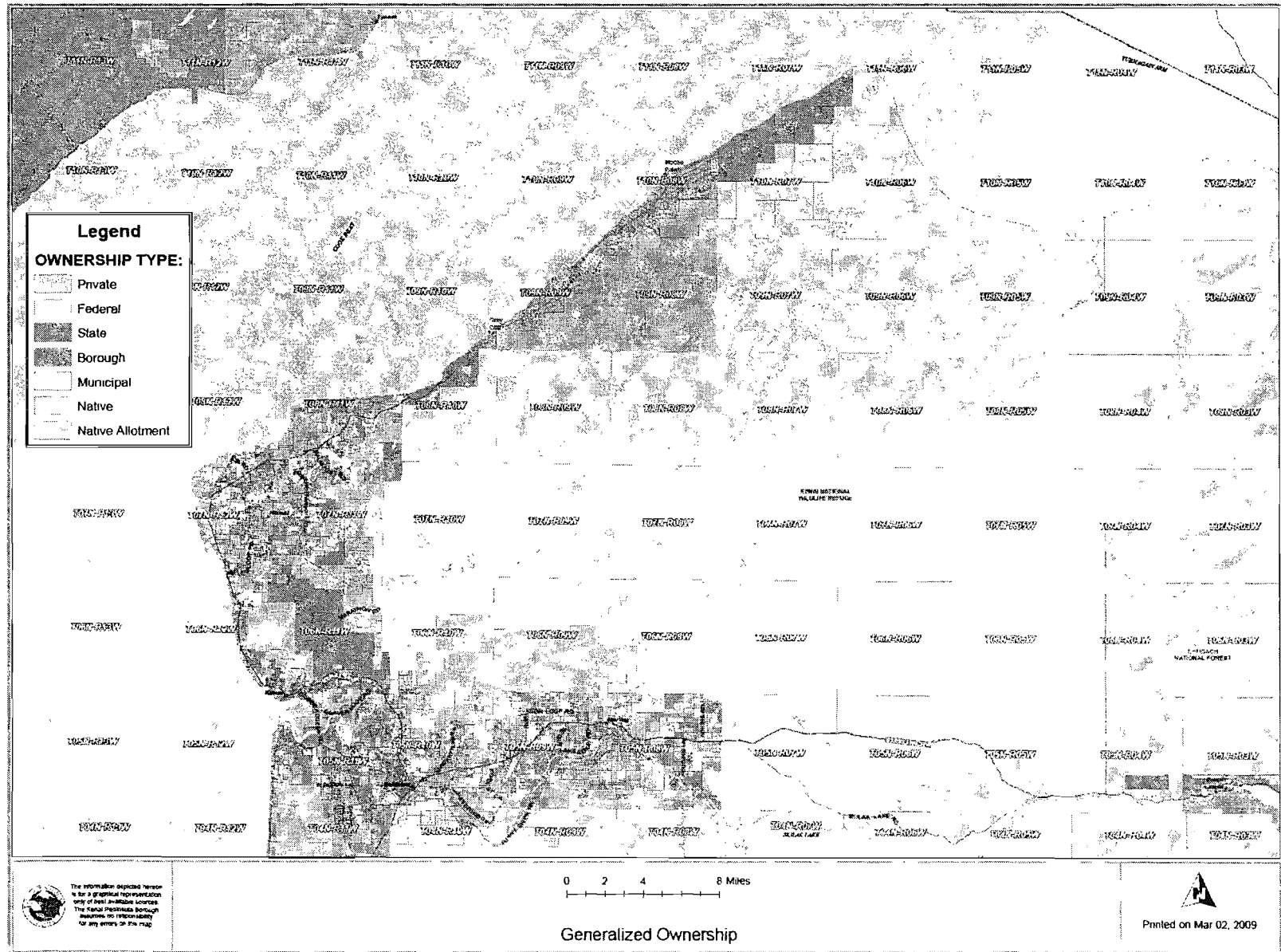
Calves:100 Cows

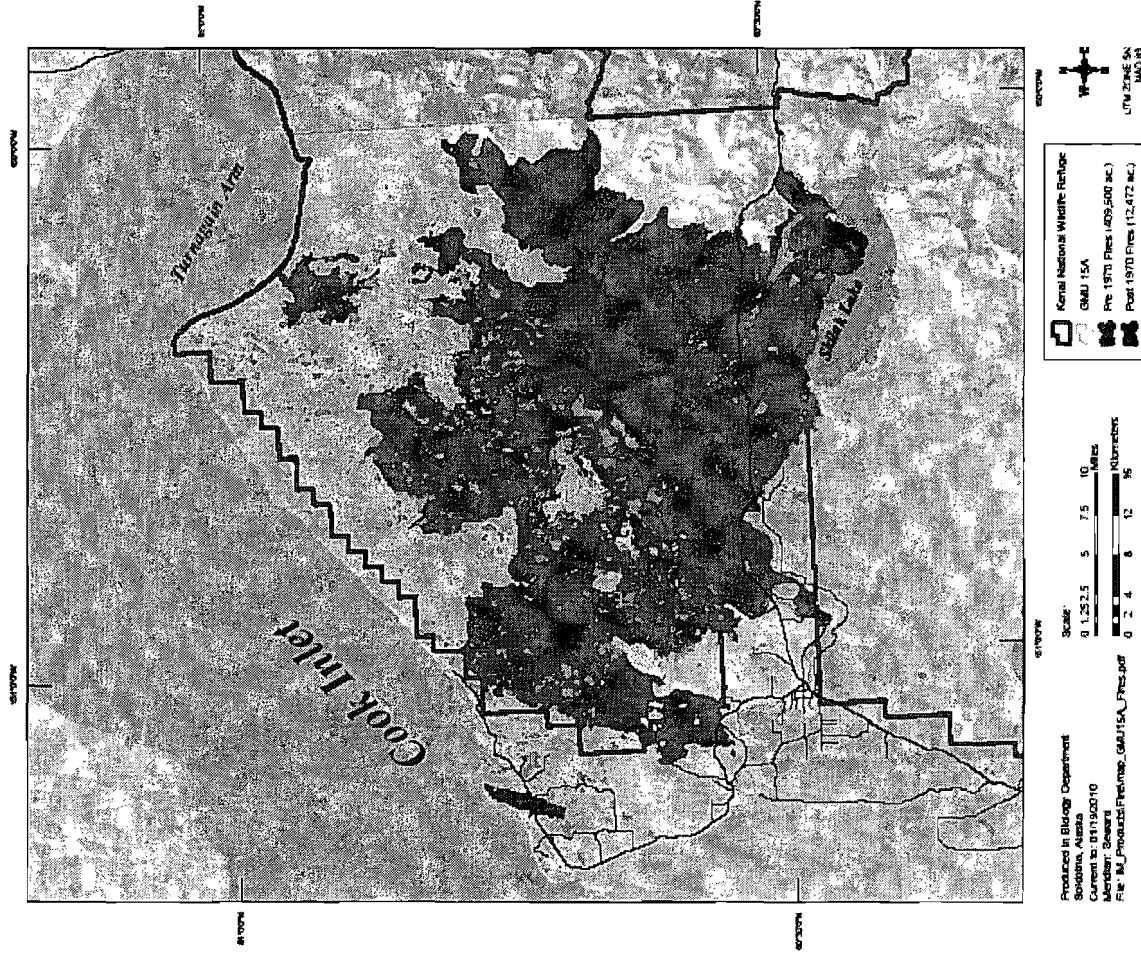
	CA 5	CA 2	CA 8
	Northern	69 burn	47 burn
1990/91	28	40	33
1991/92	28	41	12
1992/93		39	18
1993/94			
1994/95	41	31	30
1995/96			
1996/97	38	40	35
1997/98			
1998/99	35	34	22
1999/00			
2000/01			
2001/02	37	37	32
2002/03			
2003/04	17	31	18
2004/05			
2005/06	28	16	11
2006/07	23	11	
2007/08	*	*	*
2008/09	35	19	
2009/10			

GMU 15A IM discussion points

- Land ownership-Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
 - Hunting/trapping restrictions
 - Limited access
- Past moose-habitat dynamics
- Fire management
- Predator data
- Predator harvest opportunities
- Future research

GMU 15A Land Ownership





Map provided by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

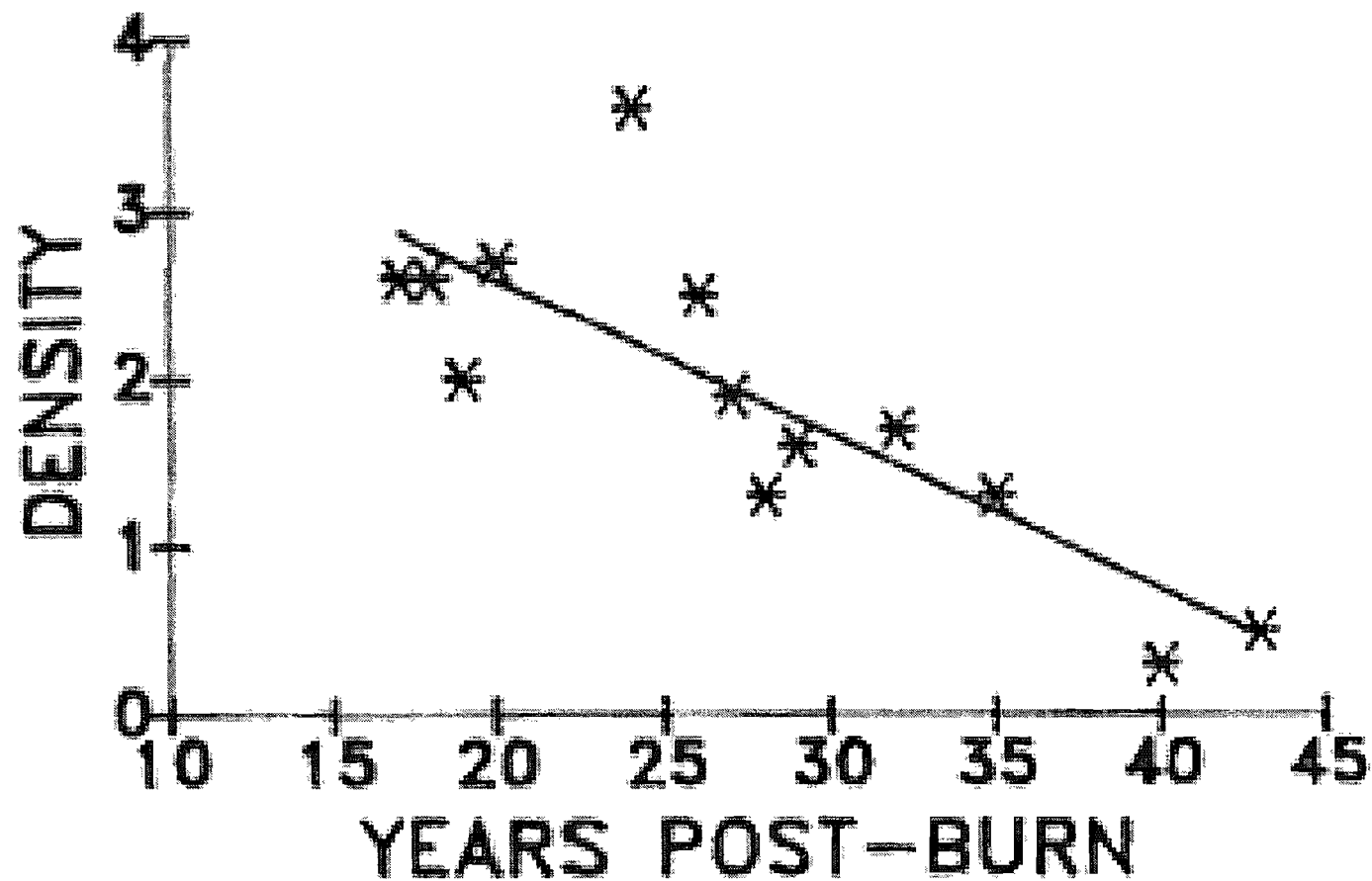
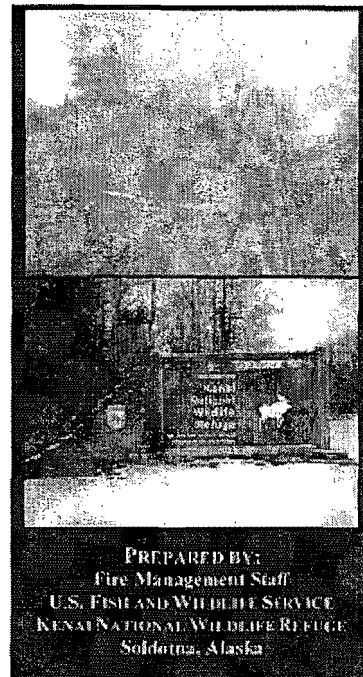


Fig. 2. Relationship between moose density (moose/km²) during winter and forest age in the 1947 burn, 1964-1990.

Habitat Management

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge 2001 FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

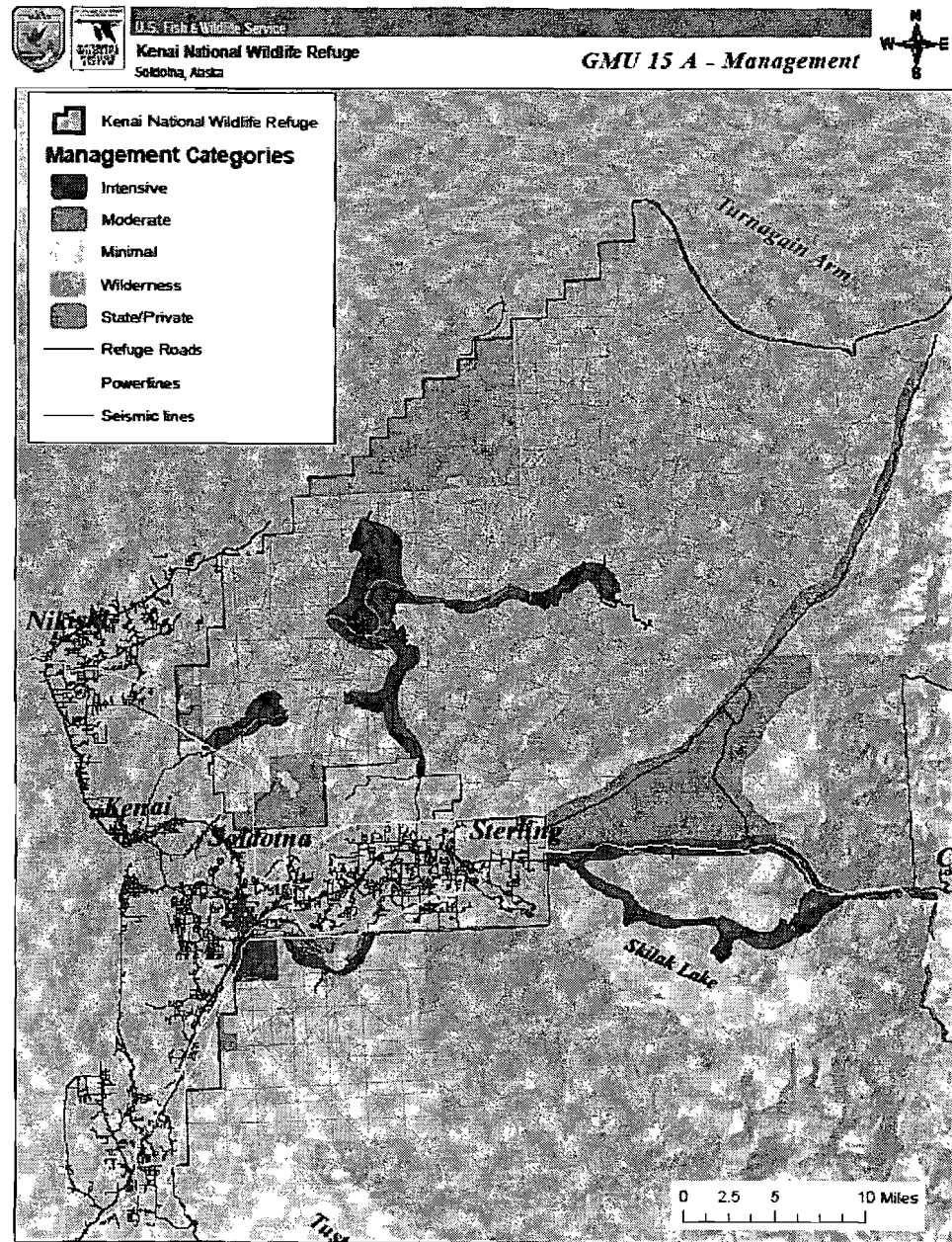


Wildland Fire (miles ²)	
1974 Chickaloon	6
1987 Chickaloon	<1
1994 Swanson R.	<1
1996 Hidden Ck.	8
2001 Mystery Hills	1
2004 Hidden Lk.	<1
2004 Kenai R. Trail	<1
2005 Moose Lk.	<1
2005 Skilak Lookout	<1
2007 Norak Lk.	<1
2009 Scenic Lk.	<1
Total	15.2
Prescribed Fire (miles ²)	
1996 Mystery Ck.	<1
1998 Mystery Ck.	1
1999 Mystery Ck.	1
2002 Mystery Ck.	2
2005 Moose Pens	<1
2007 Lilly Lk.	<1
2008 Moose Pens	<1
2009 Moose Pens	<1
Total	3.4

Data provided by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Habitat Management

- Constrained by State Forestry
- Limitations of controlled burns
- Issues of fire near human settlements
- Issues of smoke near Anchorage Airport



Map provided by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

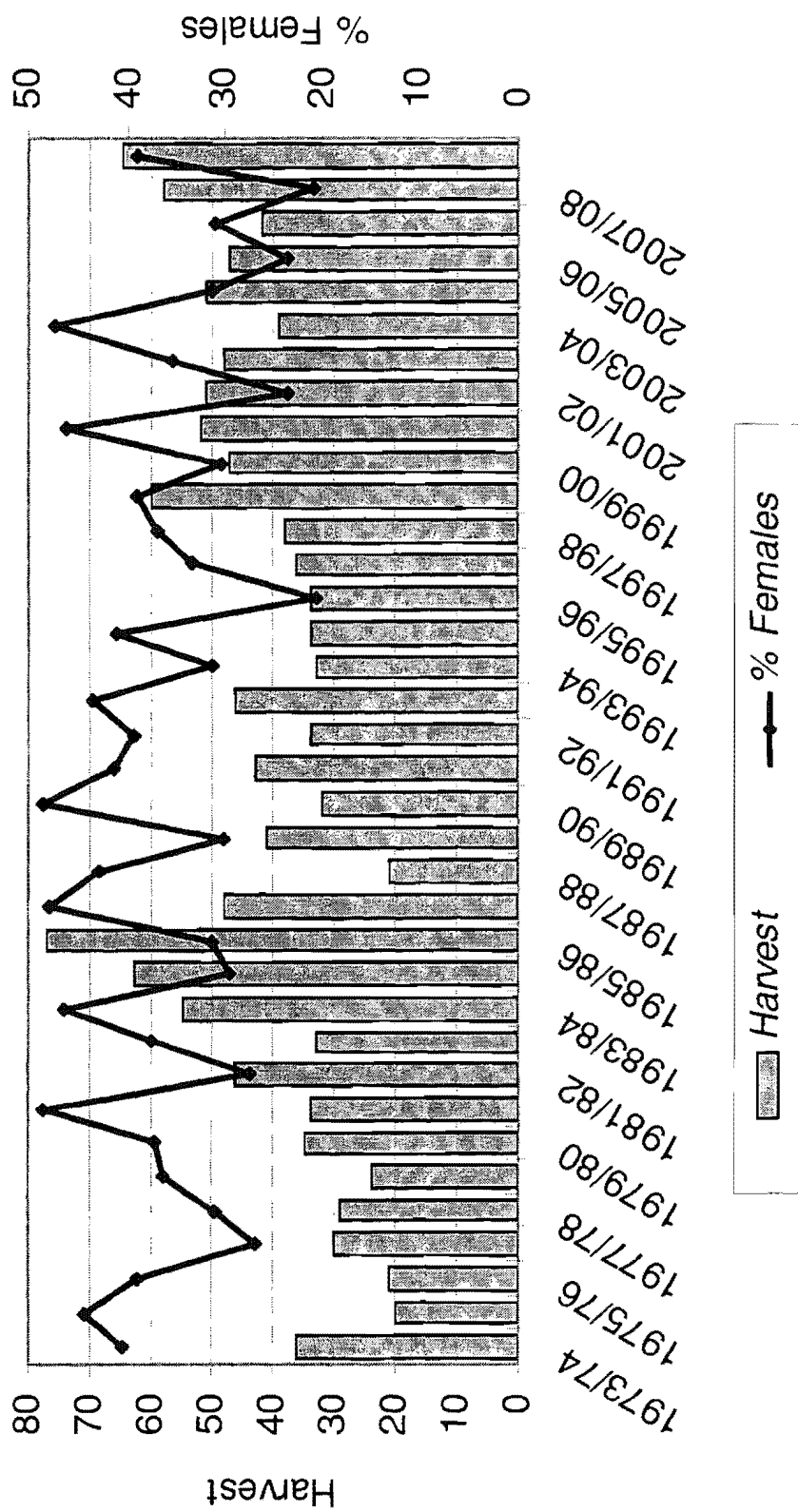
Predator Data

- Black bear
- Wolf
- Brown bear

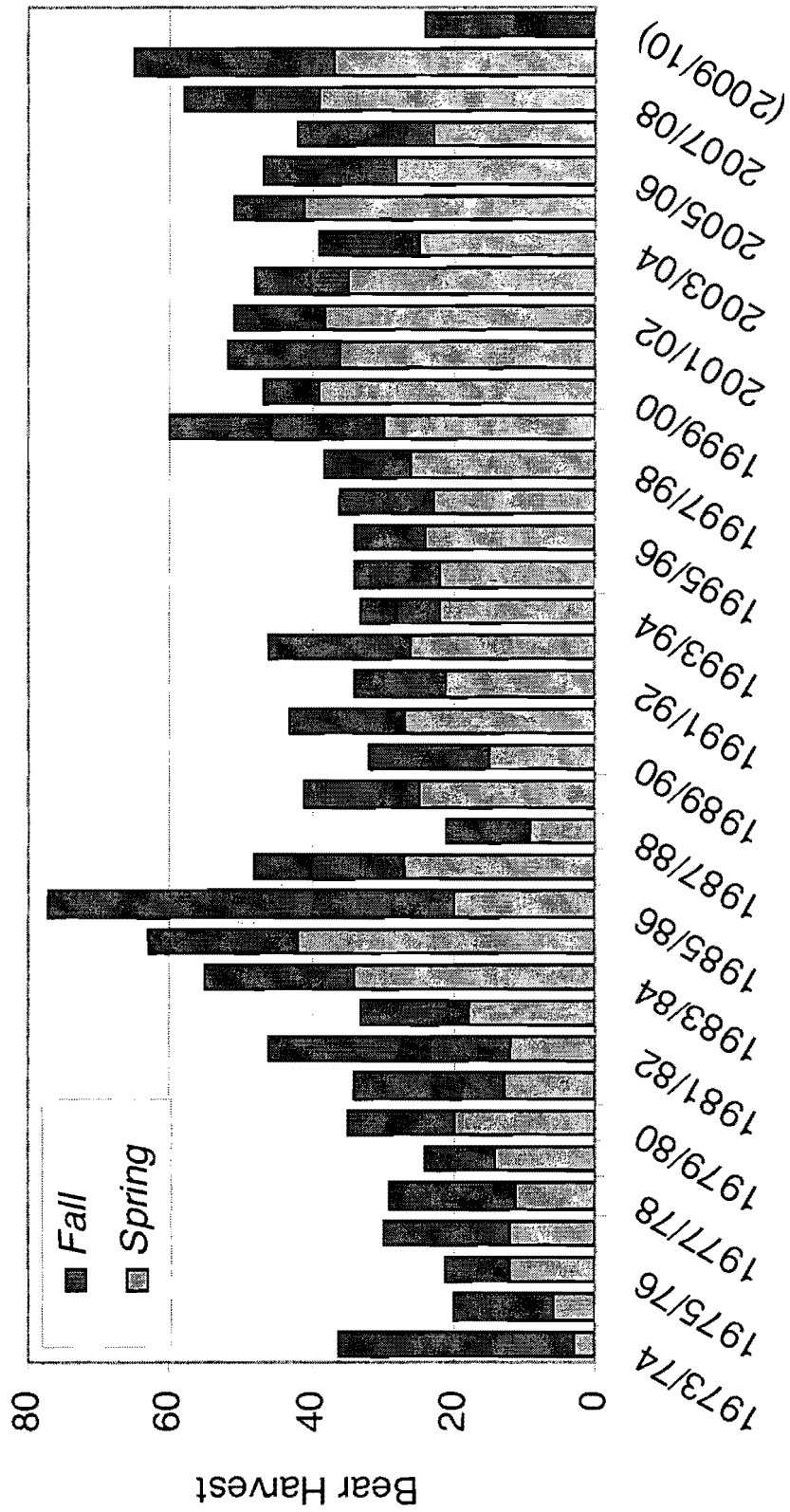
Black bear densities in 15A

- Schwartz and Franzmann 1991 Wildlife Monographs. Interrelationships of black bears to moose and forest succession in the northern coniferous forest. Wildlife Monographs

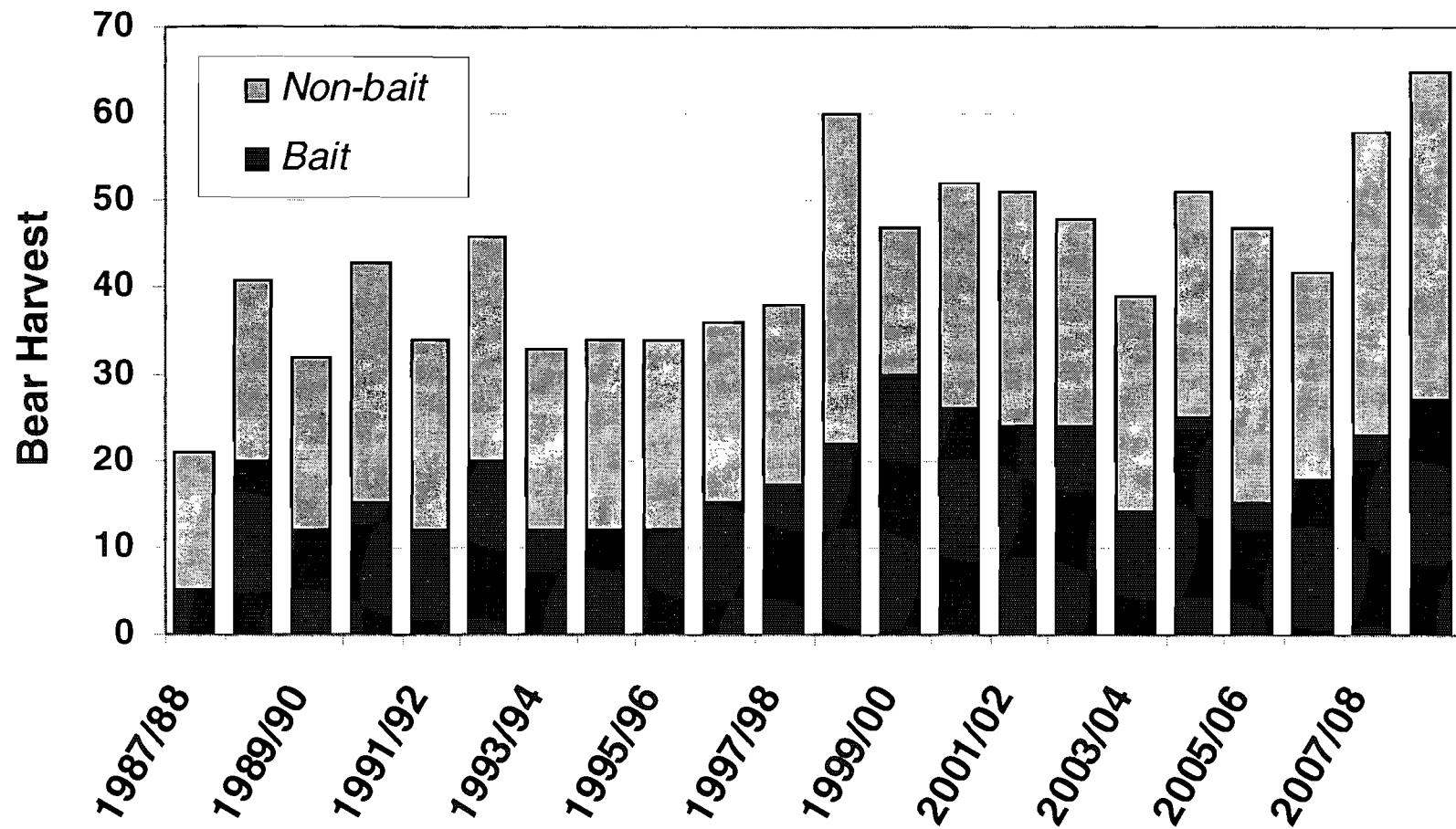
Black Bear Harvest in GMU 15A 1973/74-2008/09



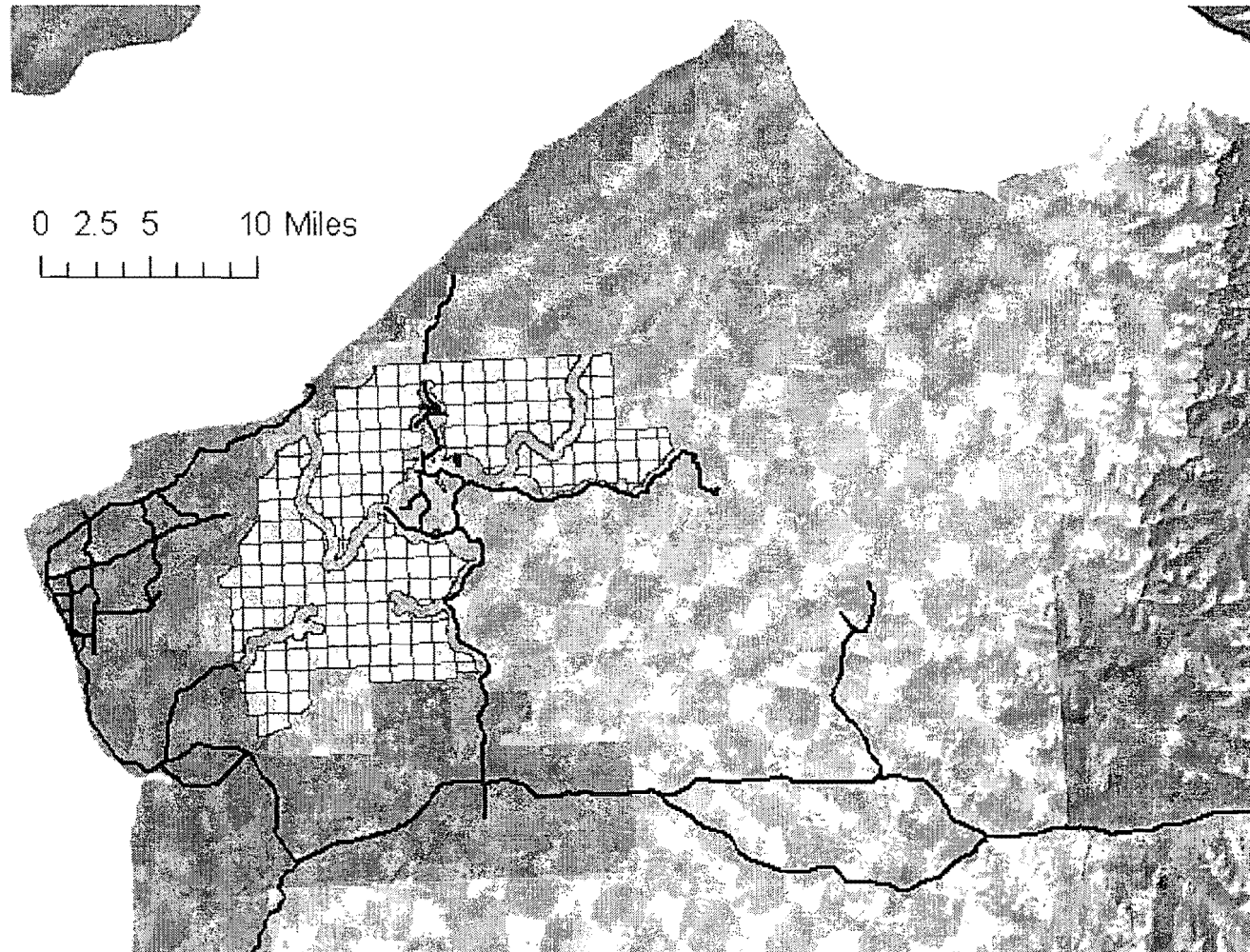
Black Bear Harvest in GMU 15A **1973/74 - 2009/10**



Black Bear Harvest in GMU 15A
1987/88 - 2008/09



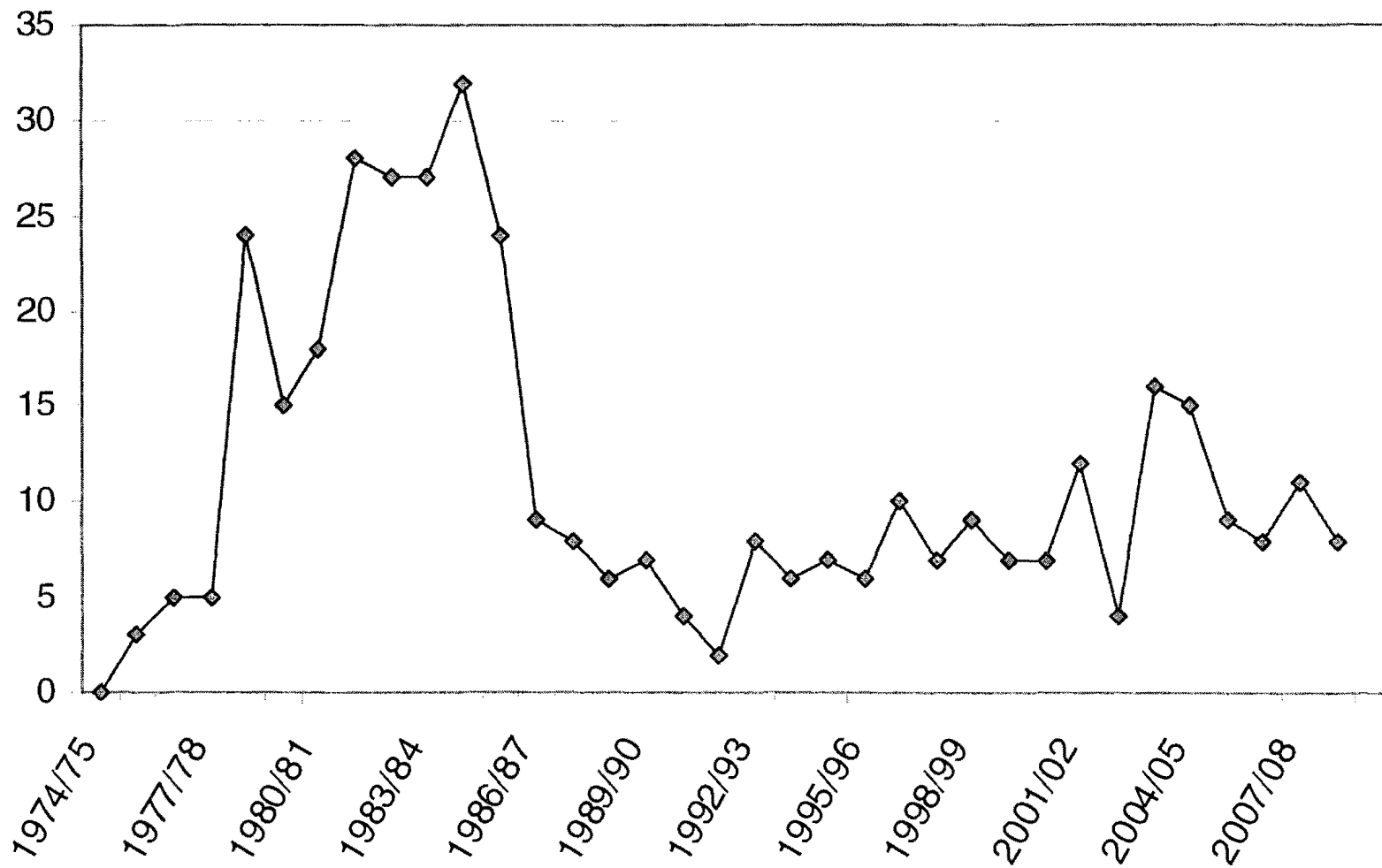
Areas within the KNWR open to black bear baiting in Unit 15A



15A Wolves

- Peterson et al 1984. Wolves of the Kenai Peninsula. Wildlife Monographs
 - 15A had 3-7 identified packs
 - Population from 31-47 wolves
- Interagency Assessments 1988-1990:
 - Population size ranged from 47-51 wolves

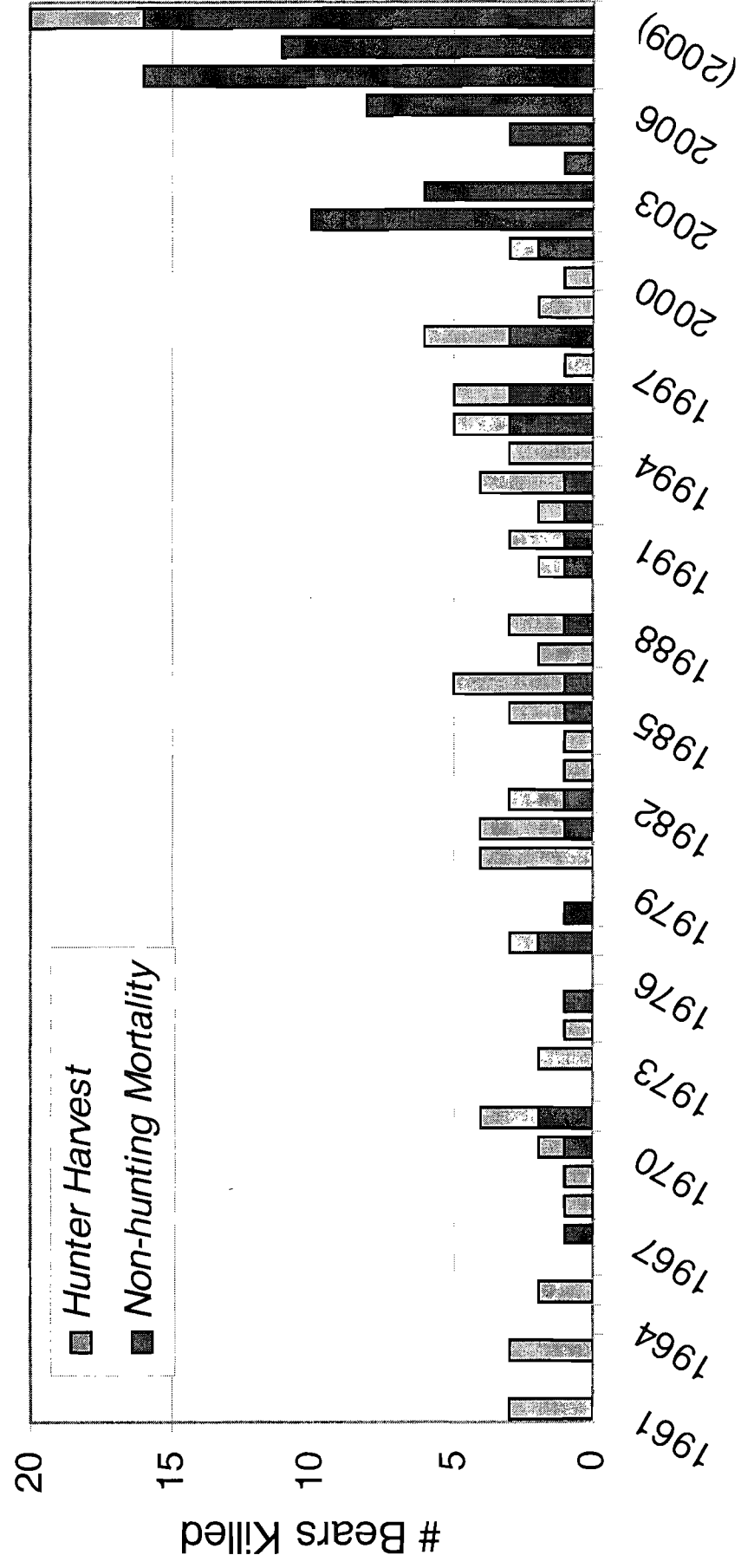
Wolf Harvest in GMU 15A 1973/74 - 2008/09



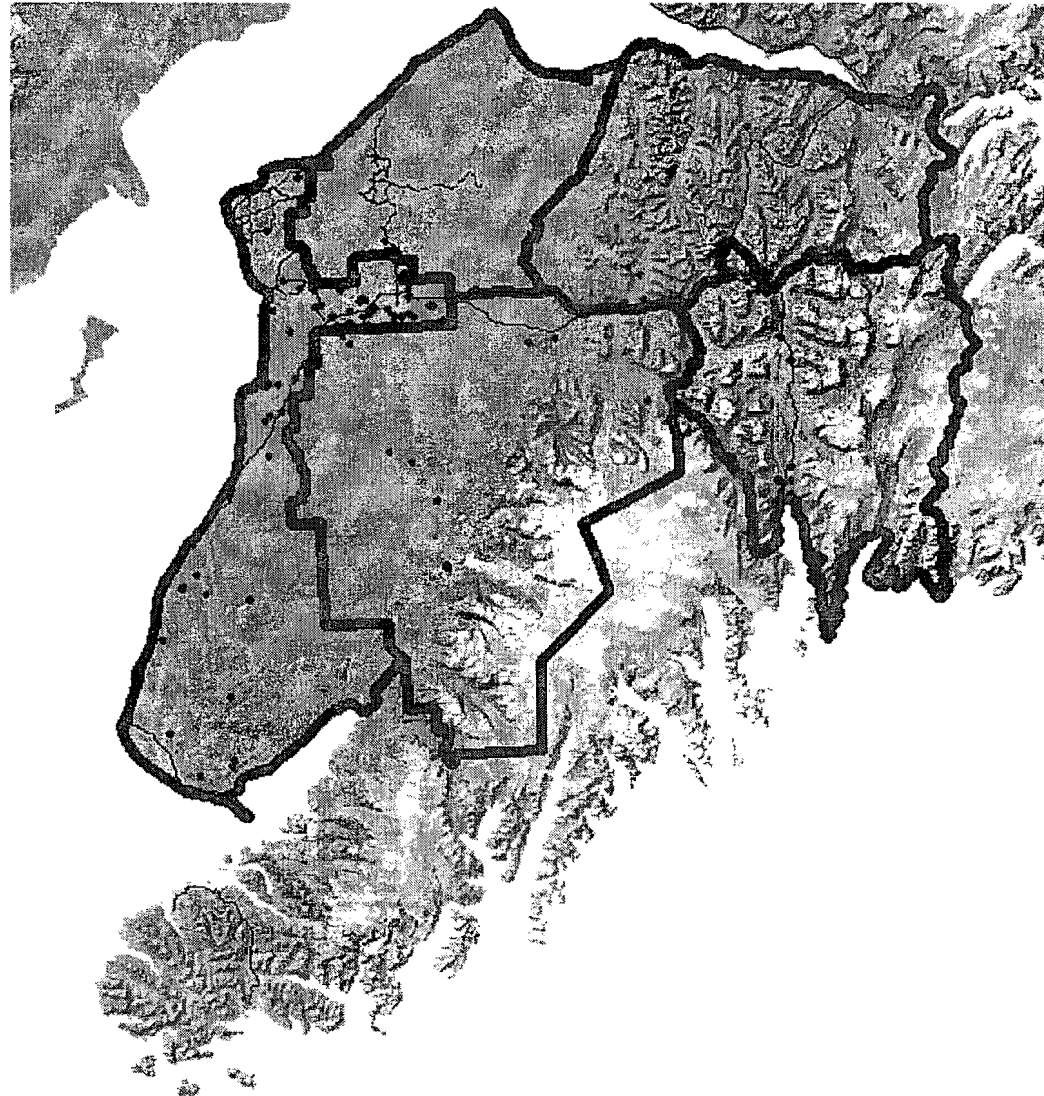
15A Brown Bears

- Harvest opportunity
 - Pre 1997 open general season
 - 1997- 2006 registration season
 - 2007-present drawing season
 - Management objective of 10 reproductive aged females per calendar year
- Densities unknown

Brown Bear Mortality in GMUs 15A 1961-2009



Brown Bear non-hunting mortalities 2000-2008



Harvest opportunities

Black bears

- Increase access and baiting opportunities

Wolves

- Increase trapper access by relaxing snowmachine restrictions
- Modify Refuge specific trapping regulations

Brown bears

- Increase in brown bear permits

Future Research

- Assess moose productivity
 - Pregnancy rates
 - Body condition
 - Parturition dates
- Survey wolf numbers
- Habitat evaluation

Summary

- Habitat
 - No significant fires in 40 years
- Predators
 - Moose population increased during 1980s
 - Harvest opportunity with increased access

TO: ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Meeting in FAIRBANKS
Fax: 907-425-6094

PROPOSAL 16
5 AAC 85.055
OPPOSE, AS AMENDED

RC 69

TOM LAMAL believes Residents should have increased opportunities to take Dall Sheep - I AGREE (except:)
There are several ways to do this, but consider:

- ① THE ALASKA CONSTITUTION Requires that GAME POPULATIONS BE MANAGED FOR MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE HARVEST, NOT Trophy Value.
- ② ALMOST ALL TYPES of PREY ANIMALS (e.g., BEAR, ELK, CARIBOU, MOOSE,) HAVE A LIFE SPAN of 8-12 years - legal hunting starts at Age Three.
AN EXAMPLE: MOST PEOPLE CONSIDER DOGS (NOT A PREY OR GAME ANIMAL BUT A TYPICAL MAMMAL) - CONSIDERED TO EQUIVALE 1 year of life to EACH 4 of HUMANS.
MATURITY after age three makes sense since most game (NOT ELEPHANTS) ARE MATURE THEN ~~the~~ HUMANS THEREFORE ARE CONSIDERED MATURE AT AGES 18 to 21 (3x7)

THE PREVAILING INDICATOR OF MATURITY IS THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE (PROCREATE). DALL RAMS ARE CAPABLE OF PROCREATING AT THE END OF AGE THREE OR FOUR.
EACH YEAR THERE IS NATURAL MORTALITY (LOSS) OF SHEEP OF ABOUT 4 to 5%. THIS IS DUE TO FACTORS, NOT MAN-MADE; SUCH AS PREDATION FROM WOLVES, DISEASE, HARSH WINTER AND SEVERE STORMS, FALLING OR LOSING FOOTING ON ROCK OR SNOW SLIDES. THIS MEANS THERE IS LOST OPPORTUNITY IF WE WAIT UNTIL AGE 8 INSTEAD OF HARVESTING AT AGE 4 OR 5 - LOST OPPORTUNITY of AT LEAST 20% TO MAKE USE OF THE VALUABLE AND EXCELLENT TASTING SHEEP MEAT.

I AM AN OLD RESIDENT WHO HAS HUNTED AND/OR GUIDED IN DALL RAMS. I WAS PROBABLY DOING THIS BEFORE MR. LAMAL WAS BORN. I HAVE BEEN IN SHEEP COUNTRY ALMOST EVERY YEAR FOR 4 1/2 DECADES (45+ YEARS). MY BEST HUNT FOR RAMS GOT ME WITHIN 50 to 75 YARDS OF THREE DANDY RAMS (THREE SEPARATE TIMES!) EACH TIME I ENDED UP NOT TO SHOOT AS I COULD NOT BE CERTAIN OF KILLING OR WOUNDING ONLY ONE RAM (THEY STAYED CLOSE TOGETHER) I NEVER PULPED A CAP BUT HAD THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF SEEING THEM IN SPECTACULAR COUNTRY.

page 2

PROPOSAL 16 page TWO
OPPOSED

WHEN I STARTED SHEEP HUNTING THE MINIMUM WAS 3/4 RAM. NOT ONLY I, BUT OTHER RESIDENTS I KNOW (e.g., CHIEF JUSTICE BELL WESBETT) WAS HAPPY TO EXPERIENCE THE MOUNTAINS AS WELL AS THE HUNTING FROM 3/4 CURL RAMS.

ALASKA IS NOT SUPPOSED TO MANAGE GAME FOR Trophy Quality. A SELECT GROUP (INCLUDING BIOLOGISTS AND ENFORCEMENT) HAVE MADE A VERY ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS DECISION THAT DALL SHEEP SHOULD BE AN EXCEPTION - ONLY HARVESTED WHEN THEY ARE 8 YEARS PLUS. THIS IS EQUIVARIANT TO A PRISON PRISONER AGE (7 x 8 = 56). THERE IS NO LEGITIMATE BIOLOGICAL DATA THAT SUPPORTS WAITING UNTIL DEATH TO HARVEST OUR GAME ANIMALS.

THE IDEA OF HARVESTING OLDER SHEEP (RAMS) IS A DUMB PROJECT OF A SELECT FEW WHO HAVE NOT GIVEN PROPER CREDENCE TO THE STATE CHARACTER DUE TO THE REALITY THAT MANY RESIDENTS ARE CONTENT WITH MEAT FROM A MATURE (USUALLY 5 or OLDER) 3/4 CURL RAM. THERE IS A WHOLE ROOM FULL OF RAM HORNES (3/4 TO SLIGHTLY less THAN FULL CURV) THAT HAVE BEEN SEIZED BECAUSE HUNTERS THOUGHT THEY LOOKED MATURE.

TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MR. LAMAL AND OTHERS TO HARVEST DALL SHEEP (RAMS) AND ENJOY SUSTENANCE FROM GREAT GAME MEAT I STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE REVERT TO 3/4 CURL HARVEST.

THERE IS NO LEGITIMATE BIOLOGICAL REASON NOT TO DO THIS! SURELY, MR. LAMAL, AND OTHER HUNTERS, WOULD NO DOUBT APPRECIATE THIS INCREASED AND REASONABLE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY.

THE IDEA OF A "TROPHY" SHOULD BE MARGINALIZED (NOT CONSIDERED). "TROPHEES", REGARDLESS OF SIZE, SHOULD ONLY CONSTITUTE A REMINDER OF A GREAT EXPERIENCE IN THE ALASKA OUT-OF-DOORS.

JOE HENDRICKS, Senior Alaskan
P.O. Box 10-2104
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2104

Please Acknowledge Receipt of This Thank You

RC 70

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH**Department of Wildlife Management**

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: Central Office : (907) 852-2611 ext. 350

or: (907) 852-0350

FAX: (907) 852 0351 or 8948

Arctic Research Facility: (907) 852-0352



Taqulik R. Hepa, Director

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2010

Susan Bucknell

ATTN: Board of Game Comments

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Boards Support Coordinator

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

FAX: 907.465.6094

Subject: Arctic Advisory Committee comments on proposals to the Alaska Board of Game that will be heard in the February-March meeting.

Dear Mrs. Bucknell:

The Arctic Advisory Committee (Arctic AC) held a special meeting on February 24, 2010 via teleconference. A quorum was present including members: Enoch Oktollik (Chairman, Wainwright), Thomas Nukapigak (Vice Chairman, Point Lay), William Hopson (at-large), Eli Nukapigak (Nuiqsut), and Charlie Hugo (Anaktuvuk Pass).

The Arctic AC unanimously voted to reauthorize an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 26A and supported Proposal 126.

Thank you for considering our recommendation on this proposal.

Taqulik Hepa, Co-Executive Manager
Arctic Advisory Committee

Received Fax : Feb 25 2010 1:55PM Fax Station : HP LASERJET FAX

FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 25 2010 03:17PM P1

STATE OF ALASKA

Central Peninsula Fish & Game
Advisory CommitteeSean Parnell
GovernorDavid Martin, Chair
PO Box 468
Clam Gulch, AK 99568

RC 71

February 24, 2010

Attn: Scott BOG Interior
AC Comments

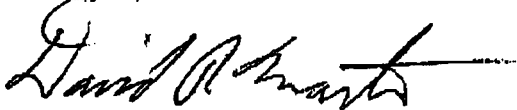
Our AC, on February 24, 2010, took action on the reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons for proposals #115, 121, 122, 123 via phone vote of the following AC members: Douglas Blossorn, Robert C. Chucas, Gary Deiman, Richard Encelowski, Max Fjelstad, David Martin, John McCombs, Richard Mondor, Mike Schuster, Teague Vanek and Steve Vanek.

We apologize for the oversight in not taking action on these proposals at our last meeting on February 10, 2010 meeting. The fact that these proposals were in the BOG Interior 2010 booklet they slipped our attention because we normally don't take action on proposals that are out of our area because we feel that it is best left up to the actions of the people affected and living in those areas. Another plug for the issue of having all the game proposals published in one booklet!

As Chairman I was asked by ADF&G game biologist on February 23, 2010, if we had taken action on these proposals and if not could we. I apologized for the oversight and contacted our support coordinator Sherry Wright to inform her of the situation and for the best remedy to address the short notice issue. I proceeded to conduct a phone vote on February 24, 2010 to the above AC members. I gave them the information I had received from the Dept. and took their vote and comments as you will see in our actions.

I hope our method and actions are appropriate and helpful to the BOG in making your informed decisions.

Thank you,



David R. Martin, Chairman

FEB. 25 2010 03:18PM P2

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Central Peninsula

DATE: Feb 24, 2010

PAGE 2 OF 3

Board of BOG Comments for Prop. 115, 121, 122

Proposal

Summary of Discussion

#	Support	Oppose	Abstain
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(include minority view)

#	Support	Oppose	Abstain	(Include minority view)
115	10	1		According to the data a cow hunt is justified. The Dept. needs to real work hard at getting <u>annual</u> population counts so we can make decisions on real time data. The one opposed thought there should be a conservative approach.
121	11	0		We must keep this hunt as a tool for biological management when the moose populations rebound. Keep it on the books.
122	1	10		We oppose this hunt because we feel the moose populations in 15 C are declining rapidly from predation of bears, wolves and coyotes. We need predator management in 15 C. We need <u>current annual</u> moose population counts. We need to be proactive not reactive on predator management. The person in favor agreed with reauthorizing the cow hunt.

[illegible]

RC 72

ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Wolf population objectives are being met (since 2006-07)
- Moose numbers in count areas are increasing ~5% annually
- Bull harvests have increased, as have hunting opportunities. With a projected harvest of 925-950 in 2010-2011, we are approaching the minimum harvest objective and the upper limit of the available surplus of bulls
- Additional bull and cow harvests will be needed in specific areas in the next few years, as much of the moose increase has occurred in remote portions of the unit with limited access
- Specifically, the current trend of increasing cows will require establishing limited permit hunts for cows as soon as 2011-2012
- Habitat improvement through controlled burns in the Alphabet Hills in 13B will be emphasized as soon as the land status is settled

Severe weather conditions will impact moose abundance even with intensive wolf management. However, with lower predation rates, moose will recover faster.

ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13

2000 to 2009

MOOSE COUNT RESULTS TO DATE

Unit 13 moose numbers in standardized continuous count areas:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Ave. annual % Change</u>
Bulls	547	1097	Up 101%	11%
Yrl Bulls	78	304	Up 290%	32%
Calves	292	731	Up 150%	17%
Cows	2710	3218	Up 19%	2%
Total moose	3549	5046	Up 42%	5%

These are trend survey data; as opposed to geospatial data, which are extrapolated to uncounted areas. Trend counts are used to assess population composition and indicate population trends over time. These continuous count areas cover nearly 3,600 miles² in central Unit 13.

UNIT 13

MOOSE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (and current status)

- **Harvest of 1,050-2,180** (preliminary 818 for 2009-2010)
- **Fall bull:cow ratio 25:100** (observed 34:100 in 2009)
- **Fall yearling bull:cow ratio 10-15:100** (observed 9:100 in 2009)
- **Fall calf:cow ratio 25:100** (observed 23:100 in 2009)

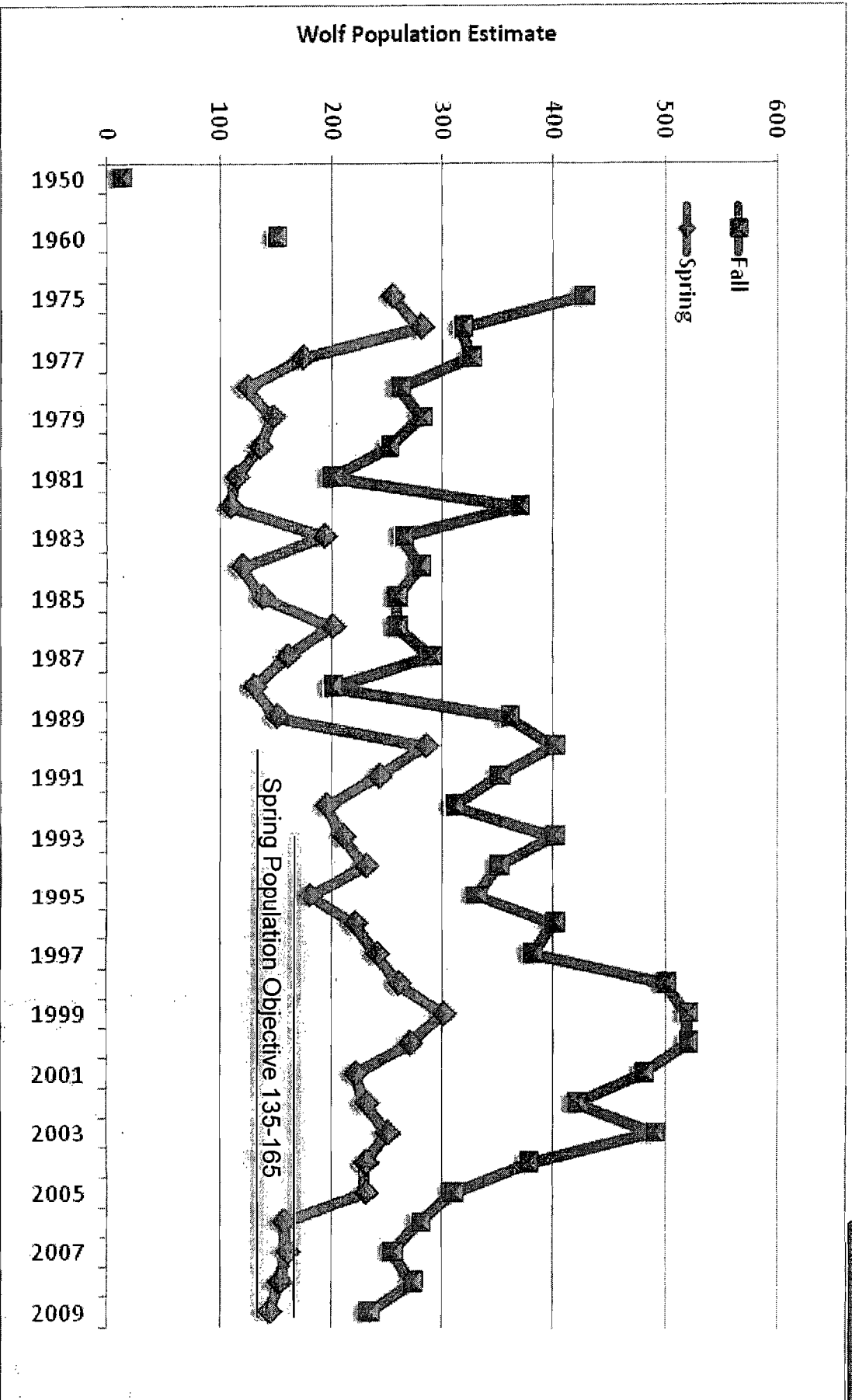
ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13
2000 to 2009
WOLF RESULTS TO DATE

**UNITWIDE
WOLF POPULATION
ESTIMATES:**

	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>FALL</u>	
2000-01	270	520	
2001-02	220	480	
2002-03	230	420	
2003-04	250	490	[SDA began Jan04]
2004-05	230	377	
2005-06	230	309	
2006-07	157	280	
2007-08	160	254	
2008-09	153	273	
2009-2010 <i>prelim</i>	144	210-256 (<i>preliminary est.</i>)	

CMU 13 unit-wide spring wolf population objective 135-165

ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13 WOLF POPULATION TREND



ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13

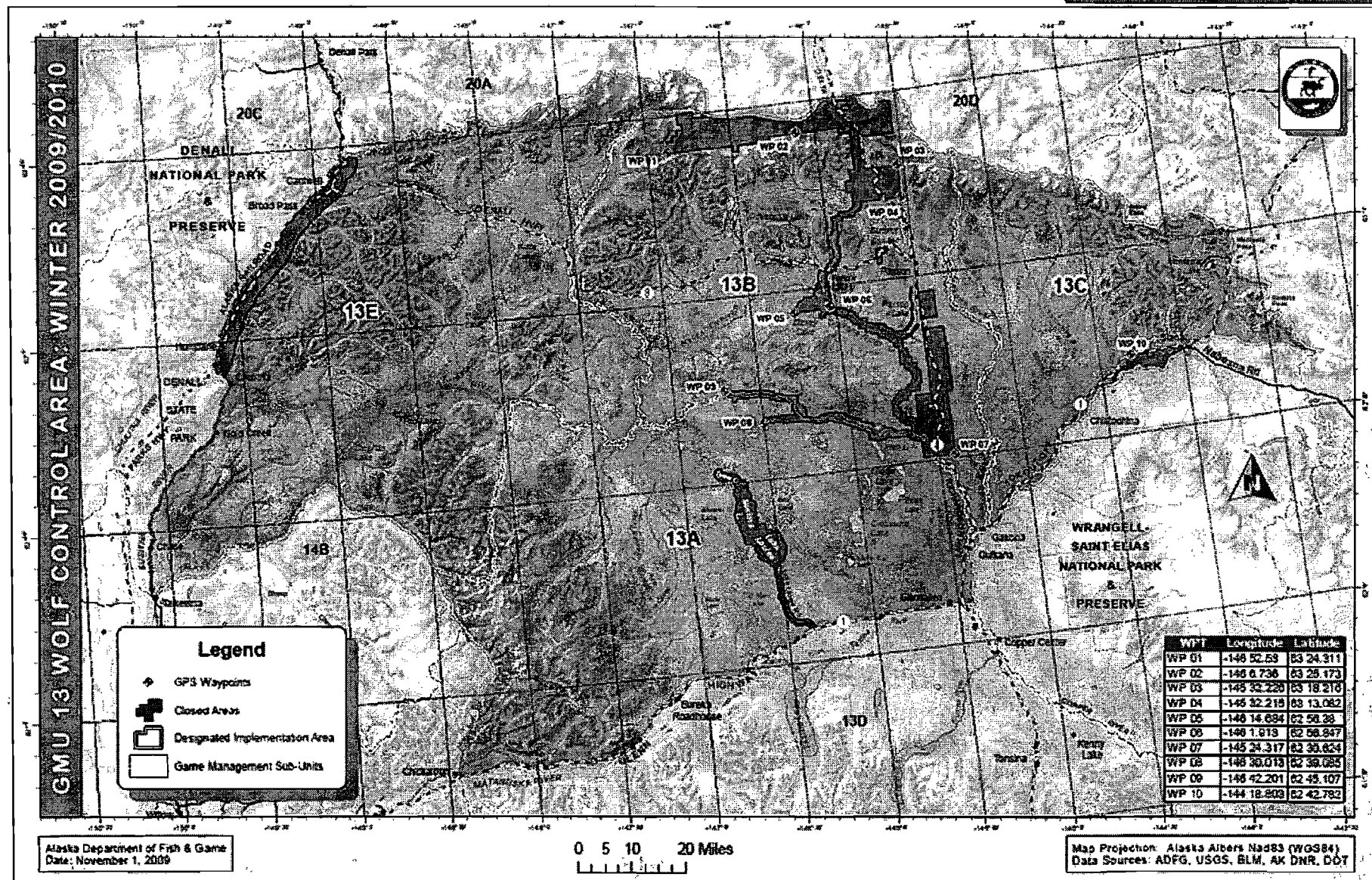
UNITWIDE WOLF TAKE:

	<u>Same Day Airborne</u>	<u>Ground shooting</u>	<u>Trapping</u>	<u>Snaring</u>	<u>TOTAL*</u>
2000-01	0	93	84	82	269
2001-02	0	83	67	73	223
2002-03	0	81	36	26	143
2003-04	125	51	28	42	246
2004-05	67	32	19	18	136
2005-06	61	23	31	30	145
2006-07	33	25	26	21	105
2007-08	33	9	24	24	90
2008-09	55	26	15	22	120
2009-2010 <i>prelim.</i>	4	6	1		

Given that the wolf control implementation plan was passed March 2000, some wolves taken after that point were taken using predator control means, by which snowmachines were used to position hunters/trappers to ground shoot wolves; so some but not all in that category were taken using predator control means.

* Includes unknown method of take

GMU 13 Wolf Control Area: Winter 2009/2010



Annual Board of Game update on the Unit 13 intensive management program
February – March 2010, Fairbanks Regional Meeting
Presented by: Bob Tobey, Area Wildlife Biologist, Glennallen

ACTIVE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN UNIT 13

PROGRAM DATES:

March 2000 **GMU 13 wolf control implementation plan passed BOG**

[Same Day Airborne (SDA) take was not allowed by the administration until January 2004]

March 2005 **GMU 13 wolf control implementation plan reauthorized by BOG**

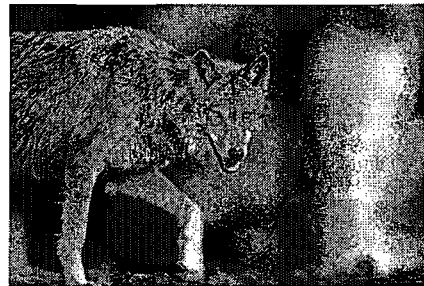
[17 January 2006 - Anchorage Superior Court Judge issued an order on motions for Summary Judgement in the case of Friends of Animals, et al., 3An-03-13489 CI, holding 5AAC 92.125 control plans invalid]

[25 January 2006 – BOG adopted Proposal 165 – temporarily reinstating the 5AAC 92.125 GMU 13 wolf control implementation plan]

[May 2006 – BOG adopted Proposal 165A – permanently reinstating the 5AAC 92.125(12) GMU 13 wolf control implementation plan]

March 2010 **GMU 13 wolf control implementation plan will again be up for reauthorization (set to expire 1 July 2010)**

Predator Control in Unit 16



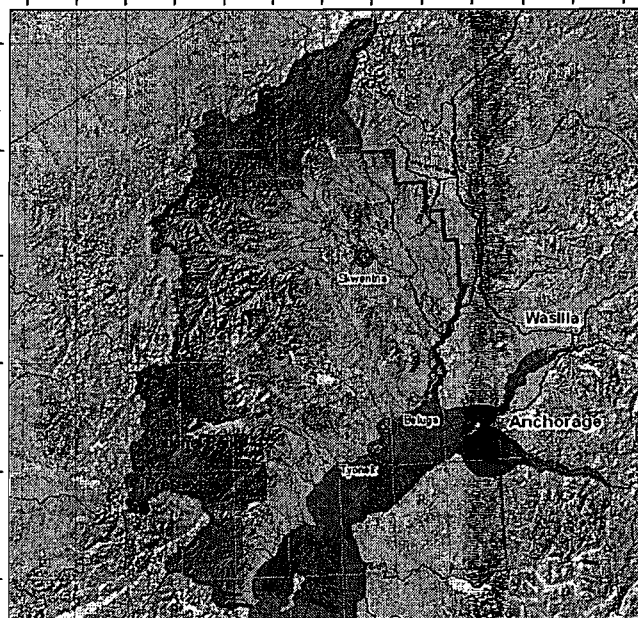
Predation Control GMU 16 2006 to Present



Legend

- Roads
- Unit boundaries
- Land closed to SDA
- Unit 16 PCA boundary
- ▨ Lakes
- Rivers

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles



Unit 16 PCA Wolf Harvest & Statistics

Year	Fall Estimate	Harvest and SDA	Spring Estimate	Population objective
2004-05	180-200	115	65-85	22-45 (16B)
2005-06	85-114	42	43-72	22-45 (16B)
2006-07	98-145	47	51-98	30-60 (16)
2007-08	105-113	33	72-80	30-60 (16)
2008-09	86-105	33	53-72	30-60 (16)
2009-10	74-110	3*	?	30-60 (16)

* Reported as of 2/23/2010

Bear Management Objectives for GMU 16

- Maintain a black bear population largely unaffected by human harvest
- 3-year average harvest > 270 black bears (45 in 16A, >225 in 16B) with > 30% being female
- (2007) Intensive Management Plan

Black Bear Population Estimates (2007)

16A 400 - 500

16B 2000 - 2500

Unit 16 Black Bear Control Program

- **Black Bear Control Permits issued to licensed residents**
- **No bag limit and no closed season**
- **Allow for up to four bait stations per control permit**
- **Allow for the taking of cubs or sows with cubs**
- **Permittees may take black bears the same day they have flown, provided that they are at least 300 feet from the airplane**
- **Raw hides, tanned hides, or skulls may be sold with an ADFG issued permit to sell as long as the sale tag remains attached**

Black Bear Control since Fall 2007

- **Issued 283 ML202 Control Permits - Fall 2007**
- **Issued 487 ML212 Control Permits - Spring 2008**
- **Issued 233 ML202 Control Permits – Fall 2008**
- **Issued 621 ML212 Control Permits – Spring 2009**
- **Issued 258 ML202 Control Permits – Fall 2009**
- **Tracking numbers of bears taken complicated**
 - Male or Female, adult, yearling, COY**
 - By GMU (16B,16A) and PCA (inside, outside)**
 - Taken on general hunting license or Control Permit**
 - Over bait or other method (includes SDA w/Control Permit)**
 - Sale Permit issued or not requested**
 - Snare Permit documents unavailable electronically**
- **Requires cooperation of staff in Anchorage, Soldotna, and Homer**
- **Reviewing sealing reports from taxidermists and other fur-sealers**

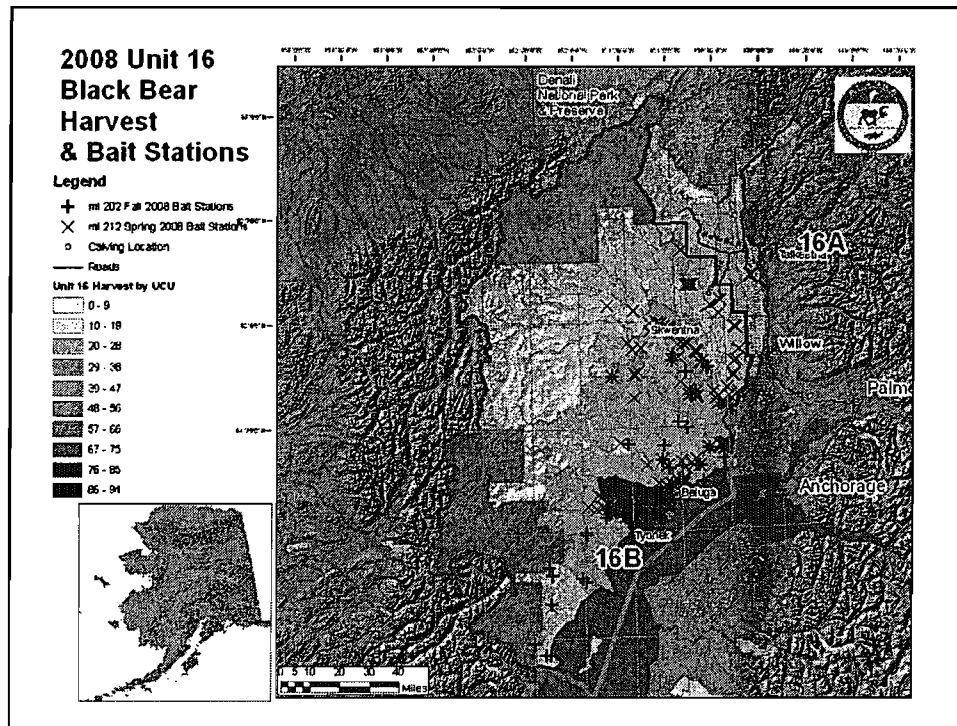
Recent Bear Harvest and Take

2005-2006	Unit 16 total black bear harvest (General Hunt harvest only)	235
2006-2007	Unit 16 total black bear harvest (General Hunt harvest only)	414
Mar 2007	BOG – Approved black bear control	
2007-2008	Unit 16 total black bear take (Gen Hunt and Control take combined)	501
Mar 2009	BOG – Approved snaring of black bears under a control permit	
2008-2009	Unit 16 total black bear take (Gen Hunt and Control take combined)	510*
Fall 2009	Unit 16 total black bear take	115*

Black Bear Harvest and Control Take

Fall 2007 through Spring 2009

- 1009 Black Bears taken in Unit 16
- 784 in GMU 16B, 225 in GMU 16A
- 782 Resident vs. 227 Non-resident
- 646 Males vs. 363 Females
- 51% taken over bait vs. 49% other methods
- Preliminary fall take = 115

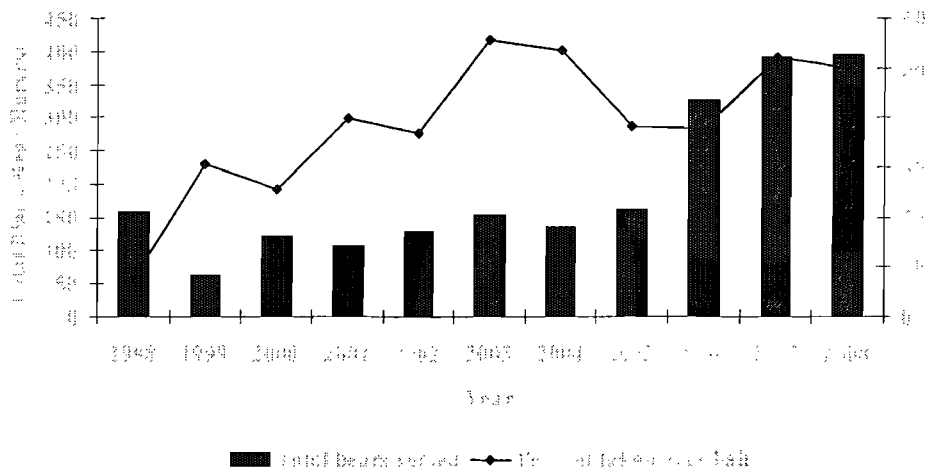


Black Bear Snaring Control - 2009

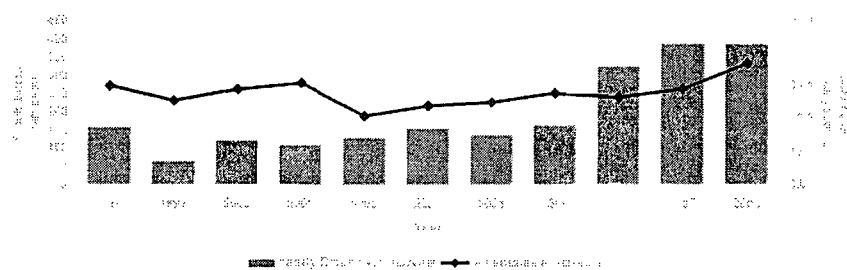
- 17 applications received for snaring control
- 8 applicants participated in training and orientation
- 8 snaring control permits issued (7 participated)
- 81 black bears snared
- 8 brown bears snared (9% of total)
- 3 of the 8 browns were euthanized, 5 were released
- 0 non-target catch other than brown bears
- 4 ADF&G staff from outside Region 2 participated in training and orientation

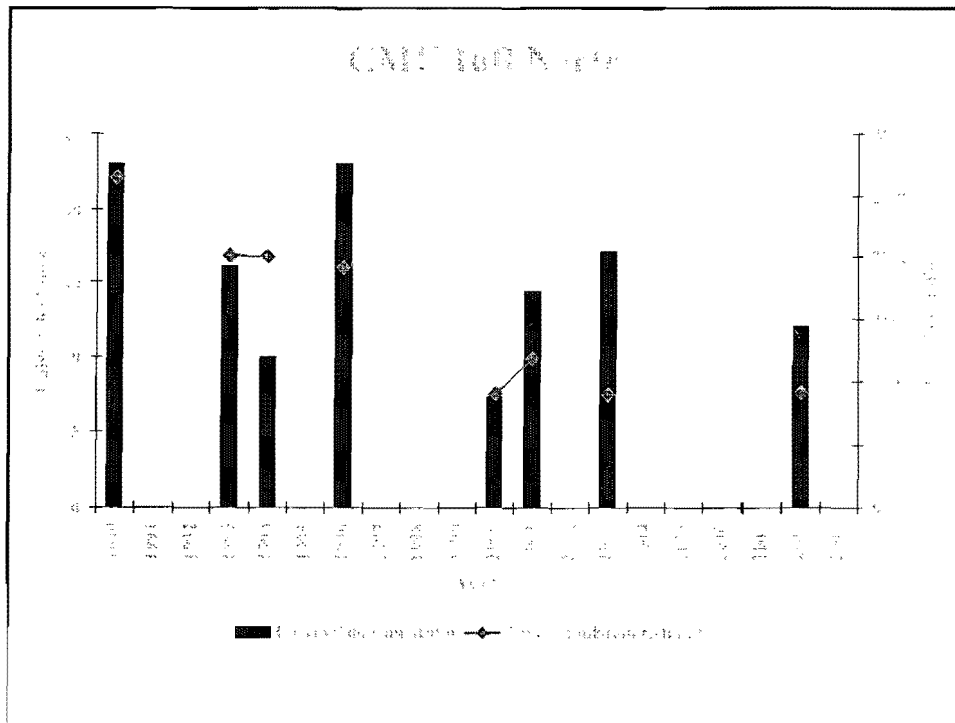
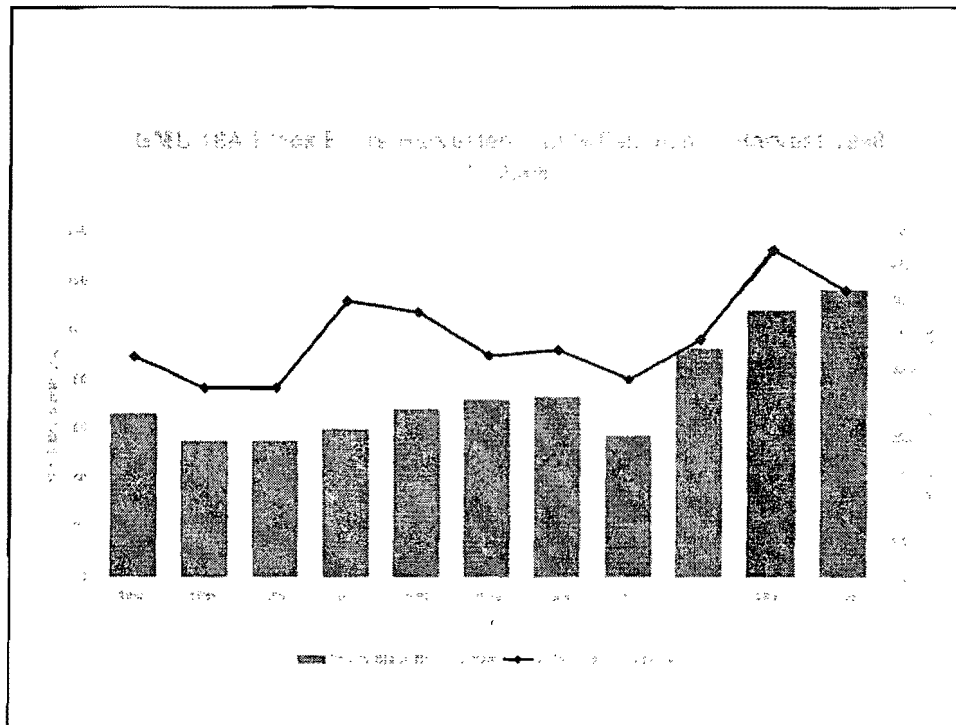
GMU 16B Black Bear Harvest and Predator Control take 1998 to 2008

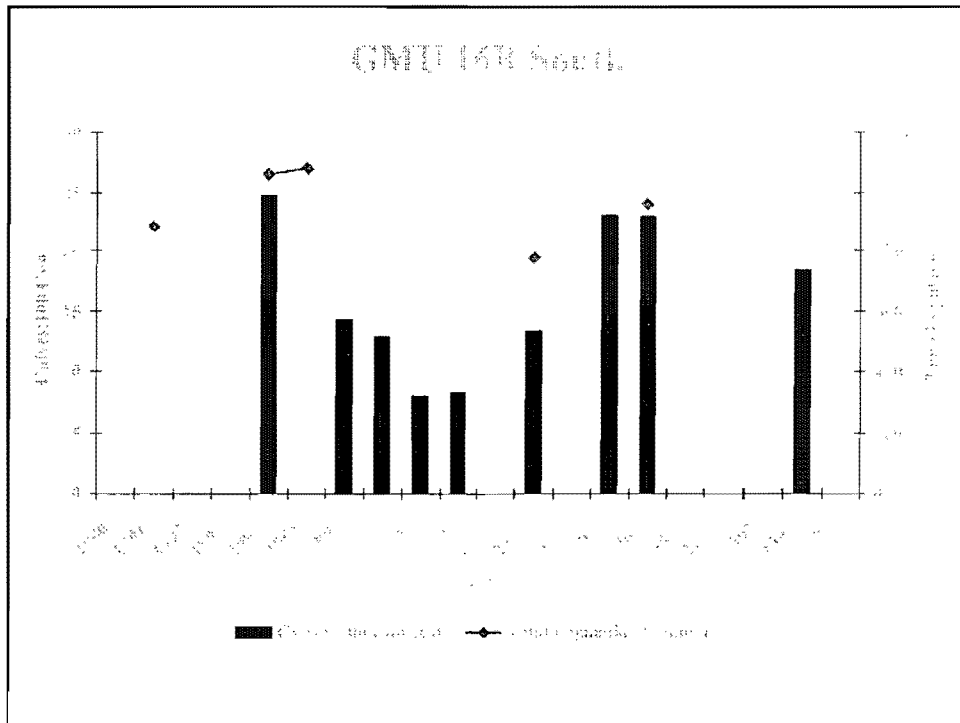
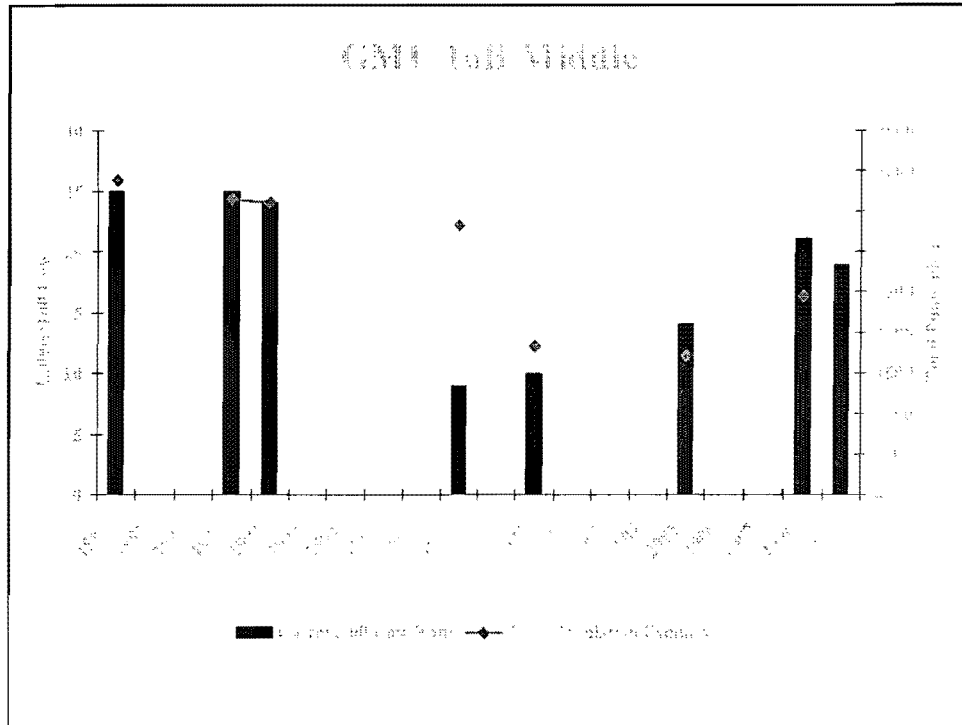
Percent Taken Over Kill

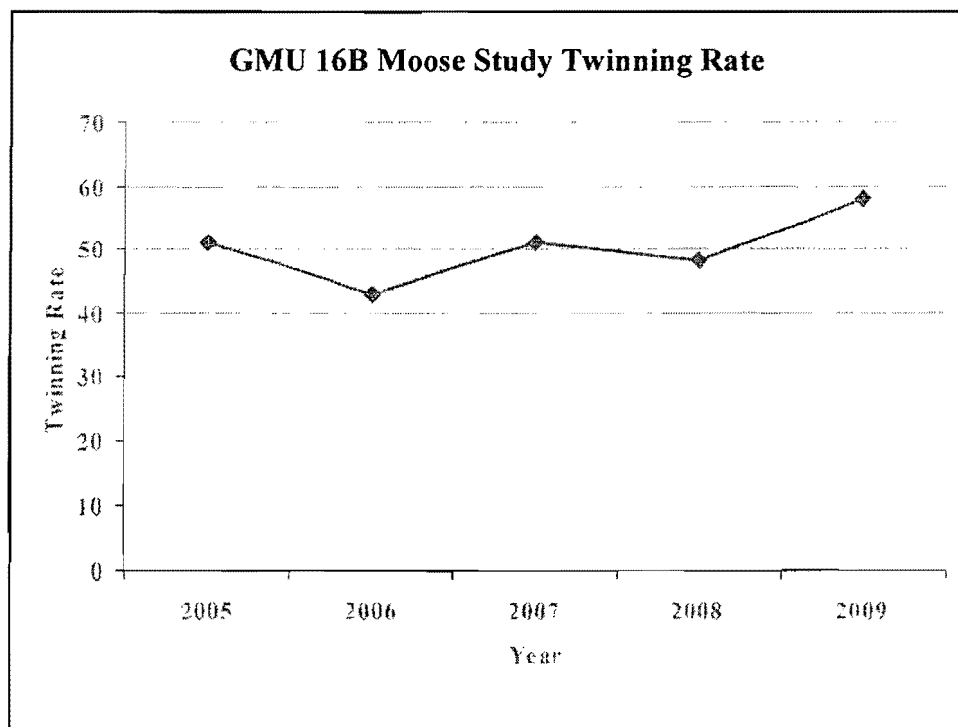
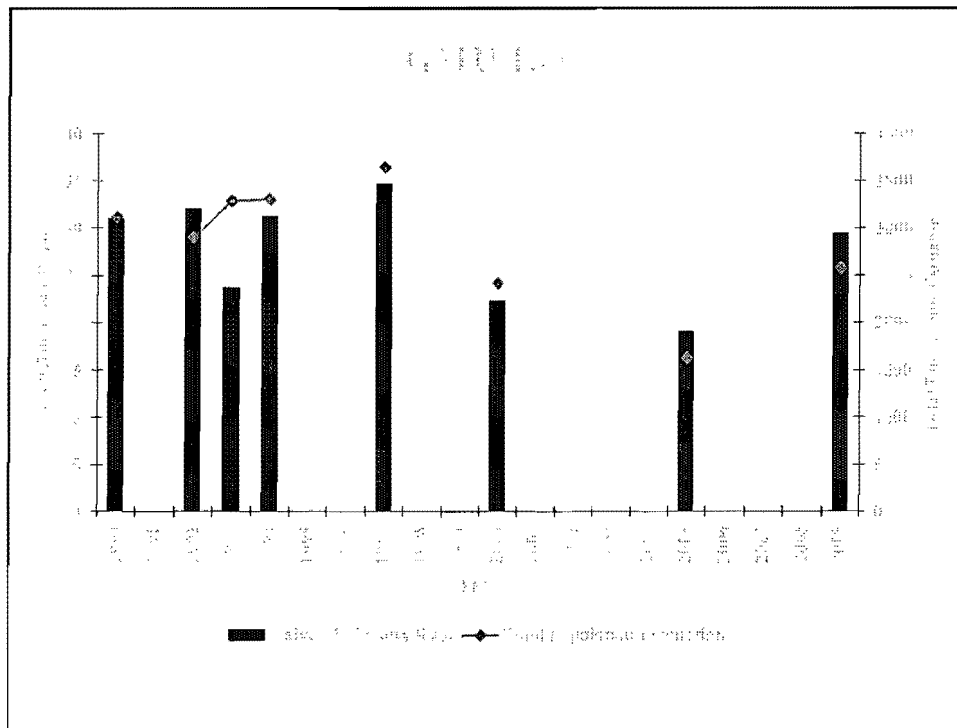


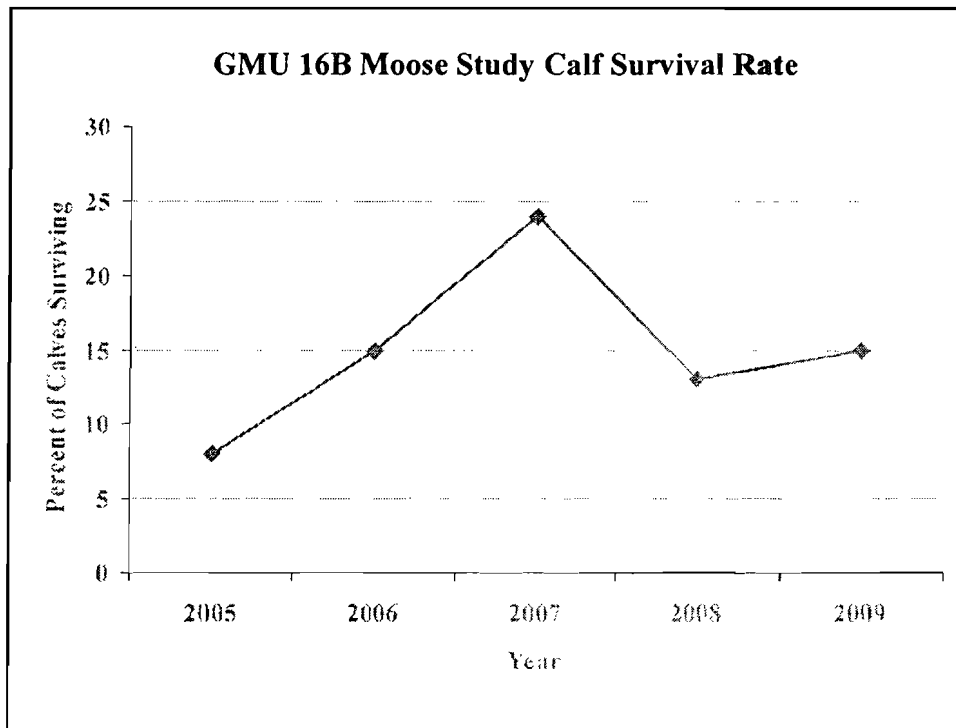
GMU 16B Black Bears Harvested and % Females by Harvest 1998 to 2008











Recommendations

- Continue Wolf Reduction program
- Continue Bear Reduction program
 - Increased effort in snare program
- Reauthorization of programs in 2011

Testimony of Gary Edwards, Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Alaska Region– BOG Proposal 131

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service values its cooperative relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game. We have a long history of working together to protect and manage fish and wildlife in Alaska and provide wildlife dependent recreational opportunities.

Proposal 131 makes two changes to existing state regulations. The first changes the applicability of state predator management regulations from programs “*potentially involving federal lands*” to programs “*on federal lands*” (emphasis added). We recognize the need to provide clarification of this section and further state the Fish and Wildlife Service is well aware of its jurisdictional boundaries. However we are concerned that land boundaries are sometimes difficult to identify in the field and could give rise to conflict if the State neglected to notify the Service of its actions near refuge boundaries. We also recognize and respect the authority of the Department to manage resident fish and wildlife resources on state and private lands. We would however offer alternative wording of replacing the words “*potentially involving federal lands*” with “*that may affect federal lands.*”

The second change recommended by Proposal 131 is problematic. Current State regulations say that State wolf and bear population reduction programs apply to Refuges only if *approved* by the Service. Proposal 131 would change State regulations to say that State wolf and bear population reduction programs could include Refuge lands if the Department *consulted* with us in the development of the programs. While not explicitly stated, the implication of this change is that the Board could direct the Department to undertake predator control activities on National Wildlife Refuges despite possible objections by us – objections based on Federal law, regulation, and policy.

The Service cannot and will not abdicate its ultimate responsibility to manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats on National Wildlife Refuges. Proposal 131, if approved by the Board, would suggest that the Service’s role in wolf control on Refuges is one of consultee, not approver. This is a fundamental jurisdictional issue, and is contrary to Federal law and the agreed upon roles and responsibilities of the Service and Department in Alaska. In 1982, fresh on the heels of the passage of ANILCA, the Service and Department thoughtfully codified our relative roles and responsibilities in a Master Memorandum of Understanding. Three excerpts from the MMOU are particularly relevant to this discussion:

“Whereas, the Service, by authority of the Constitution, laws of Congress and regulations of the Department of the Interior ... is responsible for the management of Service lands in Alaska, and the conservation of fish and wildlife resources on these lands”

“The Department of Fish and Game agrees ... to recognize the Service as the agency with the responsibility ... on Service lands in Alaska to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats and regulate human use.”

"The Fish and Wildlife Service agrees ... to recognize the right of the Department to enter onto Service lands at any time to conduct routine management activities which do not involve ... alternations of ecosystems."

When it comes to management of National Wildlife Refuges, we cannot simply acquiesce to the decisions of others. We have a statutory responsibility along with the shared role with the Department in managing fish and wildlife on Service lands in Alaska. We cannot delegate our authority to others. This is the basis for our concern about Proposal 131.

I would now like to address National Environmental Policy Act compliance. For the record, we are concerned by some of the stated justifications for the regulatory changes proposed by Proposal 131. As a Federal Agency, we do not see NEPA compliance as something we must be forced into. We follow the requirements of NEPA to ensure that our decision processes are transparent, and to ensure that the public has the opportunity to comment on our proposals. While at times messy, costly, and time consuming, public involvement is an important part of Federal decision-making. Public involvement often leads us to more reasoned and thoughtful decisions than simply leaving it to the "experts." While we agree "[t]he State of Alaska meticulously addresses each program under a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan that is thoroughly vetted by biologists, and the public in the Board of Game process," our constituencies are different. National Wildlife Refuges are national assets. Our NEPA processes are designed to recognize the interest of all Americans in our management of Refuges, not only Alaskans. Lastly, the Department of the Interior's NEPA policy (43 CFR part 46) published in 2008, leads us to conclude that predator control activities conducted on National Wildlife Refuges are indeed subject to NEPA, and furthermore such activities do not qualify for a "categorical exclusion" under the law.

While possibly well intentioned, we believe codifying the Department's proposal 131 into State regulation is contrary to the terms and spirit of the MMOU and could seriously damage our cooperative relationship with the Department. It could force us to overtly exert jurisdiction on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, to the diminishment of the State and its shared responsibilities. We respectfully request that the Board reconsider Proposal 131 as crafted.

FWS Testimony on Board of Game Proposal 132 – “Establish a predator control area for Unit 10, Unimak Island”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service values its cooperative relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game. We have a long history of working together to protect and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats in Alaska while providing for subsistence and wildlife dependent recreational opportunities. We request that the Board of Game establish a more robust basis for this proposal before any consideration of implementation. We have been and will continue working with the Department to bring this about in a timely manner.

The Department first recommended management intervention for the (UCH) in a letter from Division of Wildlife Conservation Director Doug Larsen to Izembek Refuge Manager Nancy Hoffman on December 22, 2009. In this letter Director Larsen shared some UCH population statistics, drew some parallels with the southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP), and stated that “translocating bull caribou from the SAP to the UCH to increase pregnancy rates, coupled with a limited wolf reduction program to increase recruitment is the way to quickly stabilize the declining population.”

First and foremost, the Service feels that it is essential that we better enumerate the status of the Unimak Island Caribou herd. . The last official estimate of the herd size was 806 animals in 2006. The next enumeration, provided by the Department, is “<300” in the fall of 2009. On January 21, 2010, Izembek Refuge personnel flew a partial caribou survey on Unimak and counted 400 caribou. This survey was not completed due to poor weather and snow cover. Completing the survey is essential to determine if as stated in the proposal “human intervention to reduce wolf predation is necessary to stop the caribou population decline and likely extirpation...”

The Service is not precluding the possibility of a serious UCH decline, but feels that existing data are not adequate to draw such a conclusion. To rectify this, the Service is committed to working with the Department to conduct a complete UCH survey yet this winter. While such a survey will be weather and snow cover dependent, we feel the likelihood for success is good.

We believe at this time Proposal 132 requires more scientific underpinning for the Service to evaluate the need for active wildlife population manipulation, particularly in wilderness. With a better UCH population and composition estimate, the Service and Department will be in a much better position to evaluate whether limited wolf reduction is needed and justified. Knowing that we may get to that point, the Service, working with the Department, has already begun addressing important issues, including:

- Since an exceptionally low bull-to-cow ratio may be contributing to low pregnancy rates in the herd, what would a bull caribou translocation program, as recommended by the Department, look like? We believe that

translocating bull caribou from the SAP to the UCH would likely be less detrimental to the island's natural diversity than managing predators, and would be less controversial as well.

- What is the importance of the UCH to subsistence users, and what harvest levels would the UCH need to support to provide a meaningful subsistence opportunity? Providing subsistence opportunity is a legislated purpose of Alaska Maritime and 14 other Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, but must be consistent with the legislated purpose of all Alaska refuges to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity. We must balance these complimentary purposes, to ensure that hunting does not significantly compromise the resource base.

The Service is committed to working with the Department and refuge users to fulfill the Service's legal mandates to protect natural diversity and wilderness character on Unimak Island while striving to provide continued subsistence opportunity and wildlife dependent recreation on refuge lands. The Service respectfully requests it be given time to work with the Department to better evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed action and alternative actions should a serious decline in the Unimak Island caribou herd be substantiated.

Additionally it must be recognized that before proceeding with any predator management activities on service lands all applicable federal laws and regulations must be complied with including NEPA compliance.

RC 76

From: Tom Hoblet [mailto:ghthwd@gmail.com]
Sent: Mon 2/22/2010 12:38 PM
To: Rossi, Corey L (DFG)
Subject: Unimak caribou

Hello Mr. Rossi, My Name is Tom Hoblet. The reason I'm sending this email is my concern for the Unimak caribou herd. I'm 58 years old and have subsisted on this herd all of my life. I, along with residents of False Pass and King Cove are greatly concerned about not being able to continue our subsistence life style, and be able to consume our traditional foods. We here in False Pass have seen in the last few years an increase in the Wolves coming into the Village. Just yesterday I was not at home, and a wolf came right in to my yard and tried to attack my golden retriever. We cannot let our grand children out during day light hours for fear of wild animals patrolling our community looking for food. Wolves are not our only concern, this Island is also over run with Brown Bear. It would be greatly appreciated If the state of Alaska or the Fish & Wildlife service would increase the take of Bears during bear seasons, and do some wolf control not only on the west end of the Island but the east end also. Thank you, for your consideration into this matter.

Tom Hoblet

Please RC
-submitted by
ADF-6 - Corey Rossi
Kuntz

Isanotski Corporation

101 Isanotski Drive
P.O. Box 9
False Pass, AK 99583
907-548-2217, FAX 548-2317
E-mail: isanotskicorp@justemail.us

17 February 2010

Corey Rossi
Assistant Commissioner
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Rd
Anchorage, AK 99518

Dear Mr. Rossi;

We are writing from False Pass, Unimak Island, the epicenter of the caribou population crash. Residents of False Pass are extremely concerned about the precipitous decline in caribou on the island because caribou have been an important part of our subsistence lifestyle for thousands of years. In years past it was possible to see caribou even near the community and hunting was always possible somewhere on the island. Now, we see no caribou at all and at the same time the number of wolves and bear appear to be at all-time highs. This winter we have often had wolves entering the village even during daylight hours because they are obviously very hungry. This is a safety problem for our residents.

Even though we are accustomed to having bears in the area, the large numbers coming into the community has forced us to change the way we move and visit around town. We know that both bears and wolves are an essential part of this natural environment, but we feel that their high numbers are contributing to the decline in caribou population as well as our personal insecurity in the village. Therefore, we would welcome ADF&G policies that would lower their numbers through hunting and trapping.

We note in Press Release No. 10-03 that the proposed wolf control which would help stop the caribou herd decline, would take place only on the western half of Unimak Island. From our perspective, this policy would do little or nothing about the high population of wolves and zero population of caribou on the eastern end of Unimak where we live. We feel that even if caribou numbers increase on the western end of the island that because of the high numbers of wolves on this end of the island, that we will not see caribou here for many years. Also, wolves are very intelligent and mobile and there is no reason to believe that wolves from our area would not move west to continue to decimate the caribou herd and hamper ADF&G's recovery efforts.

Therefore, we support ADF&G's efforts to control wolf numbers on Unimak to give the caribou herd a chance to recover. If we can help in any way, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dushkin, President

Testimony before the Alaska Board of Game
National Park Service Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica

February 26, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the Alaska Board of Game:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is Sue Masica. I am the Regional Director for the National Park Service in Alaska.

The Service has a long history in Alaska, dating to March 1910 with the establishment of what is now Sitka National Historical Park. In 1917, 1918 and 1925 respectively, Mt. McKinley, Katmai, and Glacier Bay were added to the National Park System. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) expanded the Service's role in 1980 to include 10 new units, and expanded and renamed some existing areas. The park areas established after statehood recognized the important role in wildlife management of the State of Alaska, and assumed that cooperative management of wildlife between the National Park Service and the State of Alaska would occur on these lands.

I come before you to advocate the continuation of a cooperative approach to wildlife management. Such cooperative management best serves the wildlife and the people who depend on that wildlife for multiple purposes. In working together, it's important that we all recognize there are different statutory, regulatory, and policy frameworks that apply to the Federal and State systems. Understanding and respecting our common ground and potential areas of difference is at the heart of how NPS is seeking to work with our many partners around the State.

Management of wildlife in units of the National Park System must be conducted in a manner consistent with Federal law, regulation and policy. This determination of consistency is a responsibility of the National Park Service and cannot be delegated.

The Service is guided by authority given by Congress in our 1916 Organic Act, other general authorities, and in legislation such as ANILCA. In ANILCA, the State of Alaska is recognized to have a fundamental role in the management of wildlife in certain park areas. We respect and embrace that role. Equally as important, however, is our responsibility to uphold the laws, regulations and policies of the National Park Service. ANILCA creates interesting challenges and opportunities for NPS units, as it provides special authorities for Alaska while also calling on us to administer the parks and preserves in a manner consistent with other National Park System units.

National park lands, at the direction of Congress, are set aside for purposes different from other Federal public lands. In addition to an affirmative responsibility to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitat, NPS provides for non-consumptive use and opportunities for visitors to appreciate national park areas. National parks and preserves are established to fulfill broad

purposes and values, and among our fundamental responsibilities is to assure that those purposes and values are sustained.

Proposal #131, recently submitted to you by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, would change existing regulations that require approval by the National Park Service for wolf or bear population reduction programs which affect national park areas. In its place, the proposal would require only consultation with the Service prior to conducting these activities within national park or refuge boundaries and no communication at all when wolf or bear population reduction programs are adjacent to, or otherwise may affect national parks areas or refuges.

As conveyed to the Board in our February 9, 2010 letter, proposal #131 raises serious concerns for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We suggest that the Board of Game not approve proposal #131.

We recognize this proposal would change a state regulation that governs state actions. We also recognize that state actions can directly impact Federal lands and the wildlife that use those lands. The proposal suggests that by changing state regulations, compliance with Federal laws might be avoided. This is not the case. All Federal statutes, regulations, and policies which apply to areas of the National Park System must be fully complied with, regardless of the disposition of this state regulation. Our assessment of this regulation is that even if it were to pass, the activities referred to in proposal #131 would require specific Federal authorization. Thus, we do not believe that the objectives the proposal is intended to address can be accomplished.

The National Park Service remains committed to a collaborative relationship among our agencies and the Board of Game. I look forward to working with you and the Department of Fish and Game to solve issues that arise when our mandates are not aligned.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and testify today.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/AFES

FEB 16 2010

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2010

BOARDS

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposals to be considered by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) during its spring 2010 meeting addressing Interior Region issues. We would like to provide the following comments on proposals 90A and 94 which would affect management of moose populations in Unit 24 including lands within the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

Proposal 90A would establish a State registration moose hunt in a portion of Unit 24B and Unit 24C within the Kanuti Control Use Area from December 15 to April 15 with a harvest limit of one antlered bull.

The FWS **supports adoption of proposal 90A.** This would provide more subsistence opportunity, especially for residents of Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville and Bettles, who have been experiencing hardships in recent years. There has been a shorter winter bull moose hunt on Federal public lands in recent years but this has taken considerable time and effort by both our refuge staff and the hunters who were restricted to hunting on Federal public lands only. Only one moose has been harvested during this winter hunt over the past three years combined. These proposed season dates would help by extending the season over a longer period and allowing hunters to use both State and Federal lands.

This longer season would also allow hunters more time to locate antlered bull moose while doing their normal winter activities and hopefully reduce their expense and effort expended. This season would also allow more opportunity during the early winter when bulls have antlers and should help to minimize the chance of a hunter taking a cow moose by mistake.

The FWS **opposes proposal 94** which would change the boundary of the Kanuti Control Use Area so that it includes Fish Creek Lake as the northeast point.

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IN AMERICA 


Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman

2

This new boundary line would create confusion for both hunters and law enforcement officers. This change appears to benefit one user who uses a cabin in the affected area seasonally at the expense of all other users in the area.

Thank you for your time to review our comments on these proposals. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Berg, Subsistence Coordinator, at 786-3519.

Sincerely,


Regional Director

RC 80



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/OSM/10010/CA

FEB 18 2010

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chair
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The Alaska Board of Game is scheduled to meet February 26 – March 7, 2010, to deliberate proposals concerning changes to the Interior Region (Region III) regulations. We have reviewed the 132 proposals the Board will be considering at this meeting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, working with other Federal agencies, has developed preliminary recommendations on those proposals that have potential impacts on both Federal Subsistence users and wildlife resources. Our comments are enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on these issues. Please contact Chuck Ardizzone, Wildlife Liaison, 907-786-3871, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco,
Assistant Regional Director
Office of Subsistence Management

Enclosure

cc: Denby Lloyd, ADF&G
Mike Fleagle, Chair, FSB
Kristy Tibbles, Board Support Section
Tina Cuning, ADF&G
Interagency Staff Committee
Chuck Ardizzone, OSM

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PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.990(7)(C)(iv). Definitions; and 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Reclassify black bear to allow trapping and the sale of hides in Units 25, 20 and 12 as follows:

Declare the black bear a furbearer under statewide regulations for Units 25, 20, and 12.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ _____.25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations

(a) Definitions

Furbearer means a beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat, river (land) otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, marmot, wolf, or wolverine.

Trapping means the taking of furbearers within established trapping seasons and with a required trapping license.

§ _____. 25(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish

(2) If you take wildlife for subsistence, you must salvage the following parts for human use:

(iii) The hide and edible meat of a black bear.

(3) You must salvage the edible meat of ungulates, bear, grouse, and ptarmigan.

(8) If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell the raw fur or tanned pelt with or without claws attached from legally harvested furbearers.

§ _____.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife

(b) Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited . . .

(10) Using a trap to take ungulates or bear.

(17) Taking a bear cub or a sow accompanied by cub(s).

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a proposal to reclassify black bears as furbearers in Units 12, 20 and 25 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. If adopted, the proposal would allow the sale of the raw fur or tanned pelt from black bear legally harvested under Federal wildlife regulations.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the reclassification of black bears as furbearers, but is concerned about the resulting regulations to include: harvest limits, harvest seasons, and methods and means of take.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would classify black bears as furbearers and would allow the general sale of bear hides and could lead to large scale commercial sales. Bears have low

and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A and which are not removed from the Unit.

(i) In areas where sealing is required by Federal regulations, you may not possess or transport the hide of a bear that does not have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear.

(ii) If the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage is removed from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Bethel, Dillingham, or McGrath; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iii) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A from the area or present it for commercial tanning within the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Barrow, Galena, Nome, or Kotzebue; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iv) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 5 from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Yakutat.

(v) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 9E from Unit 9, you must first have it sealed by an authorized sealing representative. At the time of sealing, the representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support** the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would help eliminate redundant reporting requirements for black bears in units where both sealing and harvest ticket are required. According to ADF&G, information obtained from harvest tickets reports alone is sufficient to guide management of black bear populations in all of the Interior units with the exception of Unit 20B, where harvest rates are low. Research indicates that the estimated sustainable harvest rates are well above the current harvest rates. Now that harvest tickets are required, sealing data is redundant and unnecessary in Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20C, 20E and 20F. However, because harvest rates are high in Unit 20B, data collected during the sealing process as well as harvest ticket data, will allow ADF&G to closely monitor the Unit 20B black bear population for indications of overharvest.

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Authorize new resident brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska, including reauthorization of current resident tag fee exemptions as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C [UNIT 19(A) AND UNIT 19(D);]

[(5) UNIT 20(D);]

[(6) UNIT 20(E), THAT PORTION OUTSIDE OF YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE;]

[(7) UNIT 21(B), UNIT 21(D), AND UNIT 21(E);]

...

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[(10) UNIT 25(C) AND UNIT 25(D).]

reproductive rates and a moderate increase in harvest could lead to long-term population declines in some areas.

PROPOSAL 11- 5AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Eliminate black bear sealing in Interior Game Management Units where harvest tickets or registration permits provide necessary harvest data as follows:

(a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state, black bear of any color variation taken in Units 1 - 7, 11, 13-17, and 20B [11 - 17, 19(D), AND 20], and a bear skin or skull before the skin or hide is sold. A seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin and skull have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department, except that

...

[(4) IN UNIT 19(D), BLACK BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 19(D) OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 92.125(F) IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE SEALED; HOWEVER, THE HIDE OF A BLACK BEAR TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31 IN UNIT 19(D) OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNIT 19 UNTIL SEALED;]

...

(b) A person who possesses a bear **taken** in a unit where sealing is required shall keep the skin and skull together until a department representative has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin. The department may require that the skull of the bear be skinned and that the skin and skull not be frozen at the time of sealing.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(j) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(1) Sealing requirements for bear apply to brown bears taken in all Units, except as specified in this paragraph, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20.

(2) You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of ADF&G in accordance with State or Federal regulations, except that the skin and skull of a brown bear taken under a registration permit in Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A need not be sealed unless removed from the area.

(3) You must keep a bear skin and skull together until a representative of the ADF&G has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin; however, this provision does not apply to brown bears taken within Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

...
[(5) UNITS 19(A) AND 19(B), THAT PORTION DOWNSTREAM OF AND INCLUDING THE ANIAK RIVER DRAINAGE;]
[(6) UNIT 21(D);]
...
[(9) UNIT 24;]...

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is support the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would eliminate the requirement that subsistence users must purchase a \$25 tag before hunting grizzly bears in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C. Removing this requirement is particularly important in areas where there are few vendors and local economies are in a depressed state.

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify seasons and bag limits, and apply certain motorized restrictions for the Fortymile Caribou Herd, Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C

Current Federal Regulation:

Caribou

Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20D

No Federal open Season

Unit 20E—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 900 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota. During the winter season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be announced when Nelchina caribou are present in a mix of more than 1 Nelchina caribou to 15 Fortymile caribou, except when the number of caribou present is low enough that less than 50 Nelchina caribou will be harvested regardless of the mixing ration for the two herds.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Unit 25C, that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek—1 caribou, however cow caribou may be taken only from Nov. 1–Mar. 31. During the Nov. 1–Mar. 31 season, a State registration permit is required.

Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Nov. 1–Mar. 31

Unit 25C remainder—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 600 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota.

Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-105) was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. WP10-105 requests that the Federal Fortymile Caribou Hunt Manager be given discretionary in-season hunt management authority, including the authority to modify or restrict harvest limits, season dates, methods, means and access to hunt the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) in Units 20E and 25C.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action**.

Rationale: This proposal should first be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, prior to the Board taking any action to modify seasons and bag limits, or to apply certain motorized restrictions for caribou in the region. See comments for Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou, and 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Revise the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan by changing season dates, bag limits and permit conditions for Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C as follows:

Under discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures 5 AAC 92.052(7), (10), (12), (17), and (21), the Department of Fish and Game shall implement the following changes to the Fortymile caribou registration hunt (RC860):

In Zone 1 (portions of Units 20B and 25C accessible from the Steese highway and Chena Hot Springs Road) and Zone 3 (portions of Unit 20E accessible from the Taylor Highway).

Residents: Shorten the season to August 29th – September 30th from August 10 September 30, and change the bag limit from one caribou to one bull.

Nonresidents: Shorten the season to August 29th – September 20th from August 10 – September 20th. The bag limit will remain one bull.

In Zone 2, the roadless area between the Steese and Taylor Highways in parts of Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

Residents and nonresidents: The season will remain August 10 – September 30 for residents and August 10 – September 20 for nonresidents, the resident bag limit will be changed from one caribou to one bull, the nonresident bag limit will remain one bull.

In addition, the department shall implement temporary closures and weapons restrictions in specific areas where the harvest management problems occur and to reduce heavy roadside harvest. Furthermore, under the Fortymile caribou seasons in the hunting regulations booklet, wording should be added stating "Hunt subject to delayed opening, weapons restrictions or cancellation on short notice. Call the Fortymile hotline (267-2310) before departing for the field." The Board of Game, Advisory Committees, and hunters need full disclosure on the effects of each requested action. To answer the concern of state hunters who believe that federally qualified hunters may take the full fall quota of 480 caribou before the state season opens, the coalition (which has three members on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council- EIRAC) recommends using the place-holder federal proposal (WP10-105) to ask for a maximum number of caribou "to be announced" before the season, but not to exceed 100 caribou, that can be taken by federally qualified hunters on federal land between August 10 and August 29. Also they will ask the federal board to consider a "bulls only" season in the fall so that the federal and state hunts can continue a joint permit. The fall state hunt quota would provide approximately 400 caribou for Zones 1 and 3.

Current Federal Regulations:

Caribou

Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20D

*No Federal open
Season*

Unit 20E—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 900 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota. During the winter season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be announced when Nelchina caribou are present in a mix of more than 1 Nelchina caribou to 15 Fortymile caribou, except when the number of caribou present is low enough that less than 50 Nelchina caribou will be harvested regardless of the mixing ration for the two herds.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Unit 25C, that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek—1 caribou, however cow caribou may be taken only from Nov. 1–Mar. 31. During the Nov. 1–Mar. 31 season, a State registration permit is required. Unit 25C remainder—1 caribou by joint State-Federal registration permit only. Up to 600 caribou may be taken under a State-Federal harvest quota.

*Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Nov. 1–Mar. 31*

*Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

The season closures will be announced by the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Manager

after consultation with the NPS and ADF&G.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-105) was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. WP10-105 requests that the Federal Fortymile Caribou Hunt Manager be given discretionary in-season hunt management authority, including the authority to modify or restrict harvest limits, season dates, methods, means and access to hunt the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) in Units 20E and 25C.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support** the proposal.

Rationale: This proposal was vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. The working group worked cooperatively to develop possible solutions to problems revolving around the harvest of Forty Mile caribou. The Office of Subsistence Management received a copy of State proposal 14 and spoke to the issues in the proposal while analyzing Federal proposal WP10-105. The Office of Subsistence Management recommends supporting the harvest limit change from one caribou to one bull for the fall hunt and to limit the number of caribou harvested in the first 19 days of the Federal subsistence fall hunt to 100 animals. However, the Eastern Interior Regional Council will not meet to address this issue until just prior to the Board of Game meeting and the Council recommendation may differ. The Federal Subsistence Board will take action on Federal proposal WP10-105 at its May 2010 public meeting and the Board is required to give due deference to the Regional Council's recommendation unless the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence uses.

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a fall hunting season for the Chisana Caribou Herd in Unit 12 as follows:

Establish a joint federal/state draw permit hunt for the Chisana Caribou Herd starting the fall of 2011. This draw permit hunt should be structured similar to the Cordova moose draw permit hunt, with a portion of the permits issued to federally qualified subsistence hunters, under federal regulations (federal hunt), and the rest of the permits issued to Alaska residents and nonresidents, under state regulations (state hunt).

The hunt should be managed in accordance with the recommendations in the Chisana Herd Management Plan currently being drafted by Yukon Department of Environment, White River First Nation, Canadian Wildlife Service, National Park Service (Wrangell St. Elias), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game. The total numbers of permits issued for the joint federal/state draw permit hunt, should be in accordance with the recommendation in the plan.

The draft plan currently recommends a harvest rate of 2 percent of the annual minimum population estimate to be split evenly between Alaska and Yukon. The Alaska portion of the allotted harvest should be allocated between the federal and state draw permit hunts based on recent historic Alaska harvest records of the herd. (eg: harvest records available over the past 30 years).

Bag limit: 1 Bull (this should be a bulls only season for the Federal and State Hunts as recommended in the Plan)
Season dates: September 1 through September 30.

Hunt area: Unit 12, within the White River Drainage and that portion within the Chisana River upstream from the winter trail that runs southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 12—Caribou

Unit 12, that portion of the Nabesna River drainage within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and all Federal Public lands south of the winter trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border—The taking of caribou is prohibited on Federal public lands. No Federal open season

Unit 12 remainder—1 bull during the Sept. season. 1 caribou may be taken by a Federal registration permit during a winter season to be announced. Dates for a winter season to occur between Oct. 1–Apr. 30 and sex of animal to be taken will be announced by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Manager in consultation with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent, ADF&G Area Biologists and Chairs of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Sept. 1–Sept. 20 Winter season to be announced.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal (WP10-104), has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. The proposal requests that a joint Federal-State draw permit hunt for the Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH) be established in Unit 12 starting fall of 2011. The harvest quota would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan, the harvest limit would be one bull and the hunting season would be September 1 through September 30. A portion of the permits would be issued to Federally qualified subsistence hunters for a Federal hunt and the rest of the permits would be issued to Alaska residents and nonresidents for a State hunt. The current OSM recommendation is to defer Federal proposal WP10-104 until the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan is finalized and the 2010 census is complete.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is to defer the proposal.

Rationale: The 2010 census should provide an estimate of current herd size, but if the Chisana Caribou Herd remains at about 700 animals, a 2% harvest quota would result in approximately 14 animals being available for harvest. When split between Yukon and Alaska, as few as seven animals could be available to harvest in Alaska. The priority on Federal public lands is to provide for subsistence use for qualified rural residents, which in the case of Unit 12 caribou includes rural residents of Unit 12, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake. Currently, the Alaskan range of the Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH) is almost completely encompassed within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, which is closed to the taking of caribou. Without action by the Federal Subsistence Board, Federal lands in the area where the herd ranges will

remain closed to harvest. Finally, since there has been no hunt on the CCH since 1994, the anticipated level of participation in a Federal subsistence hunt is unknown.

Two key components are needed before a hunt can be established for the CCH. First, the draft CCH Management Plan needs to be finalized and endorsed by all the management agencies involved with the CCH. An approved management plan will establish the biological thresholds (e.g., herd size, sex ratio, cow-calf ratio) needed for evaluating herd stability before a harvest quota can be identified. Second, the 2010 CCH census needs to be completed to estimate the current herd size. Once the management plan and census are completed, the framework will exist to establish an accurate harvestable quota. Until these two components are in place it is premature to create hunting regulations for the CCH. To establish a Federal-State draw permit hunt for CCH, support would need to come from both of the affected Regional Advisory Councils (Southcentral and Eastern Interior) and the subsistence community. However, the Eastern Interior Regional Council will not meet to address this issue until just prior to the Alaska Board of Game meeting and Southcentral Regional Council will not meet until after the Board has met. The Councils' recommendations may or may not support this proposed hunt. The Federal Subsistence Board will not take action on Federal proposal WP10-104 until its May 2010 public meeting. The Board is required to give due deference to the Regional Councils' recommendations unless the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence uses. Without action by the Federal Subsistence Board, Federal lands in the area where the herd ranges will remain closed to harvest.

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 20E as follows:

Increase the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 20E (Fortymile Caribou Herd) to the growth amount so the herd stays at current levels. That would be 7-10 percent. Watch the cow-calf ratios and revisit harvest numbers at a later date.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action.** .

Rationale: This proposal should be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. See comments for Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.052 Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Apply restrictions to the Fortymile caribou permit hunt in Unit 20E as follows:

Require blaze orange vests be worn by all hunters. Require all hunters to have hunter's education card (presented at the time the tag is picked up). Discontinue the current rifle season and change it to an archery only hunt from August 10 - 17; bow hunting safety card required. Make a new rifle season from August 17 - 24. Limit the number of tags to nonresidents to 40 tags during the rifle season and 10 tags for the archery season. These tags on a draw permit only. No drawing for resident hunters for either rifle hunt or archery hunt

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **take no action**.

Rationale: This proposal should be vetted through the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) working group, a joint coalition of Eagle, Central, Delta, Upper Tanana-Fortymile and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. See comments for proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Eliminate the nonresident closed area for caribou in Unit 19A as follows:

Remove all wording about non-resident closed area in Unit 19A

Current Federal Regulations:

*Unit 19A north of Kuskokwim River—1 caribou Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Nov. 1–Feb. 28*

*Units 19A south of the Kuskokwim River and Aug. 1–Apr. 15
19B (excluding Lime Village)—3 caribou;
however, no more than 1 caribou may be taken
from Aug. 1–Nov. 30.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-53 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board., to change the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 19A to two caribou.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would result in additional competition between user groups desiring to harvest caribou in Unit 19A. Results from the July 2006 photocensus provided an estimate of 45,000 caribou. Results from the July 2008 photocensus provided a minimum estimate of 30,000 caribou. Bull:cow ratios have been estimated at less than 35 bulls:100 cows since 2001. These estimates indicate a substantial reduction in herd size and bull:cow ratios and suggests that it is near the minimum population for the ADF&G management objectives. Providing additional harvest opportunities at this time is not recommended.

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a registration hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 19C for residents as follows:

Open by registration hunt for the communities of Nikolai, Telida, McGrath, Takotna. Three permits for each community from October 1 to March 30, no aircraft, $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or less, ewes with no lamb.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 19 – 1 ram with 7/8 curl or larger Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Traditionally, people from the named communities took dog teams after the fall snows and hunted for young rams and ewes. This proposal is requesting reinstatement of the traditional sheep hunt that was ended when the full curl/fall hunt was put into place.

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area as follows:

April 5 - 15 antlered bull moose hunt for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area downstream of the Henshaw Creek and including the Henshaw Creek drainage. The harvest quota of bulls will be determined after consultation with the State Area Biologist, Refuge Manager, BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager, and the chairs of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The quota will be based on biological sustainability of the population maintaining the bull/cow ratio management objective. The harvest quota would apply to Federal and State concurrent hunts, if applicable. The Area Wildlife Biologist is authorized to close the season once the quota is reached.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 24B – Moose

<i>Unit 24B, that portion within the John River Drainage – 1 moose</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Dec.31</i>
<i>Unit 24B, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River, except the John River drainage – 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 and Mar. 1 – 5, if authorized jointly by the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Manager, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager, and the Gates of the Arctic National Park Superintendent. A Federal registration permit is required for the Sept. 26 – Oct. 1 and Mar. 1 – 5 seasons. Harvest of cows accompanied by calves is prohibited. The announcement will be made after consultation with the ADF&G Area Biologist and Chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, and the Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee.</i>	<i>Aug. 25-Oct. 1 Mar. 1-Mar. 5 Season to be announced</i>
<i>Federal public lands in the Kanuti Controlled use Area are closed to the taking of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users of Unit 24, Koyukuk, and Galena hunting under these regulations.</i>	
<i>Unit 24B remainder – 1 antlered bull. A Federal registration permit is required for the Sept. 26 – Oct. 1 season.</i>	<i>Aug. 25 – Oct. 1</i>

Federal public lands in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area are closed to the taking of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users of Unit 24, Koyukuk, and Galena, hunting under these regulations.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-67 requesting changes in harvest seasons and limits for moose in Unit 24B, has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Subsistence users would not be significantly affected because Federal public lands within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B are currently closed to non-Federally qualified moose hunters. Although at a low density, the moose population exhibits a healthy bull/cow ratio, good productivity and recruitment. The population should be able to support some additional harvest of a few bull moose without causing conservation concerns. Additionally instituting a quota would help limit the possibility of overharvest.

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area as follows:

April 5 - 15 antlered bull moose hunt for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area with the harvest quota of bulls will be determined after consultation with the State Area Biologist, Refuge Manager, BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager and the chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The quota will be based on biological sustainability of the population maintaining the bull/cow ratio management objective. The harvest quota would apply to Federal and State concurrent hunts if applicable. The Area Wildlife Biologist is authorized to close the season once the quota is reached.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 24C and 24D – Moose

<i>Unit 24C and 24D, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge – 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during Aug. 27-31 and the Mar. 1-5 season, if authorized by announcement by the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge Manager and BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is prohibited. During the Aug. 27 –Sept. 20 season, a State registration permit is required. During the Mar. 1-5 season, a Federal registration permit is required. Announcement for the antlerless moose seasons and cow quotas will be made after consultation with the ADF&G Area Biologist and the Chairs of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committees.</i>	<i>Aug. 27- Sept. 20 Mar. 1-5 season to be announced.</i>
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Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, two proposals WP10-63 and WP10-68 both requesting changes in harvest seasons and limits for moose in Units 24C and 24D, have been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: The moose population is below management objectives in these units. Local resident harvest has increased steadily over the last 10 years, current State and Federal seasons occur in September, December and March. Adding additional harvest opportunities at this time is not recommended.

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 92.540 (8)(B). Controlled use areas. Modify the boundary of Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B as follows:

Move the boundary of the Kanuti Controlled Use Area so that it includes Fish Creek Lake as the northeast point instead of the Bettles VOR. The proposed regulation would read:
The Kanuti Controlled Use Area – the area consists of that portion of Unit 24 bounded by a line from a point at the northern most headwaters of Siruk Creek at 66° 48.557' N. lat. 153° 53.267' W. long., to the highest peak of Double Point Mountain at 66° 40.322' N. lat. 152° 30.132' W. long., to the northern end of Fish Creek Lake (including all waters of the lake) 146 at 66° 36.071' N. lat. 151° 27.936' W. long., to the east side of Old Dummy Lake (including all waters of the lake) at 66° 08.241' N. lat. 151° 49.276' W. long., to the south end of Lake Todatonten (including all waters of the lake) at 66° 07.556' N. lat. 152° 55.520' W. long., then back to the point of origination at Siruk Creek.

Current Federal Regulation:

§.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(24)(B) You may not use aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or moose part in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, which consists of that portion of Unit 24 bounded by a line from the Bettles Field VOR to the east side of Fish Creek Lake, to Old Dummy Lake, to the south end of Lake Todatonten (including all waters of these lakes), to the northernmost headwaters of Siruk Creek, to the highest peak of Double Point Mountain, then back to the Bettles Field VOR; however, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or moose part by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the area;

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on this proposal. However, if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to correspond.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area would differ between the State and Federal regulations.

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 25A as follows:

Unit 25A caribou - residents: Ten caribou. That portion of Unit 25A within the Chandalar River drainage west of and including the Middle Fork of the Chandalar and north of the main stem and the west fork of the Chandalar, July 1 – June 30. However, only velvet antlered bulls and antlerless cows may be taken from May 1 – June 30.

Remainder of Unit 25A July 1 – April 30.

Current Federal Regulations:

Unit 25—Caribou

Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D remainder —10 caribou

Jul. 1–Apr. 30

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10 -94 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board, requesting an extension of the harvest season in a portion of Unit 25A from July 1–April 30 to July 1–June 30. Only bull or antlerless cow caribou may be taken May 1–June 30. This regulation change would apply only to the Chandalar drainage, west of the Middle Fork of the Chandalar River drainage. The harvest limit is to stay the same.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **support with modification** to establish a caribou hunting season from July 1 through June 30 in Unit 25A restricting the harvest to bulls only from May 15 through June 30.

Rationale: The Central Arctic Caribou Herd (CAH) has steadily increased in abundance since 1995, and currently exceeds the upper level population objectives by over 40,000 animals. Extending the hunt season will provide additional harvest opportunities for subsistence users. Furthermore, restricting the hunt to bulls in May and June will protect the calving females. The additional harvest of bulls will have little effect on the population, while providing additional subsistence opportunity. This hunt occurs in the area where CAH winters.

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Modify the salvage requirements for moose in Unit 25 as follows:

Moose taken in Unit 25 would have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

OR

All current meat salvage requirements should apply for moose taken in Unit 25.

Current Federal Regulations:

36 CFR Part 242.25(a) and 50 CFR Part 100.25(a) Definitions

Salvage means to transport the edible meat, skull, or hide, as required by regulation, of a regulated fish, wildlife, or shellfish to the location where the edible meat will be consumed by humans or processed for human consumption in a manner which saves or prevents the edible meat from waste, and preserves the skull or hide for human use.

§ _____.25(h) Removing harvest from the field

You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters and hind quarters of caribou and moose harvested in Units 9, 17, 18, and 19B prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of moose harvested in Unit 21 prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of caribou and moose harvested in Unit 24 prior to October 1 until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption. Meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, or ribs from a harvested moose or caribou may be processed for human consumption and consumed in the field; however, meat may not be removed from the bones for purposes of transport out of the field.

§ _____.25(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

*(3) You must salvage the edible meat of ungulates, bear, grouse, and ptarmigan
(5) Failure to salvage the edible meat may not be a violation if such failure is caused by circumstances beyond the control of a person, including theft of the harvested fish, wildlife, or shellfish, unanticipated weather conditions, or unavoidable loss to another animal.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal WP10-88 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board, requesting that all edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs from moose harvested in Unit 25 must remain on the bones until the meat is removed from the field or is processed for human consumption.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would require that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption. There has is no data concerning wanton waste in Unit 25 and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers have not issued excessive wanton waste citations in the Unit compared to other interior Game Management Units. If this proposal is adopted Office of Subsistence Management recommends the proposal be modified to apply only before October 1 when warmer daytime temperatures contribute to meat spoilage.

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (24) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a general hunting season for moose in Unit 26C as follows:

Units and bag limits
Unit 26C

Resident Season
[NO OPEN SEASON]

Nonresident Season

**One moose by registration
Permit**

Sept 5-Apr 15

**One bull with 50 inch antlers
Or 4 or more brow tines
on one side by registration
permit**

Sept 5-Nov 30

Current Federal Regulation:

Units 26B remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration July 1–Mar. 31 permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 3 moose (2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex) provided that no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from Unit 26C. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf. Only 3 Federal registration permits will be issued.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit, hunting under these regulations.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The Office of Subsistence Management recommendation is **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: The Unit 26C moose population has not increased and opening a registration permit would likely result in overharvest even if a short reporting requirement is in place. Currently Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit and without action by the Federal Subsistence Board Federal lands in the area will remain closed to harvest, except by a Kaktovik residents.



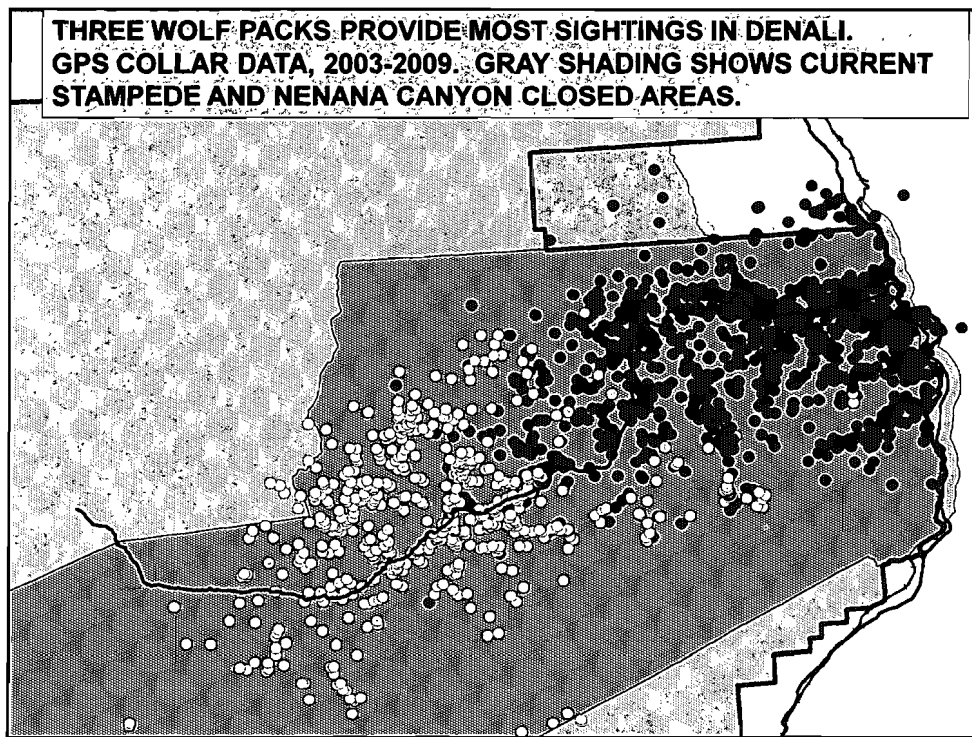
I'm Philip Hooe, Assistant Superintendant for Denali National Park. With me today is Tom Meier, a biologist who has worked with wolves in the park for 17 years. We'd like to thank the Board of Game for the opportunity to present some new data that may help the Board in its deliberation of the wolf buffer issue.

Each year, almost 400,000 visitors come to Denali, and the primary motivation for most of them is to view wildlife. It's estimated that more than 20,000 of those visitors see wolves along the Denali Park Road each year.

Denali is recognized as one of the best places in the world to see wolves in the wild. More than anywhere else in Alaska, wolves living along the Denali Park Road are an important resource for viewing by visitors.

The lack of fear of humans that makes these wolves easily viewed by visitors also makes them especially vulnerable to being shot or trapped when they venture outside of park boundaries.

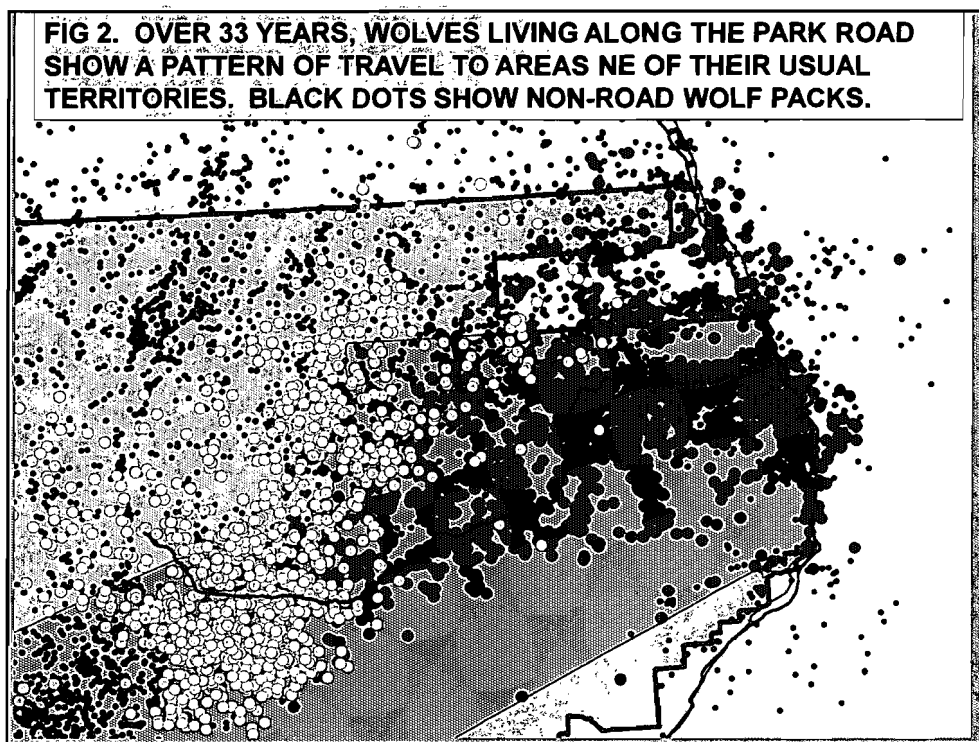
Harvest of breeding wolves from these packs has the potential to decrease wolf numbers, alter wolf behavior, and decrease opportunities for wolf viewing by park visitors.



In recent years, GPS radio collars have given us a more complete picture of the movements and mortality patterns of Denali's wolf packs, and how they relate to the closed areas that were established to protect park wolves in 2000 and 2002.

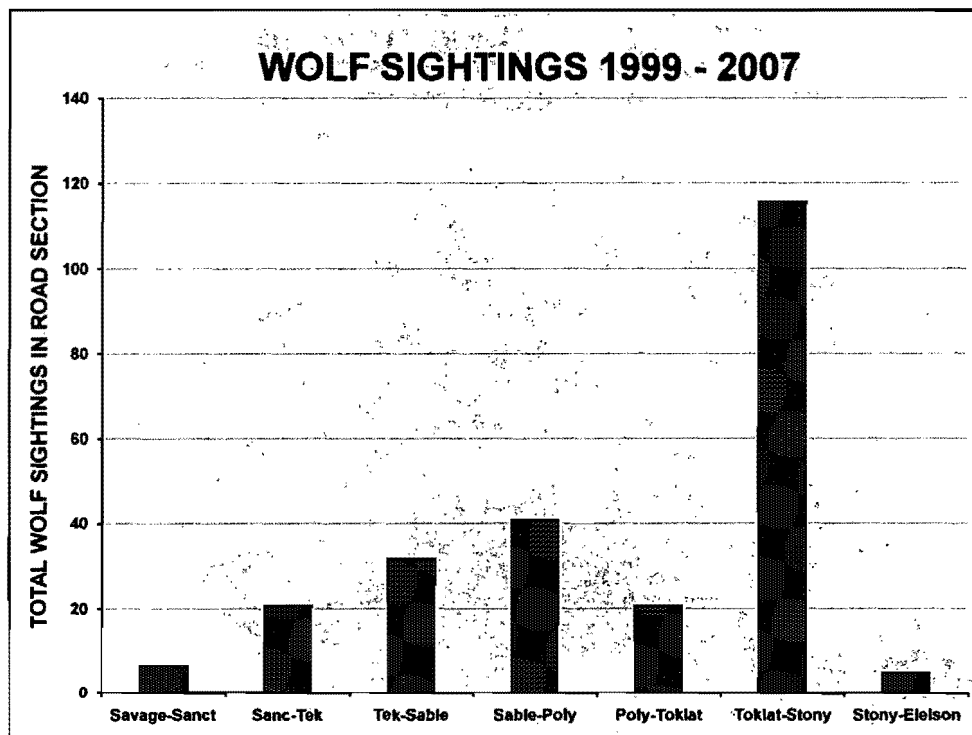
The yellow, red and blue dots represent daily locations of three wolf packs that live near the Denali Park Road. These three packs provide most of the sightings of wolves in the park.

Gray shading shows the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas. The Stampede Closed Area provides nearly complete protection of wolves living along the western part of the road, but two wolf packs farther east frequently travel into areas still open to wolf harvest.



Looking at a longer time span (1986 through 2008), movements of radiocollared wolves show that wolves living near the Denali Park Road have a history of traveling to the north and northeast, particularly in winter when caribou often move into the Stampede flats.

Here, wolf packs that lived near the park road during this time are grouped by color into those that lived near the western, central, or eastern part of the Denali Park Road. Black dots represent locations of all other wolves that we have collared.

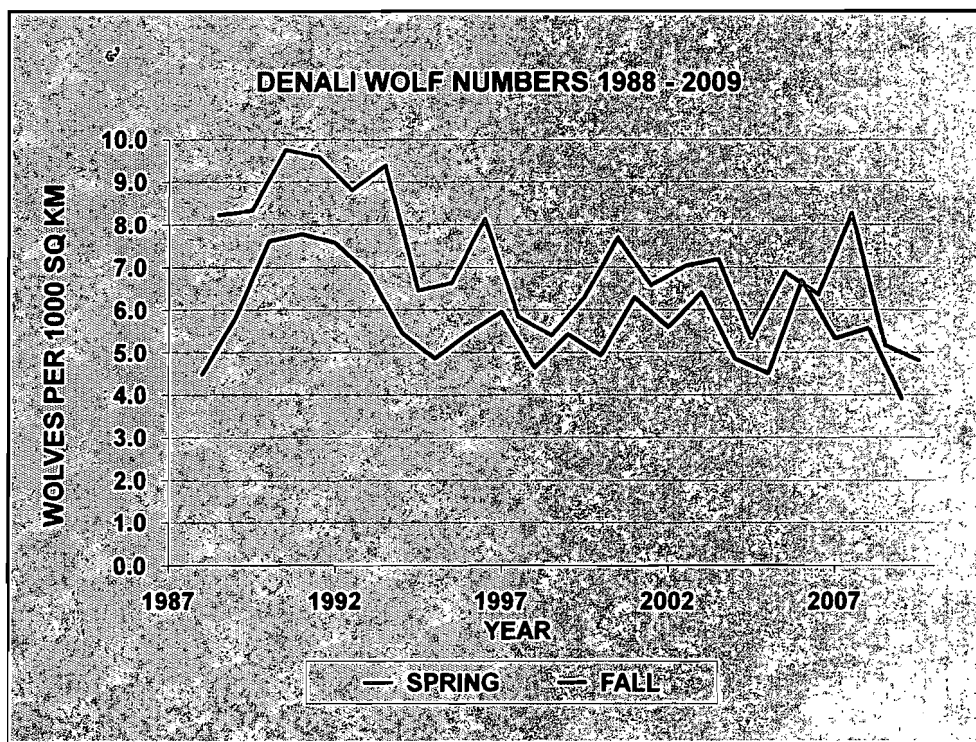


Bars indicate numbers of wolf sightings recorded by a sample of bus drivers along seven stretches of the park road, over a nine-year period.

The most obvious effect is the large number of wolves seen in the area just beyond Toklat.

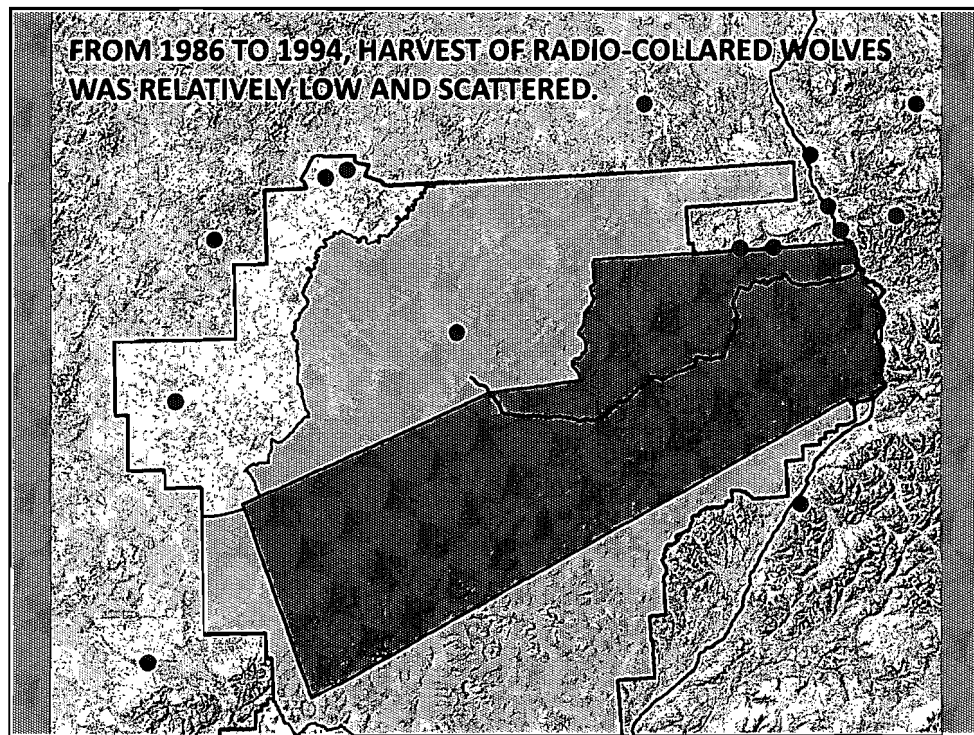
The Grant Creek Pack, seen in that area, enjoys virtually complete protection by the existing Stampede Closed Area.

Most visitors do not go far enough into the park to see these wolves.

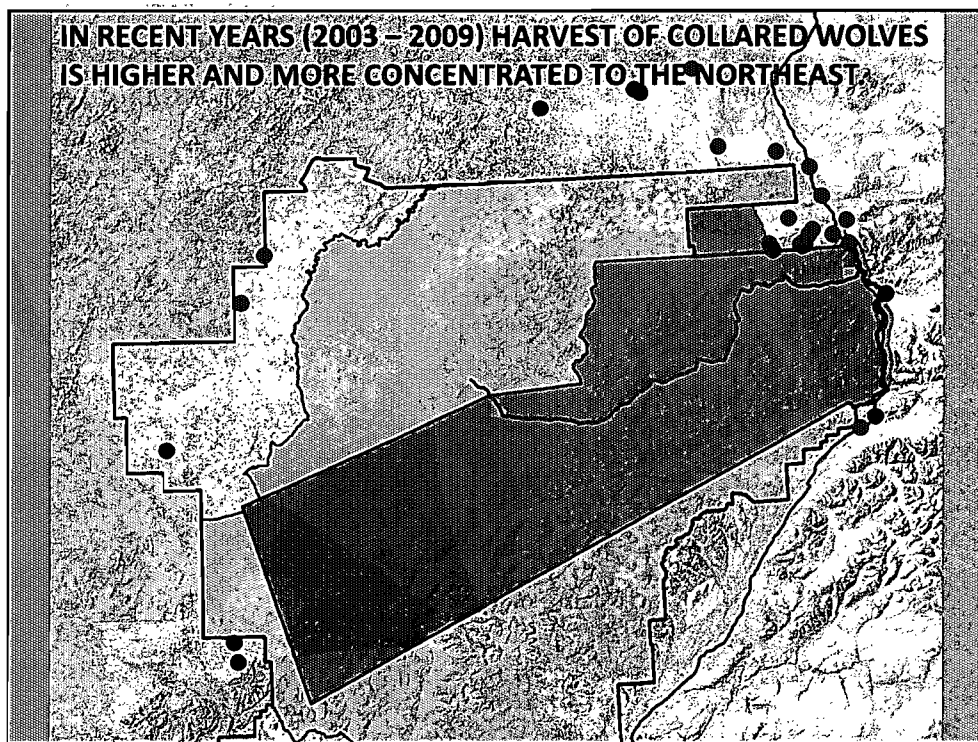


The graph shows spring (blue) and fall (green) estimates of wolf density in Denali National Park and Preserve north of the Alaska Range.

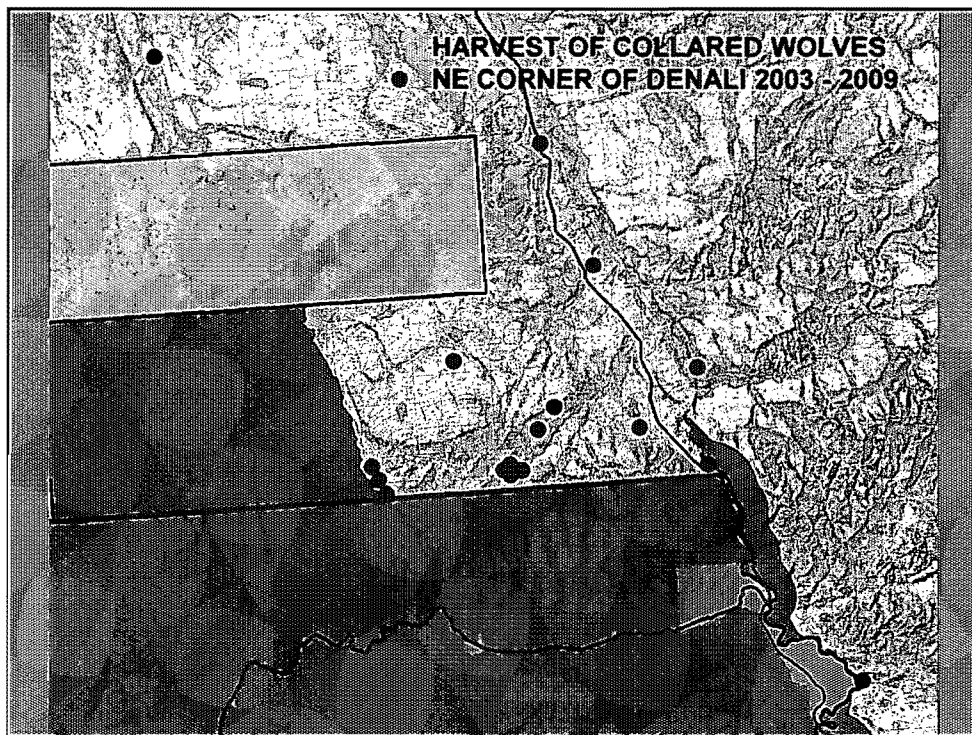
The spring 2009 estimate of fewer than 4 wolves per 1000 square kilometers (fewer than 70 wolves in the park north of the Alaska Range) was the lowest estimate since 1987. Preliminary data for 2010 suggest that the population is stable.



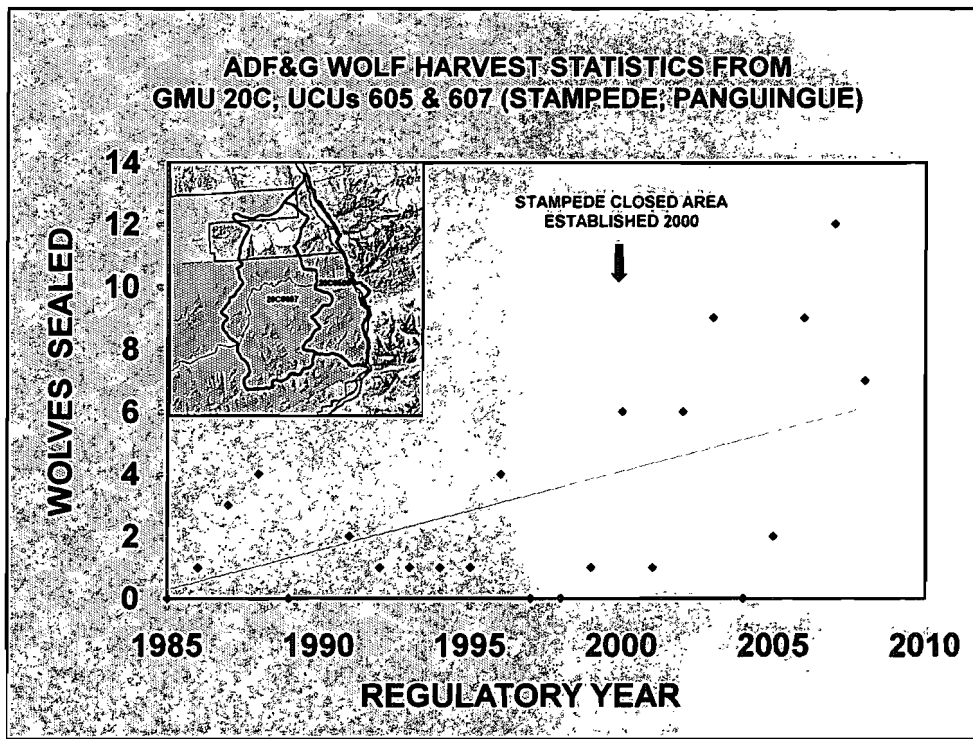
The map shows the locations where radio-collared wolves were killed by humans during the years 1986 through 1994.



In recent years a much greater proportion of human harvest of collared wolves has been concentrated in an area just northeast of the park and in the Stampede corridor that forms a notch in the northeast part of the park.

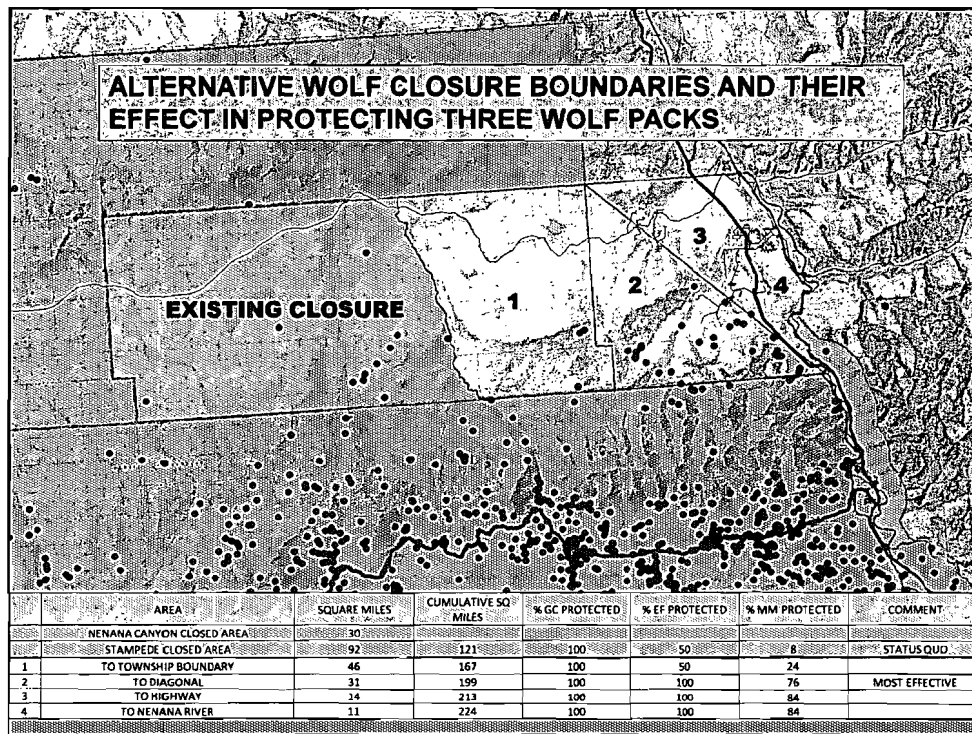


Close-up of the northeast corner of Denali National Park showing locations where collared wolves were harvested in the last 7 years (some locations are approximate or separated to show numbers in a small area)



Wolf harvest numbers from ADF&G sealing records, 1985-2008 regulatory years, for UCU's 605 and 607 of Game Management Unit 20C. Harvest shows a generally increasing trend that was not slowed by the creation of the Stampede Closed Area.

This level of harvest is not high enough to affect overall wolf numbers in the area (wolf populations can withstand 25% or higher harvest levels), but the location of much of this harvest close to park boundaries, combined with the vulnerability of these wolves that are unafraid of humans, creates a high potential for harvest affecting wolf viewing and visitor experiences in Denali.



Four alternative boundaries for an expanded closed area were investigated.

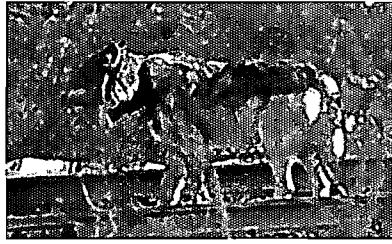
Option #1 did not provide much additional protection.

Option #2 provided substantially increased protection for two wolf packs that live near the Denali Park Road.

Options #3 and #4 did not provide significantly more protection of these wolf packs.

Snared wolves roaming parts of Denali Park

By Tim Mowry



Published Thursday, April 24, 2008

Tourists in Denali National Park and Preserve could be in for a gruesome sight this summer if two particular wolves are still hanging out in the park.

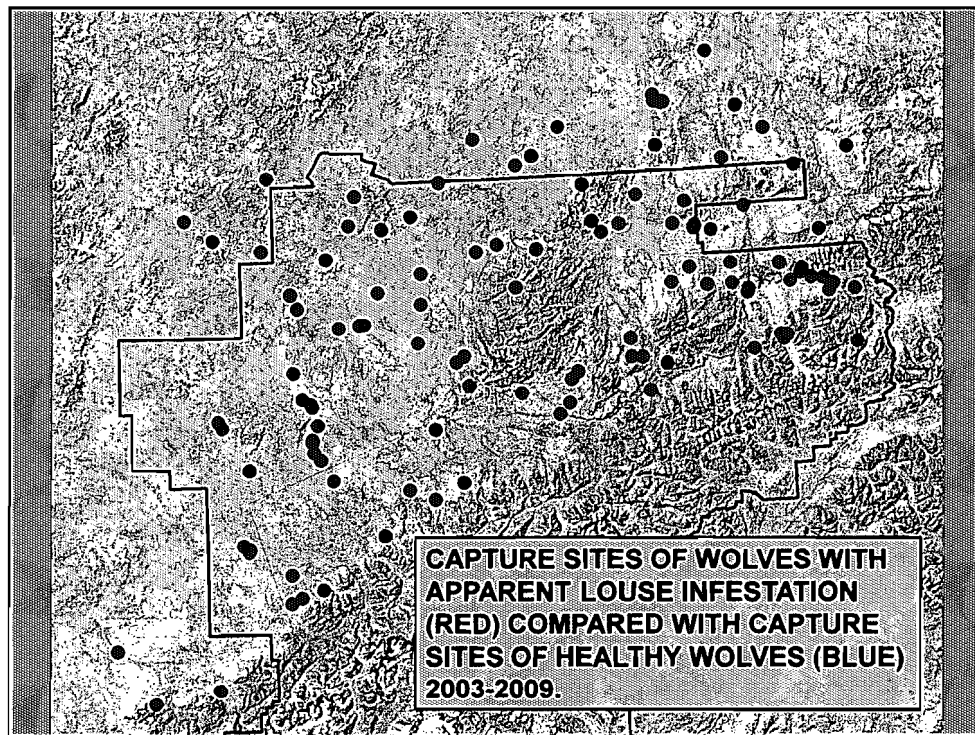
The wolves were caught in snares outside the park 3 1/2 weeks ago but managed to escape — with the snares still on their necks.

The park service began receiving reports about one of the wolves, a big, gray male, in mid-February. That wolf has been seen along stretches of the Parks Highway near park headquarters, as well as on the first 10 miles of Denali Park Road, which is open to the public.

During winter 2007-2008, two wolves were seen in the east end of Denali carrying broken snares embedded in their necks.

This story and photo appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, and was later distributed by the Associated Press.

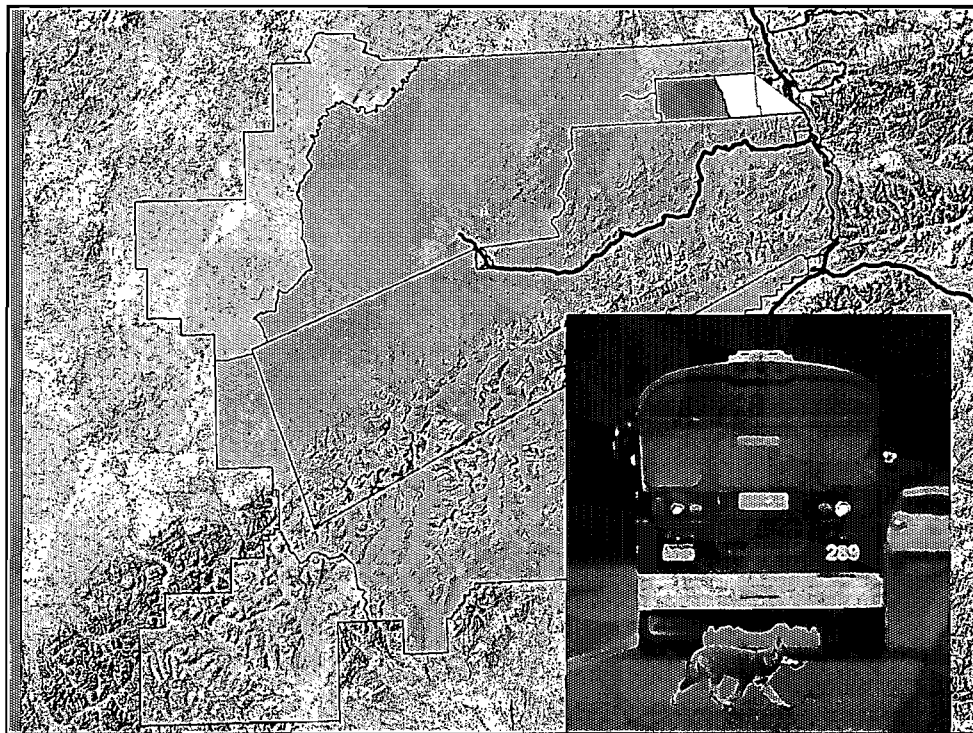
The sighting of wolves injured by traps and snares by large numbers of tourists is detrimental to tourists, wildlife managers, and trappers.



The distribution of wolves with apparent louse infestations (red) among all wolf captures (blue) shows a concentration of lousy wolves to the northeast of the park.

Although immigration of wolves into the park has been documented, it is probably outweighed by emigration of wolves out of the park, making it less likely that infected wolves will join the park's wolf population.

Denali appears to be a reservoir of relatively uninfected wolves. Protection of wolf packs that live partly inside the park from harvest will help maintain that situation.



An investigation of various alternative boundaries for the closed areas indicates that a 64% increase in the size of the area closed to wolf harvest would create a nearly fourfold increase in the level of protection of two of the three most visible and most vulnerable wolf packs in the park.

We feel that this would have a significant positive impact on the opportunities for visitors to see wolves in this premier wildlife viewing area.

RC 82

Alaska Adventures Unlimited

February 26, 2010



Thomas J. Kirstein
Registered Guide/Outfitter

P.O. Box 83808
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
Telephone (907) 455-6117

State of Alaska Board of Game:

Dear Chairman and Board members

"Fair Chase"

My name is Tom Kirstein, my mailing address is Box 83808 Fairbanks, 99708. I live in Fairbanks, make my living as a licensed professional Master Guide. I will speak to some proposals concerning unit 20A, an area I have guided in for 36 years.

Proposal: # 69,70. I oppose these proposals.

I ask the Board to not make any changes to the Wood River Controlled Use Area. This is the oldest Controlled Use Area in Unit 20 and has proved to be a vital reason there has been hunt able game populations as far back to it's creation in the early 70's. Today at present time there is so much hunting pressure into this area just by aircraft alone that the game no longer has any refuge from such hunting techniques. To allow access for a chosen few by a drawing permit system or season date changes at this time just opens the door to more and more demanding access. This is a very fragile area and more destruction by machines of the habitat is not in the best interest of healthy game populations. I believe that the author's of these proposals mean well because they hunt with machines and want more access, not really giving care for anyone else that does not hunt using machines or for the game they want to pursue

Alaskan Big Game Guiding, Sport Fishing and Outfitting Service

without such pressure on it. Please don't change what has worked for so very many years. There needs to remain wild areas providing refuge for game species, for physical land conservation, and esthetic values that reflect the wilderness hunting experience of Alaska for everyone. Remember - access is everything for hunters, including protecting the game we cherish - from to much of it!


Proposal: # 35

I do not support changing the legal Bull Antler size in this area because the hunting pressure today is just to great to liberalize the harvest of Bull Moose. To allow taking of bulls of 3 brow tine size to be legal will only increase the harvest of these younger bulls and assure increasing hunter pressure in unit 20.

Proposal: 58,59 I do not support expanding these area's.

The Denali National Park has a boundary line and that should be used for protecting the Big game species within those boundaries. What ever predators or game extend their range beyond those boundaries in pursuit of healthier habitat or prey populations should come under management for consumptive users as provided for by state regulation!

Proposal: 16 I do not support this proposal because the current dates provide for equal access for both resident and non-resident hunters. Currently resident Sheep hunters take a majority of the sheep harvested. I believe this disparity in the season dates will have a negative effect for some non-resident potential clients



planning on coming to Alaska sheep hunting, likely driving them to hunt in Canada. I don't think that the author of this proposal really considered the real effect of how many additional resident sheep hunters this will actually bring to hunting sheep at the beginning of the season. All guides will still be accessing the mountains to establish their camps as needed anyways, but will now have the time to hunt sheep themselves before clients arrive. For this reason only I could support the season date change. I have never harvested a Dall Ram for myself because of guiding full time, perhaps I would have time and hunt for myself should this change come to pass.


Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,

Tom Kirstein

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Kirstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

McGrath Area



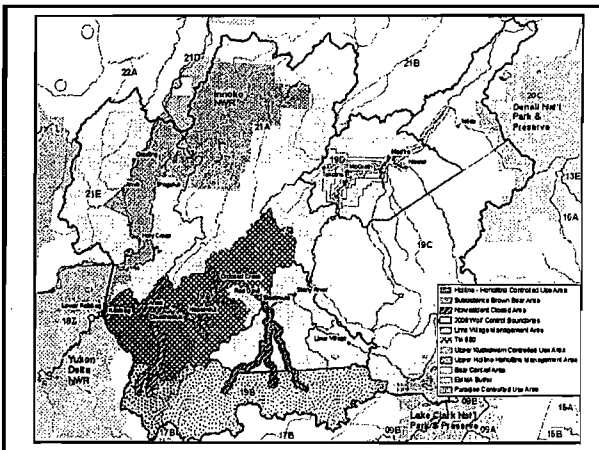


AK Wildlife Troopers:

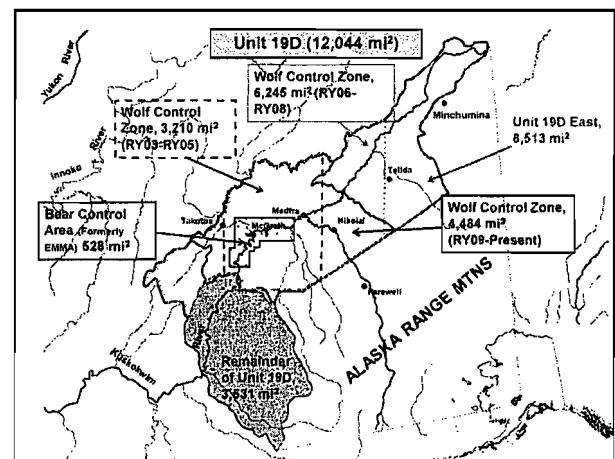
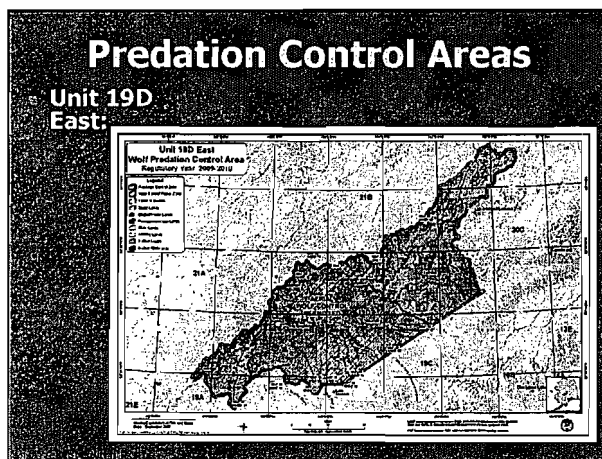
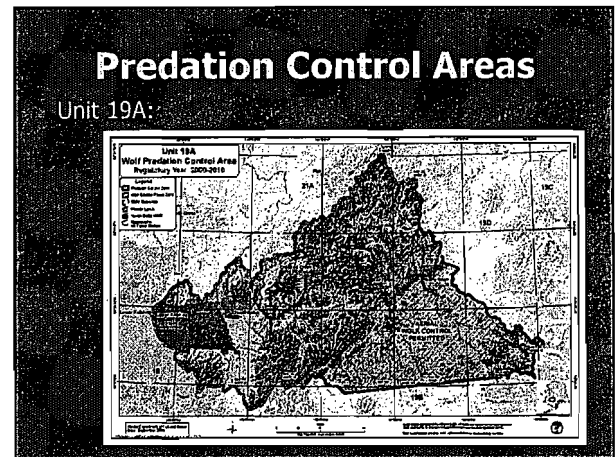
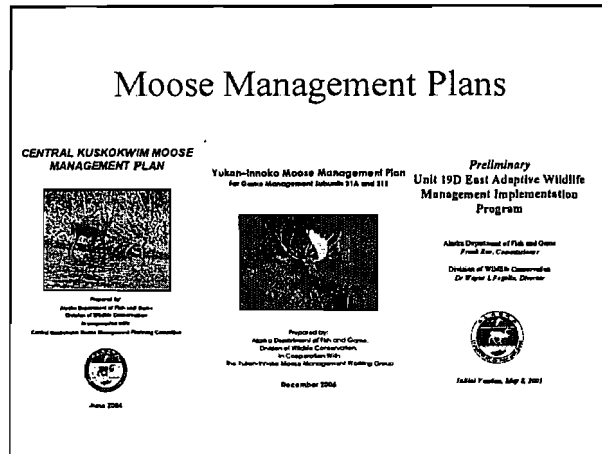
- Current Troopers working in the McGrath area
 - John Groover, McGrath
 - Art Cummings, Aniak
 - Dan Dahl, St. Marys
 - Mike Cresswell, Bethel
- Troopers who recently moved include:
 - Brett Gibbens (McGrath)
 - Tim Hall (Aniak)
 - Matt Dobson (Bethel)

Federal Partners

- BLM, Geoff Beyersdorf – Biologist
- Innoko NWR, Bo Sloan – Refuge Manager
- Yukon-Delta NWR, Gene Peltola, Jr. – Refuge Manager

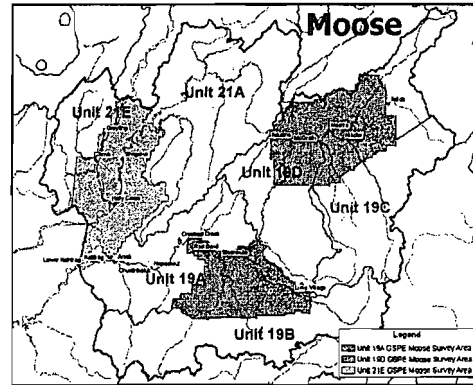
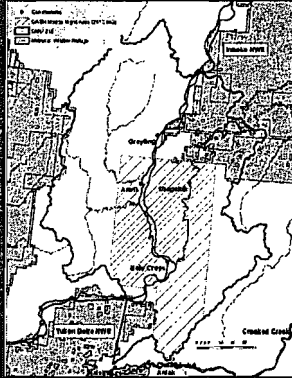
AND STAFF!



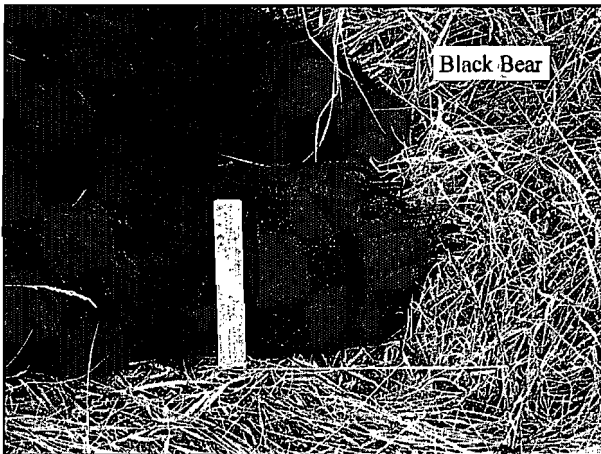


Predation Control Areas

Unit 21E:

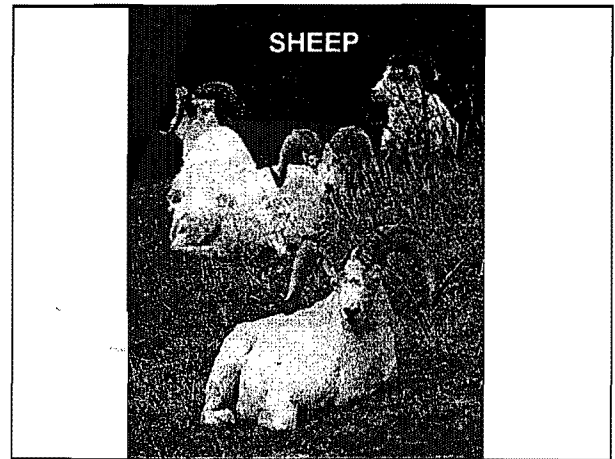
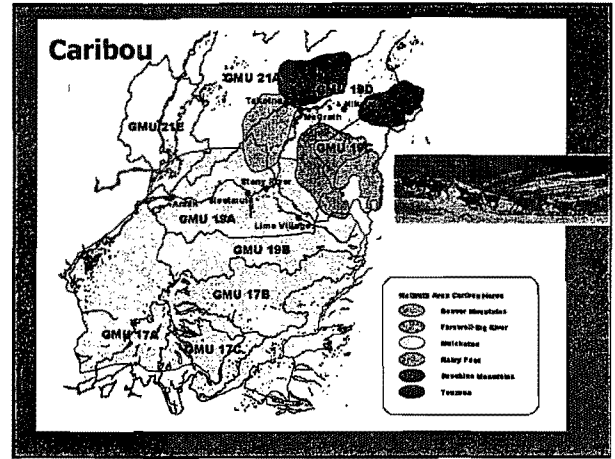
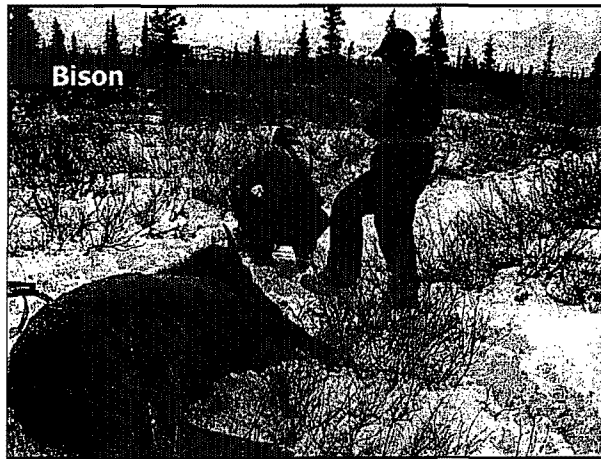


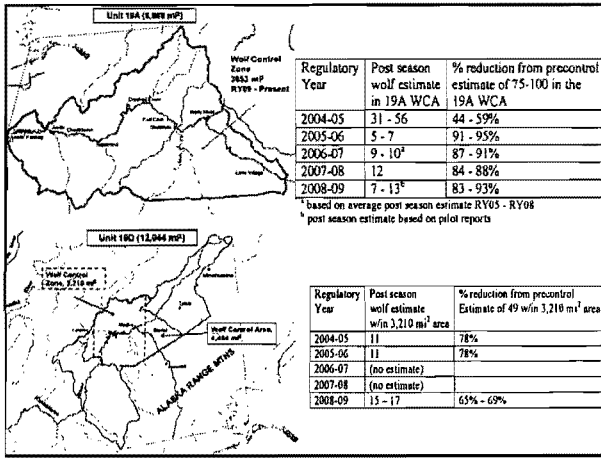
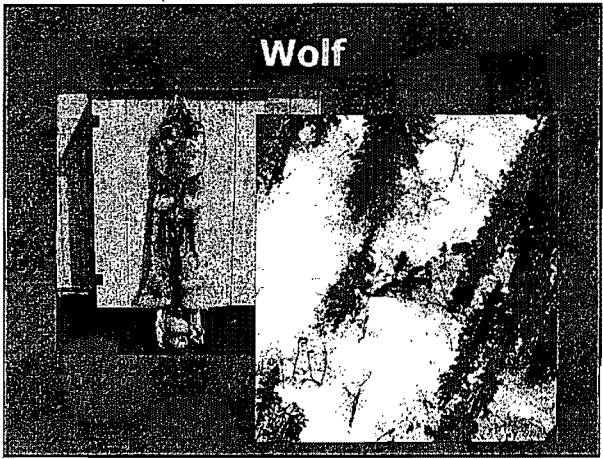
Black Bear



Grizzly Bears



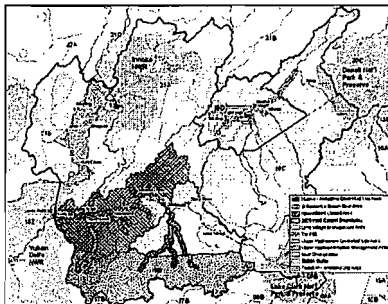




Proposal 78

Effect of the Proposal: Eliminate the NR closed area in Unit 19A

Department recommendation:
No recommendation



Unit 19A Resident moose and caribou seasons and bag limits

- Moose
 - LVMA Tier II
 - Aug 10 – Sept 25 and Nov 20 – Mar 31
 - 2 bulls
 - Aniak area Tier II
 - Sept 1 – Sept 20
 - 1 antlered bull
 - Remainder of Unit 19A
 - No open season
- Caribou
 - Unit 19A
 - Aug 1 – Mar 31
 - 2 caribou. Not more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug 1 – Jan 31.

Unit 19A Nonresident moose and caribou seasons

- Moose
 - No open season
- Caribou
 - No open season

The Nonresident closed area closes nonresident moose and caribou hunting in Unit 19A an area where nonresident moose and caribou seasons are already closed

History of NR Closed Area

- March 2002 Board meeting included a nonresident drawing permit proposal
 - strongly opposed by Unit 19A guides
- The Nonresident Closed Area was established as a compromise
 - Recognized as a partial solution
- The issue that the NR Closed Area addressed prompted establishment of the CKMMP
- This plan was endorsed in 2004

History of NR Closed Area

- Since 2004:

- All NR moose seasons were closed in 19A in 2004
- NR caribou seasons were closed in Units 19A and 19B in 2009
- A resident registration permit hunt has come and gone
- Resident moose hunting has gone to Tier II or closed completely
- Wolf control has been implemented

Does this NR closed area still make sense?

POINTS IN FAVOR:

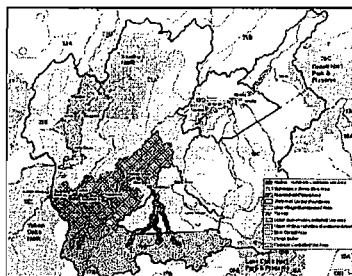
- Local support is still strong for the NR closed area
 - If lost, hard to get it back
- During the planning process, guides considered a corridor as a way to maintain access to areas away from the river

POINTS OPPOSED:

- The regulation is cumbersome
- A closed area within a closed area is confusing. Since 2004, no NR moose season in 19A. But...
 - 11/34 nonresidents reported successful moose hunts in 19A
- Why carry a regulation that has no impact on hunting opportunity?
- If the corridor has value when NR seasons return, a corridor can be reinstated then.

NR Closed Area in Unit 19B

- The NR closed area extends into Unit 19B
- The Board should make a deliberate decision regarding status of Unit 19B portion of the NR closed area



Other considerations

- 40 HP boat motor restriction on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers
- Nonresident caribou closed in Unit 19B
- NR hunter meat care orientation
- Upper Holitna-Hoholitna MA
 - A hunter accesses 19B by aircraft, must leave by aircraft
 - Check station stop



Proposal 78 Summary

- **Effect of the Proposal:**
Eliminate the NR closed
area in Unit 19A
- **Department
recommendation:**
- No recommendation



Proposal 79

Effect of the proposal:

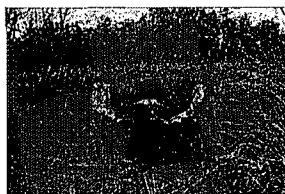
A) Change registration permit hunt seasons and boundaries

B) Expand general hunt area

C) Establish a TBA winter any moose season

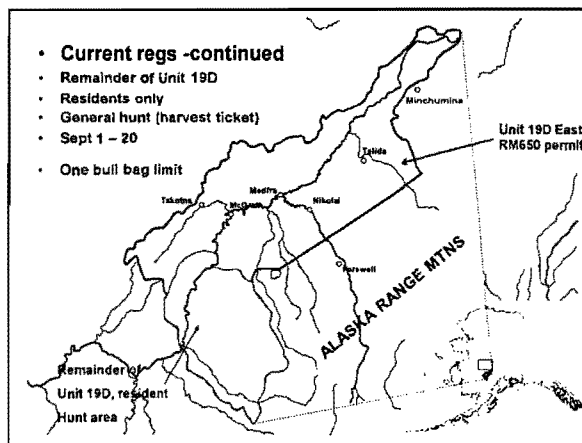
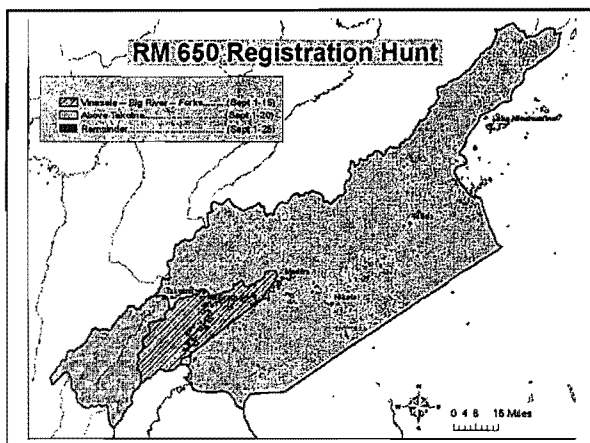
Department recommendation:

Adopt

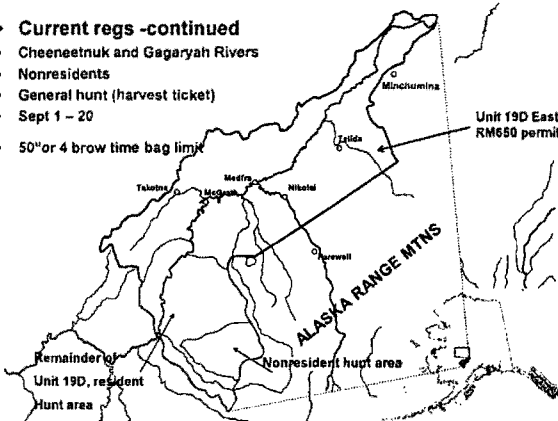


Current Unit 19D moose regs

- Current regs
 - Upriver of the Black and Selatna Rivers (Unit 19D East)
 - RM650 permit in McGrath, Takotna, Medfra, and Nikolai
 - Residents only
 - One antlered bull
 - Sept 1 – 15 Above Vinasale, below Big River and below the Forks
 - (by discretionary permit authority)
 - Sept 1 – 20 upriver of Takotna
 - Sept 1 – 25 in remainder of Unit 19D East
- Current regs
 - Unit 19D between and including the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah rivers excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Swift River
 - General hunt (harvest ticket)
 - Resident season: Sept 1 – 20
 - One bull
 - Nonresident season: Sept 1 – 20
 - One bull with 50" or 4 brow lines



- **Current regs -continued**
- Cheenetchuk and Gagaryah Rivers
- Nonresidents
- General hunt (harvest ticket)
- Sept 1 – 20
- 50" or 4 brow time bag limit



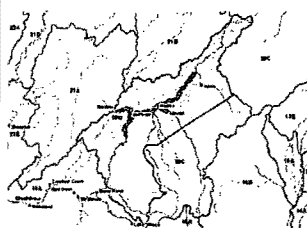
Map of Unit 19D showing the Alaska Range Mountains, Cheenetchuk and Gagaryah Rivers, and various towns like Toklat, Medfra, Nilsdal, and Eklide. It also indicates the 'Unit 19D East, RM650 permit' area and the 'Nonresident hunt area'.

Proposed Unit 19D Fall regulations

- **RM650 permit**
 - same distribution methods
- **All of Unit 19D**
 - Access to Upper Kuskokwim CUA
- **Residents only**
- **Sept 1 – 25**
- **One antlered bull**



Proposed Unit 19D Fall regulations - continued



- **Unit 19D outside the Upper Kuskokwim CUA**
- **Residents**
- **Sept 1 – 20**
- **One antlered bull**

Unchanged Unit 19D Fall regulations - continued

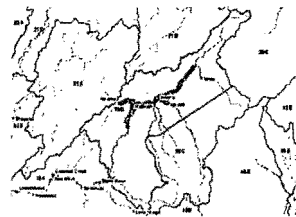


- **The existing nonresident season would remain unchanged**

Proposed Unit 19D Winter -Season TBA

- Unit 19D
- Registration permit hunt
 - Available in McGrath
- Residents only
- TBA Season: Feb 1 – 28
- Any moose bag limit
- Quota set, early reporting requirement
- Hunt area established to target moose in areas with high densities
 - discretionary permit authority to limit hunt area
- Hunt is held only if two year average twinning rates decline

Proposed Unit 19D regulations - summary



- Unit 19D RM650
 - Sept 1 – 25
- Unit 19D general hunt outside the Upper Kuskokwim CUA
 - Sept 1 – 20
- Nonresident season remains the same
- TBA registration hunt, any moose, Feb 1 - 28

Justifications

- We're proposing additional harvest, reasons and guidelines:
- 1) Moose numbers have increased
- 2) Harvestable surplus exists
- 3) Approaching population objectives
- 4) Habitat measures suggest additional harvest tools may soon be needed
- 5) Guidelines for managing growth (2-year ave twinning rates)

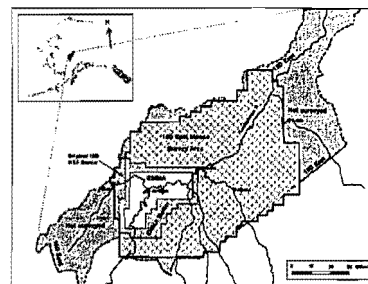
1) Moose numbers have increased -Areas and orientation

2001 and 2004 MSA
(5,204 mi²)

2008 MSA
(5,313 mi²)

Bear control area
(EMMA)
(528 mi²)

EMMA Buffer =
Expanded EMMA =
Upper Kuskokwim
Villages MMA
(1,118 mi²)



Moose population estimates (moose/mi²)

Year	Upper Kuskokwim Villages MMA	MSA
2001	868 (0.8)	2564 (0.5)
2002		
2003		
2004	1192 (1.1)	2744 (0.5)
2005		
2006	1308 (1.2)	
2007	1720 (1.5)	
2008	1718 (1.5)	3889 (0.7)
2009	1820 (1.6)	

2) Harvestable surplus exists

	MMA	19D East outside MMA	19D remainder (below Selatna)
Population	1820	3698	1766
Harvestable surplus (4%)		~150	~70
Harvestable surplus (6%)	~110		
2009 harvest	~65 – 75	~20 – 30	27
Unmet surplus	~35 – 45	~120 – 130	~43

Composition in expanded EMMA

Year	Calves: 100 cows	Bulls: 100 cows	Yearling bulls: 100 cows
2009	38	40	11

**■3) We are approaching population objectives****19D East POPULATION ESTIMATE AND IM OBJECTIVE**

	Population Objective 6000-8000
YEAR	Population Estimate for 19D East (8513 mi ²)
2001	3959
2004	4374
2008	5481



UNIT 19D East HARVEST AND IM OBJECTIVES

	IM Harvest Objective 400 - 600
YEAR	Reported Harvest for 19D East
2009-10	92

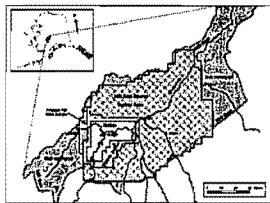
**Unit 19D East Harvest:**

Amount needed locally
130 - 150

Year	Harvest
2000	71
2001	73
2002	98
2003	75
2004	60
2005	71
2006	62
2007	86
2008	103
2009	92

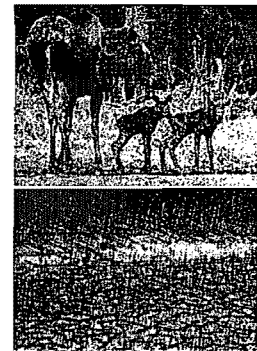
**Population and harvest objectives for
Upper Kuskokwim Villages MMA:**

- **Moose population
objective: a minimum
of 2500 (2.2
moose/mi²)**
2009 estimate: 1820
- **Harvest objective:
a minimum of 100**
Current: ~65 - 75

**4) We have habitat measures
suggesting additional harvest tools
may soon be needed**

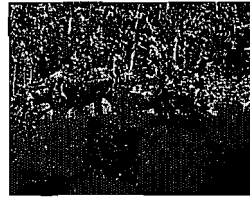
- **Twinning rates**

- **Browse surveys**



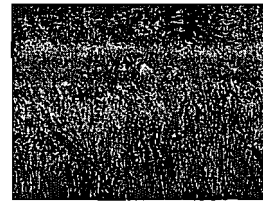
Observed twinning rate of radiocollared cows >2 in Unit 19D East

- 2002 - 2009 twinning rates averaged 44%
 - Radiocollared moose
- Recent 2-year average twinning rate also 44%
 - Radiocollared moose
- The nonradiocollared 2009 sample had a twinning rate of 26%



Browse surveys

- 40.5% browse utilization was measured in winter 2008-09



Anticipating lower twinning rates Transition to harvesting at abundance

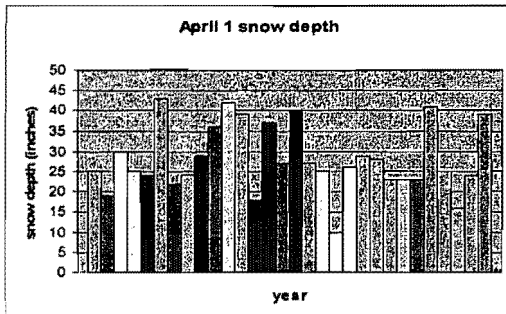
- Manage lower twinning rates through increased hunting pressure
- We need ability to take cows
 - That is the reason for the TBA registration permit hunt in this proposal

5) Guidelines for managing growth (2-year ave twinning rates)

2-year average twinning rates and moose management strategies associated with this measure

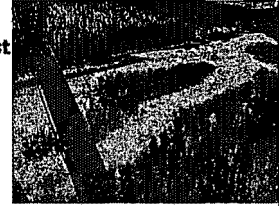
2-year ave. Twinning rates	Management strategy
> 25%	Promote rapid growth
20 - 25 %	Slow growth
15 - 20%	Stabilize population density
< 15%	Reduce population density

April snow depth 1979 – 2008



Proposal 79 Summary

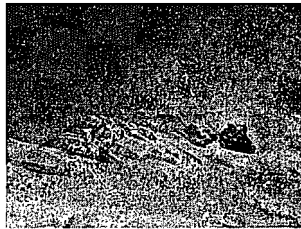
- Growing moose population and higher harvestable surpluses warrant increased harvest
- Anticipation of lower twinning rates warrant TBA winter any moose season
- Department recommendation: Adopt



Proposal 82

Effect of the proposal:
Create a winter registration permit sheep hunt for sheep smaller than $\frac{3}{4}$ curl in Unit 19C.

Department recommendation:
No recommendation



Current vs Proposed comparison:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current regulation: ■ Residents and Nonresidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General hunt ■ Aug 10 – Sept 20 ■ 1 full curl ram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proposed regulation (additional season): ■ Residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Registration permit ■ Oct 1 – Mar 30 (31) ■ One sheep < $\frac{3}{4}$ curl ■ No aircraft |
|---|---|

Proposed regulation -continued

- The proposal also stipulates 3 permits for each of the 4 Unit 19D communities.
 - Alaska law prohibits discrimination based on residency.
 - The McGrath AC made recommendations regarding permit distribution
 - The Department makes no recommendation on the allocative aspect of this proposal

Department A&R

- We also oppose an unlimited number of permits because of the difficulty limiting harvest
- We generally oppose registration permit distribution that might encourage hunters to line up for permits on a first come first served basis

Sustainability of a small harvest

- Small harvest (5 – 10) sustainable
- If the Board chooses to provide for a hunt, we need to assure a very low harvest

Sheep population data

- 2009 Sheep minimum densities within trend areas ranged from 0.6 sheep/mi² to 4.0 sheep/mi².
- About 2500 mi² of sheep habitat in 19C
 - About 4500 to 5500 sheep in 19C
- A small harvest of about 5 sheep would be a harvest rate of about 0.1%
- Discretionary permit authority to avoid small areas of concentrated harvest

Unit 19C Sheep harvest

Year	Sheep	Hunters
2005	68	116
2006	66	154
2007	64	117
2008	73	144
2009	64	127
Ave 05-09	67	132
Success rate	51%	



Unit 19C sheep hunting and harvest by Unit 19D residents

Year	Sheep	Total Hunters	Sheep	Unit 19D Residents
2005	68	116	0	0
2006	66	154	0	3
2007	64	117	3	6
2008	73	144	0	1
2009	64	127	2	3

Unit 19C sheep hunting and harvest by Alaska resident and nonresident

Year	Resident Sheep	Nonres Sheep	Sheep	Total residents	Total nonres	Total Hunters
Ave 2005 - 2009	22 33% success	45 69% success	67	66	65	132

Other considerations

- Interest in a winter hunt with no aircraft for small sheep is expected to be low
- Residents of Nikolai in particular are expected to be interested
- A registration moose hunt, with no aircraft, in Unit 19C during February is already in place
- The McGrath AC favored this hunt and made several recommendations regarding permit distribution, seasons, and bag limits.
- Sealing small sheep is not necessary.

Subsistence Law Implications

- If the Board chooses to create a hunt, you will need to consider the 8 criteria established in 5AAC 99.010 to determine whether the herd is associated with customary and traditional uses, and if so, establish regulations that provide for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence.

Proposal 82 Summary

- The proposed mechanism for distributing permits is not feasible.
- A small permit hunt is probably sustainable.
- Department recommendation: No recommendation



Proposal 83

Effect of the proposal:

Remove the 10-day reporting requirement for wolves harvested in Unit 19D East

Department recommendation:

Adopt



- **Current regulation:**
- hunters and trappers must report taking a wolf from Unit 19D East within 10 days of harvest

- **Proposed regulation:**
- Trapped wolves must be sealed within 30 days of the close of the season
- Hunted wolves must be sealed within 30 days of the kill.

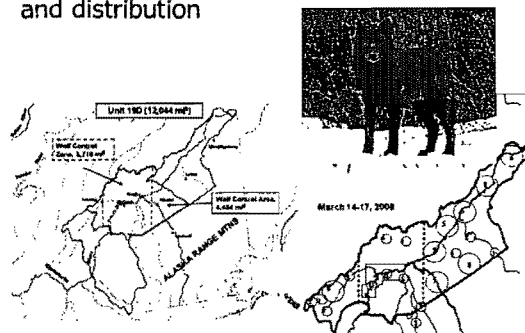


Original purpose of 10-day requirement: prevent exceeding harvest limits

- Pre-control wolf population estimate was 198 wolves.
 - 80% max reduction dictates that 40 wolves remain
- 10-day hunting and trapping reporting requirement not necessary to assure 40 wolves remain in 19D East

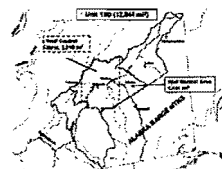


Wolf Pack size and distribution



Wolf population estimates and take objectives

Year	Fall estimate	# removed for 80% reduction (40 wolves)	Actual take
2004	103	63	29
2005	91	51	15
2006	85 – 110	45 – 70	21
2007	86 – 114	46 – 74	38
2008	75 – 99	35 – 59	28
2009	95 – 105	55 – 65	~10 to date



Regulatory Year	Post season wolf estimate w/in 3,210 mi² area	% reduction from precontrol Estimate of 49 w/in 3,210 mi² area
2004-05	11	78%
2005-06	11	78%
2006-07	(no estimate)	
2007-08	(no estimate)	
2008-09	15 – 17	65% – 69%

Other reasons to delete the 10-day reporting requirement

- No EOs needed in 19D East
- This requirement does not exist in other wolf control areas, still had appropriate closures
- Unnecessary burden on hunters, trappers, and enforcement personnel
- Still retain 5-day reporting for wolf control pilots



Proposal 83 Summary

- The 10-day reporting requirement for wolves harvested in Unit 19D East is not necessary
- Department recommendation:
Adopt



b. Western Interior Proposals

1. WP10-63/68: Revise moose season in Units 21D, 24C, and 24D.....63
2. WP10-65: Revise moose season and delegation of authority in Unit 21E.....77
3. WP10-66: Revise moose season in Unit 21E89
4. WP10-67: Revise moose season and harvest limit in Unit 24B93
5. WP10-69: Revise customary and traditional use determination for moose in Unit 21E.....108
6. WP10-70/71: Revise wolf hunting and trapping season in Units 19B and 19C.....124

c. Crossover Proposals

1. WP10-51/53: Revise caribou season in Units 9A, 9B, 17B, 17C, 18, and 19A and revise harvest limits in Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, and 19A131

8. Call for 2010-2012 Fisheries Proposals

9. Review and Make Recommendations on Alaska Board of Game Proposals

- a. Proposal 78: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Eliminate the nonresident closed area for caribou in Unit 19A. *Adopt*
Preserves harvested animals
un-necessary since non-resident caribou season closed.
- b. Proposal 79: 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change registration permit and general hunt areas and season dates in Unit 19D. *Adopt*
un-necessary
Moose Population will support that season is closed
- c. Proposal 80: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the moose season for nonresidents in Unit 21A. *Approve*
Data for harvest expansion is not sufficient.
- d. Proposal 81: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the moose season for nonresidents in Unit 21A. *Approve*
Council felt the 30 moose cap is not an allocation, this extension would threaten the Inakok Plan preceptions of GASH participants
- e. Proposal 82: 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a registration hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 19C for residents. *Adopt*
small sheep are not trophy
winter access difficult, traditional
- f. Proposal 83: 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Eliminate the early reporting requirement for wolves harvested in the Unit 19D East wolf predation control area. *Adopt*
Difficult to seal wolves if trapper is remote.
- g. Proposal 84: 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Establish a Unit 21E predation control implementation plan. *Adopt*
Council agrees with definition of the Micro IMA area, and trigger points
- h. Proposal 85: 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans. Adopt a wolf predation control plan for Unit 21E which can be implemented right away. *N/A*
Action taken on 8/94
- i. Proposal 86: 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Establish a Unit 21E predation control implementation plan. *N/A*
- j. Proposal 87: 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Modify the aircraft restrictions for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. *Approve*
Addressed in permit hunt conditions
- k. Proposal 88: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the moose hunt area boundary in Unit 21B. *Approve*
Ball/cow ratios need this restriction
- l. Proposal 89: 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Allows more flexibility to operate a check station and clarifies salvage requirements in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. *Adopt*
House keeping and defines salvage to reduce warden waste
- m. Proposal 90: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area. *Adopt*

Proposal 90A Provided by Department as modified is preferred over #90. Provides the best remedy for chronic under harvest for Athabasca & Alutna communities

- n. Proposal 91: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter moose hunt in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. *WARRAC proposal can not be supported do to Bull/cow Ratio is just above the Plan threshold. Brokered to achieve 90A submission*
 - o. Proposal 92: 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Clarifies and fully implements proxy restrictions in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24. *Adopt* *Eliminate abuse that has occurred*
 - p. Proposal 93: 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Change Intensive Management Objectives for Unit 21B. *Adopt* *Council agrees with defining objectives*
 - q. Proposal 94: 5 AAC 92.540 (8)(B). Controlled use areas. Modify the boundary of Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B. *Adopt* *un-acceptable reduction of the CUA*
 - r. Proposal 100: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 25A.
 - s. Proposal 101: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the caribou bag limit in Unit 26B, Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.
 - t. Proposal 102: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B, remainder.
 - u. Proposal 103: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B, remainder.
 - v. Proposal 104: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Expand bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B. *Adopt* *To large of bag limit 150% increase and shift to cows in September. Lack of Harvest Data, Planning would*
 - w. Proposal 105: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Develop a management plan for the Central Arctic Herd in Units 26B and 26C. *Designate CAH* *WARRAC Ann out of time to visit 100-103 & 105 I am sure 105 would have been adopted.*
10. Review and Approve Draft 2009 Annual Report
11. Agency Reports
- a. Office of Subsistence Management
 - b. Native organizations and tribal agencies
 - c. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 - 1. Long-term moose mitigation telemetry studies
 - d. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - e. National Park Service
 - f. Other agencies or organizations
12. Election of Officers
13. Next Meeting Dates and Locations 148
14. Closing Comments
15. Adjourn

For **more information**, contact Ann Wilkinson, Council Coordination Division Chief, at 1800-478-1456, by fax at 907-786-3676, or email at ann_wilkinson@fws.gov. Also visit the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>. For **special accommodations**, call 1800-478-1456 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for special accommodations for persons with disabilities. **Teleconferencing** may be available. Call 1800-478-1456 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange.

RC 86



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

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Denali National Park & Preserve
Milepost 237 Parks Hwy 9
Denali, Alaska 99755

L3014 (GAAR/DENA)

February 27, 2010

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Board Support Section
Post Office Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

(Hand-delivered)

Dear Chairman Judkins and Members of the Board of Game:

My name is Greg Dudgeon. I am the park superintendent for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I am here today to testify about Proposal #5, which the National Park Service (NPS) submitted; it is about the taking of black bears with artificial light at den sites, and the taking of bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs at den sites.

Background

As you know, during the 2008 Southeast Region Board of Game meeting, the Board of Game made an exception to two long standing general prohibitions regarding the take of black bears. The Board of Game authorized "resident hunters" to use artificial light to take black bears at den sites and to take black bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs at den sites under customary and traditional use activities from October 15 to April 30 in a number of GMUs and subunits.

When the regulation was promulgated, the NPS identified small portions of two national preserves in Units 19D and 24 that were included in these authorizations. These lands involve Denali and Gates of the Arctic National Preserves.

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The NPS would like to underscore several items at the outset:

1. We recognize the State's role in managing wildlife and remain committed to managing park resources and values in a way that avoids unnecessary interference with State wildlife management. That is why the NPS submitted this proposal and why we are here requesting that you support it.
2. Just as the State has responsibilities, the NPS must implement federal law, such as the Organic Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and other laws, regulations, and policies.
3. It is important to understand that the NPS manages "values" as well as resources. National Park Service lands are set aside for all people of the United States. We are required to achieve a balance that safeguards the values and uses important to all users for all time. These stewardship values were made explicit by the U.S. Congress and carry firm prohibitions against "impairment". The NPS is required to act before resources or values could be impaired.
4. We recognize and support subsistence hunting by qualified rural residents, "sport"¹ hunting, and trapping as authorized by ANILCA; these are important heritage activities in NPS preserves.
5. The NPS is required to follow national laws, regulations, and policies unless specifically modified for Alaska. One of the most notable differences for NPS preserves in Alaska is that unlike Lower 48 parks, hunting is authorized.
6. The NPS is precluded from allowing users to depart from fundamental purposes for which park areas are established or allow uses that could impair park resources or values. Like State lands set aside for different purposes - for example State game refuges and State parks - these national park units have specific legislation and regulations which set them apart from other federal and State land classifications. The Board of Game itself sometimes establishes Controlled Use Areas (CUAs) to set up specific regulations for specific purposes. We believe that is the case here. NPS preserves are different from other lands and should be managed consistent with their land management objectives.

We would also like to make a few other points:

Hunter Safety and Efficiency

We understand that when the open hunting season overlaps with denning periods, that the taking of black bears at den sites has been authorized by regulation. We also understand that part of the justification for the use of artificial light is for hunter safety. We appreciate that concern and recognize there are risks in hunting any large predator. The methods and means authorized here however liberalize long-standing prohibitions for hunting activities.

¹ ANILCA § 101 (b)

While the use of artificial light allows hunters to efficiently identify bears in the den and makes for cleaner and more accurate shot placement, such justifications have generally been disregarded for other hunts and for other species. The NPS sees risk in recognizing shot placement as justification.

Customary/Traditional

The basis for the NPS proposal was our understanding of the original proposal adopted in Sitka by the Board of Game in 2008. After discovering the proposal involved lands within Denali and Gates of the Arctic National Preserves, our subsequent research determined that the Board of Games' current Bear Management Policy states that "shooting of cubs and sows with cubs is not allowed in *most of the state* (emphasis added) unless to address a specific population issue through predator control." To the NPS, it appeared as if the Board of Game had authorized predator control activities on NPS lands. We also learned that after the original proposal was adopted, it was codified as a general hunt.

Subsequently, through meetings with Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff, we learned that the original proposal was not intended as a measure of predator control, but rather, to recognize customary and traditional activities of local residents.

While we understand the authorizations were based on customary and traditional subsistence practices, it is important to note that the allowance in State regulations is not limited to rural residents, but to all residents. Since the original proposal was codified as a general hunt and not a subsistence hunt, these methods and means are open to all residents of Alaska in portions of the two NPS preserves.

Based on the written record, it appears that the proposers had no intent to use NPS lands for these activities. In fact, the Board of Game was not aware that preserve lands were affected by the proposal. At a recent meeting of the Subsistence Resource Commission for Denali National Park, members stated that the taking of cubs and sows accompanied by cubs with the use of artificial light was not a customary and traditional activity for them. Neither have subsistence users of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve requested these harvest methods or means.

With respect to NPS lands, if local qualified subsistence users desire to hunt in this fashion, it is appropriate for them to submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board. If such a proposal were approved by the Federal Subsistence Board, the authorization would be appropriately limited to federal qualified rural residents.

It is important to recognize that taking of bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs with the use of artificial light for accurate shot placement was illegal prior to 2008 and remains illegal in most of Alaska today, based on State regulation. Similarly, these practices are generally prohibited on federal lands under the Federal Subsistence Board's regulations.

Once the Board of Game adopted the proposal to allow the taking of cubs and sows accompanied by cubs with the use of artificial light, it became lawful for nonlocal hunters to use this practice under State regulation. Meanwhile, a federally qualified, local subsistence hunter is prohibited

under federal regulation. Title VIII of ANILCA grants priority to federally qualified subsistence users. The practical effect here gives preference in portions of these NPS preserves to all Alaska hunters, whether they may be practicing a customary and traditional use or not.

Cooperation

In closing, I again wish to make clear that the NPS supports and advocates hunting as authorized by the U.S. Congress. The National Park Service also has responsibility to interpret federal law, regulation, and policy pertaining to the NPS. If it is not possible to employ certain methods, means, seasons, or bag limits while simultaneously complying with all federal management objectives, the management on NPS lands needs to differ from adjacent jurisdictions. NPS lands were set aside for all U.S. citizens and we are required to achieve a balance that safeguards the values important to all users of this generation and those to come. The most liberal methods and means made available to general hunters should not originate on NPS lands. Because of other users and our obligations to future generations, a cautious approach must be taken in park areas.

The U.S. Congress expected a cooperative management approach in preserves that balanced the many purposes for which these lands were designated. In that spirit, the NPS discussed these regulations and these concerns with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in November 2009. The Department provided constructive comments on a draft version of our proposal and many of those comments were incorporated before it was submitted. We have earnestly proposed these changes utilizing the State's regulatory process to the maximum extent possible.

We are committed to a continued cooperative approach, though we recognize federal and State objectives may not always align. By removing NPS preserves from these authorizations, continued misalignment is avoided.

The National Park Service requests that the Board of Game exempt the NPS preserve lands from these two authorizations adopted in 2008 as is stated in Proposal #5.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am prepared to answer questions.

Proposal 46

Reasonable opportunity is defined to mean
“an opportunity, as determined by the
appropriate Board, that allows a subsistence
user to participate in a subsistence hunt or
fishery that provides a normally diligent
participant with a reasonable expectation of
success of taking fish or game.”

AS 16.05.258(f)

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Mike Kramers
Power Point Presentation

73 38

52 18

	<u>Minto</u>	<u>Unit 13</u>
ANS	20-40	300-600
Harvestable Surplus	210	>687
Harvest	180	687
Harvest by Minto Residents	42	

Harvest exceeds ANS – Department typically recommends elimination of separate subsistence hunt

Minto: 14 day General Hunt with Registration Hunt designed by 2004 Board of Game to prefer Minto residents

Unit 13: 21 day General Hunt, drawing for residents and non-residents

Registration Permits for “Any Moose”

Board orally directed Department to issue permits in Minto, Nenana and Fairbanks.

Result: Waiting in line for days.

Conflicts – troopers involved

Sanitation, safety and facility concerns
for ADF&G

Stated reason for Proposal 46 – Minto residents don't want to wait in line with non-Minto people

- In ***State v. Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association***, the Board of Game had issued verbal instructions to its agents modifying the criteria for re-issuing hunting permits so that preference would go to persons who relied most heavily on wild game for subsistence.
- The Supreme Court held such oral instructions (not written in regulation) violated the Administrative Procedures Act.

Attorney General's Legal Opinion

“After McDowell, there is **no authority** for the Board to restrict subsistence uses to certain areas or communities.”

- Minto village seeks more than “a reasonable opportunity”. It seeks a purely residence based preference to harvest “any moose” under significantly more liberal conditions than any other Alaskan.
- The Board should reject this proposal **AND** find that a reasonable opportunity to meet the subsistence needs for the area (20-40) is provided in the general hunt, where 180 moose are currently harvested with a harvestable surplus of 210 and moose densities exceeding 3.7 moose per square mile.



Preferred Result

Amend Proposal 46 to eliminate registration hunt and replace with longer general season, and drawing for “any moose” sufficient to meet harvest objective of 210 moose.

- Bring permit program into compliance with APA and Constitutional Equal Access Provisions
- Eliminate logistical problems with village based permit distribution
- Ensure Minto subsistence needs will continue to be met.
- Increased opportunity to meet harvest objective of 210 moose
- Equality for all Alaskans

From Dan Esai
Resident of Nikolia
Member of McGrath AC

RC 88

*Author of
Proposal 82*

2009 Harvest Data for Dall Sheep in 19C

3 local hunters from McGrath and Nikolia & 69 non-local residents hunted for Dall Sheep in 19C in 2009

2 sheep taken by local hunters and 21 sheep taken by non-local hunters in 19C in 2009

**WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT REPORT**

RC 89
From Ray Heuer
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
(907) 465-4190 PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

BROWN BEAR MANAGEMENT REPORT

From: 1 July 2004
To: 30 June 2006¹

LOCATION

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS: 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C (39,228 mi²)

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION: Central and Lower Tanana Valley, and Middle Yukon River drainages

BACKGROUND

Grizzly bears occur throughout this area, with higher densities in the mountainous portions of Units 20A and 20C. ~~Harvests tend to be highest in Unit 20A, particularly in the mountains. State regulations prevent grizzly bear harvest within the Denali National Park portions of Unit 20C, resulting in low harvests in that unit.~~ The eastern half of Unit 20B supports a moderate density of grizzly bears, and harvests are higher than in western Unit 20B. Grizzly bears inhabit Units 20F and 25C at moderate to low densities, which coupled with poor access, results in low harvests.

During the 1980s, McNay (1990) noted increasing numbers of hunters and increased interest in hunting grizzly bears. He analyzed harvest and population data from this management area to develop specific management and harvest objectives, which he based on a sustainable harvest rate of 8% of the population ≥ 2 years of age (Miller 1990). Also, the department initiated a long-term grizzly bear research project in Unit 20A in 1981 to 1) gather baseline data on population status and reproductive biology (1981–1985; Reynolds and Hechtel 1986); 2) study the effects of high exploitation rates on grizzly bear population dynamics (1986–1991; Reynolds and Boudreau 1992; Reynolds 1993); and 3) measure recovery (Reynolds 1999). During the second phase of the project, the grizzly bear population was deliberately subjected to high harvest levels ($\geq 11\%$ of the population versus $\leq 6\%$ before 1981). As a result, Reynolds (1999) documented a 36% decline in the bears (≥ 2 -years old) in this area 1981 to 1992. However, based on current findings in Unit 13 where harvest rates are most studied (Miller 1990; Testa 2004; Tobey 2005), it is apparent that actual sustainable harvest rates of grizzly bears are still not well understood.

¹ At the discretion of the reporting biologist, this unit report may contain data collected outside the report period.

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In the early 1990s, Eagan (1995) estimated grizzly bear numbers in the management area at unit (e.g., Unit 20), subunit (e.g., Unit 20A), and subarea (e.g., Unit 20A mountains, Unit 20A Tanana Flats) scales using a stratified approach based on topography, habitat, and accessibility to humans. These estimates provided more precise measures of harvest rates across the management area, and subsequently, improved evaluation of harvest-based management objectives.

Ballard et al. (1981) and Gasaway et al. (1992) identified grizzly bears as significant predators of moose in Units 13 and 20E, respectively. In the Unit 20A foothills, Valkenburg (1997) identified grizzly bears as important predators of Delta caribou herd neonates. Also, Boertje et al. (2000) estimated that grizzlies killed about 730 of the 4450 moose that died annually in Unit 20A in the late 1990s. Grizzly bear predation is generally considered additive to other sources of mortality based on experiments that reduced grizzly predation with responses in ungulate survival (Ballard and Miller 1990; Gasaway et al. 1992; Boertje et al. 1995; Testa 2004:1448–1449; Keech 2005). However, Gasaway et al. (1983) determined that grizzly bears played little role in the dynamics of moose within the Tanana Flats portion of Unit 20A, and, consistent with that assertion, Keech (1999) reported low mortality rates of moose calves as a result of grizzly bear predation.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C

- ~~Maintain healthy grizzly populations and the ecosystems upon which they depend.~~
- ~~Provide people with an opportunity to hunt, view, and photograph grizzly bears.~~
- ~~Avoid human-grizzly bear interactions that threaten human life and property.~~

Additionally in Unit 20A

- Provide for scientific and educational use of grizzly bears.

Additionally in Unit 20C

- ~~Maintain a grizzly bear population within Denali National Park that is largely unaffected by human activity and is not subjected to hunting within the park.~~

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Unit 20A Mountains

- Manage human-caused grizzly bear mortality to provide a stable population with a 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality $\leq 8\%$ of the bears ≥ 2 years old.

Eastern half of Unit 20B

- Manage human-caused grizzly bear mortality to provide a stable population with a 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality of up to 6 bears ≥ 2 years old.

Unit 20C within the original boundaries of Denali National Park

- ~~Maintain a closed season on grizzly bear hunting.~~

Unit 20A Tanana Flats, western half of Unit 20B, Unit 20C outside Denali National Park, and all of Units 20F and 25C

- Manage human-caused mortality in the combined area to provide stable grizzly bear populations with a 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality of no more than 26 grizzly bears ≥ 2 years old.
- Manage the 3-year mean annual human-caused grizzly bear (≥ 2 years of age) mortality from individual areas with the following harvest objectives: no more than 3 bears from Unit 20A Tanana Flats, 3 from the western half of Unit 20B, 7 from Unit 20C, 7 from Unit 20F, and 6 from Unit 25C.

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C

- ~~Manage for a 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality of at least 55% males.~~

METHODS

HARVEST

We used data from grizzly bear sealing certificates to obtain date and location of kill, sex, skull size, hunter residency, transportation method, commercial services used and kill type—harvest by hunters, illegal kill, research mortality, defense of life or property (DLP), etc. We coded location of kill according to Uniform Coding Units (UCU). During sealing we collected premolars to determine age. ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation staff in Fairbanks sealed most of the grizzly bears harvested in this area.

We analyzed grizzly bear harvest data by both regulatory year (RY), which begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY04 = 1 Jul 2004 through 30 Jun 2005), and calendar year. Many of our harvest objectives are age-specific. Analysis by regulatory year creates difficulties because a cohort passes through 2 age classes within a single regulatory year. Therefore, we analyzed data relevant to age-specific objectives by calendar year to avoid confusion regarding age class. We based all other analyses on regulatory years.

POPULATION SIZE AND DENSITY

In June 1993, Reynolds and Eagan (Eagan 1995) categorized UCUs in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C into 4 grizzly bear density strata: low, medium, high, and super. ~~The low-density stratum consisted of areas with significant human development, poorly drained soils (or permafrost) and black spruce.~~ The medium-density stratum included upland forest and tundra habitats at elevations generally between 500 and 1500 ft. The high-density stratum consisted of upland foothills and mountainous areas similar to areas of known density in Units 20A, 20E, and 13E. ~~The super-density stratum included habitat similar to the high-density areas, but where no harvest was permitted.~~ The total area within each stratum excluded glaciers and land above 6000 ft. Approximately 500 mi² (1300 km²) were excluded from the high-density stratum, and 386 mi² (1000 km²) were excluded from the super-density

stratum. Population size was estimated using extrapolations from strata densities of low, 3–8 bears/1000 mi² (1–3 bears/1000 km²); medium, 13–26 bears/1000 mi² (5–10 bears/1000 km²); high, 36–44 bears/1000 mi² (14–17 bears/1000 km²); and super, 52–78 bears/1000 mi² (20–30 bears/1000 km²).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

POPULATION STATUS AND TREND

Population Size

Unit 20A. Eagan (1995) classified the mountainous portion of Unit 20A as high density based on results from research in the central foothills (Reynolds 1993). High harvest rates intentionally resulted in reduced bear numbers in this portion of Unit 20A during phase 2 of the research. Phase 3 monitored recovery of the population. We expected the number of female adult bears to meet prereduction levels by 1998. However, numbers were still estimated to be slightly low by spring 2000. Based on predicted trends and anecdotal information, we suspect the grizzly bear population recovered to prereduction levels by 2002.

The Tanana Flats in Unit 20A provide relatively poor grizzly bear habitat, resulting in low densities. Some grizzly bears on the Tanana Flats probably disperse from higher density areas or make temporary forays onto the flats. Eagan (1995) estimated that the flats provide habitat for 20 grizzly bears, or 6.5 bears/1000 mi² (2.5 bears/1000 km²).

Unit 20B. Eagan (1995) classified most of Unit 20B as low density because of the moderate habitat, high density of people, and good human access. Better habitat in the Sawtooth Mountains in the western portion was classified as low-density stratum because of good access and human activity. The upper Chena and Salcha Rivers rated medium density because the area was better habitat and relatively inaccessible.

Unit 20C. Eagan (1995) classified the mountainous portion of Unit 20C into the ~~super-density stratum~~ (52–78 bears/1000 mi² [20–30 grizzly bears/1000 km²]). Although Dean (1987) estimated 88 bears/1000 mi² (34 bears/1000 km²) for a portion of this area in 1983, he surveyed the area along the Denali Park Road that includes the best habitat. Eagan (1995) ~~assumed lower densities for the remainder of the mountainous portions~~ of Unit 20C, based on densities Reynolds (1993) documented in Unit 20A in 1981.

~~Eagan (1995) classified a small portion of northwestern Unit 20C as medium density because of higher habitat quality than in the Unit 20C Tanana Flats, and the area also abuts some higher quality grizzly bear habitat in the upper Kuskokwim drainage. Eagan (1995) felt the remainder of Unit 20C was low-density but indicated potential for slightly higher densities than other low-density areas because the Unit 20C Tanana Flats have streams where salmon are available and hunting pressure is relatively low.~~

Unit 20F. Although very little information exists, the Tozitna River drainage/Ray Mountains portion of Unit 20F probably contains relatively good grizzly bear habitat and warranted medium-density classification. Eagan (1995) classified the remainder of Unit 20F as low density due to relatively poor grizzly bear habitat.

Unit 25C. Eagan (1995) classified the mountainous portion of Unit 25C as medium density. This is an extension of the medium density area of eastern Unit 20B and also includes the White Mountains. Although good habitat abounds, Eagan (1995) noted that roads and trails through the area provide good human access. Hunters take grizzly bears incidental to their pursuit of caribou and moose.

All Units. Extrapolating from the stratification above, Eagan (1995) estimated that 446–782 grizzly bears (all ages) inhabit the area. Using the midpoint of the population estimate (614 bears), the combined density for the area is about ~~46.1 bears/1000 mi²~~ (6.2 grizzly bears/1000 km²). However, this estimate is likely conservative based on recent work in Unit 20E in what Eagan considered to be fairly poor (medium-density) habitat.

Population Composition

Reynolds (1993) summarized composition data for his study area in Unit 20A. In 1992, there were more females than males present in adult age classes and approximately equal numbers of males and females in the subadult age classes. Because the sex ratio of grizzly bears at birth typically approximates 50:50; because hunters generally prefer to shoot the larger, adult males; and because females with cubs <2 years of age are legally protected, we suspect the 1992 composition data is currently applicable.

Distribution and Movements

Reynolds (1997) described movement and dispersal trends for the Unit 20A study area. Females exhibited high fidelity to home ranges and little emigration or immigration (Reynolds 1993).

MORTALITY

Harvest

Season and Bag Limit. From RY90 through RY93, the season for grizzly bears was 1 September–31 May with a bag limit of 1 bear every 4 regulatory years (1 bear/4 years). Cubs (<2 years of age) and females accompanied by cubs were illegal to harvest. Commensurate with research objectives, the board shortened the Unit 20A season by 9 days in RY94 to 10 September–31 May. In RY02 the board liberalized the season by 5 days (5 Sep–31 May) based on evidence that the population had recovered to prereduction levels. All other areas covered in this report retained the 1 September opening. Beginning RY04 the board liberalized the bag limit from 1 bear/4 years to 1 bear/year in all units. These seasons and bag limits applied to both resident and nonresident hunters.

Harvest by Hunters. The combined harvests in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C were higher in RY04–RY05 (\bar{x} = 34.5) than during the previous 3-year period (\bar{x} = 26.3; Tables 1a–e). This resulted from a high take (44 bears) in RY04, which may have been due to hunters taking advantage of the bag limit being liberalized from 1 bear/4 years to 1 bear/year in 2004. Other human-caused mortality (DLP kills, illegal kills, etc.) resulted in 5 bear deaths in RY04–RY05 which was higher than the 3 nonhunting-related bear deaths in RY02–RY03, but lower than the 8 reported in RY00–RY01.

Harvest Zones.

Unit 20A Mountains — We estimate the 3-year (2001–2003) mean annual human-caused mortality (8.3 bears) was approximately 7–8% of bears ≥ 2 years old, assuming Eagan's (1995) population estimates and Reynolds' (1993) population structure (Table 2). This met our objective to provide a stable population with a 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality $\leq 8\%$ of the bears ≥ 2 years old.

Eastern half of Unit 20B — The 3-year (2003–2005) mean annual human-caused mortality of 6.3 bears ≥ 2 years of age slightly exceeded our objective of a mean of not more than 6 bears ≥ 2 years of age (Table 2).

Unit 20A Tanana Flats, western half of Unit 20B, Unit 20C outside Denali National Park, and all of Units 20F and 25C — The 3-year (2003–2005) mean annual human-caused mortality of 15.7 bears ≥ 2 years of age was well below our objective of 26 bears ≥ 2 years of age for this management area (Table 2). However, at the subarea scale, we met our objectives of a 3-year (2003–2005) mean annual human-caused mortality of bears ≥ 2 years of age for Unit 20C with 3 bears, Unit 20F with 2 bears, and Unit 25C with 3.7 bears, but exceeded the objective for Unit 20A Tanana Flats with a harvest of 3.7 bears and western Unit 20B with 3.3 bears.

Percent Males in Harvest by Unit. The objective for a 3-year (RY03–RY05) mean proportion of $\geq 55\%$ males in the harvest was met in Units 20B (59%), 20C (82%), 20F (80%) and 25C (82%); Unit 20A was slightly below the objective at 49% males in the harvest (Tables 1a–e).

Hunter Residency and Success. As in previous years, Alaska residents harvested the majority (76%) of the grizzly bears during RY04–RY05 (Table 3).

Harvest Chronology. Hunters harvested bears primarily during the month of September (Table 4), most likely ~~because moose and caribou hunters take many bears incidentally during that period.~~

Transport Methods. The methods of transportation used by successful grizzly bear hunters have not changed substantially in recent years. On average, successful hunters used airplanes most often to access hunt areas, followed closely by ATVs (Table 5).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We met our objective to provide a stable population with a 3-year mean, annual, human-caused mortality $\leq 8\%$ of the bears ≥ 2 years old in all management areas except for the eastern portion of Unit 20B. We also exceeded harvest objectives in subareas Unit 20A Tanana Flats and western Unit 20B. In those cases, because the 3-year mean, annual, human-caused mortality was exceeded by <1 bear, I am not recommending immediate regulatory action, since sustainable harvest rates may be higher than previously estimated (Tobey 2005). In general, we need to monitor areas with high harvest densities, as those areas may be subject to localized overharvest, especially since seasons and bag limits were liberalized in 2004. We met our objective to manage for a 3-year mean, annual, human-caused

TABLE 1C Unit 20C grizzly bear harvest, regulatory years 2001–2002 through 2005–2006

Regulatory year	Reported							Total estimated kill ^c					% Males
	Hunter kill ^a				Nonhunting kill ^b								
	M	F	Unk	Total	M	F	Unk	M	F	Unk	Total		
2001–2002													
Fall 2001	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	4		
Spring 2002	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	3		
Total	3	4	0	7	0	0	0	3	4	0	7	43	
2002–2003													
Fall 2002	1	5	0	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	6		
Spring 2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	1	5	0	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	6	17	
2003–2004													
Fall 2003	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2		
Spring 2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	100	
2004–2005													
Fall 2004	5	1	0	6	0	0	0	5	1	0	6		
Spring 2005	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	2		
Total	6	2	0	8	0	0	0	6	2	0	8	75	
2005–2006													
Fall 2005	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		
Spring 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	100	

^a Includes illegal kills.^b Includes DLP kills, research mortalities, and other known human-caused accidental mortality. These data not included in tables of chronology, transport, etc.^c Percentage includes only bears of known sex.

TABLE 3 Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C grizzly bear successful hunter residency^a, regulatory years 2001–2002 through 2005–2006

Regulatory year	Resident (%)	Nonresident (%)	Unknown (%)	<i>n</i>
2001–2002	21 (70)	9 (30)	0 (0)	30
2002–2003	22 (73)	8 (27)	0 (0)	30
2003–2004	13 (68)	6 (32)	0 (0)	19
2004–2005	32 (73)	12 (27)	0 (0)	44
2005–2006	20 (80)	5 (20)	0 (0)	25

^a Excludes DLP, research mortality, or other human-caused accidental or illegal mortality bears.

TABLE 4 Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C grizzly bear harvest chronology percent by month/day, regulatory years 2001–2002 through 2005–2006

Regulatory year	Harvest chronology percent by month/day ^a								<i>n</i>
	Sep		Oct–Nov	Total	Apr	May		Total	
	1–15	16–30				1–15	16–31		
2001–2002	43	27	10	80	7	0	13	20	30
2002–2003	60	27	7	93	0	7	10	7	30
2003–2004	68	11	0	79	11	0	11	21	19
2004–2005	50	27	14	91	2	2	5	9	44
2005–2006	80	16	4	100	0	0	0	0	25

^a Excludes DLP, research mortality, or other human-caused accidental or illegal mortality.

Game Board Presentation Feb.2010

Frank Maxwell, POB 84862, Fairbanks, AK 99708 - representing self.

Proposals:

Support	Oppose
55	56
58	57
59 (prefer)	61
60 (prefer)	62
65	63
	64

I am a hunter, fisherman, and photographer. I have a degree in renewable natural resources and more than 40 years of experience in various phases of natural resource management. I testified before this board 10 years ago regarding this issue, the issue of the Denali Park wolf buffer.

I support maintaining the existing buffers at a minimum, and believe they should be expanded to to give reasonable assurance that Park wolves are shielded from harvest. I am going to give you three reasons in support of this position: demographics, economic, and social values.

The first, demographics, relates to the changing population structure in this country. Hunting participation peaked in 1982 and has declined ever since due to a variety of reasons, but a major one is the increasing urbanization of Americans. Alaska's population is a very urban one as well. Surveys of its residents indicate the majority desire to have large mammals present within the city. Urbanites in general have at best, an indifference toward hunting and at the worst an antipathy toward the sport. Trapping and trappers are held in even lower regard among many. That being the case, it is very detrimental to the long-term interests of both to needlessly foment ill will by taking animals that are the focus of attention and affection for the 100s of thousands of people who visit the park yearly. On top of these large numbers are the millions of people who don't visit the park but who are repulsed by shooting or trapping park wolves.

I would like to continue to be able to hunt and would like for my grown children and young grandchildren to have ample opportunities to hunt. These opportunities become more difficult to maintain when the general population is alienated by ill-advised activities.

The second, economic, reason relates to the financial benefits that accrue to the local area by virtue of the spending by visitors. The park was established to protect its wildlife and that remains the major visitor attractant. A wolf, live in the park and viewable by visitors, provides continuing economic benefits for the local economy that ranges from large corporations to small entrepreneurs. In contrast, a dead wolf means a few hundred dollars to the recreational trapper who takes it.

The third reason is that of social values and a matter of equity. This issue boils down to competition for access to and utilization of a public resource. On one side of the issue are those

non-consumptive users who derive their satisfaction from observing and photographing these animals in the wild and consumptive users whose reward necessitates the taking of an animal.

Statewide, and despite their protestations to the contrary, consumptive users have overwhelming access to Alaska's wildlife resources while non-consumptive users have significantly less access. A single animal that is accustomed to the non-threatening presence of people, can serve the needs of 10s of thousands of people, while that same animal must be removed from the population to serve the needs of one trapper.

Personally, my wife and I have had great enjoyment and felt our trips to Denali a success when we've been able to observe and photograph wolves both from the bus and when we were fortunate enough to get a September road pass. Just last summer, my avid hunter son and his wife were visiting from Nevada and we were treated to a wolf along the road to their delight.

Fair chase is an issue that I will address next. While these wolves are not habituated (the Park Service does a good job in avoiding that in Denali), they are acclimated to the presence of people in that they neither regard people as a source of food nor as a threat, just merely something neutral that is present in their environment. This makes them vulnerable to those who target them as they leave the park. As an example, the wolf that I mentioned observing last summer, either out of curiosity or perhaps smelling someone's lunch, cautiously kept approaching a work crew that was replacing a culvert. It was only dissuaded when the excavator operator clacked the bucket at it several times. That wolf would have no chance upon leaving the park. There is no comparison to be made between trapping wolves that have been pressured by hunting and trapping and are consequently human-averse and the human-acclimated park wolves. On the other side of the coin, those wolves who are fortunate enough to face trapping pressure outside the park and escape are going to be human-averse and thus unlikely to be available for observation by park visitors.

On Saturday, there was an observation made by a board member that boundaries exist and that widely varying and sometimes conflicting management policies and mandates exist on either side of the boundary. Those boundaries are political boundaries established by people. Animals establish their own boundaries based on their habitat requirements. Until they begin to carry and use GPS units, animals will not recognize our political boundaries. This board can assist in resolving this dilemma by establishing appropriate boundaries that conform to the animal's needs and at the same time resolve the ethical issue of targeting animals that are about as vulnerable as zoo animals to being taken.

Looking at this in investment terms, for a small capital investment, the preservation of two wolf packs, a return of 10s to 100s of thousands can be obtained in visitor and resident satisfaction, economic benefits, social satisfaction, and scientific study.

In summary, to foster an equitable distribution of the public's wildlife resource, enhance its economic benefit to the local community, and foster ethical utilization of the resource, I urge you to establish effective buffers that will effectively conserve Denali national park wolf viewing and study opportunities.

Board of Game Public Comment**Proposal 101 – Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou****Oppose**

I depend on the caribou hunt in management unit 26B for the large majority of the meat I consume in a year. While I fully agree that wasting meat is illegal and immoral I cannot support a proposal that wants to manage a hunt based on the potential incompetence of a few individual hunters. I as many others like to hunt the slope in the fall using a canoe. And with a canoe you can easily transport 2 caribou per person per trip. I am a responsible hunter who doesn't waste meat and I think most people would agree that it is not practical to waste a day carrying a caribou out when I am able to carry two out in one load.

This proposal would clearly obstruct the need for the subsistence hunter as well as the hunting experience of the recreational hunter.

Proposal 104 – Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou**Support**

I support proposal 104 both from a subsistence and a recreational stand point. My family is one of those that would benefit from this proposal since we would gladly consume more than 2 caribou a year. So the opportunity to be able to go for that third or fourth caribou in the spring season would greatly increase both our hunting experience and our subsistence need.

It is important to note, however, that my support for proposal 104 is contingent on the continued restriction of Off-Road Vehicles within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. I myself depend on the caribou in 26B. I am a walk in hunter by choice. To me there is no better way and the North Slope is the only place where I can walk in and somewhat reliably find caribou. Hunting for me is wilderness experience and motorized vehicle access is unfortunately not compatible. That is for example why I want nothing to do with the chaos of the Steese caribou hunt.

Thank You

Mathias Eriksson

P.O. Box 80061

Fairbanks, AK, 99708

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2009
2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RC 92
from Greg Raczicka

RESOLUTION 09-11

TITLE: FAILURE OF FEDERAL MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE
SUBSISTENCE HARVEST NEEDS

WHEREAS: President Obama's administration has strongly asserted the commitment to positively and actively address the concerns of Native Americans and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Continuing the current status in Alaska of managing only the human harvest, and simply monitoring instead of managing animal populations highly important for providing adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs, utterly circumvents the intent and purpose for Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA); and

WHEREAS: Avoiding or blocking proactive and proven effective measures such as predator management to provide for sustainable subsistence needs violates the commonly understood intent and purpose of Title VIII of ANILCA by serving only the long-term interests of animal welfare ideologies by relegating subsistence in rural Alaska to a subservient and minimized consideration, rather than its promised priority status; and

WHEREAS: In direct contradiction with subsistence standards relevant to ANILCA, the inhibitions towards actively addressing this issue have placed the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal management entities into an unacceptable position of stagnation and non-compliance where: a) application of sound scientific management principles have been, and continue to be precluded or pre-empted; b) substantial information has been, and continues to be avoided, minimized, suppressed or dismissed; and, c) is highly detrimental to achieving or maintaining either current or long-term integrity of providing for adequate or sustainable subsistence harvest needs in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Congressional Records (S15131) specifically addresses this matter in its Natural Diversity statement of December 1, 1980 that states: "The term is not intended to, in any way, restrict the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Service to manipulate habitat for the benefit of fish or wildlife populations within a refuge for the benefit of the use of such populations by man as part of a balanced management program mandated by the ANILCA or other applicable law"; and

WHEREAS: The concerns of rural Alaska villages surrounding this issue have been stated for several years through Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution #'s 00-14, 01-047, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09, 05-13, 06-12, 06-14, and 07-15 (incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS: Since Title VIII was specifically established to address federal obligations left unfulfilled by the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regarding subsistence harvest needs, this ongoing failure to actively manage populations to provide for those needs addressed, serves as another breach of treaty between the federal government and Native Americans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN recommend that the Secretary of Interior should take immediate assertive and affirmative action towards addressing and reducing existing barricades for predator management considerations and implementation to provide for adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs, in rural Alaska by requiring each member agency of the U.S. Interior Department in Alaska to expedite creation and submissions of management plans within one year, that outline how they will manage their respective wildlife populations to provide for current and future integrity of adequate and sustainable harvest needs to the greatest extent possible within their conservation units that either incorporates utilization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Division of Wildlife Services, or presents viable alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Secretary of Interior to adopt the following conclusion from the National Academy of Science report regarding predator management in Alaska by incorporating into long term federal management policy and structure that "Such decisions must be based on detailed local information that supplements more general biological and social impact data. Therefore, effective and efficient decision-making needs to be customized by using local and traditional knowledge and targeted to the needs and interests of local constituencies" by expedited executive order that, at least on the Bureau of Land Management and Fish & Wildlife Service administered lands, a National Environmental Impact Statement exercise, (under de-facto oversight, or veto of animal welfare constituencies or similar "political science" organizations) is neither necessary nor appropriate for predator management intended to provide for adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



RC 93

Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet:

Dall Sheep in GMU 19, McGrath Area

Background for Proposal 82

Prepared by the

ADF&G Division of Subsistence for the
February-March 2010 Board of Game meeting

Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use

A long-term consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.

Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use (cont.)

Historical use of sheep in GMU 19 has been documented for residents of Lime Village, McGrath, Nikolai, and Telida.

No harvest estimates available for historical period; however, harvests likely averaged approximately 5 per year during the 1960s (Stokes 1985).

Sheep meat is highly prized by Nikolai residents, though changes in the seasonal round and resources use patterns have resulted in a decrease of sheep hunting among local residents (Holen et al. 2006; Stokes 1985:157).

GMU 19C sheep harvests by residents of Nikolai and McGrath, 1983–2009

Year	Number of sheep harvested	Number of hunters
1983	2	8
1984	8	10
1985	3	6
1986	1	7
1987	1	8
1988	0	6
1991	1	2
1996	1	1
1997	0	1
1998	0	1
1999	0	1
2005	n/d	n/d
2006	0	3
2007	3	6
2008	0	1
2009	2	3

Note: No data are available for 2005.

Source: ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation

Criterion 2: Seasonality

A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

- Sheep were traditionally harvested by Upper Kuskokwim residents between August and November, with additional harvests occurring in June and July and again in November (Stokes 1985:70)
- 1983 harvest survey documented local resident harvests primarily in September, October, and February
- Today, sheep hunting is restricted to the legal fall season of August 10 to September 20, with a bag limit of 1 full-curl ram. Most of the harvest takes place in August, due to the lack of a winter season.

Criterion 3: Means and Methods of Harvest

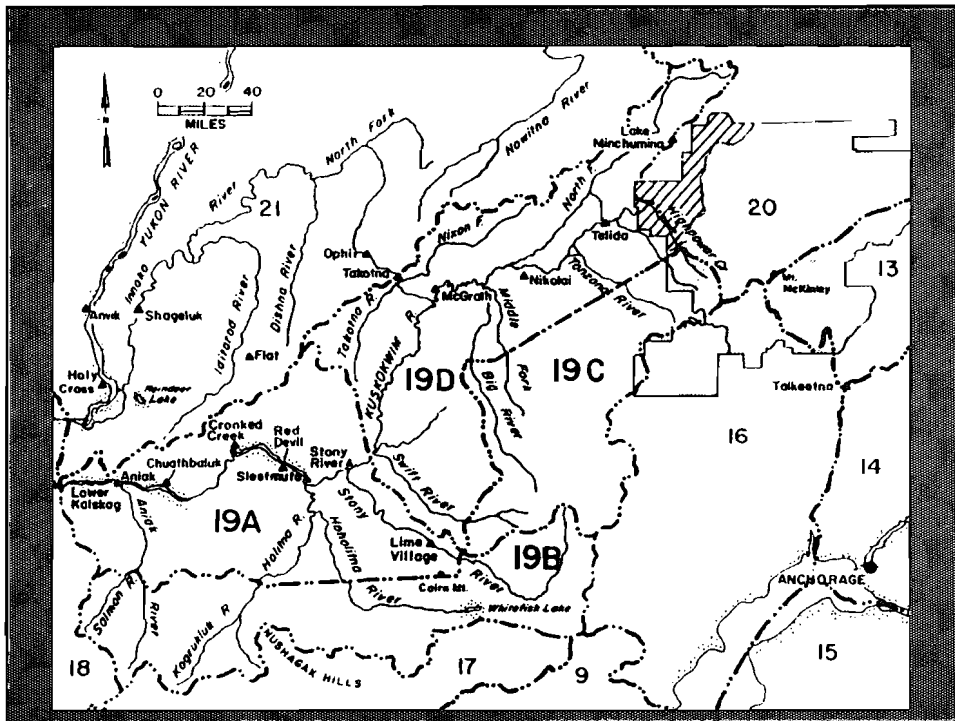
A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

Criterion 3: Means and Methods of Harvest (cont.)

- In the pre-firearm period, hunters employed multiple strategies to harvest sheep, including camouflage clothing, caribou "drives" by larger hunting parties, and smaller hunting parties that chased animals into brushy canyon areas. Harvests occurred with spears, hatchet-like weapons, and arrows.
- Today, sheep are taken with firearms, usually incidental to other activities. More than half of the sheep hunters report the use of registered guides in this area and most hunters report the use of airplanes to access sheep hunting areas in the current fall hunt.

Criterion 4: Geographic Areas

The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock and game population has been established.



Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving, and Storing

A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

Traditionally, big game meat was eaten fresh or preserved for future use by freezing or drying, depending on the season. Today, sheep meat is probably eaten fresh or preserved by freezing.

In addition to being an important historical component of local diets, sheep skins also provided materials for mattresses, bedding, and moccasin liners (Stokes 1985:156-157).

Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Lore

A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

- Skills needed to successfully harvest sheep were handed down between generations through participation in hunting and processing practices.
- Knowledge of traditional sheep hunting methods remains part of the local oral tradition.
- A limited numbers of local hunters have continued to pursue sheep hunting during the contemporary regulatory fall hunt.

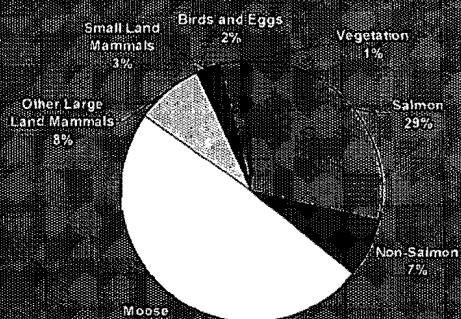
Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange

A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

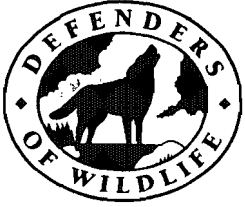
- Oral historical sources document the hunting, processing, and sharing of sheep meat, and that all households had equal portions. Additionally, local residents note that sheep have been served at potlatches: important community ceremonial events in which the entire community participates.
- Today, much of the sheep meat distributed to residents of the communities of Nikolai and Tellda is provided by locally-based guides of trophy hunting clients (Stokes 1985).

Criterion 8: Diversity of Resources in an Area; Economic, Cultural, Social, and Nutritional Elements

A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide variety of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.



Nikolai, 2002



Alaska Office

333 West 4th Avenue, #302 | Anchorage, AK 99501 | tel 907.276.9453 | fax 907.276.9454
www.defenders.org

RC 94

February 26, 2010

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Re: Proposal 132: Supplemental Comments on Spring 2010 Proposals

Dear Chairman Judkins,

Please supplement our comment letter, dated February 11, 2010, with this letter. Defenders of Wildlife would like to offer some additional comments on Proposal 132, which would implement a wolf reduction program on Unimak Island within the Alaska National Maritime Wildlife Refuge. This proposal was not in the original proposal booklet, but was circulated in a package of supplemental proposals.

Proposal 132. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Establish a predator control area for Unit 10, Unimak Island.

We **oppose** this proposal.

The primary justification for this proposal is the decline in bull:cow ratios since 2005. The proposal also concludes that wolves are a major source of predation on the herd, implying that this is the cause of the decline. This is despite acknowledging that no wolf surveys have been conducted on Unimak Island. Brown bears too, are implicated by a generic description of brown bear opportunistic and calf predation, without offering any data specifically for this management area. The proposal does not mention other potential causes of decline, such as likely overharvest by humans, something more likely than wolves or bears to decimate the bull population.

The proposal indicates that human harvest was halted in March, 2009. There is no data provided in the proposal about the level of human use prior to the closure in 2009 or what the likely impact of keeping the human harvest closed for any additional seasons might be.

The proposal does not mention that Unimak Island is part of a National Wildlife Refuge and a National Wilderness Area. The proposal implicates the management responsibilities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the legal mandates that apply to Unimak Island, yet fails to discuss any involvement by the federal agency. Presumably, the Board and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) are hoping to avoid federal government oversight entirely by the state regulatory changes proposed in #131, whereby federal agency approval is no longer required by state regulation for this kind of intensive wildlife manipulation.

National Headquarters

1130 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331

UP 35

Proposal 132 is silent on some of the more recent history of caribou management on Unimak Island. Because of low population numbers, state and federal hunts were closed in 1993. The herd began to recover, and the federal subsistence season was reopened in 2000. The Board of Game did not wait to determine what impact the federal subsistence hunt would have on the recovering herd, or even phase in a smaller state resident hunt in the area. Instead, the Board reopened the area with a general hunt in 2001. Nonresident hunters were given a 30 day hunting season. All Alaska residents were allowed to hunt from August 10 to September 30 and from November 15 to March 31 (a 6-month open season).

In 2007, state game biologists reported that nonresident hunters had an average success rate of 92% and were responsible for 77% of the reported harvest. Nonlocal residents had a 64% success rate. The state's harvest data contains no known harvest by local residents. The total number of hunters (hunters from outside Alaska and nonlocal Alaska hunters) between 2001 and 2006 varied from 13-21. The subsistence and general hunts continued until March 2009.

The proposal indicates that the caribou are "important locally." Nothing supports this statement and the proposal fails to provide any information about harvest numbers, hunter numbers, or hunter residency from 2001 until 2009 when the closure occurred. The proposal simply states without information that the "amount needed for subsistence" for GMU 10 is 100-150 caribou. The proposal provides no information about actual, past caribou harvest levels or the residency of the hunters. All published data indicates a much smaller subsistence harvest. The proposal also fails to acknowledge the biological uncertainty of any management action on an insular herd that has historically moved between Unit 9 and Unit 10.

It is clear that proposal 132 is not about subsistence despite the off-hand references to local users in the proposal. If the Board passes this program, it will be for the benefit of a small number of urban hunters and one big game hunting guide who has the exclusive commercial use of this area of the National Wildlife Refuge. Further, there is no state legislative mandate to act. The program would authorize intensive wildlife population manipulation through eradication of the wolf population on a segment of National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness area, using aerial hunting and gassing of wolf dens to correct a problem created by human overharvest. At a minimum, this type of action requires the Service to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the predator reduction and the wildlife stocking program prior to approving such a program.

Even if the Service undergoes the NEPA analysis required to manipulate, or to permit ADF&G to manipulate, the caribou population on Unimak, it is unlikely that predator control to correct overhunting could be found to be consistent with the federal mandates for this area. It is also unlikely that the program is needed in order to manage this herd for a local, subsistence harvest.

Defenders of Wildlife urges the Board to vote no on this proposal.

Thank you for considering these additional comments.

Sincerely,



Theresa Spang
Alaska Representative

configuration that would encourage the continued use and expansion of volunteer trails, thus continuing and expanding impacts to coastal scrub and salt marsh habitats. The third alternative would involve the relocation of the project site within the Morro Bay State Park. However, the proposed Marina Peninsula Trail project offers an opportunity to use a long stretch of existing disturbed ground, former maintenance road, and existing trails, all of which could be improved to meet accessible guidelines, limit the removal of existing habitat, and provide substantial protection and improvement of habitat for sensitive species.

We are requesting comments on our preliminary determination that the applicant's proposal will have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the plan, and that the plan qualifies as a "low-effect" habitat conservation plan as defined by our Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1998). We base our determination that the plan qualifies as a low-effect plan on the following three criteria: (1) implementation of the plan would result in minor or negligible effects on Federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of the plan would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of the plan, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant. As more fully explained in our Environmental Action Statement and associated Low Effect Screening Form, the applicant's proposed plan qualifies as a "low-effect" plan for the following reasons:

(1) Approval of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on the Morro shoulderband snail and California seablite and their habitat. The Service does not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects to the Morro shoulderband snail or California seablite resulting from the proposed Project.

(2) Approval of the HCP would not have adverse effects on unique geographic, historic, or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

(3) Approval of the HCP would not result in any cumulative or growth-inducing impacts and would not result in significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

(4) The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive

Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, nor does it threaten to violate a Federal, State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

(5) Approval of the HCP would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

We, therefore, have made a preliminary determination that the approval of the HCP and incidental take permit application qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 8). Based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice, we may revise this preliminary determination.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the plan and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). If we determine that the application meets these requirements, we will issue the permit for incidental take of the Morro shoulderband snail. We will also evaluate whether issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would comply with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue a permit. If the requirements are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, plan, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any one of the methods in

ADDRESSES:

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. If you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must provide a rationale demonstrating and documenting that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. While you can ask

us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: February 19, 2010.

Diane K. Noda,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office.

[FR Doc. 2010-3850 Filed 2-24-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-ES-2009-N244; 70120-1113-0000-C3]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Request for Scoping Comments and Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Designation of a Non-Essential Experimental Population of Wood Bison in Alaska

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), plan to prepare a draft environmental assessment, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), in conjunction with a potential proposed rule to establish an experimental population of wood bison (*Bison bison athabascæ*) in Alaska, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We are seeking comments or suggestions concerning the scope of our environmental analysis for this action. **DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by March 29, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send information, comments, or questions by any one of the following methods.

U.S. Mail or hand delivery: Fisheries and Ecological Services Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Fax: 907-786-3575.

E-mail: woodbison-ak@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Jacobs, (907) 786-3472.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A subspecies of North American bison, wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) are larger than plains bison (*Bison bison bison*) and well adapted to northern meadow and forest habitats. Skeletal remains and historical accounts show that wood bison persisted in a large part of their original range in Alaska and Canada during the last 10,000 years (Stephenson *et al.* 2001; Gardner and DeGange 2003). Soper (1941) estimated that 168,000 wood bison existed in North America (Alaska and western Canada) in 1800. By the end of the 19th century, however, wood bison had declined to an estimated low of 250 animals (Soper 1941). The specific causes of this precipitous decline are not known with certainty, but unregulated hunting following the fur trade, westward expansion of European settlement, and severe winters likely played a role (Fuller 1962; Gates *et al.* 1992). The extirpation of wood bison in Alaska was likely due to the combined effects of hunting by humans and changes in habitat distribution during the Holocene (Stephenson *et al.* 2001; Gardner and DeGange 2003).

Conservation efforts in Canada have substantially improved the status of wood bison. Today, there are over 10,000 free-ranging wood bison in Canada, including over 4,000 bison in 7 free-ranging, disease-free herds; over 6,000 in 4 free-ranging herds that are not disease-free but are increasing; and over 1,000 wood bison in captive conservation and research herds. (Canadian Wildlife Service, unpublished data 2009).

We have been coordinating with the State of Alaska (State) to pursue the goal of reintroducing wood bison to Alaska. The State and other conservation interests believe that wood bison reintroduction to Alaska can play an important role in ecosystem restoration and is a significant opportunity for international cooperation in improving the status of a historically important native species. The recovery of wood bison overall, however, is not dependent on restoration in Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has worked for over 15 years to evaluate reintroducing wood bison into portions of the species' historic range in interior Alaska. Three prospective release sites with the best potential habitat include: Yukon Flats, Minto Flats, and the lower Innoko/Yukon River area (Berger *et al.* 1995; Gardner 2007). Numerous public meetings have been held over the years in communities located in these areas.

All of the involved local State fish and game advisory committees and Federal regional subsistence advisory councils have discussed and supported wood bison reintroduction. In 2005, the State established a citizen's advisory group, the Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group (WBRAG), to review information on the proposal to restore wood bison, discuss the relevant issues, and provide recommendations to ADF&G. Following 4 days of public meetings, the WBRAG recommended moving forward with wood bison restoration in Alaska. ADF&G produces a project newsletter, *Wood Bison News*, to inform the public of current developments with this project, and also maintains a web page on wood bison restoration in Alaska: <http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=game.restoration>. In 2005 and 2007, ADF&G invited written public comment on wood bison restoration in Alaska. In both review periods, public comment strongly favored proceeding with this action.

The proposed reintroduction program would use wood bison stock imported from Canada, primarily from Elk Island National Park (EINP), Alberta, where a disease-free herd of 300–400 wood bison is maintained for the primary purpose of reestablishing additional healthy, free-ranging wood bison herds in additional parts of the species' original range. In June 2008, ADF&G imported wood bison from EINP, and is presently maintaining a captive herd at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) in Portage, Alaska. These animals and their progeny are intended to be used as founding stock for reintroductions to interior Alaska. Wood bison will be held for a minimum of 2 years at the AWCC for additional disease testing while plans for their release are finalized.

The goal of the Alaska wood bison restoration project is to reestablish 1–3 free-ranging populations, each including at least 400 adults within 12–15 years of release, at one or more of the three sites with the best potential habitat, Yukon Flats, Minto Flats, and/or the lower Innoko/Yukon River area. ADF&G will work with the Service, other agencies, landowners and other stakeholders to develop management plans for each area where they plan to reestablish the species (ADF&G 2007). Some of the key management objectives include restoring an indigenous grazing animal and habitat diversity to northern ecosystems, providing benefits to Alaska's people and economy, and reestablishing wood bison populations that can be harvested on a sustained yield basis.

Regulatory Considerations

Endangered Species Act Protections

Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), wood bison are listed as endangered, although they presently occur in the wild only in Canada. If wood bison were to be introduced to Alaska with the endangered designation, they would be subject to the protections and prohibitions of sections 7 and 9 of the Act. Section 7 requires Federal agencies to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. Section 9 prohibits the take of endangered and threatened wildlife. "Take" is defined as: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Experimental Populations

In 1982, Congress amended the Act by adding section 10(j), to provide for designation of "experimental populations." Prior to 1982, local citizens often opposed reintroductions of listed species into unoccupied portions of their historical range because they were concerned about potential restrictions to Federal, State, and private activities. Under section 10(j), and our regulations at 50 CFR 17.81, the Service can designate reintroduced populations established outside the species' current range, but within its historical range, as "experimental." Our regulations at 50 CFR 17.80(b) state that a reintroduced population can be considered a "nonessential experimental population" (NEP) if the loss of that population would not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival of the species in the wild. Regulatory requirements of sections 7 and 9 of the Act are considerably reduced under a NEP designation. The Act further prohibits designating critical habitat for any NEP, and through section 4(d) of the Act, the Service may develop regulations and management options specific to the species' needs that are necessary to promote the species' conservation. In order to establish a NEP, we must first issue a proposed regulation pursuant to section 10(j) of the Act and consider public comments prior to publishing a final regulation. Our regulations at 50 CFR 17.81 (d) require that, to the extent practicable, a regulation issued under section 10(j) of the Act represents an agreement between the Service, the affected State and Federal agencies, and persons holding any interest in land that

may be affected by the establishment of the NEP.

Wood Bison Status in Canada and ESA Petition

In 1988, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada reclassified the wood bison from "endangered" to "threatened" status under Canada's Species at Risk Act because Canadian populations of wood bison were recovering. In 2007, Canada's Wood Bison Recovery Team petitioned the Service to reclassify wood bison from endangered to threatened status under the Act. On February 3, 2009, we published a finding that the petition presented substantial information indicating that this action may be warranted and initiated a status review for wood bison (74 FR 5908). Following our review of the wood bison's status, we will issue a finding on the petition, in which we will determine whether it is appropriate to retain the species' endangered status, reclassify it as threatened, or even to remove the wood bison from listed status under the Act.

Regulatory Status of Wood Bison in Alaska

The State will not consider reintroducing wood bison to Alaska in the absence of Federal regulatory assurance to landowners and land managers that such action would not adversely affect resource development activities important to Alaska's economy. Such assurance could be accomplished through a change in the species' listing status throughout its range or through the establishment of a NEP pursuant to section 10(j) of the Act. A reclassification of the wood bison to "threatened" status, without the establishment of a NEP pursuant to ESA section 10(j), would not provide sufficient regulatory assurance.

Scoping Process

To ensure compliance with NEPA and the Act, the Service and ADF&G are cooperating to prepare a draft environmental assessment (EA) and proposed rule to establish, under section 10(j) of the Act, a non-essential experimental population of wood bison in Alaska. The purpose of this scoping process is to aid the development of the EA by collecting comments on this action as a way to support wood bison conservation. We also seek comments on the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to Alaska.

In addition to the "no action" alternative, our draft EA will consider:

- (1) The environmental effects of issuing 10(j) and 4(d) rules for wood bison in Alaska;
- (2) the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to one or more of the potential release sites Minto Flats, Yukon Flats, and the lower Innoko/Yukon River area;
- (3) the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to Alaska in the absence of 10(j) and 4(d) rules.

We will incorporate the relevant public comments we receive in response to this scoping notice into our analysis of impacts of the proposed action and project alternatives in the draft EA. This document will include maps of the proposed reintroduction area or areas, based on public input and current knowledge of wood bison habitat in Alaska. We will make the draft EA available for a minimum 30-day public review period. The final environmental document, which will address the comments we receive during the draft EA public comment period, will be available on the internet.

Request for Public Comments

We wish to ensure that any 10(j) rule and associated environmental documents we issue relating to the wood bison in Alaska effectively evaluate all potential issues associated with wood bison reintroduction to Alaska. Therefore, we request comments or recommendations concerning any of the considerations we have listed above; and also concerning: The biological and habitat requirements of the species; information on the distribution and quality of habitat for the wood bison in Alaska; the overall approach to the conservation of wood bison in Canada and Alaska; reasons why any specific areas might require special management or should be excluded from, or added to, the proposed reintroduction site or sites; and any other pertinent issues of concern. We seek comments from the public; Tribal, local, State, and Federal government agencies; the scientific community; industry; or any other affected or interested party. To determine whether to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or an Environmental Impact Statement, we will take into consideration all comments and any additional information we receive.

References

A complete list of all references in this notice is available upon request from the Fish and Wildlife Service (see ADDRESSES).

Author(s)

The primary author of this package is the Fisheries and Ecological Services Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK.

Dated: February 12, 2010.

Gary Edwards,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-3889 Filed 2-24-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-56-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

LLNM915000L14200000.BJ0000J

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of Plats of Survey.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Santa Fe, New Mexico, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico (NM)

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 4, 2009, for Group 1093 NM.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 16 North, Range 19 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 30, 2009, for Group 1073 NM.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey, of the Canon De San Diego Grant, accepted November 19, 2009, for Group 1100 NM.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 17 North, Range 24 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted December 2, 2009, for Group 1102 NM.

Indian Meridian, Oklahoma (OK)

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 15 North, Range 11 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted October 16, 2009, for Group 180 OK.

The plat, in four sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 20 North, Range 16 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted October 14, 2009, for Group 162 OK.

oppose proposals 33, 38, and 40 to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 20A. And Proposal 40, which would have a Drawing Permit only up to 1000 permits.

I oppose the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 20A. I oppose killing cows with calves. It is against our customary and traditional ways to kill cows with calves.

These proposals also encourage trespass on Antler, Inc. land.

I oppose Proposal 38 to instruct people with Any-Bull Tags from hunting under the General Harvest hunt ticket.

I oppose proposals 55 and 59 to ~~expand~~ expand the Stampede Close Areas in Unit 20A and 20C. I oppose the Denali "Buffer zone" and expanding the acreage to it. Subsidized ^{users} ~~users~~ should have a

priority over the viewing of wolves by the public. Subsidized should have a priority over recreational users, who just want to look at wolves.

Users will continue to have the

areas closed to them as well.
I support proposal 56, 57, 63 and
64 to "eliminate the Stamp pack
and Nezum Canyon closed areas
in Units 20A and Unit 20C, so that
there will be "no new regulation
or expansions on both side of
the buffer zone or closed area
eliminated totally."
I support proposal 64 to open
units 20A and 20C for hunting and
"expansions of wildlife, and to get rid
of the buffer zone/closed area."

Proposal 84A – 5AAC 92.125

(j) **Unit 21(E) predation control area:** The Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area is established and includes all of Unit 21(E), encompassing approximately 7,995 square miles; this predation control program does not apply within National Wildlife Refuge Lands unless approved by the federal agencies; notwithstanding any other provision in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in the Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area:

(1) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:

(A) a GASH moose management area (MMA) is established within the Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area; the MMA encompasses approximately 2,617 square miles, adjacent to the village of Grayling and surrounding the villages of Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross; the purpose of the MMA is to focus intensive management activities, including predation control and habitat management, in a relatively small area near villages where moose are most accessible to hunters, rather than spread this effort over the entire game management unit; wolf control will be conducted only within the MMA; the department has the discretion to adjust the size and shape of the MMA **to include up to 40 percent (approximately 3,700 square miles) of Unit 21(E) in order to meet the objectives of this plan;**

(B) prey population information is as follows:

- (i.) local residents and other hunters have reported a decline in the Unit 21(E) moose population since the mid 1990s and are concerned that additional declines may occur; however, there are few data available on the number of moose prior to 2000 for comparison; population estimation surveys were conducted in March 2000 and 2005 and February 2009 in a 5,070-square mile moose survey area (MSA); estimates at the 90 percent confidence level without sightability correction factors were 5151 ± 13 percent (1 moose per square mile), 4673 ± 17 percent (0.9 moose per square mile) and 6218 ± 17 percent (1.2 moose per square mile), respectively; because the ranges of these estimates overlap, they likely do not indicate a detectable change in the moose population between 2000 and 2009; extrapolating the February 2009 estimate to all of Unit 21E resulted in an estimated observable moose population size of 6,205–8,747;
- (ii.) the intensive management moose population objective established by the board for Unit 21(E) is 9,000–11,000 moose;
- (iii.) the objective for observable moose within the MSA is a minimum of 5,070, as estimated from aerial surveys and not corrected for sightability; achieving this objective will contribute to achieving the Unit 21(E) intensive management population objective;
- (iv.) the intensive management moose harvest objective established by the board for Unit 21(E) is 550–1,100 moose;

- (v.) the moose harvest objective within the MSA is a minimum of 203 (4 percent of 5,070) during each regulatory year; achieving this objective will contribute to achieving the Unit 21(E) intensive management harvest objective;
- (vi.) composition surveys conducted during November 1987–1998 and 2007–2008 in the Holy Cross area indicated that bull-to-cow ratios and calf-to-cow ratios were at or above 25–30 bulls:100 cows and 30–40 calves:100 cows; November 2009 composition surveys revealed a similarly high bull:cow ratio, but a lower calf:cow ratio of 18 calves:100 cows.
- (vii.) based on available data, habitat is probably not a factor limiting moose population growth in Unit 21(E); a browse survey conducted during spring 2006 indicated that moose were removing 21 percent of current annual biomass, which is a moderate level along the gradient of removal observed in Interior moose populations; seven aerial surveys conducted during spring 2000–2009 have shown an average twinning rate of 31 percent (range: 16–50 percent), which suggests habitat is not presently limiting productivity in moose;
- (viii.) if the moose population declines below 1.0 observable moose per square mile, total estimated mortality would likely be high relative to the size of the moose population; information gained from studies on moose in Unit 19(D) East and other areas of Alaska, and observations by local residents suggest that wolves would be a limiting factor for moose in Unit 21(E); research from Unit 19(D) East also indicates that black and brown bear predation could be a factor that contributes to calf moose mortality, and bears may be limiting the moose population in Unit 21(E);
- (ix.) the harvestable surplus in Unit 21(E) is 248–350 moose based on a conservative harvest rate of 4 percent of the total estimated population;
- (x.) the estimated observable moose population in Unit 21(E) is lower than the intensive management population objective; the number of animals that can be removed from the Unit 21(E) moose population on an annual basis without preventing growth of the population or altering the composition of the population in a biologically unacceptable manner is less than the harvest objective established for the population in 5AAC 92.108;
- (xi.) the 2009 estimate of 1.2 observable moose per square mile within the Unit 21(E) MSA is considered to be slightly higher than the range of densities associated with low density dynamic equilibrium moose populations that are predator limited; a decline in moose numbers would result in the population moving into the low density dynamic equilibrium state; once in that state, the moose in Unit 21(E) are likely to persist at lower density with little expectation of increase unless a wolf control program is conducted; results from moose mortality studies, and predator and prey studies, conducted throughout Alaska and similar areas in Canada indicate that reducing the number of wolves in Unit 21(E) can reasonably be expected to increase the survival of yearling and older moose; wolf control activities within the MMA can reasonably be expected to increase moose densities in that and surrounding areas and increase the number of moose that can be harvested;

(C) human use information for the prey population is as follows:

- (i.) the board identified moose in Unit 21(E) as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use in accordance with AS 16.05.255(e)-(g);
- (ii.) estimated average annual moose harvest by all Alaska resident hunters in Unit 21(E) was 311 between 1996 and 2005; this estimate was based on all available harvest data, including harvest ticket reports, Division of Subsistence household surveys, and other subsistence research; the average nonresident harvest between 2000 and 2004 was 30 moose;
- (iii.) according to harvest ticket reports, the number of moose harvested in Unit 21(E) declined from an average of 182 annually during the 1998-2002 seasons to 124 during the 2003-2008 seasons; most of this decline can be attributed to a decrease in non-local harvest; since the early 2000s, this change includes a reduction in the number of hunters from Unit 18 who travel upriver to hunt moose in Unit 21E because moose have become more abundant in Unit 18;
- (iv.) in a March 2002 report to the board, the Division of Subsistence estimated the average annual harvest of moose by residents of Unit 21(E) during the 1996-1999 seasons was 226; Division of Subsistence household surveys indicated harvest by residents of Unit 21(E) during 2002, 2003, and 2004 seasons was 133, 118, and 94 respectively; harvest was unusually low in 2004 due to low water and to forest fires that burned from summer until the fall moose hunting season; in recent years annual harvest has included approximately 20-25 cows;
- (v.) the amount necessary for subsistence established by the board for Unit 21 is 600-800 moose;
- (vi.) the intensive management harvest objective in Unit 21(E) is 550-1,100; **the current harvestable surplus of 248-350 moose is well below this objective;** as the moose population increases and more harvest can be allowed, a greater portion of the unmet demand for moose in Unit 21(E) can be satisfied; based on management experience gained in Unit 19(D) East and other areas of Alaska, an increase in the moose population is expected if the wolf population is reduced substantially; a reduction in the number of wolves would result in a higher rate of increase in the number of moose available for harvest; although the most pronounced effect is expected to be within the MMA, it is reasonable to expect some lesser degree of increase in the moose population in the area immediately surrounding the MMA because of a reduction in wolf predation; if the moose population were to decline without a wolf predation control program in place, there is a low probability that a further decline in the moose population could be prevented and recovery initiated to meet harvest demands including local subsistence needs;

(D) predator population information is as follows:

- (i.) **the relevant predator population is all wolves within Unit 21(E);** the pre-control wolf population in Unit 21(E) was estimated for fall 2008 using a partial survey in March 2009 conducted in 3,600 square miles, combined with observations made during the February 2009 moose survey, sealing records and anecdotal

observations; these data were extrapolated to all of Unit 21(E), and resulted in an estimate of 146–156 wolves or approximately 18–20 wolves per 1,000 square miles; in areas with limited human developments such as Unit 21(E), habitat is not considered a significant factor in limiting wolf populations, and it is presumed that numbers of wolves are limited mainly by prey availability; there is no evidence of disease or any other naturally occurring factors that would cause wolf mortality to be higher than normally expected;

- (ii.) using the February 2009 moose population estimate and fall 2008 wolf population estimates, the moose-to-wolf ratio in Unit 21(E) is between 40:1 and 60:1;
- (iii.) studies in Alaska and elsewhere have repeatedly concluded that large reductions are required to affect wolf population levels and to reduce predation by wolves on their prey; research indicates a temporary reduction of about 60–80 percent of the pre-control wolf population may be necessary to achieve prey population objectives; once the wolf population has been reduced to the population control objective, annual reductions of less than 60 percent will likely regulate the wolf population at the control objective until prey population objectives are met; the wolf population control objective will achieve the desired reduction in wolf predation, and also ensure that wolves persist within the predation control area in sufficient numbers so that a long-term sustainable harvest is maintained;
- (iv.) the primary objective of the Unit 21(E) wolf predation control plan is to increase the moose population and, therefore, the number of moose available for harvest on an annual and sustainable basis within the area of concentrated harvest by reducing [REDUCE] wolf numbers and wolf predation on moose within the 2,617 square mile MMA to the lowest level possible if necessary; this plan also has a goal to maintain wolves as an important component [PART] of the ecosystem within the larger area of Unit 21(E) and to maintain long-term sustainable harvests of both predator and prey populations in accordance with established objectives; the minimum wolf population objective for Unit 21(E) is 29–31 wolves, which represents a 80 percent reduction from the pre-control minimum estimated fall wolf population of 146–156 (18–20 wolves per 1000 square miles); a minimum 60 percent wolf reduction from precontrol levels will likely achieve the minimum desired reduction in wolf predation[, AND]; a maximum 80 percent wolf reduction ensures that wolves persist in Unit 21(E) in sufficient numbers so that a long-term harvest of wolves is sustained;
- (v.) the wolf population is expected to decline somewhat if there is a decline in the moose population and reduced availability of prey; this decline could result in the moose and wolf populations in Unit 21(E) entering a low density dynamic equilibrium state in which both predator and prey numbers are likely to stay at low levels indefinitely; if wolf predation control efforts are implemented and the wolf population is reduced according to the wolf population and removal objectives, the wolf population will be maintained through ongoing control efforts and hunter/trapper harvests at a minimum of 29–31 wolves for several years, but once the moose population increases and wolf control efforts are suspended, research and case history indicate the wolf population will increase, with an increase in long-

term sustainable harvest, through a combination of wolf immigration and higher wolf reproductive rate in response to the increased prey base;

(E) the human use information for the predator population is as follows:

- (i.) average annual reported harvest of wolves by hunters and trappers during the 2003–2008 seasons was 17, **well below levels required to significantly reduce the population**;
- (ii.) the human population in Unit 21(E) is concentrated along the lower Yukon and Innoko River corridors; the region's weather is influenced by coastal conditions and warm spells in the winter will often melt snow and make travel and tracking conditions poor; in addition, the low price of wolf pelts and high cost of fuel make it difficult for local residents to harvest a high number of wolves throughout the unit;

(2) the predator and prey population levels and population objectives, and the basis for those objectives, is as follows:

- (A) the most recent (2009) estimate for the observable moose population in the Unit 21(E) predation control area is 6,205–8,747 moose; the intensive management population objective for Unit 21(E) is 9,000–11,000 moose; intensive management objectives were based on historic information about moose numbers, habitat limitations, sustainable harvest levels, and human use;
- (B) the pre-control estimated minimum wolf population in Unit 21(E) was 146–156 wolves in fall 2008; studies in Alaska and elsewhere have repeatedly concluded that large, annual reductions of wolves are required to diminish wolf population levels and predation by wolves on their prey; consistent with scientific studies and department experience, the objective of this plan is to substantially reduce wolf numbers from pre-control levels if necessary to relieve predation pressure on moose and allow for improved recruitment to the moose population; this plan also has as a goal to maintain wolves as part of the natural ecosystem within the described geographical area **in sufficient numbers to maintain a long-term sustainable harvest**; to achieve the desired reduction in wolf predation, but ensure that wolves persist within the plan area **and long-term harvest of wolves is sustained**, the wolf population in Unit 21(E) will be reduced to no fewer than 29 wolves;
- (C) the primary objective of the Unit 21(E) wolf predation control plan is to reduce wolf numbers and wolf predation on moose within the 2,617 square mile MMA if necessary to the lowest level possible; this plan also has a goal to maintain wolves as part of the ecosystem within Unit 21(E) **and to maintain a long-term sustainable wolf harvest**; the minimum wolf population objective for Unit 21(E) is 29–31 wolves, which represents an 80 percent reduction from the pre-control minimum estimated fall wolf population of 146–156 (18–20 wolves per 1000 square miles); a minimum 60 percent wolf reduction from precontrol levels will achieve the minimum desired reduction in wolf predation[, AND]; a maximum 80 percent wolf reduction ensures that wolves persist in Unit 21(E);

(3) justifications for the predator control implementation plan are as follows:



- (A) the observable moose population size for Unit 21(E) was estimated at 6,205–8,747 in February 2009, with 6218 ± 17 percent (1.2 moose per square mile) in the MSA; the harvestable surplus of moose is 248–350, based on a conservative harvest rate of 4 percent of the estimated moose population; if there were a decline below 1.0 observable moose per square mile the intensive management population objective of 9,000–11,000 and harvest objective of 550–1,100 may not be met; local residents and other hunters reported a decline in the moose population prior to 2000 and are concerned that additional declines may occur, making it increasingly difficult to achieve objectives; declines in the moose population occur because mortality exceeds recruitment into the population; wolf predation is an important cause of moose mortality; in Alaska and Canada where moose are the primary prey of wolves, studies documented kill rates ranging from four to seven moose per wolf per winter;
- (B) a proactive approach is needed to allow for a timely response to any additional decline in the Unit 21(E) moose population; reducing wolf numbers through a wolf predation control program, combined with reduction in moose harvest, is the approach most likely to succeed in a recovery of the moose population if an additional decline occurs; wolf harvest through hunting and trapping efforts has not resulted in lowering the wolf population sufficiently to allow the moose population to grow;
- (C) presently known alternatives to predator control for reducing the number of predators are ineffective, impractical, or uneconomical in the Unit 21(E) situation; hunting and trapping conducted under authority of ordinary hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits is not an effective reduction technique in sparsely populated areas such as Unit 21(E); the numbers of hunters and trappers are relatively low and educational programs to stimulate interest and improve skills in taking wolves have so far have been unsuccessful in increasing the harvest of wolves; the inherent wariness of wolves, difficult access, and relatively poor pelt prices also explain low harvest rates; application of the most common sterilization techniques, including surgery, implants, or inoculation, are not effective reduction techniques because they require immobilization of individual predators, which is extremely expensive in remote areas, relocation of wolves is impractical because it is expensive and it is very difficult to find publicly acceptable places for relocated wolves; habitat manipulation is ineffective because it may improve the birth rate of moose in certain circumstances, but it is poor survival, not poor birth rate that keeps moose populations low in rural areas of Interior Alaska; supplemental feeding of wolves and bears as an alternative to predator control has improved moose calf survival in two experiments; however, large numbers of moose carcasses are not available for this kind of effort and transporting them to remote areas of Alaska is not practical; stocking of moose is impractical because of capturing and moving expenses; any of the alternatives to a wolf predation control program are not likely to be effective in achieving the desired level of predator harvest;
- (D) moose hunting seasons and bag limits have been reduced in Unit 21(E); the February resident season for any moose was closed in 2003 and the nonresident season was shortened and made more restrictive in 2006; if additional declines in the moose population occur, these measures by themselves are unlikely to allow the moose population to increase;

(E) without an effective wolf predation control program, the wolf removal objective cannot be achieved; a timely response to any additional decline in the Unit 21(E) moose population will not be possible, resulting in the population potentially moving into the low density dynamic equilibrium state with little expectation of increase; data from moose mortality and predator-prey studies conducted throughout Alaska and similar areas in Canada suggest that reducing the number of wolves in Unit 21(E) can reasonably be expected to increase moose survival, particularly for yearlings; reducing wolf predation on moose, in combination with carefully managing harvest (including minimizing cow harvest), can reasonably be expected to initiate an increase of the moose population;

(4) the permissible methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:

- (A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in Unit 21(E) during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080;
- (B) **following any required findings by the board**, the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits or public land and shoot permits in Unit 21(E) as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783 when the mid point of any population estimate obtained in the MSA declines below 1.0 observable moose per square mile;

(5) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

- (A) for up to six years beginning on July 1, 2010, the commissioner may reduce the wolf population in Unit 21(E), **while maintaining wolves as part of the ecosystem within Unit 21(E) and maintaining a long-term sustainable wolf harvest**;
- (B) annually, the department shall to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring board meeting, a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of moose and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(6) other specifications the board considers necessary are as follows:

- (A) the commissioner will suspend wolf predation control activities
 - (i.) when wolf inventories or accumulated information from wolf control permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the minimum population objective of 29-31 wolves in Unit 21(E) specified in this subsection;
 - (ii.) no later than April 30 in any regulatory year; or
 - (iii.) when prey population objectives are attained;
- (B) the commissioner will annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objective is not exceeded; or
- (C) wolf predation control activities will be terminated upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predation control plan area;

AC 98

2/27/2010

Proposal 80

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Extend the nonresident moose season in Unit 21A.

Current Season:

Sept 5-Sept 20

Proposed Season:

Sept 5-Sept 25

Proposal 80

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

McGrath AC

- OPPOSED

GASH AC

- OPPOSED

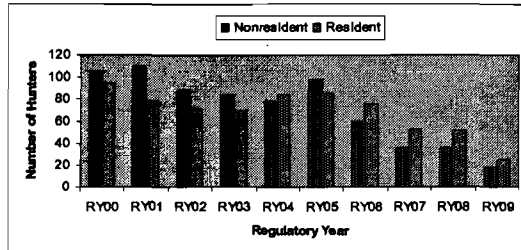
Proposal 80

- The YIMMP was endorsed by the Board in March 2006.
- The YIWG recommended no changes to the Unit 21A NR moose hunting season, which at that time was September 5–25.

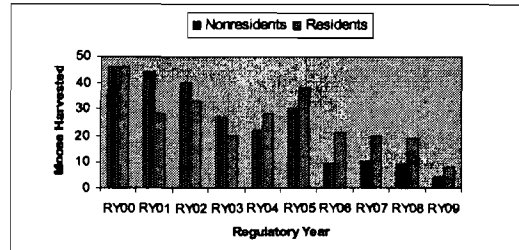
Proposal 80

- At the March 2006 BOG meeting the Board shortened the nonresident moose season in 21A.
 - Concern of a declining moose population.
 - Aligned the season with 21E.

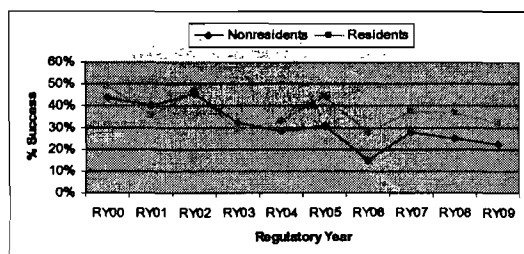
Unit 21A Harvest Data



Unit 21A Harvest Data

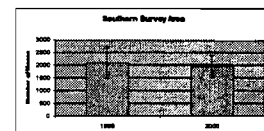
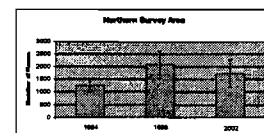


Unit 21A Harvest Data



Unit 21A Population Data

- Data collected by Innoko National Wildlife Refuge have not detected a decline in the 21A moose population.



Unit 21A Population Data

- November composition data indicate healthy bull:cow ratios.

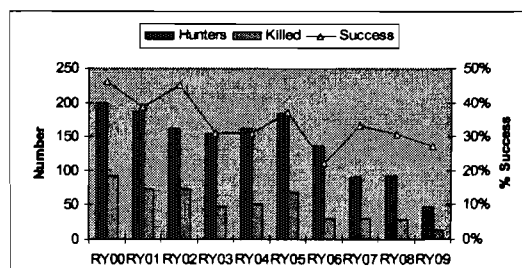
<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
36:100	54:100	64:100

Proposal 80

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

Unit 21A Harvest Data





PC 99

2/27/2010

Proposal 81

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Extend the nonresident moose season in Unit 21E.

Current Season:

Sept 5-Sept 20

Proposed Season:

Sept 5-Sept 25

Or

Sept 5-Sept 30

Proposal 81

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- NO RECOMMENDATION

GASH AC

- OPPOSED

WIRAC

- OPPOSED



Proposal 81

- The YIMMP recommended establishing a nonresident permit hunt.
- Recommended shortening the nonresident season by 5 days to end on Sept 20.
- Meant to cap nonresident harvest at 30.

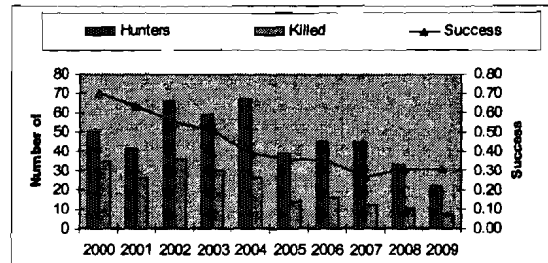
Proposal 81

- The Board adopted both of these measures in 2006.
- Currently 60 permits are available.
 - 48 nonguided and 12 guided.

Proposal 81

- 30 moose not an objective.
- The recommended changes in the plan to nonresident hunting were meant to:
 - "begin more closely managing nonresident hunting while not greatly changing nonresident hunting opportunity....."

Proposal 81



Proposal 81

	DM837			DM839		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Available	48	48	48	12	12	12
Issued	47	33	30	5	7	1
Permits remaining	1	15	18	7	5	11

DM 837 & DM 839

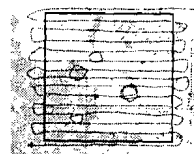
	Unsuccessful	Successful	Total
2007	33	12 (27%)	45
2008	23	10 (30%)	33
2009	16	7 (30%)	23

Proposal 81

- Issuing more permits is not an option.
- Returning the season to Sept 25 may:
 - Increase success rates.
 - Increase harvest.

Proposal 81

<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2009</u>
5151 Moose	4673 Moose	6218 Moose
1.0 moose/mile ²	0.9 moose/mile ²	1.2 moose/mile ²

**Proposal 81**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Twinning Rate</u>
2000	38%
2002	20%
2003	30%
2004	32%
2007	28%
2008	47%
2009	50%

Proposal 81

- Composition surveys 2007–2009.
 - Bull:cow ratios at or above 25–30:100
 - Calf:cow ratios at or above 30–40:100



Biological Data

- 2-year average bull:cow ratio 47:100
- Current population estimate
 - $7476 \pm 17\%$ (6205-8747)
- Current estimated harvest 240

Proposal 81

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- **NO RECOMMENDATION**

RC100

2/27/2010

Proposal 84

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Establish a predation control implementation plan in Unit 21E.

Proposal 84

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- AMEND AND ADOPT

GASH AC

- SUPPORT

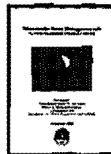
WIRAC

- SUPPORT

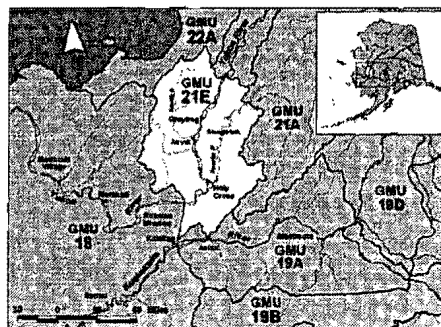


Proposal 84

- BOG endorsed the YIMMP in March 2006.
- Plans main tenets:
 - Establish a proactive management program.
 - Conservative harvest of moose.
 - Create an IM plan.



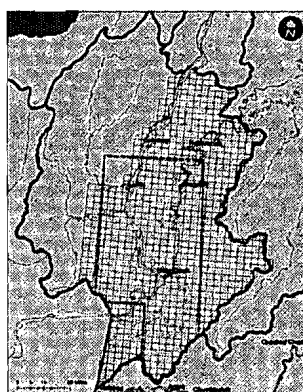
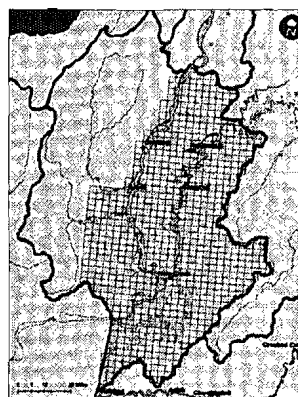
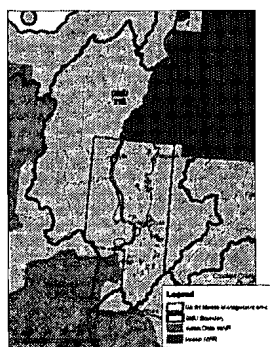
Proposal 84





1 2 3 4





Proposal 84

- There are currently 1.2 observable moose/mi² in the moose survey area.
- Implementation of wolf control only if the midpoint of the estimate falls below 1.0 observable moose/mi².





. . .

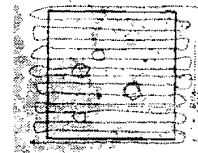


Proposal 84

- Local hunters have reported a decline in the moose population since the mid 90's.
- Few data are available prior to 2000.

Proposal 84

<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2009</u>
5151 Moose	4673 Moose	6218 Moose
1.0 moose/mile ²	0.9 moose/mile ²	1.2 moose/mile ²

Proposal 84

- Estimated annual moose harvest by all Alaska resident hunters in Unit 21E was 311 between 1996 and 2005.
- Average nonresident harvest between 2000 and 2004 was 30 moose.

Proposal 84

- The number of moose reported declined from an average of 182 during 98-02 to 124 during 03-08.
- A large part of this decline attributed to a decrease in non-local harvest.



1 2 3



Proposal 84

Proposal 84

- The moose population objective in the MSA is 5070 or 1.0 moose/mi².
- The moose harvest objective from the MSA is 203.

Proposal 84

- Composition surveys conducted during November 1987–1998 and 2007–2009.
 - Bull:cow ratios at or above 25–30:100
 - Calf:cow ratios at or above 30–40:100

Proposal 84

<u>Year</u>	<u>Twinning Rate</u>
2000	38%
2002	20%
2003	30%
2004	32%
2007	28%
2008	47%
2009	50%

Proposal 84

- Browse survey conducted spring 2006 indicated 21% percent browse removal.
- This is a moderate level along the gradient of removal observed in Interior moose populations.



Proposal 84

- The pre-control wolf population estimate for fall 2008 was 146–156 wolves.
- 18–20 wolves/1,000 miles²



Proposal 84

- Studies have concluded that reductions of 60-80% are required to affect wolf populations and reduce predation.
- Once a wolf population has been reduced smaller annual reductions will likely regulate the population.

Proposal 84

- If wolf control was implemented the objective would be to reduce wolf numbers and predation on moose within the 2,617 mile² MMA to the lowest level.

Proposal 84

- The minimum wolf population objective is 29–31 wolves.
 - This represents an 80% reduction from the pre-control estimate.
- A minimum 60% reduction will achieve the desired decrease in wolf predation and a maximum 80% reduction ensures wolves persist in 21E and long term harvest of wolves is sustained.

Proposal 84

- Average harvest of wolves by hunters and trappers from 2003–2008 was 17.
- The low price of wolf pelts and high cost of fuel may contribute to low wolf harvest.

Proposal 84

- A proactive approach is needed to allow for a timely response to any future decline.
- Reducing wolf numbers and moose harvest is the approach most likely to succeed in a recovery of the moose population.

Proposal 84

- Moose hunting seasons and bag limits have been reduced in 21E.
 - February resident season for any moose was closed.
 - Nonresident season was capped at 30.
- If additional declines occur, these measures by themselves are unlikely to allow the moose population to increase.

Proposal 84

- The YIMMP supported the federal winter hunt with a harvest of up to 40 moose.
- If wolf control was implemented the Dept would submit a proposal to the Federal Board to close the cow portion of that hunt.

Proposal 84

- Permissible methods and means used to take wolves:
 - Hunting and trapping of wolves by the public.
 - Issue public aerial shooting permits or public land and shoot permits.

Proposal 84

- The anticipated time frame and schedule are as follows:
 - For up to six years beginning on July 1, 2010, the commissioner may reduce the wolf population in 21E.
 - Once implemented, the Department will provide annual reports to the board including recommendations for changes if necessary.

Proposal 84

- The commissioner will suspend wolf predation control activities:
 - To avoid reducing wolves below minimum population objective of 29–31 wolves.
 - No later than April 30 in any regulatory year.
 - When prey objectives are attained.

Proposal 84

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- AMEND AND ADOPT

Proposal 84

- Specific amendments:
 - Clarify the Dept authority to adjust the size and shape of the MMA.
 - Clearly state we are currently below the IM harvest objective.
 - Identify 21E as the relevant wolf population.
 - Identify wolf reductions are temporary and that they will be suspended when moose population objectives are met.

Proposal 84

- Specific amendments continued:
 - Clearly state wolves will remain in unit 21E in sufficient numbers to assure a long term harvest is sustained.
 - Identify current harvest by hunting and trapping is well below the harvestable surplus.
 - Before wolf control could be implemented the Board would need to make the necessary findings to do so.

AC 101

2/27/2010

Proposal 85

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Establish a predation control implementation plan in Unit 21E.

Proposal 85

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- TAKE NO ACTION



RC 102

2/27/2010

Proposal 86

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Establish a predation control implementation plan in Unit 21E.

Proposal 86

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- TAKE NO ACTION

Intensive Management Population Identification Worksheet

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e)-(g) the Board of Game has established four criteria to identify ungulate populations that are "important for providing high levels of human consumptive use." The following information explains how each criterion applies to an ungulate population.

Species: Moose **Name of the Population:** GMU 21B, Nowitna River
Drainage, Yukon River between Melozitna and Tozitna rivers

Brief description of the population: Moose are distributed throughout the unit, with higher densities in the river corridors of the Yukon River and Nowitna River. The establishment of moose in this portion of Interior Alaska occurred fairly recently in geologic time, although they were present early enough to be mentioned in even the earliest human accounts of the area. The Nowitna River drainage is a popular hunting area for residents of Ruby, Tanana, and to a lesser extent, Galena. It is also a popular hunting area for other Alaska residents.

Criterion #1 - Harvest: (includes reported and estimated unreported harvests)

a. Maximum average harvest for any 3 consecutive years: 103

b. Estimated average harvest for 1999-2008: 99

Criterion #2 - Accessibility: The area is remote and accessible primarily by boat or float-equipped aircraft. A few hunters access the extreme western boundary using highway vehicles from the Ruby-Poorman Road. Major landowners include USFWS and the State of Alaska. Private property occurs as allotments, and the area around the town of Ruby.

Criterion #3 - Use for meat: Moose in Unit 21B are hunted primarily for meat, by both local residents and nonlocal residents. Nonresidents account for approximately 10-20% of the annual number of hunters and harvest. In the past the Nowitna drainage was known as a popular trophy hunting area. The Board of Game has established a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 21.

Criterion #4 - Hunter Demand:

a. Estimated or reported hunter effort: Average of 209 hunters each year reported hunting moose in Unit 21B (1999-2008)

b. Number of applicants for permit hunts, if applicable: Average of 196 registration and drawing permit applicants (2004-2008).

c. Other indicators of demand: The small Sunshine Mountain Caribou herd occupies the upper Nowitna Drainage, but none have been reported harvested in GMU 21B for the last five years.

Board Action:

Population identified as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use?

Yes: _____

No: _____

Population and Harvest Objectives:

Department Recommendation

Population 4000-6000

Harvest 200-300

Board Action

Population _____

Harvest _____

Intensive Management Objective Worksheet

AS 16.05.255(e)-(g) directs the Board of Game to establish population and human use goals for big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. 5 AAC 92.005(b) provides that the board will establish population and harvest objectives for each identified big game prey population consistent with maintaining near maximum sustainable yield from the population, taking into consideration:

(1) effects of weather, habitat capability, diseases and parasites: Severe winters in the late 1960's and 1970's initiated widespread declines in moose populations in Unit 21B. Mild winter weather in recent years has been a positive influence on the moose population. Several old burns in the area have reached their peak browse production. Natural fires or prescribed burns would increase the habitat capability of the area. Present habitat conditions are probably not limiting the present moose population. No information is available regarding effects of diseases or parasites on moose specific to the area.

(2) maintenance of viable predator populations: Wolves are abundant and lightly harvest. Black bears are abundant and lightly harvested. Grizzly bears are moderately abundant and lightly harvested

(3) maintenance of habitat conditions suitable for other species in the area: Historically, naturally occurring wildfires have been a major force affecting the diversity of habitats and wildlife species in this area. The 1982 Tanana-Minchumina Fire Plan provided a mechanism for retaining a natural fire regime in this area by allowing some fires to burn with minimal interference. Flooding on the Yukon and major tributaries contributes to habitat diversity in the riparian areas. Actions taken to increase moose population in this area should have no detrimental effects on other wildlife species.

(4) effects on subsistence users: Maintaining moose populations near maximum sustained yield would provide reliable moose hunting opportunities within the unit.

(5) cost, feasibility and potential effectiveness of possible management actions: Management actions likely to foster a significant increase in moose numbers include reducing predator numbers and prescribed burns. Cost for lethal wolf control would be similar to previous programs in other parts of the interior, entailing costs of about \$1000 per wolf. In the absence of any coordinated wolf control program, the potential for increasing harvest of predators is unlikely. Most of the unit is under federal management and habitat manipulation for the benefit of only moose would not likely be considered a compatible use. The relative inaccessibility and federal ownership of the area likely precludes any mechanical habitat manipulation.

(6) land ownership patterns within the range of the population: Much of the land area of Unit 21B is included within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge and administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Numerous private allotments occur within the unit. The town of Ruby and associated private property are also within the unit. The State of Alaska retains title to navigable waters and land beneath high water.

(7) degree of accessibility to harvest: The moose population within Unit 21B is not connected to the road system and is accessible only by boat or float equipped aircraft. An exception to that is limited highway vehicle and ORV use of the Ruby-Poorman Road south of Ruby.

(8) other factors, if any:

Department Recommended Objectives:

	Current	Proposed (Option 1)	Proposed (Option 2)
Population	1898 – 2736	4000 – 6000	_____
Harvest	<u>99</u>	<u>200 – 300</u>	_____

Board Action:

Objectives:

1. Population: _____
2. Harvest: _____

RC 104

PROPOSAL 90A – 5 AAC 85.045(22) Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Moose. Establish winter moose season for Units 24B and 24C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(22) ...		
Unit 24(B), all drainages of the Koyukuk River upstream from the Henshaw Creek drainage, up to but not including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainage		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5–Sept. 25
Remainder of Unit 24(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; <u>or</u> [1 BULL] <u>for up to four years beginning on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull with 5-inch antlers on one side, by registration permit only</u>	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 [DEC. 1–DEC. 10] <u>Dec. 15–Apr. 15</u> <u>(Subsistence hunt only)</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5–Sept. 25
Unit 24(C), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration
permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 320 permits
may be issued in combination
with Unit 21(D) and 24(D),
those portions within the
Koyukuk Controlled Use
Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

[1 BULL]

[DEC. 1–DEC. 10]
[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]
Dec. 15–Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

for up to four years beginning
on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull
with 5-inch antlers on one side,
by registration permit only

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side,
by drawing permit only;
up to 80 permits may be
issued in combination with
Unit 21(D) and 24(D), those
portions within the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area

Remainder of Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit
only; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only;
up to 450 permits may be issued
in combination with Unit 24(D)
outside the Koyukuk Controlled
Use Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

for up to four years beginning
on July 1, 2010, 1 antlered bull
with 5-inch antlers on one side,
by registration permit only

Dec. 15–Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side, by drawing
permit; up to 450 permits may
be issued in combination with
Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

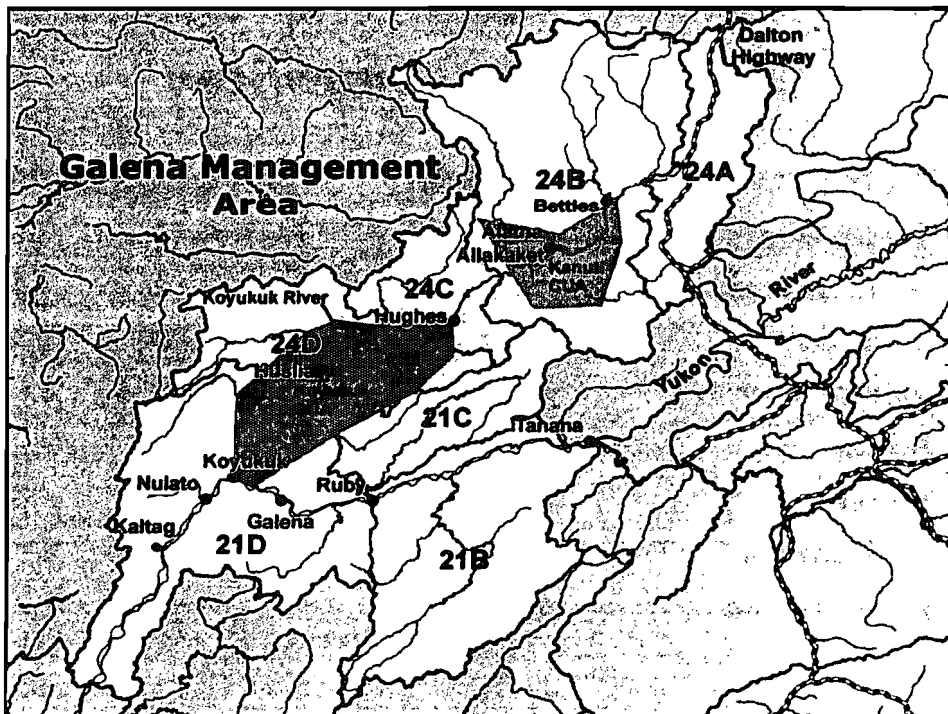
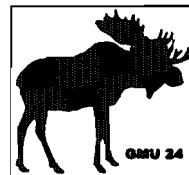
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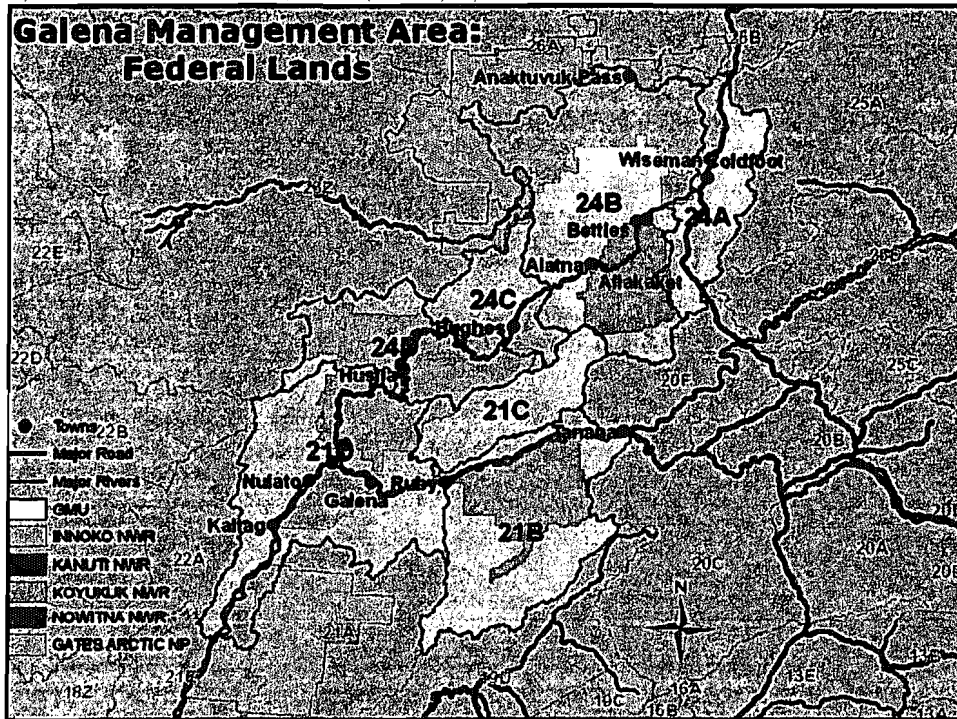
RC 105




Galena Management Area Overview

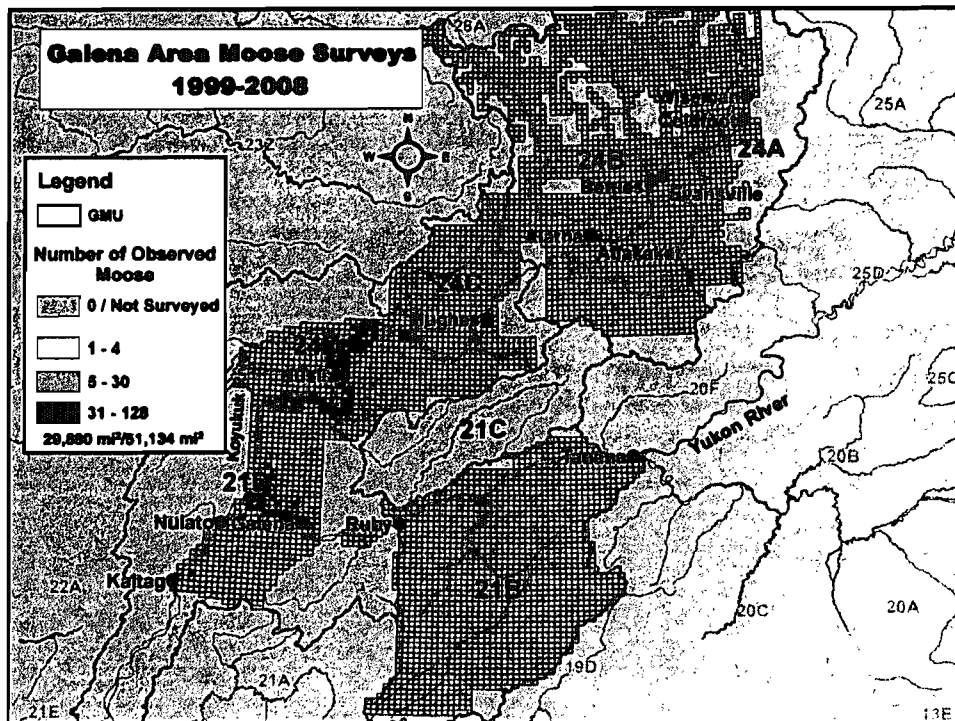
Glenn Stout – Area Biologist
Tony Hollis – Assistant Area Biologist
Nate Pamperin – Wildlife Technician





Galena Area Overview

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Proposals</u>
Black Bears	Stable	1
Grizzly Bears	Stable	1
Caribou	Stable-Declining	0
Moose	Stable-Declining	8 
Sheep	Stable	0
Wolves	Stable	0
Furbearers	Stable	0
Small Game	Stable	0



Galena Area Overview

Moose Management Issues

- **Low/Declining Moose Populations In 24B & C due to poor calf and yearling survival relative to very high productivity (also 21B & 21C?)**
- **Need to Improve local hunter harvest in the Fall and decrease demand for winter harvest**
 - **Unseasonably warm Fall weather**
 - **Low/Declining Moose Population (encounter rates)**
 - **Low bull:cow ratios (21D/21B)**
- **Intensive Management Plan for 24B/C**



Galena Mgt. Area

BOG Proposals

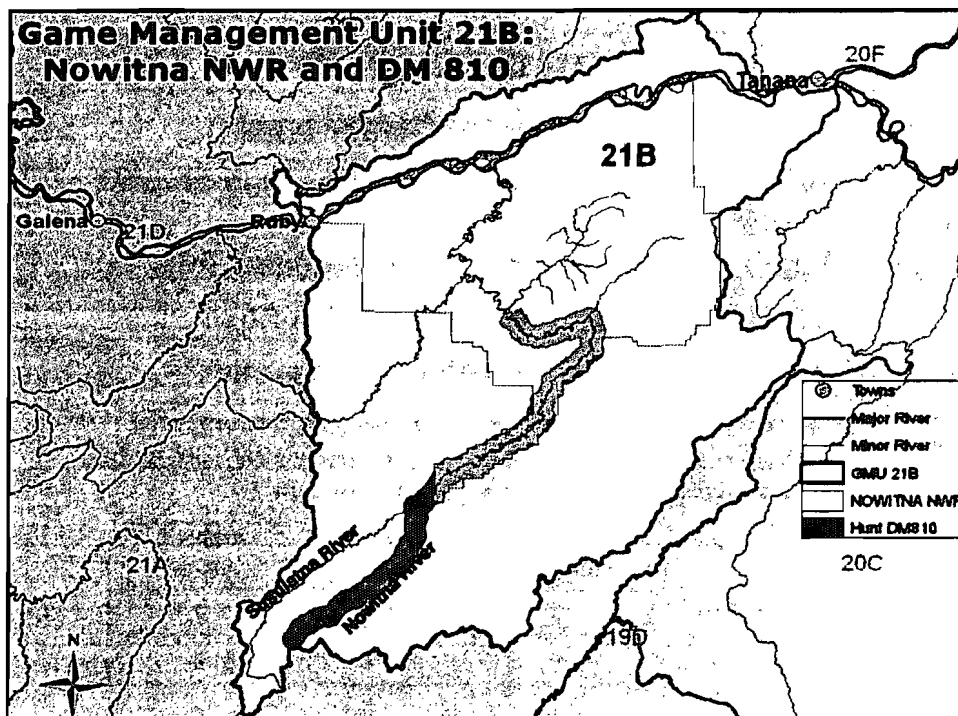
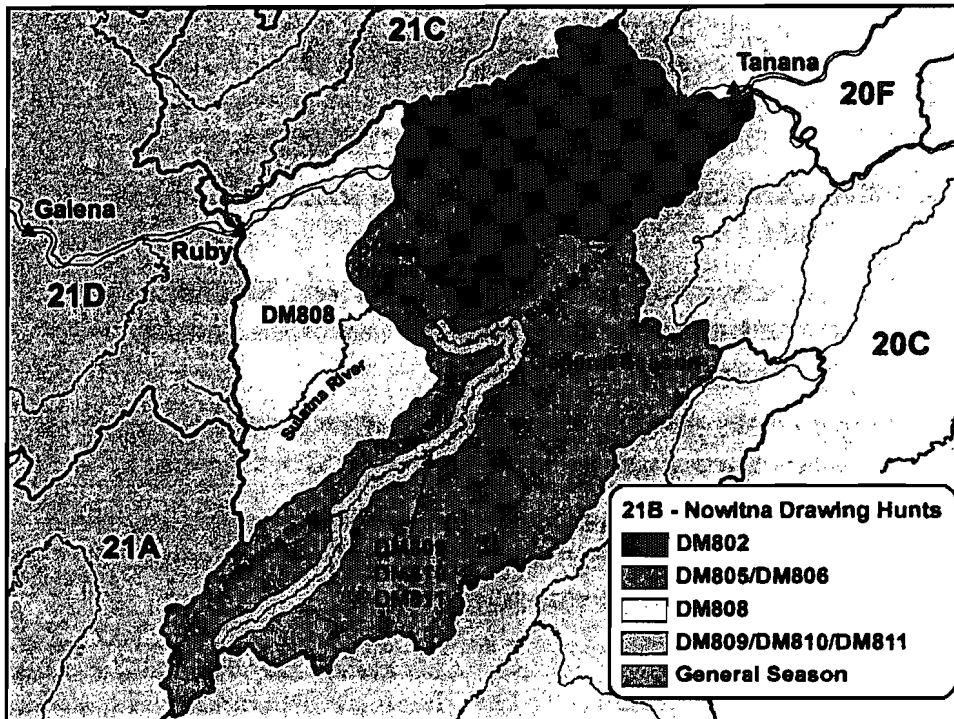
2010



Proposal #88

**Eliminate drawing
permit hunts on
upper Nowitna River
above Susulatna R.**

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt



Proposal #88

Proposal Considerations

- **Drawing permits Instituted in lower Nowitna 2004**
- **Concerns about bull:cow ratios, hunter distribution, Local harvest success, and "Bootlegging" moose**
- **Upper Nowitna Drawing Permits In 2006, split into three permits in 2008 (2009 1st year)**
- **Management strategy is succeeding; bull:cow ratios improved, harvest is stable, hunter distribution is improved**

Proposal #88

Proposal Considerations

- **Proponent concerned about not enough permits for guided hunters**
- **DM809, DM810, DM811, not all "guided only"**
- **Guided-only permit was undersubscribed**
- **Drawing permit not a "refuge only permit"**
- **A reduction in the size of the permit area will require a reduction in the number of available permits, sustainability is an issue**

RY09	DM809 NR-NGO	DM810 R	DM811 NR-GO
Offered	3	10	7
Applicants	5	71	6

Proposal #88

Summary

- **Maintain current regulations that are working effectively**

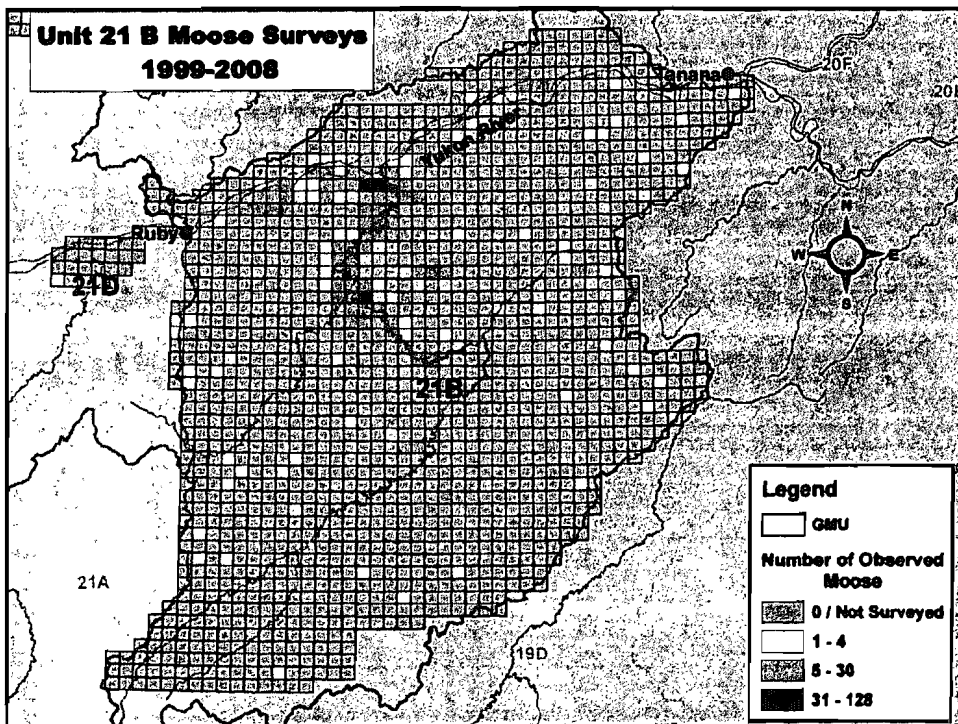
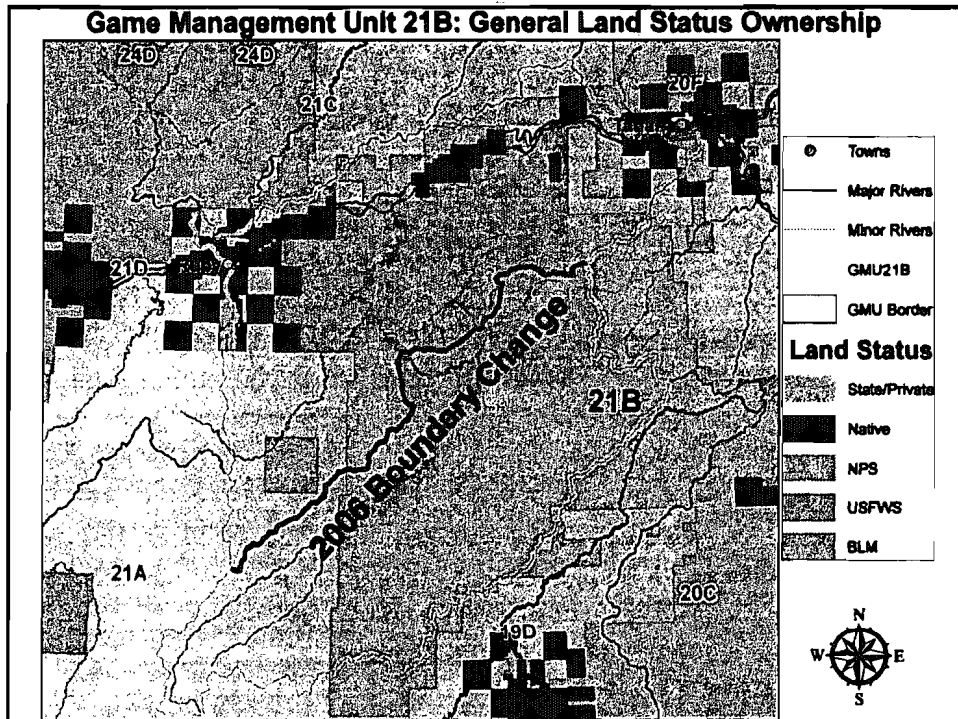
ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

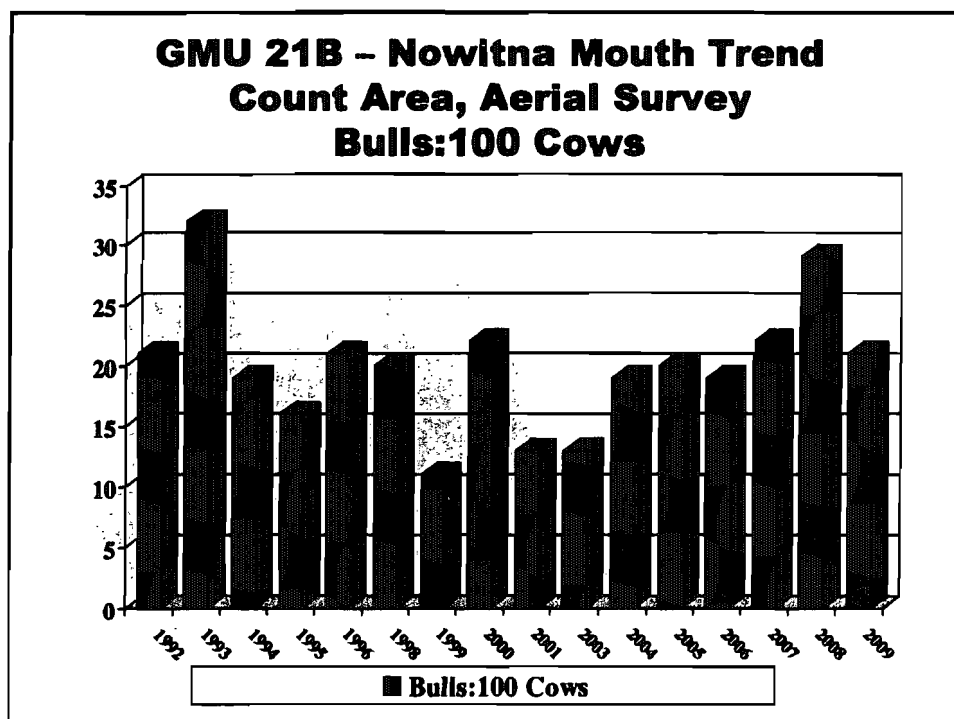
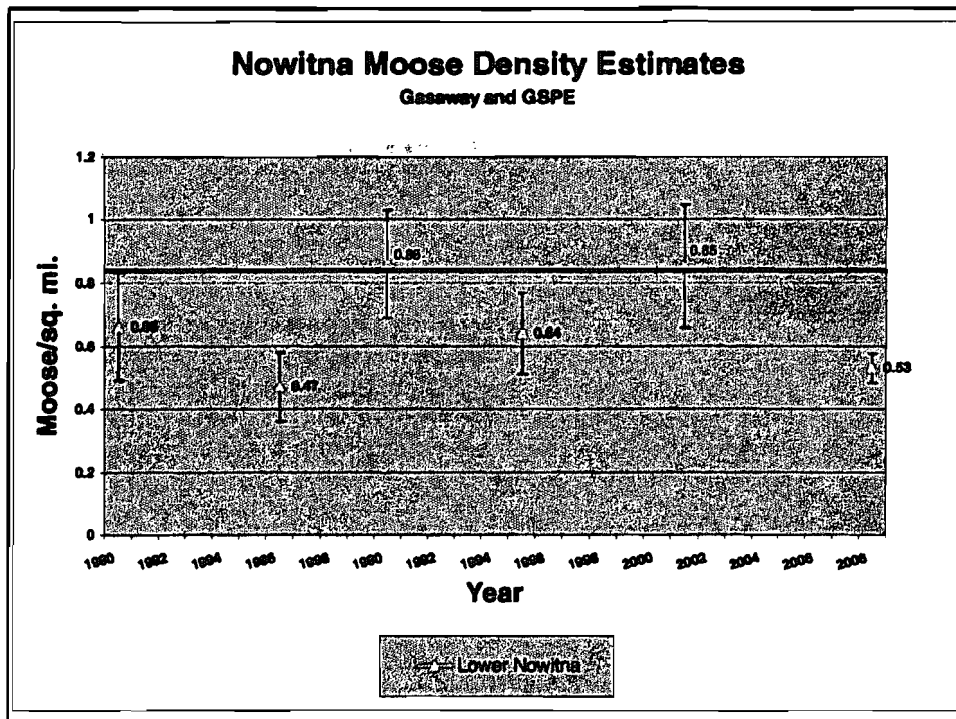


Proposal #93

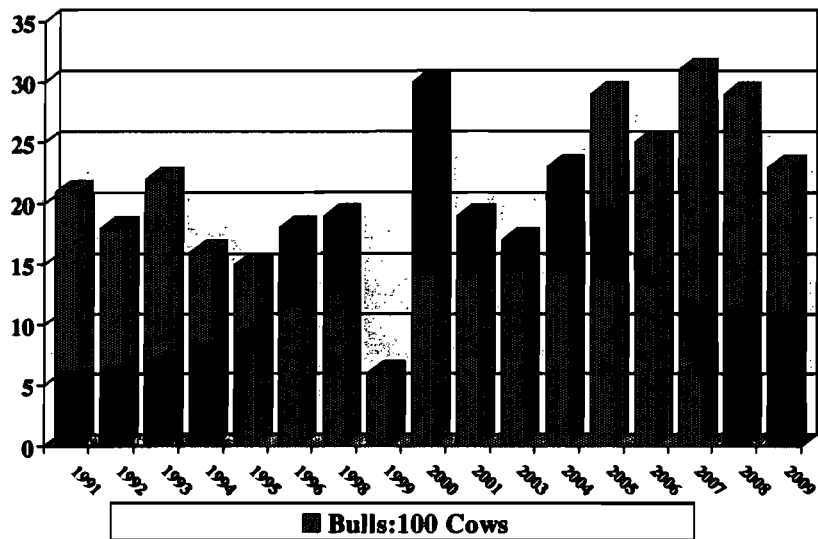
**Establish an Intensive
Management positive
finding for moose in Unit
21B**

ADF&G - Adopt

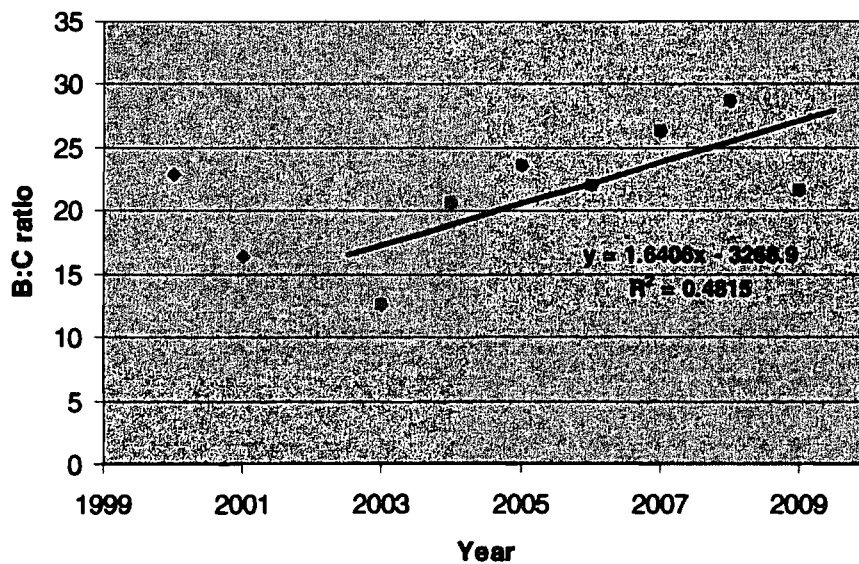


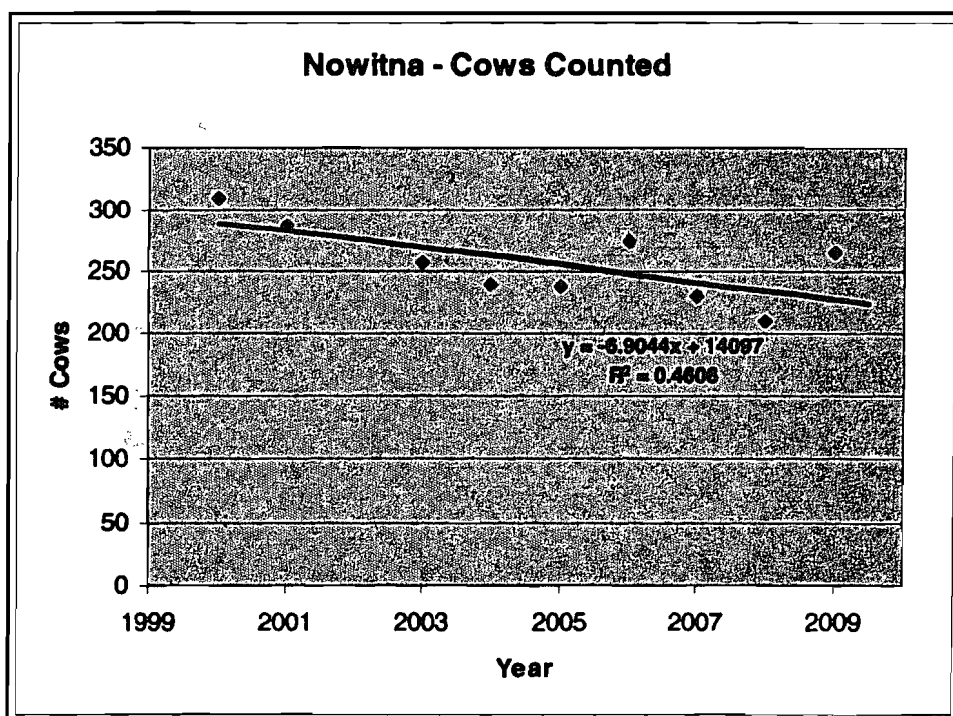
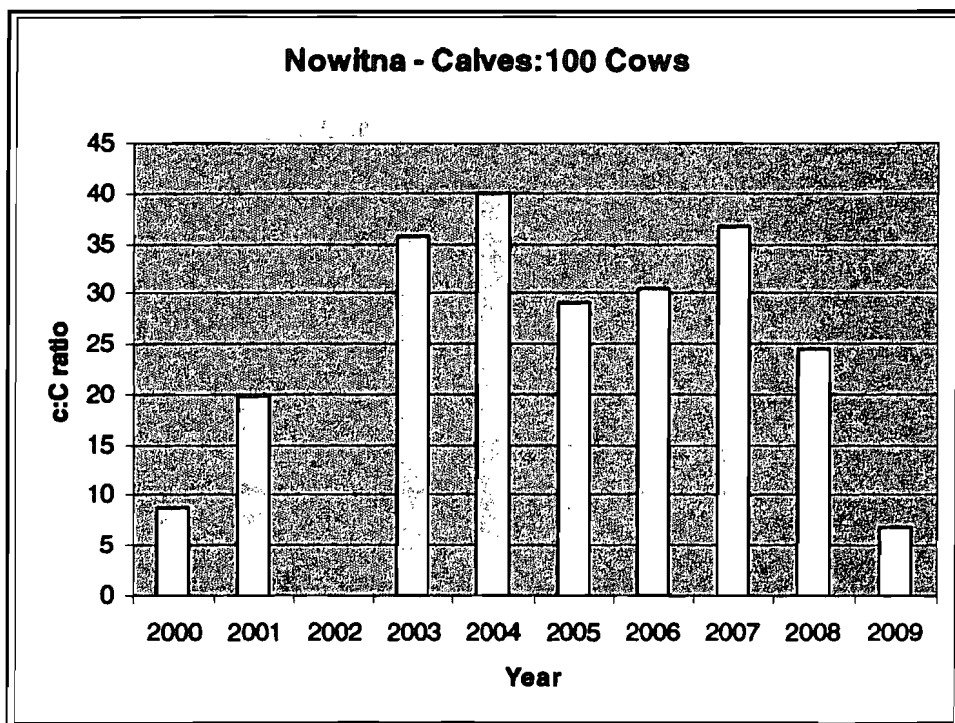


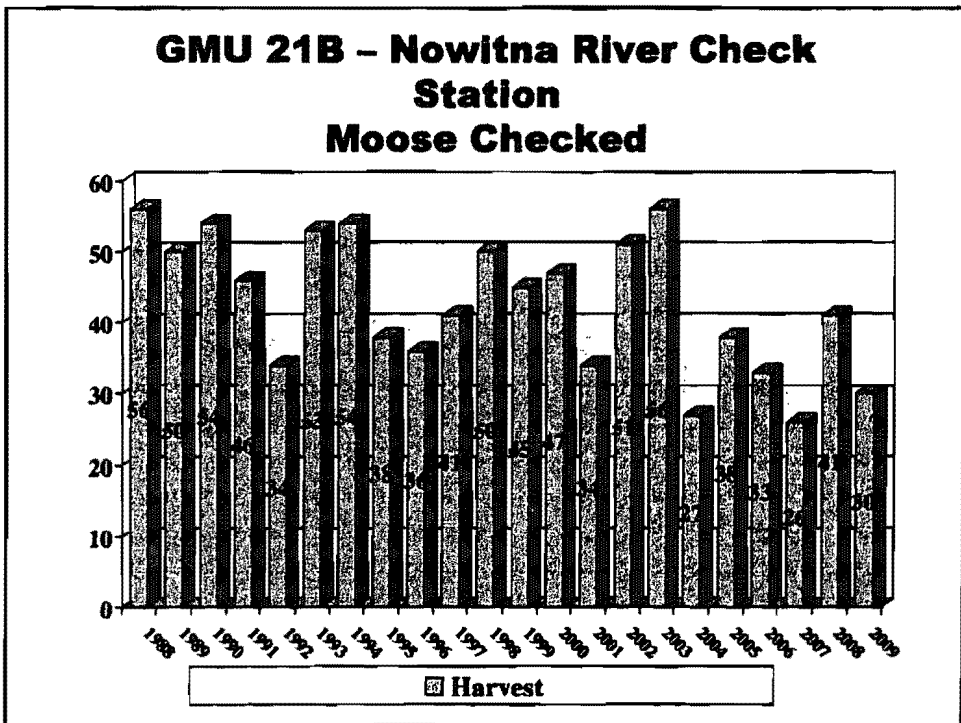
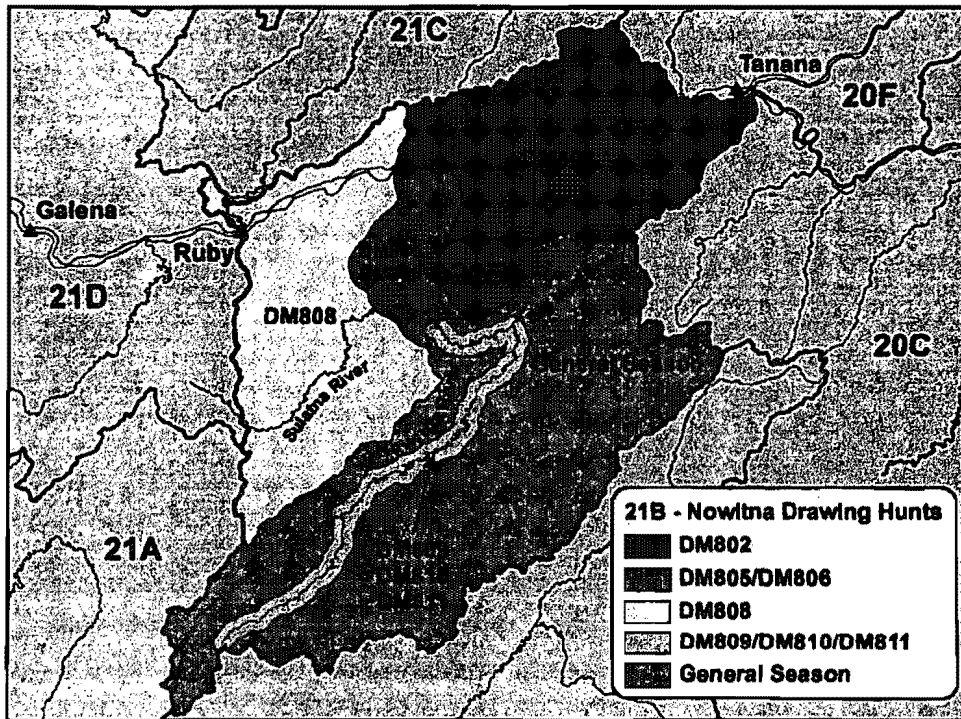
**GMU 21B – Nowitna/Suiatna Trend
Count Area, Aerial Survey
Bulls:100 Cows**

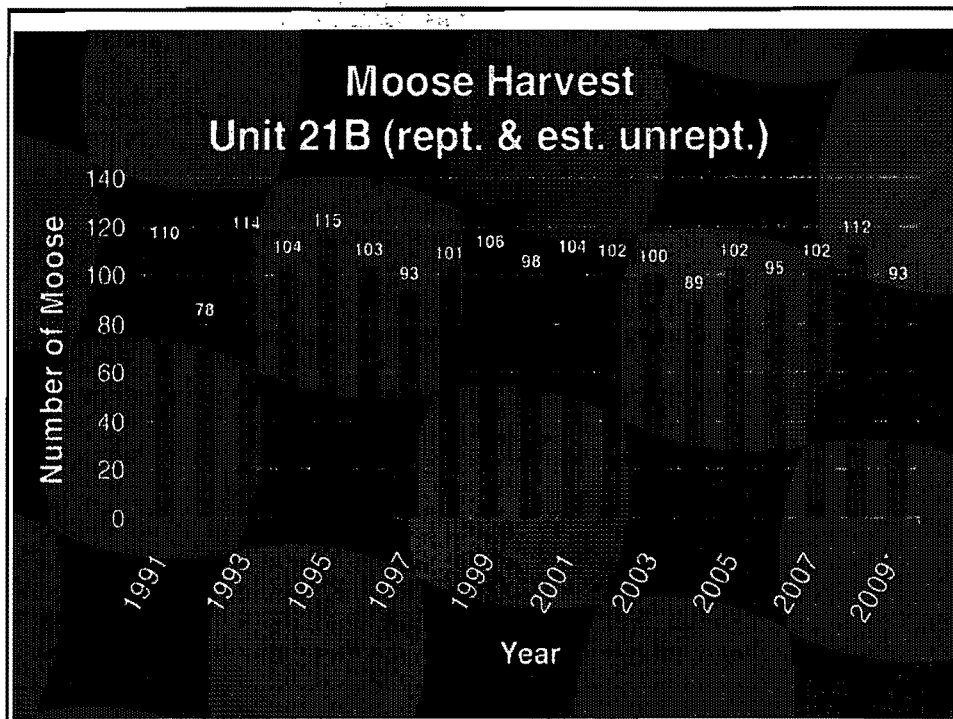


Nowitna - Bull:100 Cows









Proposal #93

Intensive Management Objectives

GMU 21B
(9,311 mi²)

Population Objective	Current Pop. Status
4,000 - 6,000 moose	1,898 - 2,736 moose
Harvest Objective	Current Est. Harvest
200 - 300 Moose	99* (RY99-RY08)

* Reported and estimated unreported harvest

Proposal #93

Moose Management Issues

- **Low and potentially declining population of moose**
- **Need to improve harvest success by local hunters in the fall in order to reduce dependency on winter harvest when cows are at risk**
- **Tanana hunters are hunting up-river and non-local numbers are declining on Nowitna River**
- **Decreasing hunting opportunity**

Proposal #93

Summary

- **Unit 21B area was expanded in 2006**
- **Unit 21B moose, meets Intensive Management guidelines**
- **Unit 21B moose population has declined**
- **Traditional management options may not be enough to achieve moose population objectives**
- **21D to the west has a positive finding**

ADF&G - Adopt

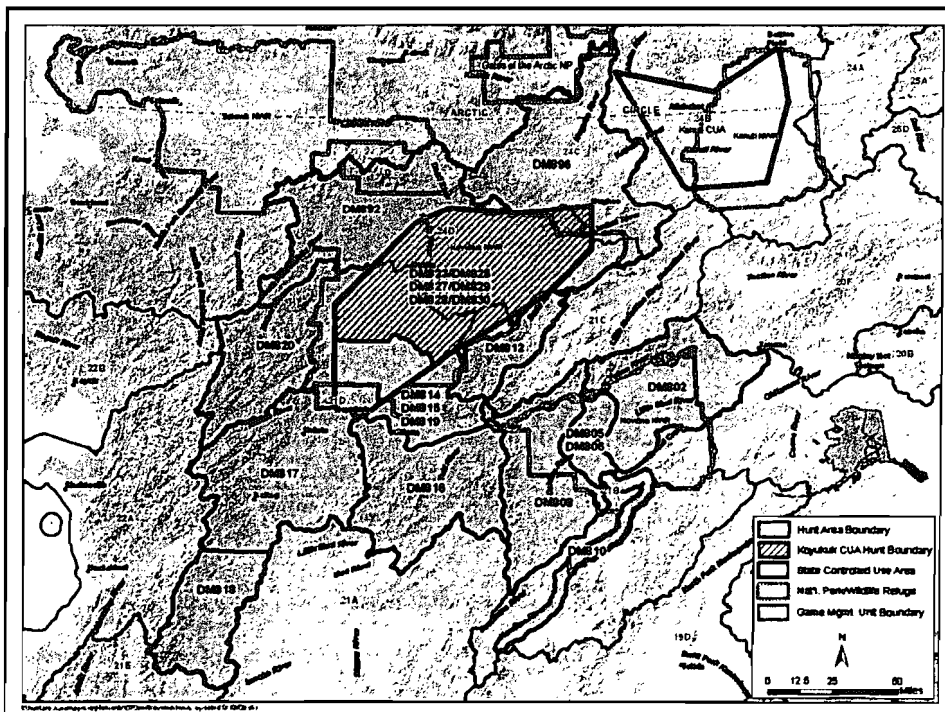


Proposal #92

Clarifies proxy regulations for Units 21B, 21C, 21D and 24

ADF&G - Adopt

KRAC - Adopt



Proposal #92

Regulation Clarification

- **Limited to Galena Mgt. Area, not 21A and 21E**
- **Registration hunters may proxy for another Registration permit or General Harvest hunts**
- **Registration hunters may not proxy hunt for Drawing permit hunts**
- **Drawing hunters may not proxy hunt for Drawing or Registration permit, or General harvest ticket hunts**

Proposal #92

Summary

- **Regulation Clarification (including General Harvest)**
- **Galena Management Area GMU's only**

ADF&G - Adopt



Proposal #89

**Change Koyukuk
Checkstation
location and clarify
salvage requirements**

ADF&G - Adopt

KRAC - Adopt





Proposal #89

Rationale

- **House-keeping change to “Ella’s Cabin” site description**
- **Generalized Checkstation location description will allow for long-term flexibility**
- **Clarify back, neck and head salvage requirement, through regulation other than the use of the “scientific specimen” permit hunt condition authority that had previously been used.**
- **Poor state of salvage of moose heads, enforcement**

Proposal #89

Summary

- **Clarify existing regulations and hunt conditions that are already being implemented**

ADF&G - Adopt

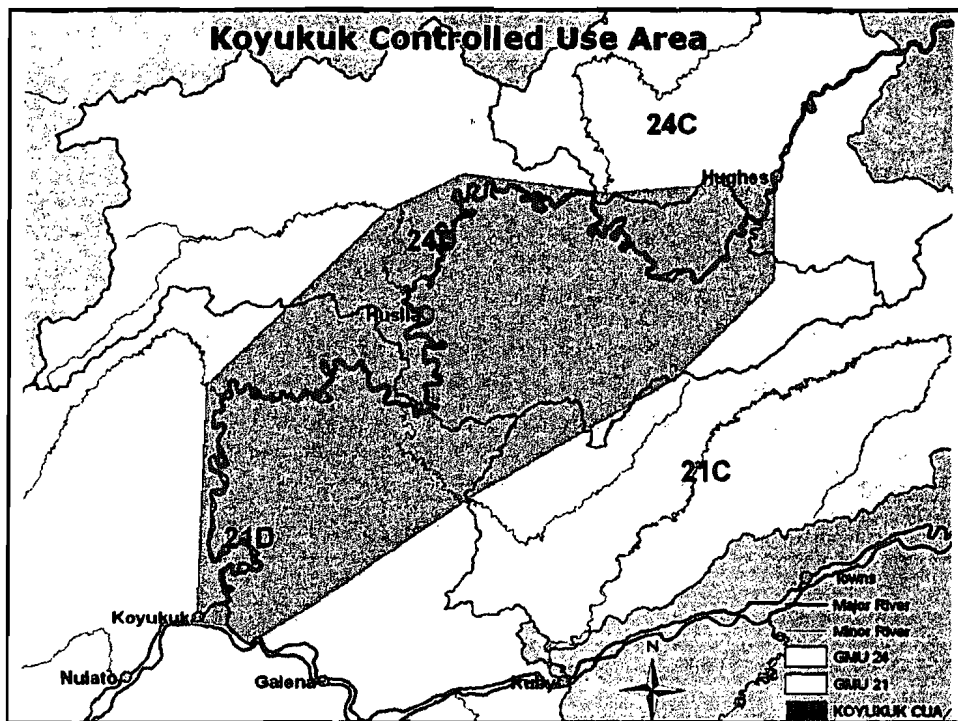


Proposal #87

Modifies language of the Koyukuk CUA to prohibit aircraft as an intermediate transport method.

ADF&G - No Recommendation

KRAC - No Action



Proposal #87

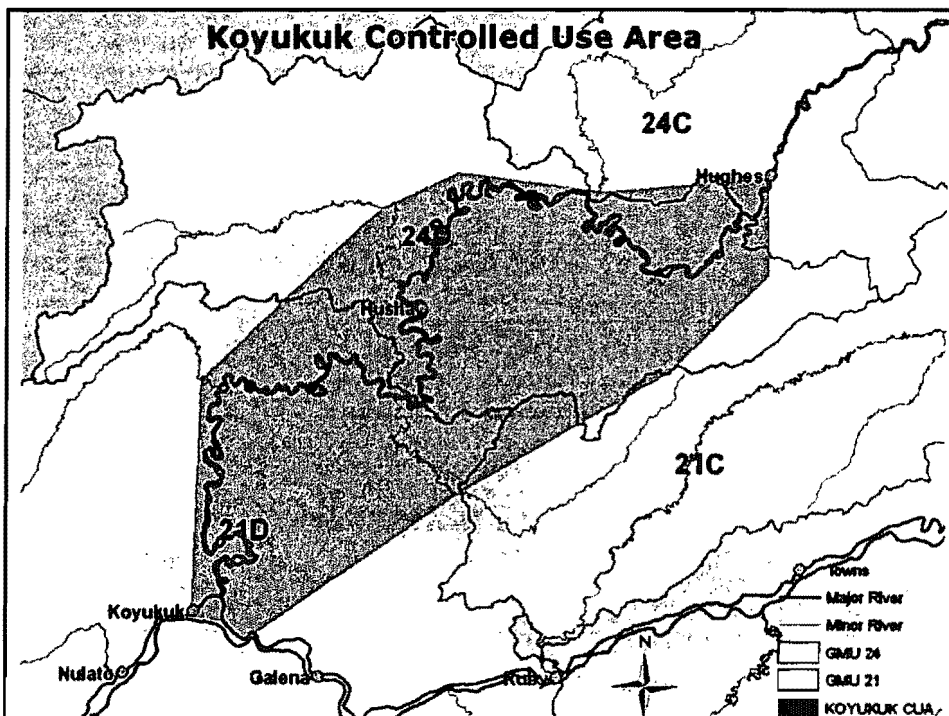
Proposal Considerations

- **The KCUA was established in 1979. Hunters and harvest increased from 1983 through 2000, when drawing permit hunts were implemented in 2000. Hunter numbers were effectively reduced at that time and have since remained stable.**
- **Local hunters still consider the aircraft restriction of the KCUA, as an important safeguard against perceived illegal harvest and disproportionate harvest by non-local hunters with planes.**
- **Current law already prohibits same-day-airborne harvest and low-level flights.**
- **The KCUA is in the Koyukuk NWR and is limited to 4 available Guide Use Areas by 3 guides.**

Proposal #87

Proposal Considerations

- **Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan is the foundation of management strategies employed in the KCUA, changes have "ripple effects".**
- **There are a limited number of hunters that access the KCUA by flying to the perimeter as described (must have boats and planes).**
- **The few hunters that might access the KCUA via "perimeter access scenario" are likely Drawing Permit hunters. Drawing hunt harvest is closely managed, and moose over-harvest is not a concern.**
- **Drawing hunters are required to check-in and check-out with moose (Permit Condition), which would be a logistically challenging (cost prohibitive?) scenario.**



Proposal #87

Summary

- **Allocation Issue**

ADF&G – No Recommendation

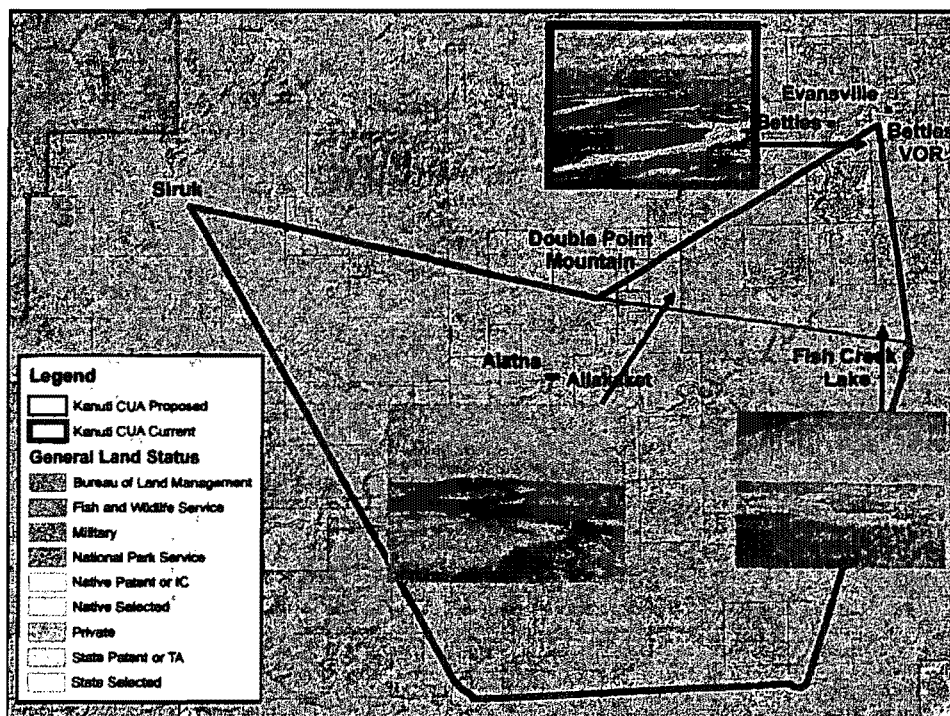
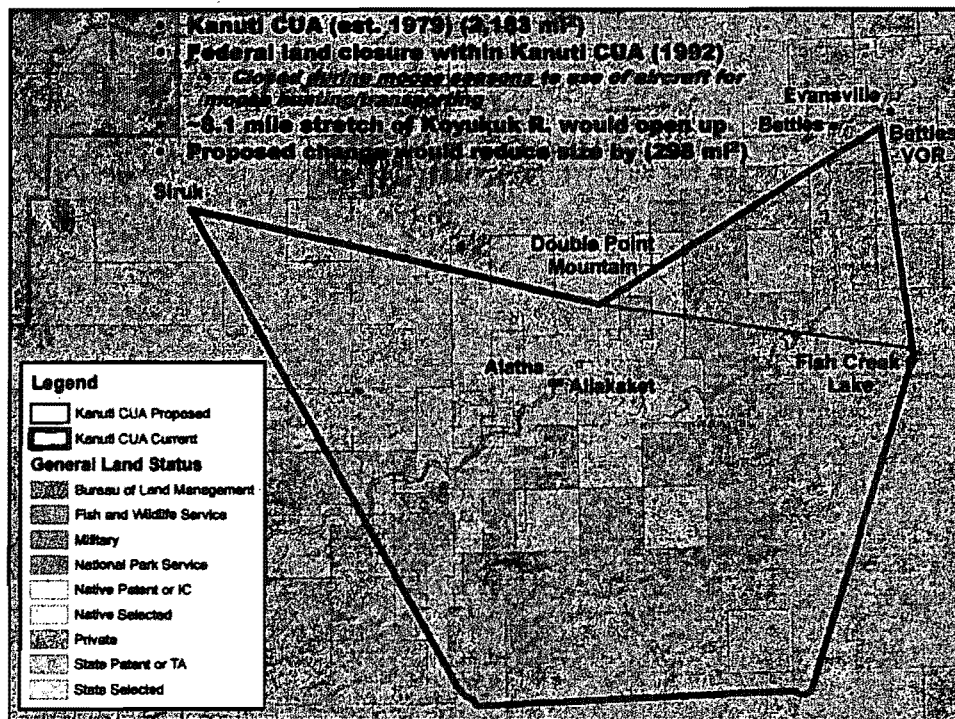


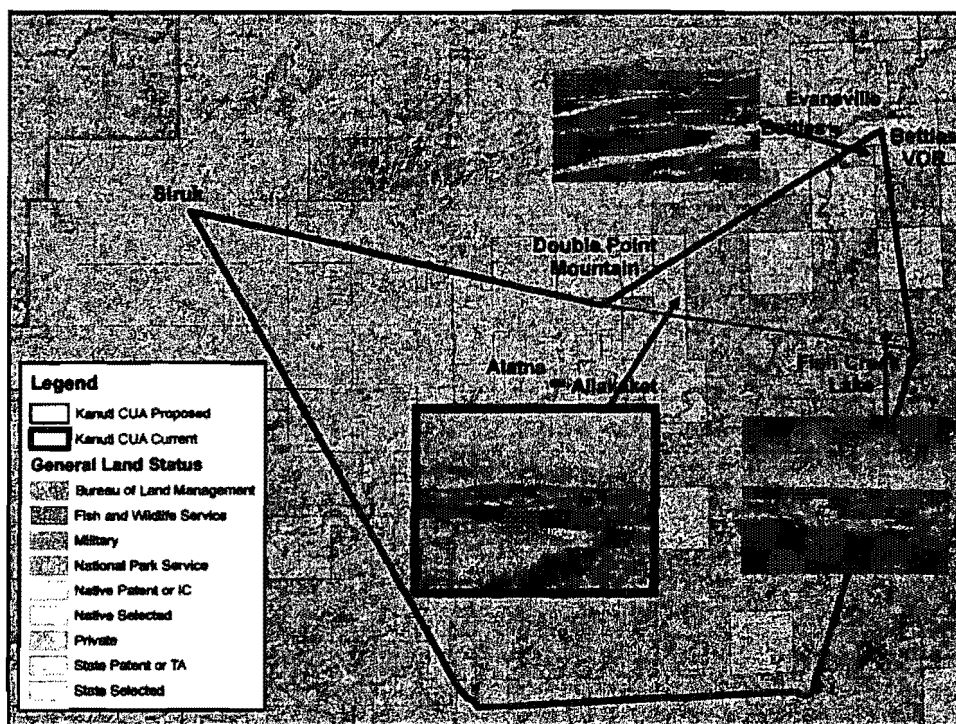
Proposal #94

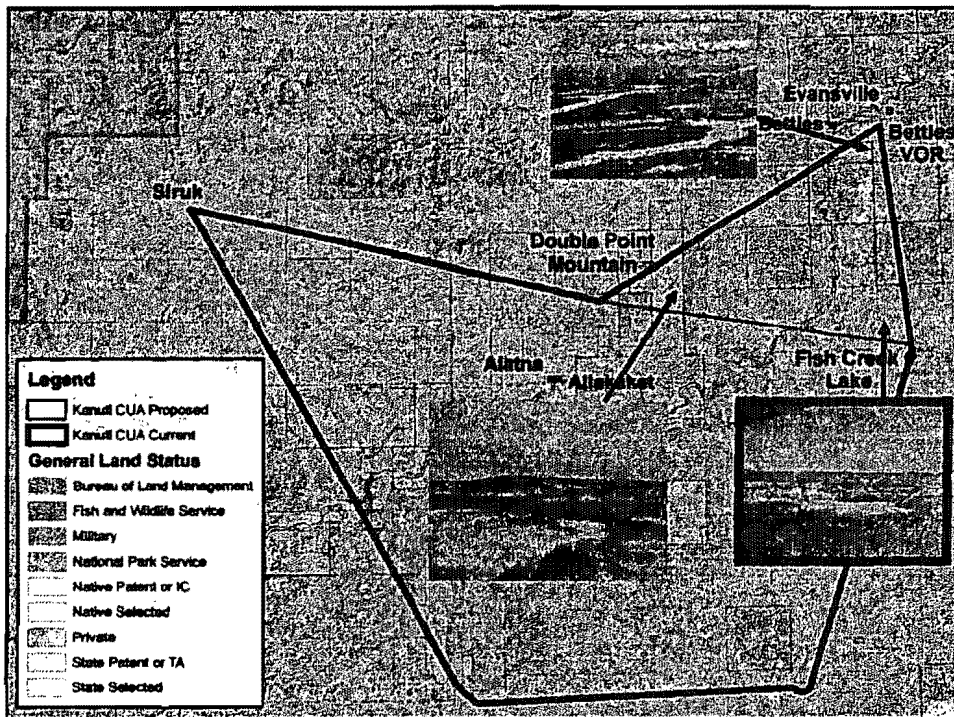
Change boundaries of the Kanuti CUA

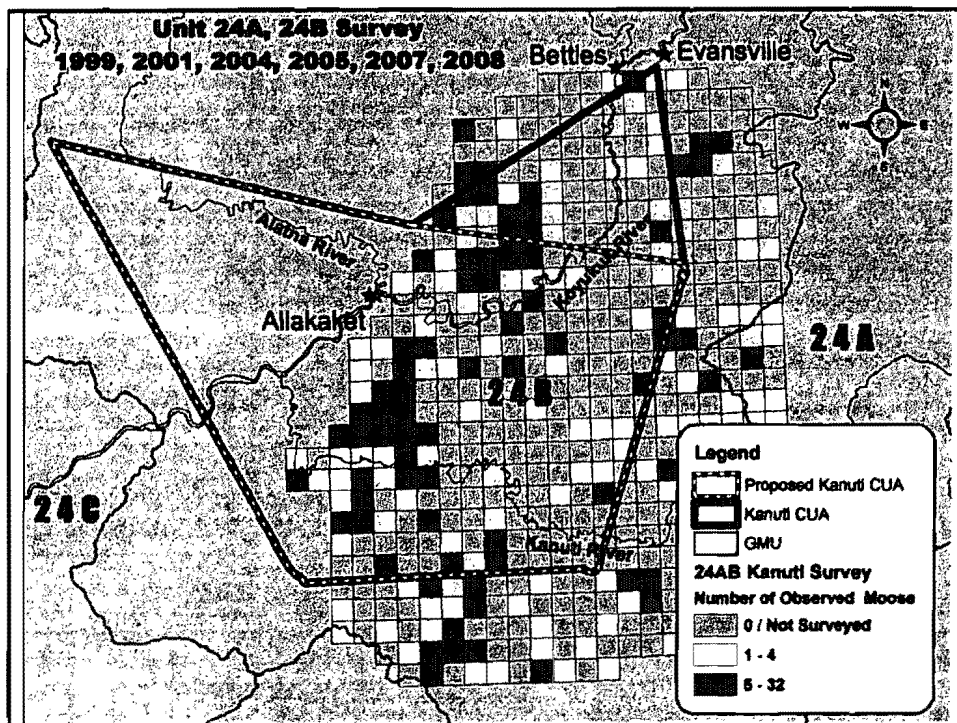
ADF&G - No Recommendation

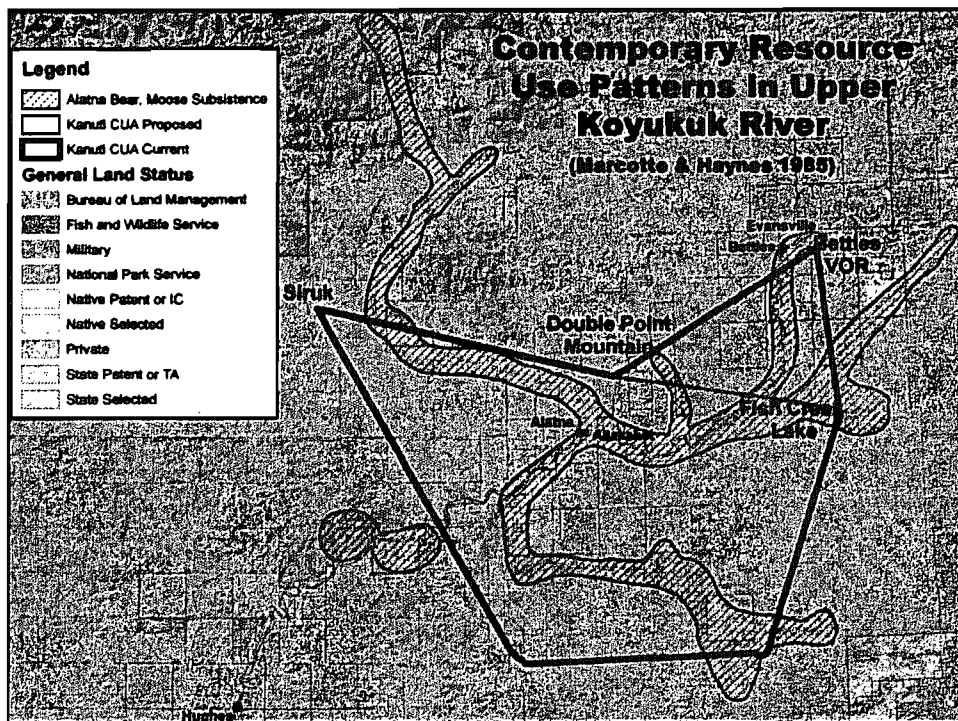
KRAC - Do Not Adopt











Proposal #94

Summary

- **Allocation Issue**

ADF&G - No Recommendation

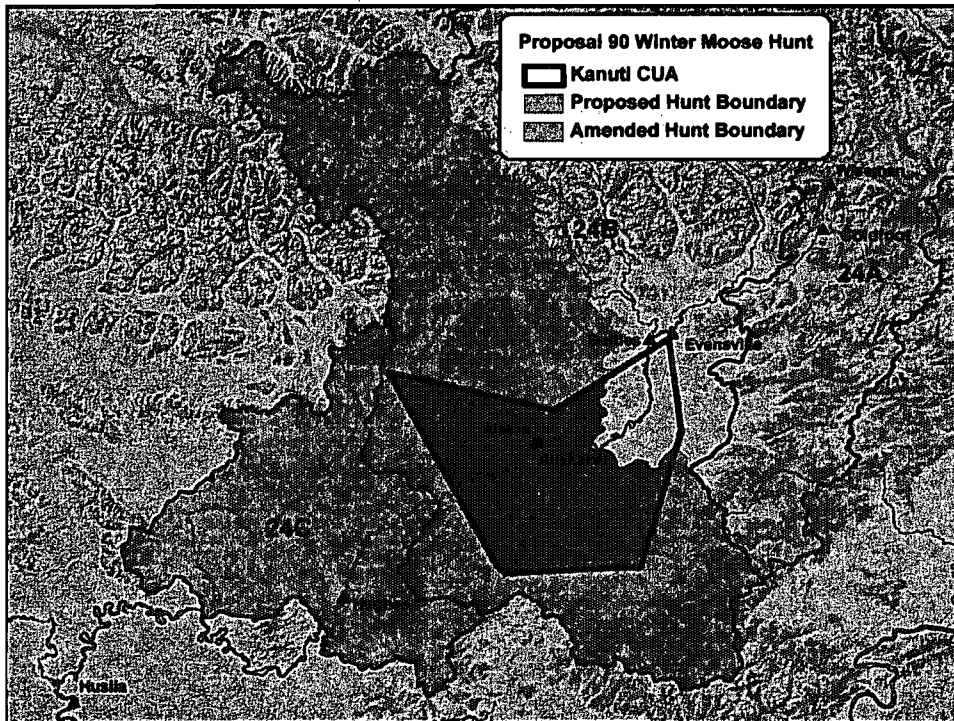


Proposal #90

Establish April 5-15 season in Kanuti CUA portion of Unit 24B

ADF&G - Amend and Adopt

KRAC - Amend and Adopt



Amended Proposal #90A

Regulation

- **December 15 to April 15; antlered bulls only**
- **Registration permit, subsistence hunt**
- **4 year "sunset" on regulation (June 30, 2014)**
- **Minimum 5-Inch antler**

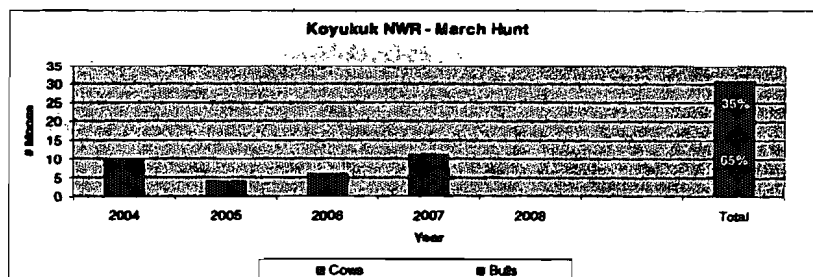
Permit Hunt Conditions

- **Permits available at vendors or online**
- **Aircraft not allowed**
- **5-day reporting requirement at vendor/ADFG**

Proposal #90

Growth and the Harvest of Cows

- **The primary management objective is growth in GMU's 24 and 21D**
- **Winter hunts have been opposed by the department because of they risk cow harvest (Harv. Data, Subs. Data, Fed. Data)**



Proposal #90

Moose Management Scenario

24B/C

- Low density moose population (0.20-0.25 moose/mi² = 2,000-4,000 moose)
- High Bull:Cow ratios (50-70 bulls:100 cows)
- Large area (24B + 24C = 16,572 mi²)
- Few small villages (Hughes 69, Allakaket 85, Alatna 32, Bettles/Evensville 59, Coldfoot/Wiseman 35 = 280 people)
- Preliminary 2009 moose harvest = 24 moose

Proposal #90

Moose Management Scenarios

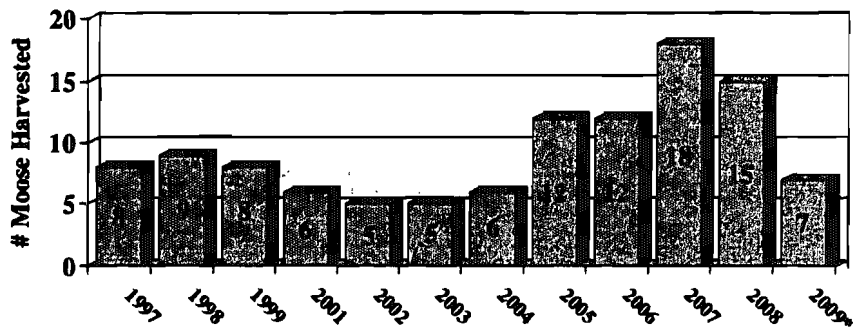
24B/C

- Low density moose population (0.20-0.25 moose/mi² = 2,000-4,000 moose)
- High Bull:Cow ratios (50-70 bulls:100 cows)
- Large area (24B + 24C = 16,572 mi²)
- Few small villages (Hughes 69, Allakaket 85, Alatna 32, Bettles/Evensville 59, Coldfoot/Wiseman 35 = 280 people)
- Preliminary 2009 moose harvest = 24 moose
- ENCOUNTER RATE: (1 bull/11 miles²) vs. (1 person/59 miles²)

24D & 21D (KCUA)

- High density moose population (1.2-1.6 moose/mi² = 6,000-8,000 moose)
- Lower bull:cow ratios (30-31 bulls:100 cows)
- Smaller area (7,279 mi²)
- Higher people density (Huslia 257, Galena 599, Koyukuk 89, Nulato 295 = 1,240 people)
- 2009 moose harvest = 161 moose
- ENCOUNTER RATE: (1 bull/2.5 miles²) vs. (1 person/6 miles²)

Allakaket Harvest Reporting Report Card 1997-2009



Proposal #90

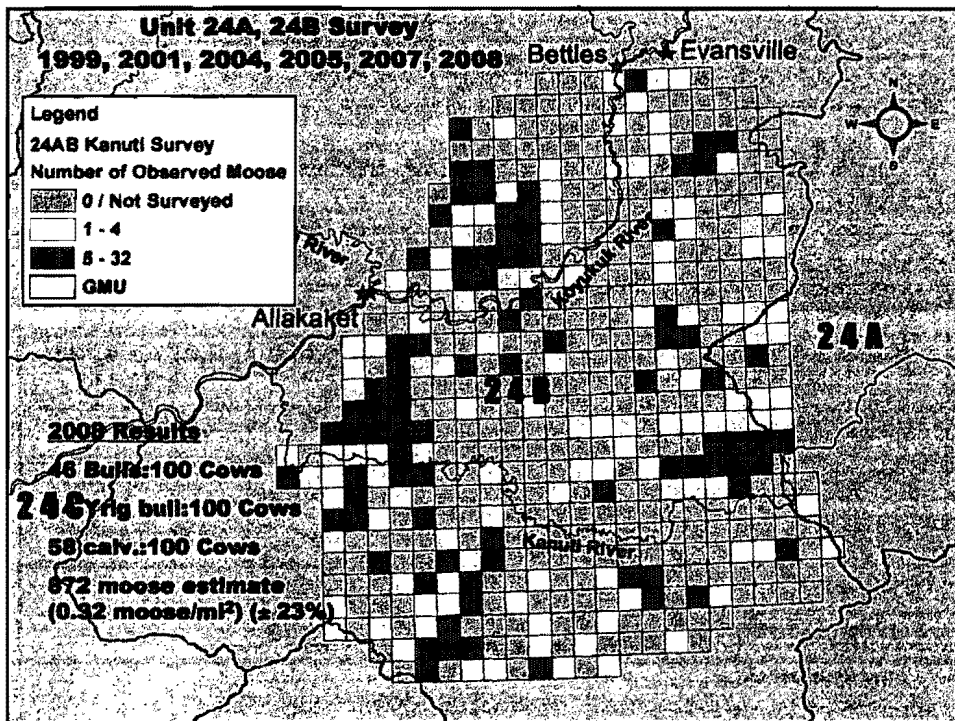
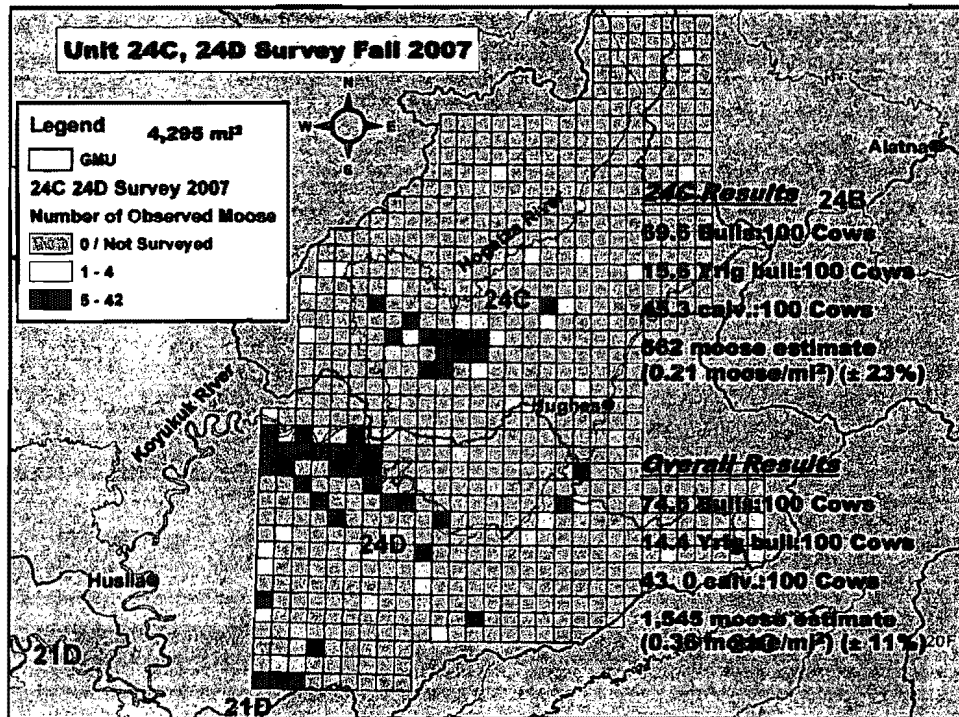
Management Strategy Comparisons

GMU 21D
(12,096 mi²)

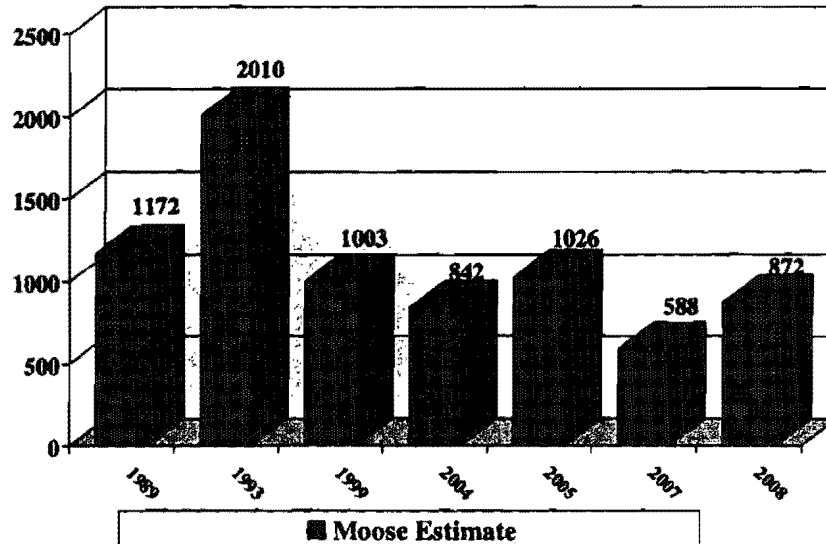
GMU 24
(26,068 mi²)

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Status</u>
9,500 ± 500 moose	8,342 ± 1,000 (-22%)	11,000 ± 1,000 moose	8,467 ± 1,460 (-33%)
30B:100C	28-32B:100C	45B:100C	45-60B:100C
< 800 hunters	714 (RY09)	< 400 hunters	388 (RY09)
+ 425 Moose	247* (RY09)	+ 240 moose	171* (RY09)
+ 30calf:100C	✓	+ 30calf:100C	✓
+ 8-10 yb:100C	✓	+ 8-10 yb:100C	✓

* Reported harvest



**GMU 24 - Kanuti NWR
GSPE Aerial Survey - Population
Estimates**



Amended Proposal #90A
GMU 24 – Koyukuk Drainage Hunt
Strategy and Regulation Compromise

- **Monitoring period to evaluate harvest, reporting, use, compliance, and effectiveness**
- **We have improved hunting on the lower Koyukuk, we now need to focus on improving up-river moose, (e.g. Intensive Mgt. Plan in 24B/C)**
- **Provide an alternative to the existing federal season that has resulted in high administrative workload but low harvest and low hunter satisfaction**

Proposal #90A

Rationale for Expanded Hunt

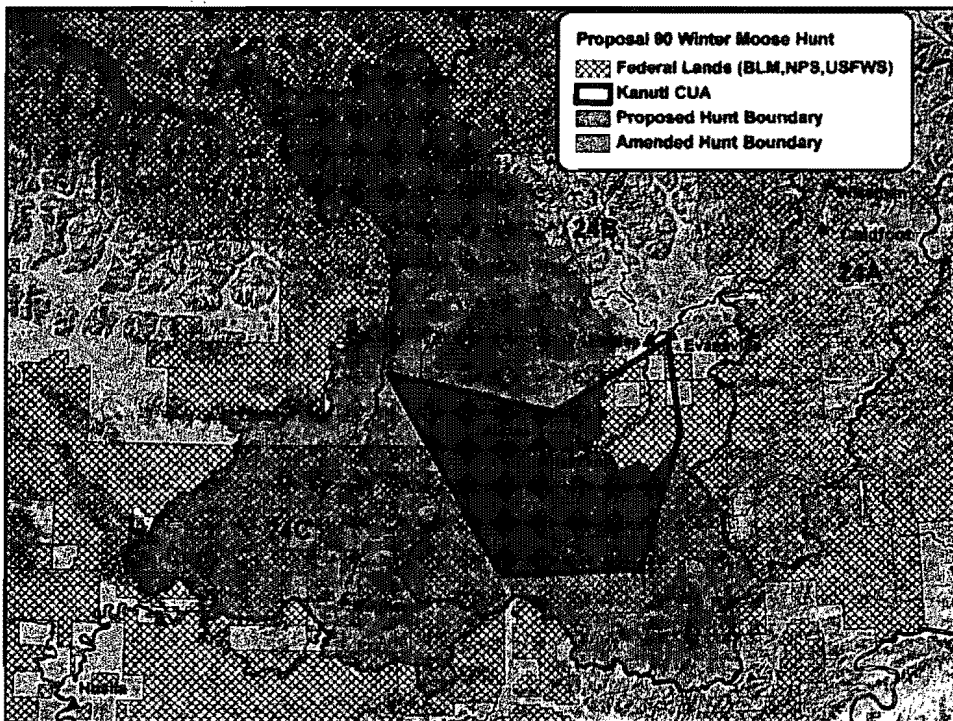
- **Largest bulls have lost antlers by Dec. 15th**
- **Hard antlered bulls are mostly younger in early winter**
- **Palatability of moose and antler status coincide**
- **Low encounter rates will be offset by longer season**
- **Hunters will have all winter to look for a bull, so there will be less pressure of a short season, and the risk of shooting a cow will be decreased**
- **No direct cost because hunting occurs during normal winter activities**
- **Land status and starting dates will not be an issue**
- **Hunters are more likely to meet needs**

Proposal #90

Summary

- **Management scenario in 24B/C is unique**
- **Low density moose and low number of people translates to: → low encounter rates and therefore low harvest**
- **Opportunity exists**
- **Focus on Intensive Management Growth**

ADF&G - Amend and Adopt

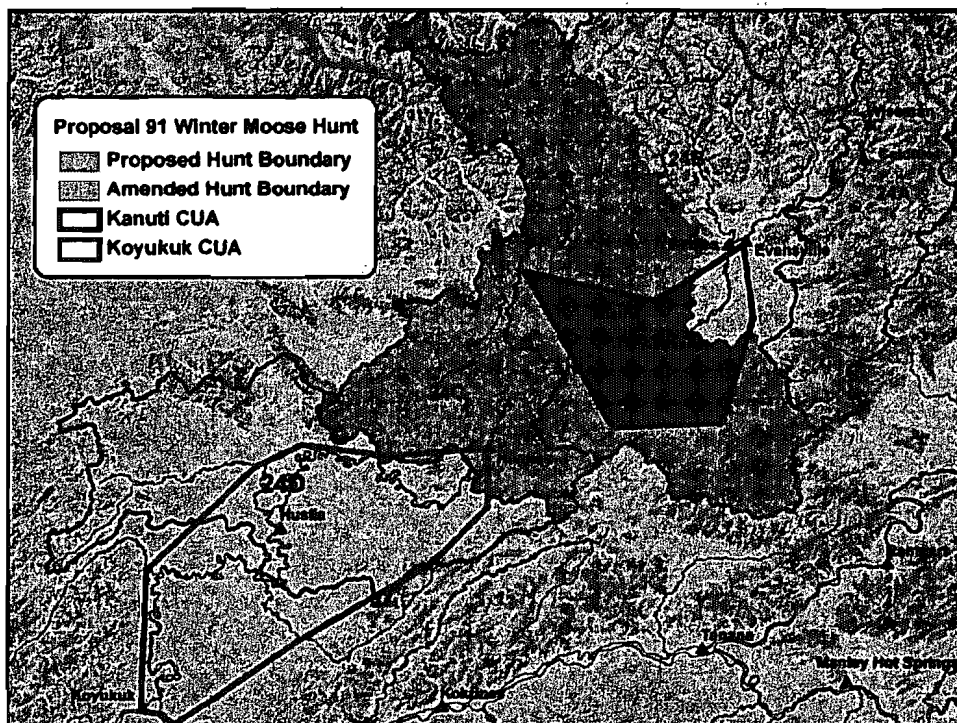
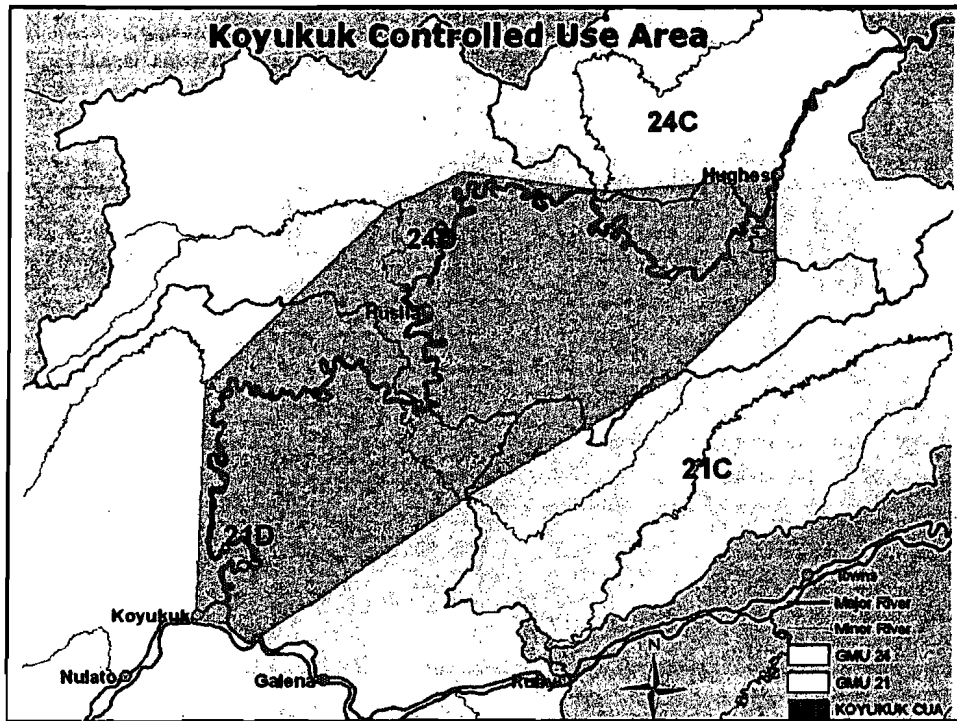


Proposal #91

**Establish April 5-15
season in Units
24C/24D/21D portions
of Koyukuk CUA**

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

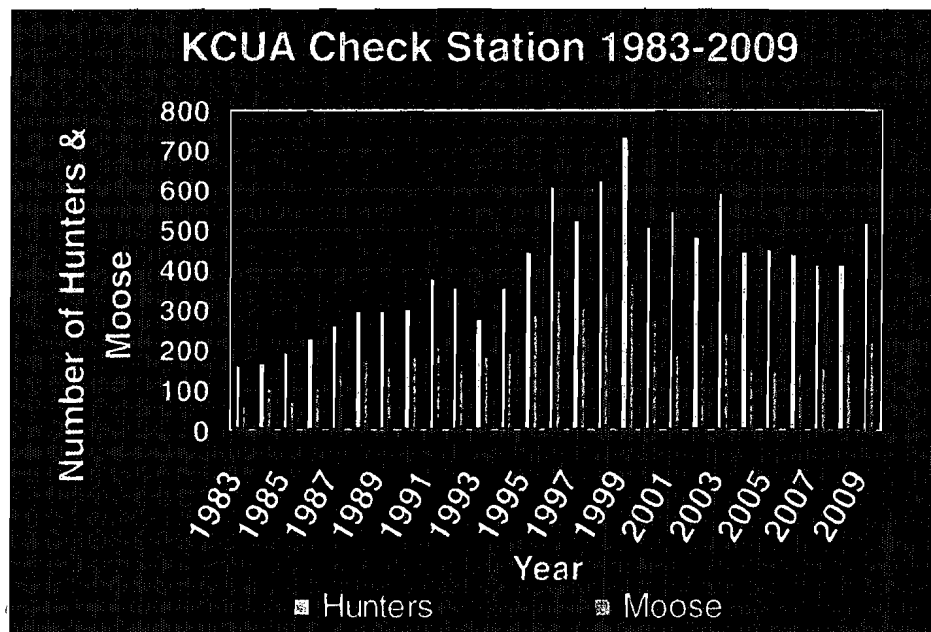
KRAC - Do Not Adopt



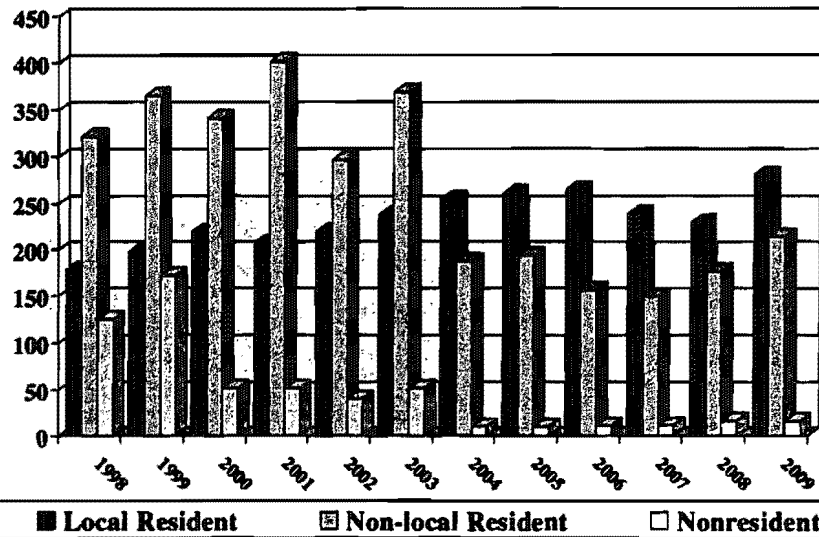
Proposal #91

Moose Management Considerations

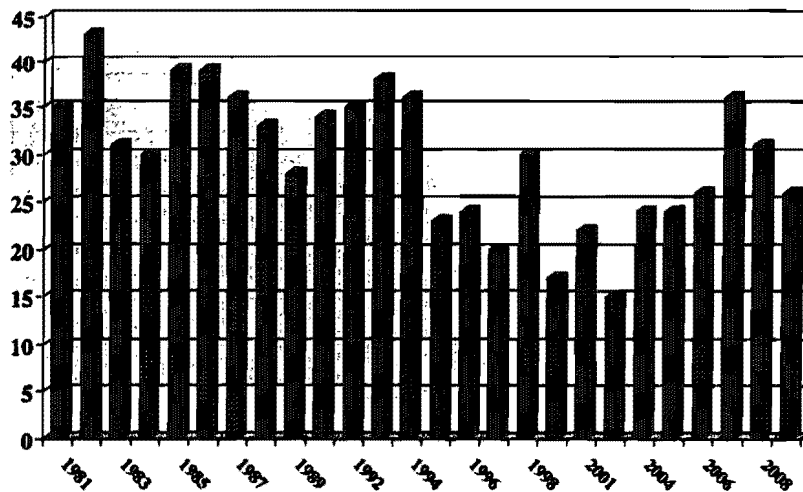
- **Management strategy is working in lower Koyukuk River drainage**
 - **Increasing bull:cow ratios**
 - **Improving harvest success by local hunters**
 - **Reduced dependency on winter hunts**
 - **Stabilized moose population...??**



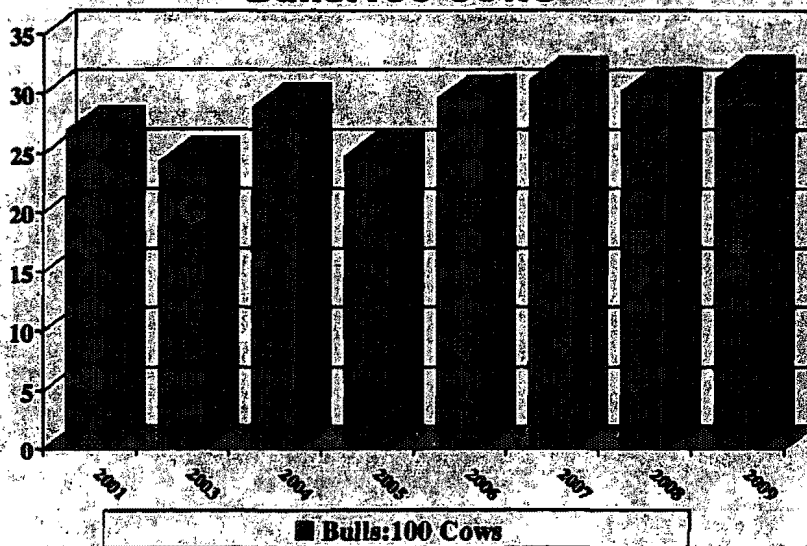
GMU 21D - Koyukuk Controlled Use Area - Hunter Residency



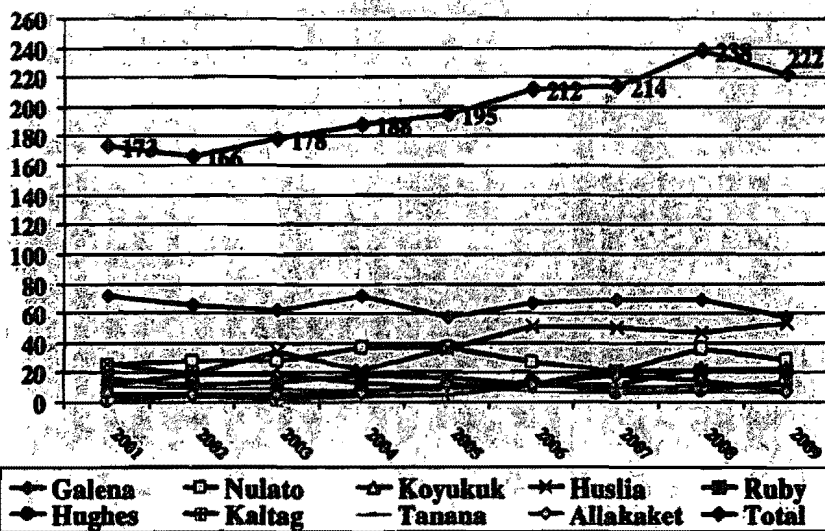
GMU 21D - Three-Day Slough Trend Count Area, Aerial Survey BULLS:100 COWS



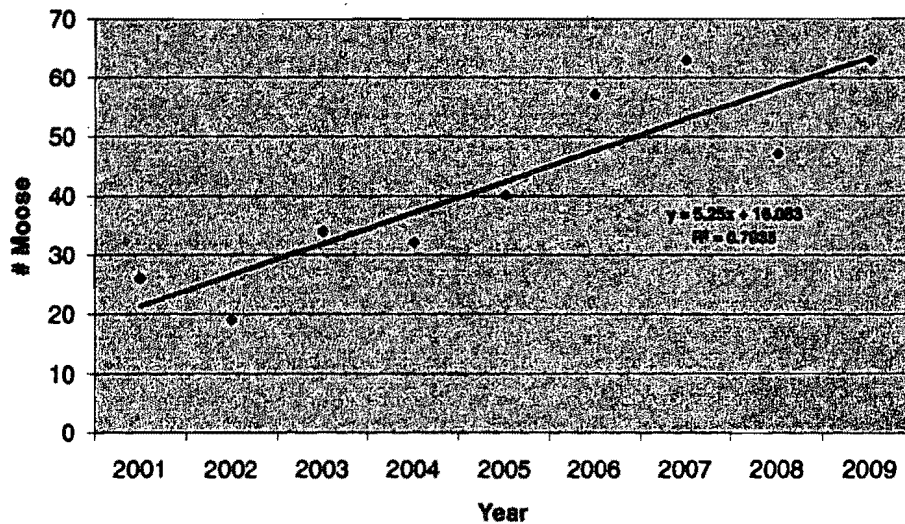
**GMU 21D - Koyukuk Controlled Use
Area - "Core 5" Trend Count Areas
Bulls:100 Cows**



**Preliminary (02/15/10) Local Resident
Reported Moose Harvest
2001-2009**



Huslia Moose Harvest incl/ Federal Harvest



Proposal #91

Summary

- **Management objective is growth**
- **High density moose and High number of people translates to:→ High encounter rates and therefore High harvest**
- **The Management program is working and local harvest has increased**

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

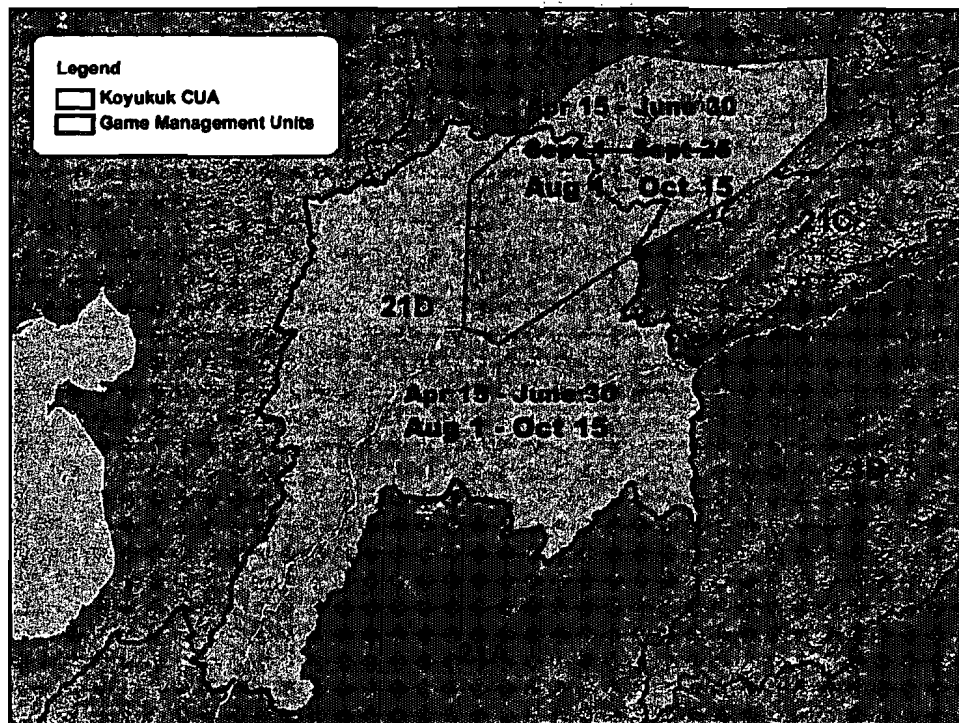
KRAC - Do Not Adopt



Proposal #130

Expand the fall black bear baiting season to the remainder of 21D

**ADF&G - Amend and Adopt
(Discretionary Authority)**

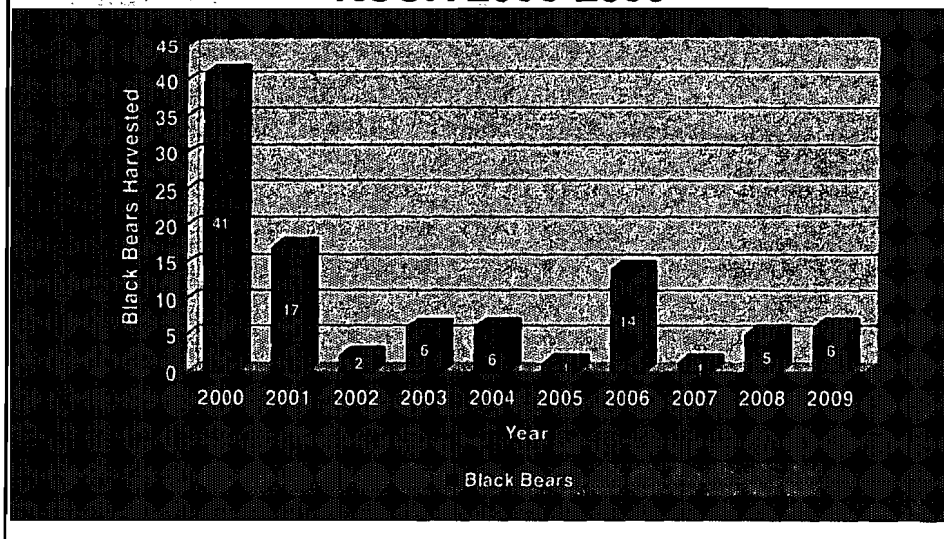


Proposal #130

Management Considerations

- **Increase opportunity in the Fall when lakes are drying up and access is improving**
- **Koyukuk Controlled Use Area has fall baiting season and only 1-2 permits are issued annually, avg. less than 1 bear/yr. harvested**
- **Harvest estimate in 21D is 20-50 bears, 20-80 bears in GMU 24**
- **Black bear densities are good (50-210 Bl.Bears/1,000mi²)**

Reported Fall Black Bear Harvest in the KCUA 2000-2009



Proposal #130

Summary

- **Expand the area proposed to include all of Unit 21D and the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in Unit 24**
- **Lengthening the season will not result in a measurable biological effect on the population**
- **Additional hunting opportunity will be provided for an underutilized resource**

ADF&G - Amend and Adopt



Proposal #129

Establish a Grizzly Bear Baiting season for Unit 21D

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

Proposal #129

Summary

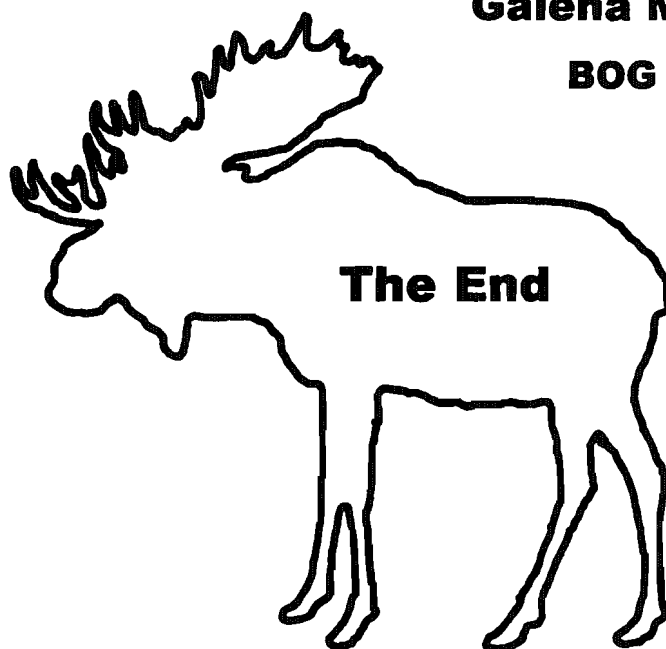
**The Department does not support the
baiting of brown bears outside of predator
control areas (except disabled hunters)**

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

Galena Mgt. Area

BOG Proposals

2010



From the McGrath AC
Reference Proposal 82

RC 106

McGrath AC and the author of proposal 82, who is a member of the AC, would like amend proposal 82 to read:

- **Up to** 10 permits will be issued in unit 19
- hunt dates between November 1-February 28
- any sheep, $\frac{1}{2}$ curl or less
 - this would keep the hunt a subsistence driven hunt, not a trophy hunt
- No airplanes may be used for access

- P1. 1 Supp 6-0 Housekeeping
- P1. 3 oppose 0-6 check traps every 72 hours
- P1. 5 oppose 0-6 Prohibit Cuss & Trade B.P. dening
with flashlight
- P1. 7 Supp 6-0 Change bear bait season for safety
reasons
- P8 Supp 5-1 Allow guides to maintain bait station
for clients.
- P11 Supp 6-0 Hunt Tkts provide info no seating needed
- P12 Sup 6-0 Bt Bear tag fee exemption
- P14 Sup 6-0 Coalition position
- P16 Oppose 1-4-1 Sheep season dates
- P18 Sup 6-0 Planning process for Chisana Caribou
- P24 Oppose 0-6 Eliminate N/R in I. M. & Pred Cont areas
- P95 Supp 6-0 50 Beaver Limit
- P98 Supp 6-0 B.B. sow & caps 25 DY Flats
- P99 Supp 5-0-1 Amend to 1 bull for N/R & shorten season
- P100 Opp 0-6 Would have season open on Cow Caribou / Calves
- P101 Supp 6-0 Pack out 1 caribou before shooting another
- P104 Supp 5-1 Amend to 2 bulls for N/R
- P106 Supp 8-0 Meat on bone 4.25

FROM EIRAC Meeting February 23-26, 2010
Meeting in FAIRBANKS
from VIRIL UMPHENOUR vice chair

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION


SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR


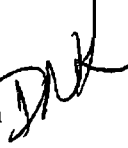
1255 W. 8TH Street
P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

RC108

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cliff Judkins, Chair, Alaska Board of Game

THRU: Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner 

FROM: Jim Marcotte, Director, Boards Support Section 
Doug Larsen, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation 

DATE: February 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Recommendations on Board of Game proposal deadline and three-year cycle

This memo provides the Department of Fish and Game's recommendation on proposed changes to the Board of Game's proposal deadline and annual meeting cycle.

Proposal A: Implement a single Call for Proposals and an annual proposal deadline for all meetings within a regulatory cycle.

Proposal B: Implement a three-year regulatory cycle.

Both of these actions address a number of public process and staff workload concerns which have become more acute in recent years with the increased number and complexity of issues before the board. Specific problems include:

- Public and advisory committee complaints about short time periods for reviewing and commenting on proposals.
- Compressed schedules for preparing department staff analysis and recommendations which compromises opportunity for public review of staff comments prior to meetings.
- Department personnel resources applied to the state and federal regulatory process every other year precludes allocating time to other critical management and resource survey activities.

A shift to a single annual proposal deadline in the spring would result in a much greater time period for staff and public review of proposed regulatory changes. A shift from the current two-year to a three-year regulatory cycle would: 1) allow more flexibility in scheduling meetings; 2) allow more time to measure the effectiveness of regulatory actions; and 3) reduce scheduling conflicts for the public, advisory committees, and staff who also participate in federal subsistence management activities or the Board of Fisheries process.

The potential cost savings to the department is not insignificant. Staff preparation time and attendance expenses for Wildlife Conservation Division to participate in a typical 10-day

regional meeting can range from \$200,000 to 250,000¹. Significant expenses are incurred by Subsistence Division and Boards Support Section as well.

Local fish and game advisory committee written comments submitted for the January 2010 meeting show general support from diverse areas of the state for these two proposed board process changes. The annual proposal deadline received positive support from nine committees, comment from three others, and no written opposition. Written support for the three-year cycle was submitted from eight committees while only three committees expressed opposition. Several other committees reviewed the proposed changes but did not offer written comments, though some provided supportive comments during public testimony at previous Board meetings in Nome and in Anchorage. The board also received supportive comments from groups such as the Alaska Professional Hunters Association on the benefits of these changes.

The Board of Game meeting structure and schedule has continued to evolve in response to various needs over time, making the process more effective and efficient for the public, the board, and the department. These two proposed changes can be viewed in the context of working towards continued improvements in the regulatory process as part of an adaptive management strategy.

Neither of these changes would require regulatory action. Both are supported by the department. Specific comments are provided below.

Proposal A

EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL: Implement a single Call for Proposals and annual proposal deadline for all meetings in a regulatory cycle.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **SUPPORT**

RATIONALE: The current process does not allow enough time for the public, advisory committee members, stakeholder groups, and the Department of Fish and Game to adequately review and provide comments to the Board of Game. Under a single proposal deadline, proposals would be available to the public several months in advance. A proposal deadline in April or May would allow for the compilation of the proposal book during late spring and release during mid-summer. May 10 of each year is the recommended proposal deadline (a December deadline is not feasible). It allows time for advisory committees to meet over the winter and develop proposals. Proposal books can be compiled over the early summer months and be distributed in July to insure an ample public review period. Note that advisory committees are accustomed to the Board of Fisheries' annual April 10 proposal deadline which has been in use since 1991.

¹ DWC headquarters personnel (4 person months: \$40,000), regional personnel (45 person months: \$151,000), and travel (15 people with airfare, lodging, and per diem: \$22,000).

An earlier release of the proposal book would greatly increase the public and advisory committee review period for evaluating proposals. It allows the department's analysis and recommendations to be released two weeks in advance of the meetings, which also benefits advisory committees. The added time would also allow for greater scheduling flexibility for all phases of the meeting preparation, such as placing proposals in "roadmap" in the proposal book, and allow for improved meeting agenda planning. Identifying all proposals for an entire meeting cycle in advance opens possibilities for scheduling shorter but more frequent meetings. For example, an 11-day Southcentral/Southwest (Region II) meeting could be split into two separate meetings.

The current windows for reviewing proposals and preparing recommendations can be as short as four weeks. This places a great burden on staff schedules, whereas having a longer overall review period allows for more efficient scheduling of the wide variety of staff duties. The current lack of flexibility is an acute problem for department staff that also participate in federal subsistence coordination or state fisheries issues.

Cost savings can be realized by publishing a single proposal book each year, as compared with the two or three now published. Printing and mailing expenses range between \$8,000 and 20,000 for each publication, so an annual savings of approximately \$16,000 can be realized.

Moving the proposal deadline up to May 10 would not be a significant change for the Southeast Region (Region I) and Arctic Region (Region V) which currently have an August proposal deadline prior to fall hunts. There would be a change for the Southcentral/Southwest Region (Region II) and the Interior Region (Region III) where proposals have been accepted after fall hunts. However, the board can still address any biological situations that become apparent during fall hunts or post-season wildlife surveys. Concerns that arise on shorter notice can be addressed through board generated proposals, agenda change requests, or petitions.

The department recommends the first annual Call for Proposals be issued in October 2010 with a proposal deadline of May 10, 2011.

Proposal B

EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL: Implement a three-year regulatory cycle.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **SUPPORT**

RATIONALE: Demands of the current regulatory schedule are impacting the ability of Division of Wildlife Conservation staff to fulfill core research and management responsibilities for monitoring and assessing wildlife populations. Regional department staff must now commit significant time in the state regulatory process every other year, while at the same time participate in the increasingly complex federal regulatory process. Allowing this major investment of personnel resources every third year similar to the fisheries staff in the department

would alleviate this workload, allow for more efficient use of staff resources, and allow greater quality of participation in the regulatory process.

A three-year meeting cycle allows for the following division of regional topics:

- Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
- Southeast (Region I), Arctic (Region V), and "Statewide" (Chapter 92)
- Interior (Region III)

Each large region would become the main focus in a single year. This provides the opportunity to group proposals for more cohesive and shorter meetings during winter months, which promotes a more deliberate board process and prevents hurried decisions at the end of long meetings. For example, the Southcentral/Southwest (Region II) proposals could be separated into two meetings. This would help reduce the marathon meetings currently lasting in excess of 10 days. Breaking the larger regional meetings into two segments may also reduce the frequency of having to defer proposals to meetings outside that meeting cycle; it would allow the board more time to thoroughly address complex issues such as intensive management and handle the large volume of proposals; it would better allow advisory committee representatives to target attendance during relevant portions of meetings; it would make public participation in the process less burdensome; and it would ease administrative problems with booking meeting space for long meetings.

A three-year cycle would eliminate the so called "double whammy" years when both the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries address proposals in the same region. These situations compromise advisory committee involvement. For example, advisory committees in the Matanuska Valley-Anchorage-Kenai Peninsula will want to prepare for and attend the Board of Game Region II meeting and the Board of Fisheries Cook Inlet Finfish meeting, both scheduled for late February and early March 2011. Avoiding this regional overlap between the two boards will be especially helpful for those advisory committees limited to one or two meetings each year because of travel costs.

Again, the use of agenda change requests, board generated proposals, and petitions would allow the board to respond more quickly than the three-year cycle to necessary conservation issues and concerns.

A three-year cycle would result in longer timeframes for evaluating the effect of any implemented regulatory changes. This would favor the board's role in providing a more comprehensive regulatory direction and promote a more strategic "proactive" approach rather than a "reactive" approach of adjusting hunting season dates every other year in response to specific, and often historically unique, conditions of the previous season.

The department recommends the implementing the three-year cycle beginning with the 2012/2013 cycle for Region II, followed by the 2013/2014 cycle for Regions I, V and Chapter 92 and the 2014/2015 cycle for Region III.

Sat 1/16/2010 8:23 PM

RC109

Ms Tibbles,

The Anchorage AC voted 12-2-1 Tuesday January 12 to withdraw support and ask the board withdraw consideration for Proposal 58, originally submitted by us.

Thanks,

Aaron Bloomquist
Chair Anchorage AC

bcc- Anchorage AC, Sherry Wright, Cliff Judkins- Chair BOG, Ted Spraker- Vice Chair BOG.

The undersigned support Proposal 33 and recommend that the Alaska Board of Game adopt this proposal with the following amendment:

For all antlerless hunts in GMU 20A and 20B: the bag limit would be defined as: **one adult or calf antlerless moose**, however no cows accompanied by calves may be taken.

1. Valerie Baxter, North Pole
2. Daniel Rees, North Pole
3. Jeremy Douse, Fairbanks
4. Leo Faro, North Pole
5. Tim Haugh, Juneau
6. Jim Faro, Sitka
7. Brian Jennison, Fairbanks
8. Kelly Hochstetler, Fairbanks
9. Trevor Borseth, Fairbanks
10. Mary Gleason, Fairbanks
11. Alexander Wait, Fairbanks
12. Timothy Shilling, Fairbanks
13. Walter Smith, Fairbanks
14. Brett Morehouse, Fairbanks
15. John Schaaake, North Pole
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36. _____

Proposal 33 – GMU 20 Moose

ARGUMENTS:

- **Ethical** – Department respects personal values, but must consider all issues
- **Biological**
 - Calf harvest more compensatory than adults
 - Calf harvest more resilient to overharvest than that of adult cows (i.e., mortality more additive)
 - Most effective management strategy is to allow calf harvests in high-density areas (e.g., IM areas; 20A, 20B), but protect calves in areas of concern (e.g., low density areas)
- **Intensive Management**
 - Optimized yield **MUST** include harvest of calves (e.g., Scandinavia - harvest ~40% calves, British Columbia, Ontario)
 - ~50 bulls:20 cows:30 calves recommended harvest ratio to optimize yield
- **Enforcement**
 - Prohibition on take of calves is **NOT** enforceable due to overlap in size between calves & yearlings
- **Regulatory**
 - In 2004, Board rescinded statewide moratorium on take of calves that had been adopted in 2002
 - Legal to take bull calves statewide in hunts with “bull” bag limit
 - Take of calves allowed statewide in antlerless hunts, except for Unit 20A, parts of 20B and 20D, 26A and Homer area
 - Confusion (e.g., in FMA, DM788 may take calf, but in general hunt may not; in adjacent antlerless drawing hunt may not take calf, but in general hunt may take bull calf; in MFMA RM775/785 hunts may take calf; in 20A may not take a calf in antlerless hunts)
 - No analogous prohibition on taking calves or fawns (e.g., caribou or deer)
- **Other**
 - Allow the take of an orphaned calf in cases where a cow accompanied by a calf is mistakenly taken
 - Harvest of calves likely to increase success rates and reduce the length of antlerless seasons, which in turn reduces conflicts with the public and other users, especially trappers
 - Likely to reduce the number of antlerless bulls taken in winter hunts

RC 111

I am the author of Proposal 10 and amend this proposal as follows [**the skull and either the hide or meat must be salvaged June 1-december 31**]

To include that should sealing be required of bears harvested that if the hunter chooses to not harvest the hide the **EVEIDENCE OF SEX INCLUDING THE TEATS OF A SOW REMAIN NATURALLY ATTACHED TO ONE REAR QUARTER**. The amendment is in response to RC 45 of the wildlife troopers for enforcement issues of taking sows with cubs.



Author

Vincent E Holton

Po box 10121

Fairbanks Alaska 99710

Proposal 4

Effects of the Proposal: Establish a no closed hunting season for coyotes in Unit 20.

Department Recommendation: **Amend and Adopt**

Proposal 4

- The Department does not support the proposal as written because we don't believe it would be effective in reducing Dall Sheep predation as stated.
- The Department does support amending the proposal to align the season with GMU's to the south.
- Currently, the hunting season for coyotes in Units 6-11 and 13-17 is August 10-May 25. The bag limit is 10 coyotes per day.

Proposal 4

Current coyote hunting season:

- Units 12, 19, and 20:
August 10 – April 30, Ten coyotes per day
- Units 21, 24, and 25:
August 10 – April 30, Ten coyotes

Proposed Amendment for Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25

- August 10 – May 25, No Limit

Proposal 4

- This extended season would provide additional opportunity for spring bear hunters to harvest coyotes.
- It would not impact the coyote population.
- It would standardize coyote hunting season in a large portion of the state.

Proposal 4

Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

Proposal 2

Effects of the proposal: Shorten the trapping season for lynx in Unit 20 and 25C to December 1- February 28.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 2

- This proposal is an allocation issue.
- The Department has no biological concerns with the proposal associated with lynx harvest or management.

Proposal 2

Current seasons:

Unit 20A, 20B, 20C east of the Teklanika River, 20D and 25C.

- November 1 - November 30 2 lynx
- December 1 - February 28 No limit

Remainder of 20C

- November 1 - February 28 No limit

Unit 20E

- November 1 - November 30 5 lynx
- December 1 - March 15 No limit

This proposal would eliminate the November portion of the season in all of Unit 20 and 25C.

Proposal 2

- Prior to 2008, Portions of Unit 20(20A, B, and D) were managed according to the lynx tracking harvest strategy in which the trapping season length was determined by the stage of the lynx cycle.
- Unit 20E was managed with the lynx tracking harvest strategy prior to 2000. Since 2000, the current season has existed with the November portion of the season having a bag limit

Proposal 2

- The BOG passed the current regulations in Units 20A, B and D in 2008, which eliminated the lynx tracking harvest strategy and made the season permanently Nov. 1- Feb. 28 with a 2 lynx bag limit in November.
- The intent of the 2 lynx bag limit in November was for incidental harvest.

Proposal 2

- Prior to passing the current regulation, the Department would rarely have early caught lynx surrendered by trappers.
- When lynx numbers are high, they are commonly taken in traps or snares intended for other furbearers.
- It is difficult to trap other furbearers, particularly fox and coyotes, and avoid catching lynx.
- In 2008, 2247 Lynx were reported in GMU 20. Only 4%(95) were harvested in November. 95%(2140) were harvested in December, January or February.

Proposal 2

- Fur quality on lynx is variable in November.
- Some local fur buyers say that November lynx hides are poor, while others say that they are fair to good.
- Trappers also have variable opinions on the quality of lynx hides in November.
- Lactating female lynx have poor quality hides through out the season because the milk stains the fur on the bellies a rusty color. This may be more prominent early in the season.

Proposal 2

Recommendation: No recommendation

Proposal 3

- Effects of the Proposal: Require a 72 hour trap check for all trappers in Region III.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 3

- There is no biological reason for such a requirement.
- It would make it difficult, if not impossible to run long or multiple traplines.
- It would force trappers to check traps during extreme weather events such as dangerously cold weather, high winds, deep snow falls and periods of bad overflow.
- It would force trappers who have full time jobs to quit trapping or to trap in or near town, therefore increasing conflicts amongst other user groups.

Proposal 3

Many of the points argued in the proposal are false:

- Having a trap check time would not reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals. This is achieved by altering methods and means.
- The absence of a trap check does not lead to wanton waste. Predation on trapped animals by other wildlife is not a common occurrence. Trappers are interested in the value of the furbearer and take precautions to not lose the value of the animal.

Proposal 3

- The absence of a trap check does not lead to escapement from traps and result in loose injured animals. Animals that escape from traps are usually caught in traps intended for a smaller species.

The proposal also states that Alaska is one of only four states that does not have a traps check requirement. This may be true, but Alaska is unique compared to other states because of access, remoteness, and extreme weather conditions.

Proposal 3

Recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

5AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) Coyote		
...		
Units [21, 24, 25, 26(B)[,] and 26(C)	Aug. 10–Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Apr. 30
10 coyotes		
...		
Units 12, 19, [AND] <u>20, 21, 24 and 25</u>	<u>Aug. 10–May 25</u> [AUG.10–APR. 30] (General hunt only)	<u>Aug. 10–May 25</u> [AUG. 10–APR. 30]
<u>No Limit</u> [10 COYOTES PER DAY]		

...

Black Bear Bait Station 2007

113

Black Bear Bait Station Number

Hunting License Number of Bait Permit Holder/s

Hunting License Numbers of Other hunters using this bait. The following people are the only persons with written permission to use this bait and bait site.

SD 8034104 BL 8046509 DY 8725225 BB 80209115 TP 8232106 MP 8232108
JW 8012115 LA 8072453 AA 80982114

Bait Permit Numbers/location

SD 210001 1+4 up Yuki.

DY 210000 2+3 up YUKI.

BL 66000 corner bait + second up main river

BB 511246 tele graph tote

Sub. by
Smokey Don Duncan

Proposal # 7. Open black bear baiting season earlier, April 1 for safety reasons and to effectively lengthen available hunting time when hides are prime.

The vast majority of ACs support this proposal

The Dept of F&Gs rational for the "Do Not Adopt" recommendation does not hold up to scrutiny, is wrong, and is not substantially verifiable.

First, the Dept is wrong when it says it will not have a biological affect. It will. In these areas, break up can happen from April 21 – May 20 as witnessed by the Nenana Ice Classic dates. And the Yukon River break up is generally 10 days later. To be safe on the river with a boat, you must wait about a week after break up. So many years it is well into May before you can place a bait by boat or well past mid May before you can use a float plane. The river ice begins to become unstable about April 1. Ski planes have similar problems with over flow. The rational behind getting baits out earlier is safety and logistics. The secondary beneficial effect will be being able to hunt immediately when the rivers and lakes are open rather than placing baits then and waiting 1-2 weeks. The increase in prime time hunting will result in more and bigger and better bears being taken.

The threat of opposition to bear baiting will always be there. I do not buy into the Depts. fear of threats of ballot measures initiatives to eliminate baiting. We must not live and allow rational management to be governed by fear and threats from non-managers. They would stop all hunting if they could. Where does the fear end?

The Board has given the Dept. the discretionary authority to establish the bear baiting season. The Dept. has refused to change it. The Board will have to direct them to do so.

Proposal # 8 & 9 #8 Allowing guides to co-register a bait station for a client. #9 Allow guides to register more than 2 and up to 10 bait stations. There is a big difference between the 2 proposals and F&G missed it in their recommendations.

The Dept. missed the main intention of the effects of proposal # 8. Pay close attention here. If you adopt Proposal # 9 where guides are given additional baits, they alone will be the registrant and solely responsible for the bait which requires them to be physically present or "accompany" the client at the bait. This is one of the 2 main factors in driving up the cost of a guided black bear hunt to the point people hunt elsewhere or not at all in Alaska. Proposal # 8 will effectively remove that physically present requirement because the client is the baits' co-registrant and they can hunt his/her bait themselves without the "physically present" or "accompany" requirement. It also gets around the argument that a guide should not have more baits than anyone else. I have had many potential resident clients tell me they would hire me except that the price is too high. They say they simply do not have the time to travel from Anchorage or Juneau to Fairbanks and beyond, place a bait and then come back weeks later and hope it had been hit or fear it was cleaned out and now dead. Most residents say they do not need a guide, they just need reasonable logistical support. They can even bring their own boat, or plane and camp. Proposal # 8 helps me the best when contracting with residents by giving me the cost savings that I can pass along to the resident hunter and it works for both of us. Most non-residents want a guide but some would like to have the cost savings.

The reason for proposing both # 8 and #9 was to give the Board 2 clear options that solve the problem in different ways with slightly different effects.

Proposal #30 Allowing the baiting of grizzly in unit 20C. I do not agree with F&Gs argument to wait. We have waited long enough and should wait no longer. The time to act is now. The fire has set the stage to make this area the next great Alaska moose pasture. By adopting proposal # 7 and #30 we will dramatically shorten the time it takes to make this area what it should be. In the long run, fewer bears would need to be taken. The grizzly baiting could be stopped in several years. F&G has consistently underestimated the black and grizzly bears in this area. This is evidenced by the Depts. on proposal, #11, where they state 20 B has had black bears harvested at a high rate with no adverse effects on sex and age composition. 10 years ago F&G ask for and received the authority to limit the number of bears take at a bait site. It has never been used. I recommend adopting Proposal # 30 at least with a minimum number of grizzly baits allowed through a registration permit. This will give good solid evidence of how many bears there really are in unit 20C and begin the reduction that is needed.

This Board has penned 2 letters in support for creating a GUACP. In the last letter this board admitted to concerns about the problems caused by transporters and air taxis. I would like to see a similar letter of support for regulating transporters sent to the legislature recommending passage of HB 249 which will make all air taxis be licensed transporters and require regulating them. I can not and will not support any GUACP that will put 50% of the registered guide businesses out of business and hurt many others until transporters and air taxis are made part of the solution.

In several proposals the Dept. admits there is an over abundance of moose and that additional hunting opportunities should be opened by drawing permit. In those cases, the Board should allow some percentage to be non-resident permits. Since guides and non-residents get kick out first when there is a shortage, the Board should throw them a bone or 2 when there is a surplus.

#36 Requires NR to be guided. The Dept. correctly says the Board does not have the "Authority" because of Statute. This is another case where the Board needs to address the legislature with a request to give them the discretionary authority or to take action themselves by requiring all non-residents be guided.

Proposal # 45 Minto Flats. Please direct the Dept. to include in the regulations the co-ordinates of Mile 118 Elliot Highway and the co-ordinates of the mouth of the Tolovana River. The western boundary is an indiscriminate line not discernable by features in between the 2 points in the field.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely;
Smokey Don Duncan
Master Guide #136
299 Alvin Street
Fairbanks AK 99712
907-457-8318

Alaska Board of Game Interior 2010 Meeting
February 26 – March 7, 2010
Fairbanks AK

RC 115

1. Mike Pederson	Arctic AC	Proposals 126, 96, 99, 101, 103, 104, 105
2. Vic Van Ballenberg	Self	Denali Wolf Buffer Zone (Proposals 55-65)
3. Randy Zarnke	Organization	Trapping proposals/Buffer Zone (Proposals 55-65)
4. Pete Buist	AK Trappers Assoc	AK Chapter-Wild Sheep
5. Marybeth Holleman	Self & Organization	Denali Wolf Buffer (Props 55-65)
6. Rick Steiner	Self	Denali Wolf Buffer (Props 55-65)
7. Nancy Bale	Self & Organization	Denali Wolf Buffer (Props 55)
8. Brian Person	Denali Citizens Council	Proposal 131
9. Priscilla Feral	North Slope Borough	Proposals 104, 126
10. Robert Kohlsdorf	Dept. of Wildlife	
11. Dave Talerico	Self & Organization	Proposal 58
12. PULLED	Friends of Animals	
13. Ray Heuer	Organization	20A moose hunting
14. Lenard Jewkes	Denali Borough	Props 32-35, 38, 40
15. Ken Chase	Self & Organization	20A moose proposals & Proposal 16
16. Coke Wallace	Denali Borough	
17. Mike Kramer	Self & Organization	20C IM & Bear Baiting (Prop 28- 30)
18. Nick Anagnostou	Denali Borough	Proposal 16
19. Ray Collins	Self	Proposals
20. Dan Esai	Self & GASH AC	Denali Buffer Zone, Wood River CUA
21. Amal Ajmi	Self	Prop 46, 16, Antlerless moose 20A, B
22. Debra Curnow	Self	Moose & Tree Huggers
23. Larry Edwards	Self	McGrath AC- Prop 78-87
24. Barbara Brease	McGrath AC	McGrath AC- Prop 82
25. Dan Greiner	McGrath AC	Prop. 16
26. Dave Morris	Self	Prop 49, 70, 16
27. Larry Dalrymple	Self	Lots of Proposals
28. Joe Matesi	Self & Koyukuk R. AC	Prop 72; Wolf Buffer Zone Props (55-65)
29. Diane Jewkes	Self	Antlerless Moose 20A (Prop 32-38?)
30. Chris Brockman	Self	Oppose Proposal #16
		Proposal 16 & 17
		Proposal 6, 97, 99
		Proposal 16
		Wolf Harvest buffer zone expansion (Props 58-60)

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31. Gloria Stickman	Self	Proposals 55, 56, 58, 59, 63, 64, 57, 40, 33, 38
32. Al William Maness	Self	Boundary of Kanuti CUA (Prop 94)
33. Larry Kappel	Self	Support Proposals 51, 70; Withdraw Proposal 69
34. Henry D Tiffany	Self	Objection to proposal 16
35. Greg Audgeon	NPS Denali Park & Gates of the Arctic	Proposal 5
36. Tom Kirstein	Self	Various Proposals
37. Joe Letarte	Self	Proposal 8, 9, 16
38. Anna Ramsburgh	Self	Importance of walk-in hunting units & Proposal 101
39. Josh Schmidt	Self	Props 101, 104, 13, 33, Central Arctic herd regs, walk-in hunts cow/calf hunts
40. Kate Swift	Self	Wolf Buffer Zone (Props 55-65)
41. Val Glooschenko	Self	Wolf Buffer Zone (Props 55-65)
42. Joe Grenmn(Grennan?)	Self	20C Moose & Predator Mngt Issues
43. John Giuchici	Self & Organization Salcha River Property Owners Assoc.	Moose calf hunts & Sheep seasons
44. Marty Caress	Self & Denali AC	Wolf Buffer Zone props. 56
45. Audun Endestad	Self	(Proposal 27, 39, 69)
46. Jim Haselberger	Self	Proposal 16, 70
47. Frank Maxwell	Self	Denali Wolf Buffer (Props. 55-65)
48. Mathias Eriksson	Self	Proposal 101, 104
49. John Haddix	Self	Proposals 74-77
50. Greg Roczicka	Self, YK Delta RAC	Predator Management on Federal lands, Props 131, 132 (AC) Props. 78 (self)
51. Brian Cotougou(?)	Self	Subsistence Lifestyle
52. Lee Olsen	Self	Proposal 28
53. Valerie Baxter	Self	Proposal 33, 47, 54 & Denali Wolf Buffer
54. Eric Umphenour	Self	Proposals 16, 87
55. Virgil Umphenour	Self & EIRAC	EIRAC comments from 2/23-26/10 meeting- Self commenting on Props. 16 & 87
56. Mike Dubowski	Self & Stampede Trail Users Assoc.	Buffer Zone
57. Will Koehler	Self & Delta AC	Self-Prop 3; AC-multiple props.
58. Nan Eagleson	Self	Denali Wolf Buffer
59. Loren Hite	Self	Proposal 33; Calf hunting
60. David Miller	Self	Proposal 33;Calf hunting
61. Jake Sprankle	Self	Support proposal 16 & opposition of

Alaska Board of Game Interior 2010 Meeting
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62. Steven Flory	Self	buffer on National Parks RC & Proposals
63. Don Duncan	Self	Prop # 7-9, 30 & request letter to the legislature to support HB 249
64. PULLED		
65. Wade Willis	Self & Science Now	Nonresident opportunity in predator control areas; denali buffer zone
66. Vince Holton	Self	Proposal 10 (author), 11, 31(author), 38 (author)
67. Mark Richards	Self & Alaska Backcountry Hunters	Proposal 13, general comments
68. Robert Fithian	Self & AK Professional Hunters Assoc.	General Proposals
69. Steve Hallster(?)	Self	Proposal 16
70. Gordon Carlson	Self	Wolf Buffer Zone
71. Mike McCrary	Self	
72. Tom Lamal	Self	Proposal 16, 70- please refer to RC 48
73. Dave Lorring	Self	Wood River CUA
74. Mike Tinker	Self & Fairbanks AC	
75. Jack Reakoff	Self & WIRAC	Proposals throughout the WIRAC, GMU 26B & 25A, My Comments will be directed at Props. 104, 99, 105, 101, 102, & 103
76. Doug Carney	Self & Stony Holitna AC	Various proposals
77. Melvin B Grove	Mat Valley AC	Committee voting decisions, particularly #23, 14A Cow hunt
78. Arron Bloomquist	Self & Anchorage AC	All

Testimony by AC's later in the Meeting
William Regan, Naknek & Kuvichak
Danny Grenneerd, Upper Tanana AC
Mike McDougall, Eagle AC
Ron Silas, Minto Nenana AC
Brent Keith, Middle Nenana AC

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To testify directly before the Board deliberates on their area

Ron Silas	Minto-Nenana AC Chair	To give Testimony prior to Fairbanks Area deliberation
Mike MacDougal	Eagle AC Rep.	To give Testimony prior to Fairbanks Area deliberation
Brent Keith	Middle Nenana AC Chair	To give Testimony prior to Fairbanks Area deliberation

RC 116

Sherry & Alaska Board of Game ;
02-23-10

The cooper landing fish & game advisory committee voted to continue support for the "
reauthorization of the antlerless moose hunts, proposels # 115, 121, 122, & 123.

Vote total-

Support - 10

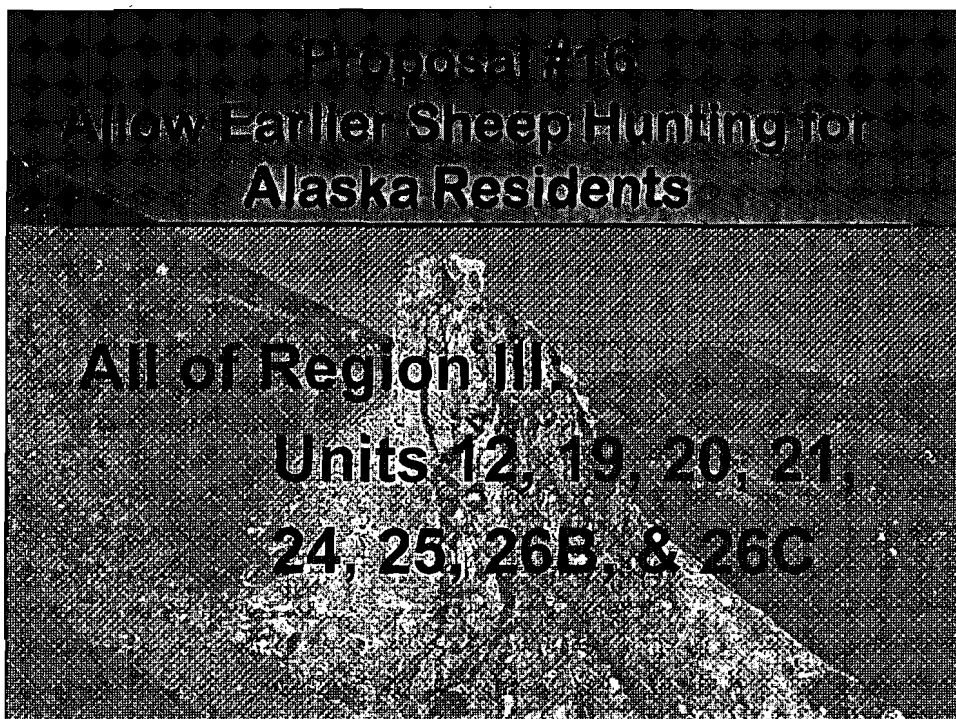
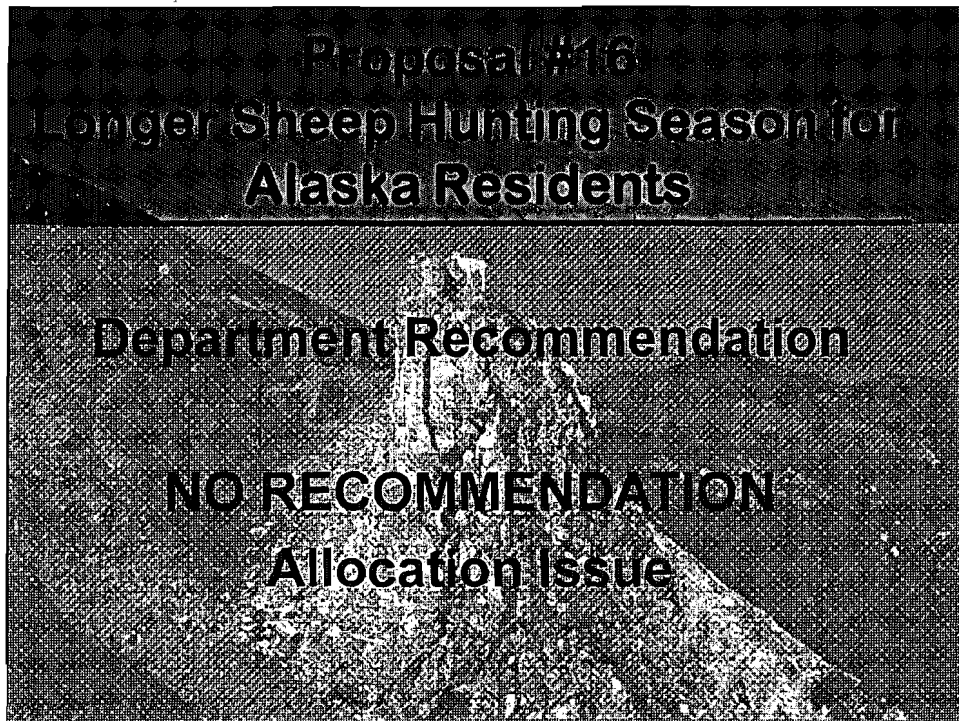
Oppose - 0

Present at meeting -

R. Gibson, j. Givens, K. Kolodziejwski, c. Lowe, g. Neis, b. Overman, j. Pearson, K. Romig, e.
Holsten, g. heim.

Thank you

Karl Romig, chairman



File 3A

Proposal #16
**Allow Earlier Sheep Hunting for
Alaska Residents**

Dall sheep season

Residents:	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 5–Sept. 20
Nonres:	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 12–Sept. 20

Lengthens resident season 5 days
Shortens nonresident season 2 days

Proposal #16
**Allow Earlier Sheep Hunting by
Alaska Residents**

- **Fall General Season only**
- **Drawing Hunts too?**
 - Delta Controlled Use Area
 - Tok Management Area
- **Limited permits & hunt periods**
 - ❖ Alleviate hunter crowding
 - ❖ Alleviate hunter competition
 - ❖ Maximize horn growth (trophy value)

4

Proposal #16

Allow Earlier Sheep Hunting by Alaska Residents

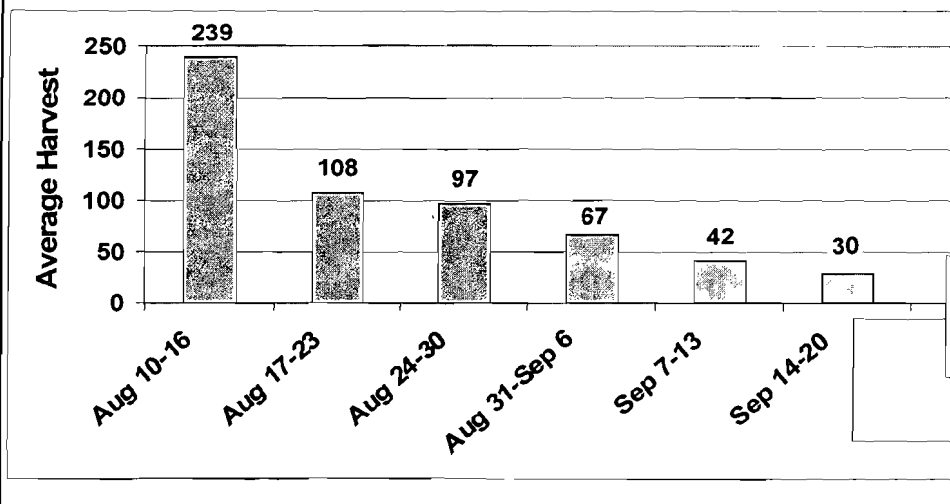
- **Staggered Resident & Nonresident start dates are used elsewhere in regs.**
 - Separate resident & nonresident hunters
 - Several moose and caribou seasons
 - Might alleviate some user conflicts
 - More complex sheep regulations

5

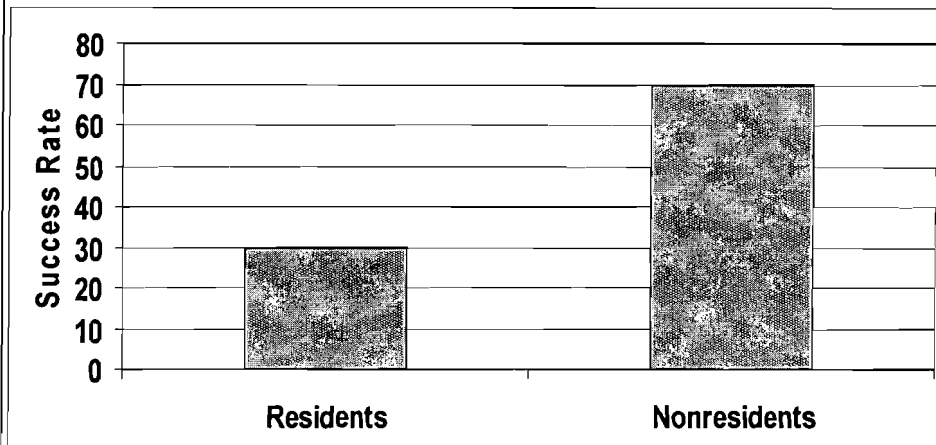
Proposal #16

Biological Considerations

2006–2009 Region III Sheep Harvest Chronology



Proposal #16
Biological Considerations
2006–2009 Success Rate

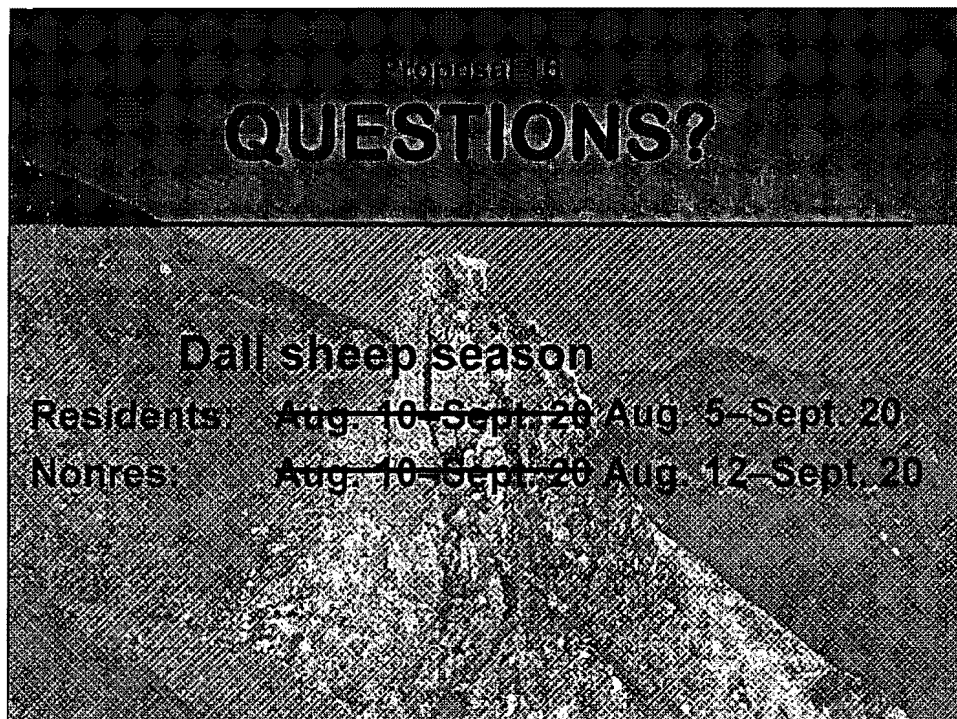


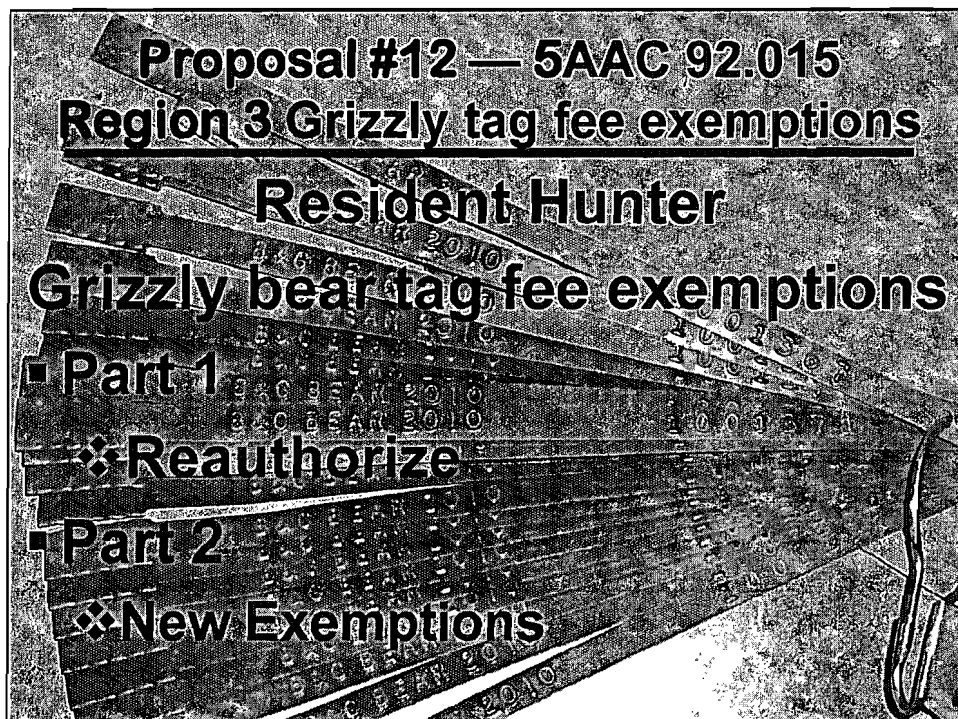
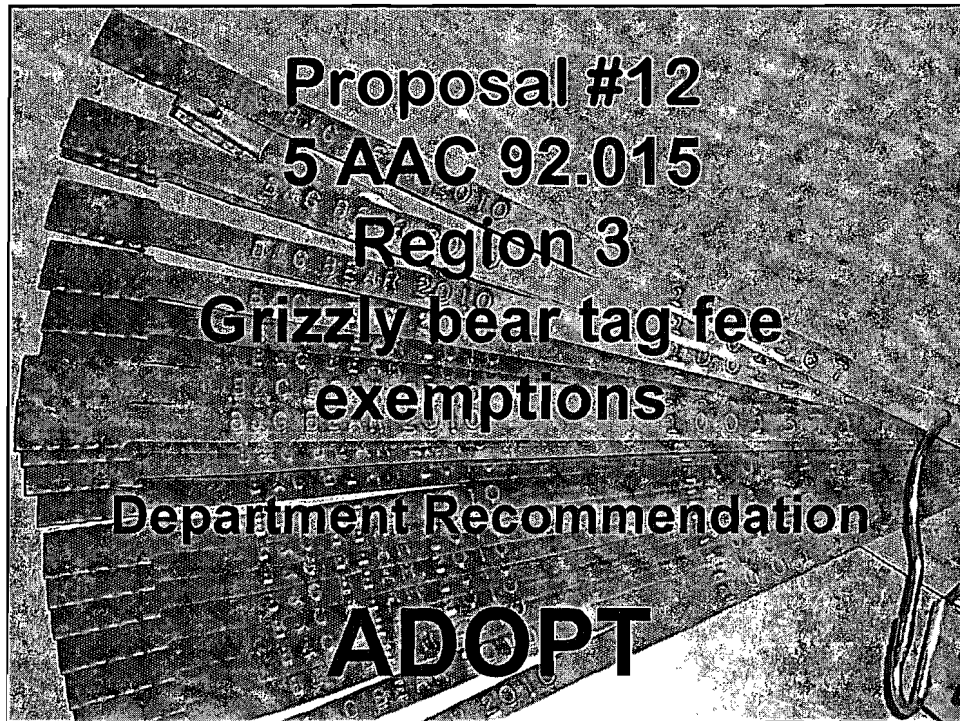
Proposal #16
Biological Considerations

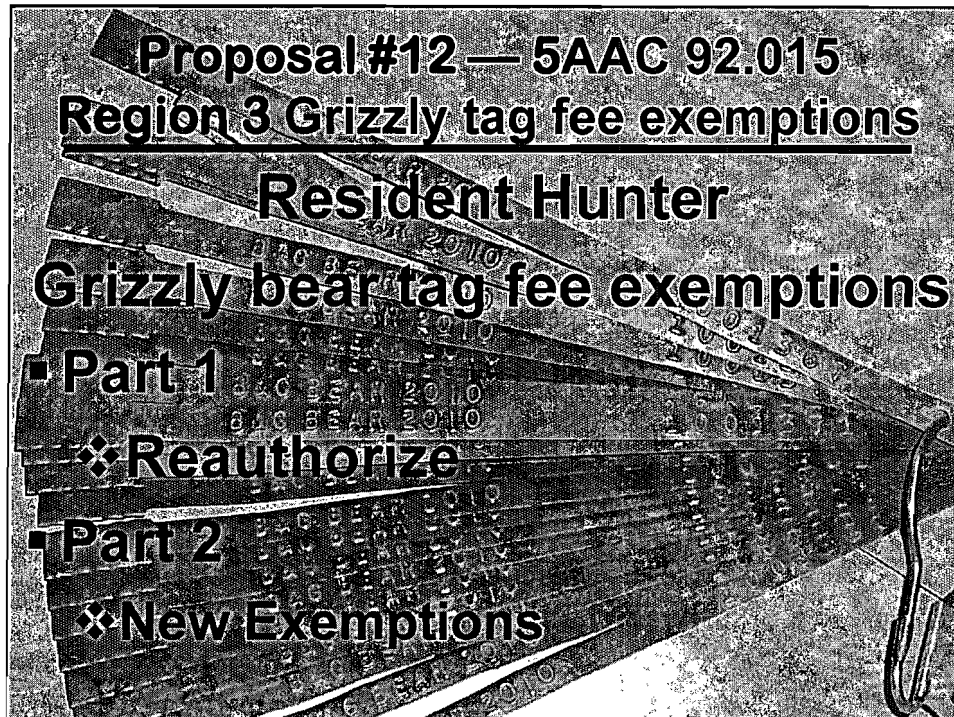
IF HARVEST INCREASES

due to longer resident season

- **Could decrease proportion of legal sheep for future years**
 - ❖ **May slightly decrease age of ram population**
 - ❖ **Eventually decrease overall hunter success**







Resident hunter
grizzly tag fee exemptions

Reauthorize

- **Resident Tag Fee Exemptions for general season**
 - ❖ Units 19A, 19D, 20D, 20E (outside Yukon–Charley National Preserve), 21B, 21D, 21E, 25C, & 25D
- **Subsistence Registration Permit Tag Fee Exemptions**
 - ❖ Units 19A and 19B (downstream of & including the Aniak River drainage),
 - ❖ 21D, and 24.

Unit	Year of Exemption	Reason	Avg. Pre Exempt Harvest	Avg. Post Exempt Harvest
19A	2006	Moose calf survival	8	9
19D	1998	moose calf survival	2	5.5
20D	1995/2003	moose/caribou calf survival	8	11
20E	2002	Moose calf survival	15	16
21B	2004 & 2006	increase opportunity	0.4	0.3
21D	2004	increase opportunity	5.6	6
21E	2006	moose calf survival	5.2	3.5
25C	2006	40mile caribou calf survival	4	6.5
25D	1998	harvest reporting/ moose calf surv.	2.1	3.3

Proposal 12 5

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemptions

Reauthorize

Subsistence Tag Fee Exemptions

- ❖ Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage),
- ❖ 21D, and 24

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemptions

Subsistence Tag Fee Exemptions

- Subsistence use of brown bears for food
- Allows traditional treatment of bear skulls that is inconsistent with sealing requirements.
- 33 permits issued in RY06–RY07
 - 1 bear taken
- Harvest is within sustained yield limits

Proposal
12

7





Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemptions

- **Region 3 grizzly populations healthy**
 - ❖ **Not needed to regulate harvest**
- **Resident Fees don't regulate harvest**
- **Simplify regulations**
- **Region 3 Grizzly Objective**
 - ❖ **Manage for maximum opportunity**
 - **Opportunistic**
 - ❖ **Sustainable**

Proposal
12

11

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemptions

- **Region 3 grizzly populations healthy**
 - ❖ **Kill rate of at least 6% is sustainable**
 - **Harvest is below 6%**

Proposal
12

12

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemptions

- **Resident tag fees don't regulate harvest**
 - **High harvest with resident tag fees**
 - **Units 19C, 20A, 20B, 26B**
 - ✓ **Harvest regulated with seasons, bag limits, permits**

Proposal
12

13

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemption

- **Region 3 Grizzly Objective**
 - ❖ **Manage for maximum opportunity**
 - **Sustainable**
 - **Opportunistic harvest is high**
 - **Manage harvest with seasons, bag limits, & permits**

Proposal
12

14

**Resident hunter
grizzly tag fee exemptions**

Simplify Current

Resident regs

- ❖ Always need a grizzly bear tag
- ❖ Sometimes need a grizzly bear tag
- ❖ Never grizzly bear tag needed
- ❖ Annual board reauthorization

Proposal
12

15

**Resident hunter
grizzly tag fee exemptions**

Simplify Current Resident regs

- ❖ Always need a grizzly bear tag...
 - Units 12, 19C, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E
inside Yukon–Charley, 20F, 21A,
21C, 24, 25A, 25B, 26B, & 26C
- ❖ Sometimes
- ❖ Never

Proposal
12

16

**Resident hunter
grizzly tag fee exemptions**

Simplify Current Resident regs

- ❖ Always
- ❖ Sometimes need a grizzly bear tag...
(unless hunter has subsistence pmt)
 - 19B along Aniak river & downstream, & 24
- ❖ Never

Proposal
12

17

**Resident hunter
grizzly tag fee exemptions**

Simplify Current Resident regs

- ❖ Always
- ❖ Sometimes
- ❖ Never grizzly bear tag needed...
 - 19A, 21D (subsistence & general season options)
 - 19D, 20D, 20E remainder, 21B, 21E, 25C, & 25D

Proposal
12

18

Resident hunter grizzly tag fee exemption

5 AAC 92.015

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

**(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B,
and 26C**

~~(4) UNIT 19A AND UNIT 19D;~~

~~(5) UNIT 20D;~~

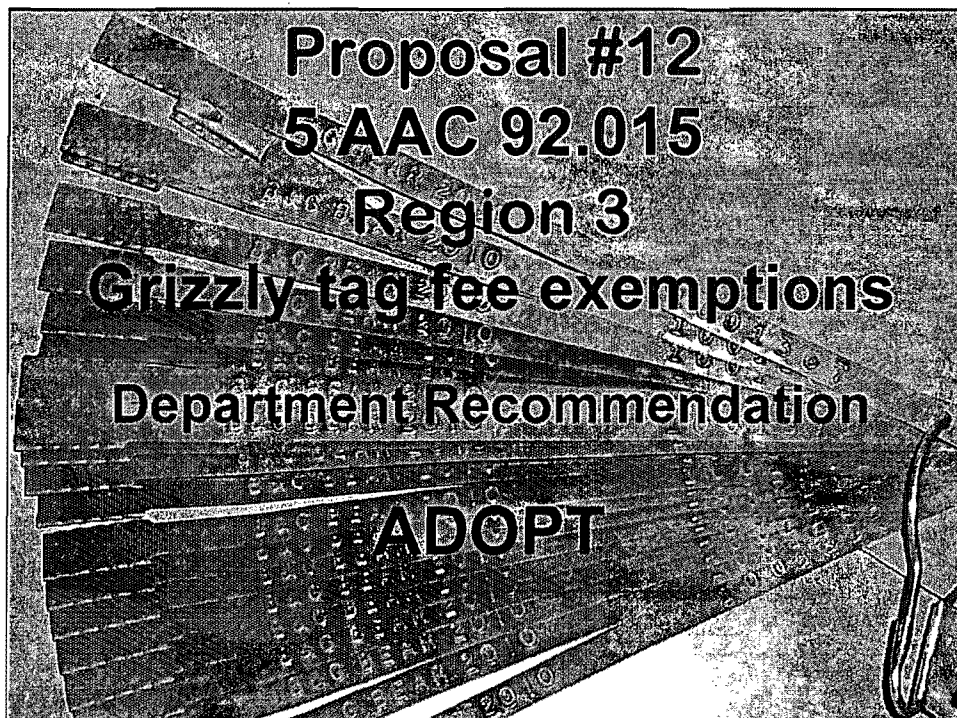
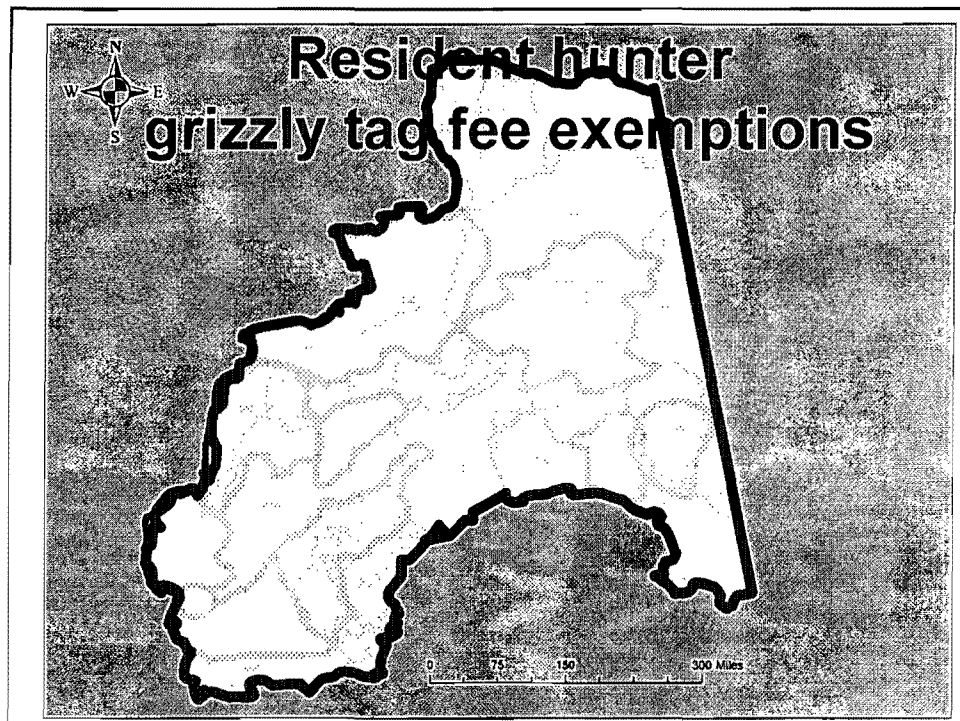
~~(6) UNIT 20E, THAT PORTION OUTSIDE OF YUKON-CHARLEY
RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE;~~

~~(7) UNIT 21B, UNIT 21D, AND UNIT 21E;~~

Proposal ...
12

19







Proposal #7 LL Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Current Baiting Season:

- Dates not in regulation
- Under discretionary authority for a black bear baiting permit
 - 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures
 - ◆(12) a permittee may hunt only during specified time periods

Proposal #7 LL Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Current Baiting Season:

Bait Area

Dates

Unit 19D Predator Control Area

Sep 1 – 30
Apr 15 – Jun 30

Units 12, Remainder of 19, 20, 21, 24, 25A, 25B & 25C

Apr 15 – Jun 30

Units 21D & 24 In the Koyukuk CUA

Apr 15 – Jun 30
Sep 1 – 25

Unit 25D

Apr 15 – Jun 30
Aug 1 – Sep 25

Proposal #7 — Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

PROPOSED Baiting Season:

Bait Area

Dates

Unit 19D Predator Control Area

Sep 1 – 30

Mar 25 or Apr 1 – Jun 30

Units 12, Remainder of 19, 20, 21, 24, 25A, 25B & 25C

Mar 25 or Apr 1 – Jun 30

Units 21D & 24 In the Koyukuk CUA

Mar 25 or Apr 1 – Jun 30

Sep 1 – 25

Unit 25D

Mar 25 or Apr 1 – Jun 30

Aug 1 – Sep 25

Proposal #7 — Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Rationale for earlier season start

- **April 15 start is too late because**
 - **Ice is too rotten to safely cross**
 - **By the time the ice goes out**
 - ◆ **The best baiting time is over**
 - **Earlier baits are active sooner**
 - **Ready to hunt when the ice goes out**

**Proposal #7 — Longer spring black bear baiting
season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25**

Rationale for Do Not Adopt

- Black bears emerge early May
 - Bait not attracting black bears
 - ◆ still in dens
 - Bait would attract other animals longer
 - ◆ Up to 6 weeks before black bears

7

Proposal #7



Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations

Or **Proposal #8 — allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations**

5AAC 92.042 Permit for hunting black bear with bait

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Department Recommendation:

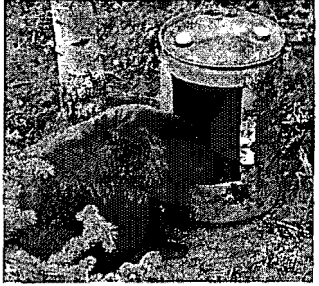
No Recommendation

Allocation Issue

Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Current Bait Site Limit:**

- 2 bait stations per person
- Private hunters, Guides



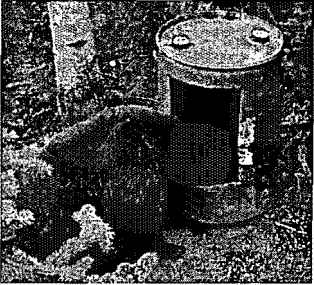
2

Proposal #9

Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Requirements**

- Person who registers bait site must maintain it.
- Responsible for clean up.
- How many sites can one person maintain?




Proposal #9

Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **No biological concerns**

■ **Allocation?**

- Proposal 9 may be easier for guided hunters than proposal 8



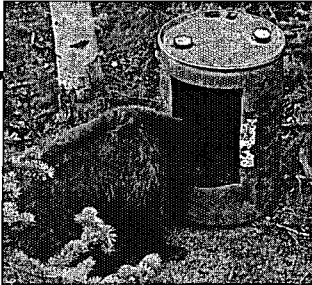
4

Proposal #9

Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Proposed Regulations:**

- Guide register clients' bait stations
- Guide legally responsible for following laws




5 Proposal #9

Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Proposed Regulations:**

- Legal Responsibility?



6 Proposal #9

Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations.
Or Proposal #8 — allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations
 5AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting black bear with bait
 Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Department Recommendation
No Recommendation
 Allocation Issue

— Proposal #8 —
Allow guides to maintain clients' black bear bait stations
 Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25
 5AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting black bear with bait

Department Recommendation
Take No Action
 Based on action of Proposal #9

Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Current Regulations:**

- Person must register own bait station
- Legally responsible for following laws



9

Proposal #8

Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Proposed Regulations:**

- Guide register clients' bait stations
- Guide legally responsible for following laws



10

Proposal #8

Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

■ **Proposed Regulations:**

- Legal Responsibility?



11

Proposal #8

Proposal #9 — Allow guides up to 10 black bear bait stations

Or Proposal #8 — allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations

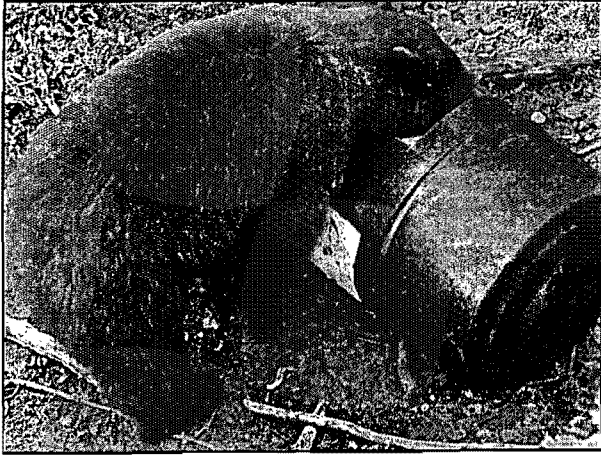
5AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting black bear with bait

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

Allocation Issue



Proposal 11 – 5AAC 92.165
Eliminate black bear sealing in
most Units with harvest tickets

Department Recommendation

Adopt

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most
Units with harvest tickets

Current Regulations

- Black bear Sealing required
 - Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, 20F
 - Harvest Tickets also required same places
 - ❖ Beginning in fall 2009
 - ❖ Some data is redundant to sealing

2

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most
Units with harvest tickets

Current Regulations

- No Sealing required
- No Harvest Ticket required
 - Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C
 - ❖ very low harvest

3

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most
Units with harvest tickets

Current Regulations

- Black bear sealing
 - required if hide goes out of state
 - All hides
 - All units
 - Any length of time
 - ❖ Tanned out of state

4

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

Proposed Regulations

- Black bear Sealing & Harvest Tickets
 - Unit 20B
- Harvest Tickets only
 - Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20C, 20D, 20E, 20F
- No Sealing or Harvest Ticket
 - Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C

NO CHANGE
same as before

5 Proposal #11

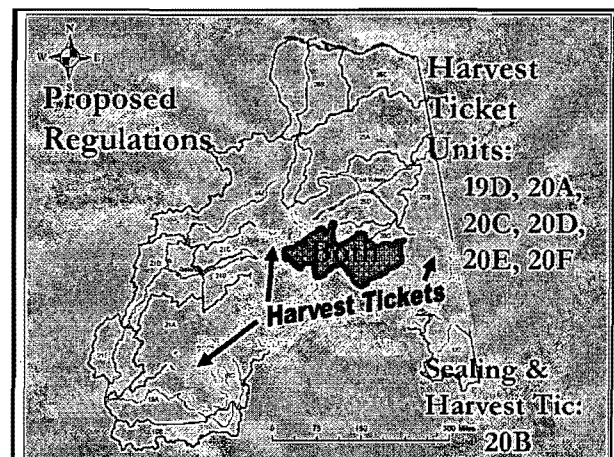
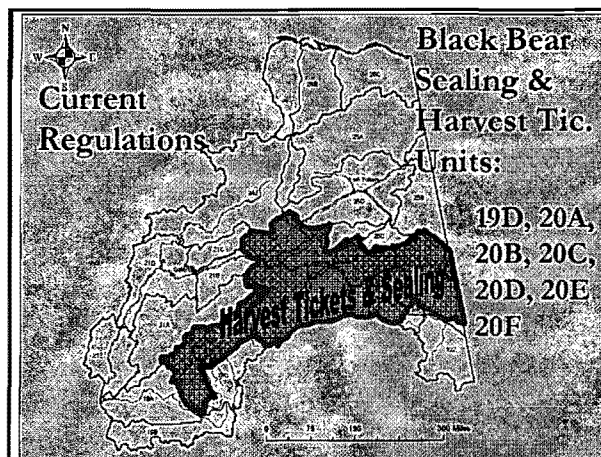
Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

Current Regulations

- Black bear sealing
 - required if hides go out of state
- All hides
- All units
- Any length of time
 - Tanned out of state

NO CHANGE

6 Proposal #11



Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20C 20E, 20F

- Sealing not needed because
- Now have harvest tickets
 - Harvest is low in each unit
 - Average = 8 to 46 bears per year
 - Black bear populations healthy
 - Low sample size (few bears sealed)
 - Tooth for age
 - Skull measurements
 - Sex ratio

9

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

Harvest Tickets

- Easy to get
 - ❖ ADF&G offices
 - ❖ License Vendors
 - ❖ Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)

10

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

Harvest Tickets

- Easy to report
 - ❖ ADF&G offices
 - ❖ Mail
 - ❖ Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)
 - ❖ No penalty for failure to report

11

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

■ Unit that needs both sealing & harvest tickets

- Unit 20B
 - High harvest
 - ❖ Average = 150 black bears /year
 - Many black bear bait stations
 - ❖ Average = 470/year
 - High hunter interest

12

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

■ **Unit 20B**

➤ Why not decrease season/bag instead of monitoring with

■ sealing

AND

■ harvest tickets?

➤ No indication of decreased population

■ No decreased age

■ No high percent of females in harvest

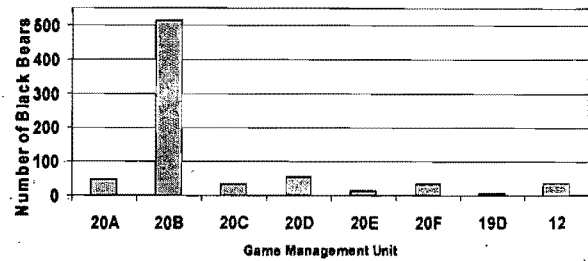
■ No change in skull size

13

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

**Average Annual Harvest
RY88-RY08**

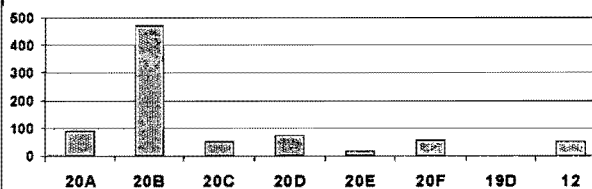


14

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

**Average Annual Bait Stations Registered
RY04-RY08**



15

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

■ **Unit 20B**

➤ No sign of decreased population

➤ Harvest Tickets & Sealing

■ more info to assess population

❖ Is hunter success decreasing?

❖ How much interest in bears?

♦ Days hunted

♦ Time of year of hunting

♦ Even if no kill

16

Proposal #11

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

**Department
Recommendation**

Adopt

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

**Department
Recommendation**

Adopt

**Proposal 11 –
Eliminate black
bear sealing in
most Units with
harvest tickets**

- Sealing data
- Hunter Info
- Hunt type
- Tag numbers
- Days hunted
- Date of Kill
- Sex
- Location

Proposal 11 – Eliminate black bear sealing in most Units with harvest tickets

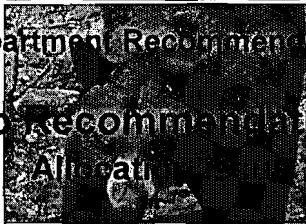
Harvest Ticket data collected

- Hunter info
- Commercial Service
- Transportation
- Hunted or not
- Days hunted (even if no kill)
- Date of Kill
- Sex
- Location

— Proposal #10 —
Allow black bear hunters in Unit 20
to salvage either hide or meat
during June 1– Dec. 31

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation



1

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

■ **Proposal request:**

- Unit 20 black bear hunters
 - ◆ June 1– Dec. 31
 - ❖ Salvage either hide or meat
 - ❖ Instead of hide

■ **Reasons:**

- Hunters required to salvage poor hides
- Meat is good

2

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

■ **Salvage of Hide or Meat Jun–Dec?**

- Hides are often poor quality
 - ◆ June–August
- Are all hides trophies?
- Hide, skull & meat salvage required some places Jan–May
- Meat salvage not required Jun–Dec
 - ◆ Meat is seldom bad tasting

3

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

■ **Salvage of Hide or Meat Jun–Dec?**

■ **Hunter preference?**

- Jun–Dec of 2005–2009
 - ◆ 968 bears harvested in Unit 20
 - ❖ average = 194 per year
 - ◆ 83% voluntarily kept meat
 - ◆ 62% kept more than 50% of meat.
 - ◆ Many prefer to salvage meat

4

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **Salvage either hide or meat Jun–Dec?**
 - No likely effect on black bear population
 - Sept–Dec hides full, not rubbed
 - ◆ Trophy value?
 - Meat salvage not required Jun–Dec
 - ◆ Meat is seldom bad tasting



5

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **Current regulation–nonsealing areas**
- 5 AAC 92.220 Salvage of game meat, furs, & hides.
 - (a)... a person...shall salvage....for human use:
 - (4) Jan 1–May 31, the edible meat
Jun 1–Dec 31, the hide or the edible meat
of a black bear taken in a unit where sealing is not required

6

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **Current regulation–sealing areas**
- 5AAC 92.220 Salvage of game meat, furs, & hides
 - (a)... a person...shall salvage....for human use:
 - (3) Jan 1–May 31, the hide, skull & edible meat,
Jun 1–Dec 31, the hide & skull of a black bear taken in a unit where sealing is required

7

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **Current regulation–sealing areas**
- (3) ...Unit 19D within the wolf predation control area the hide & skull must be salvaged
- ...Unit 19D outside the wolf predation control area the hide or edible meat must be salvaged.
- Not part of proposal

8

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **If both proposals 10 & 11 pass**
 - This proposal will only apply to Unit 20B because...
 - Unit 20B will be the only unit in the region where sealing is required
 - ◆ (and therefore hide is salvaged)
 - ◆ black bear skulls would be the only part required to be sealed because hunters could salvage the meat instead of the hide
 - ❖ Data needed to track this high harvest
 - ◆ Regulatory change to 92.220(3) needed

9

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **If proposal 10 passes, but not 11,**
- **This proposal will apply to Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, & 20F**
 - black bear skulls would be the only part required to be sealed because hunters could salvage the meat instead of the hide.
 - Regulatory change to 92.220(3) needed

10

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **If proposal 11 passed**
 - board may wish to consider whether to
 - ◆ Allow meat or hide salvage in Unit 20B &
 - ◆ Add Unit 20B change to 92.220
 - OR
 - continue to require salvage of the hide in Unit 20B during June–December
 - ◆ No change to 92.220
 - ◆ Meat salvage is optional
 - ◆ Proposal 10 request is taken care of in most of Unit 20 by changes in proposal 11

11

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

- **Pro**
 - Consistent hide requirement in all Unit 20
 - Reduce urge to bootleg
 - ◆ say bear was taken in another unit to avoid hide salvage
- **Con**
 - Hide not salvaged
 - Trophy?
 - Hide requirement not consistent with other units where sealing is required

12

Proposal #10

— Proposal #10 —
Allow black bear hunters in Unit 20
to salvage either hide or meat
during June 1– Dec. 31

5AAC 92.220(a)(4). Salvage

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation



13

Proposal #10

Proposal #10 — Allow Unit 20 black bear hunters to
salvage either hide or meat during June 1– Dec. 31

■ **Edible Meat 92.220 (17)**

➤ Means ...in the case of a black bear

➤ The meat of the front quarters and
hindquarters and meat along the
backbone (backstrap)

➤ Note: does not include rib or neck
meat as in other big game

14

Proposal #10

**Proposal #5 — Exempt National
Park lands from Customary &
Traditional Black Bear Denning**

**5AAC 92.080 (artificial light) &
5AAC 92.260 (cubs and sows
with cubs)**

**When harvesting black bears
at dens Oct 15 – April 30**

1

Proposal #5

**Proposal #5 — Exempt National
Park lands from Customary &
Traditional Black Bear Denning**

**5AAC 92.080 (artificial light) &
5AAC 92.260 (cubs and sows with cubs)
When denning Oct 15 – April 30**

Department Recommendation

**No Recommendation
Allocation Issue**

2

Proposal #5

**Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from
Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning**

■ Method History

- Ongoing but illegal many years
- Customary & Traditional Use
- C&T Worksheets
 - Found in RC 3
 - ❖ Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24
 - ❖ Unit 25

3

Proposal #5

**Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from
Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning**

■ Method History – cont.

- 2008 Board
 - legalized denning by residents only
 - October 15 – April 30
 - Artificial lights at black bear dens
 - ❖ 5AAC 92.080
 - Take of cubs and sows with cubs
 - ❖ 5AAC 92.260

4

Proposal #5

Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

■ **Method History – cont.**

➤ **2008 Board**

■ **Locations:**

- Units 24, 21B, 21C, 21D, 24, 25D,
- Units 19A, 19D East (upstream of Selatna & Black drainages)

5

Proposal #5

Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

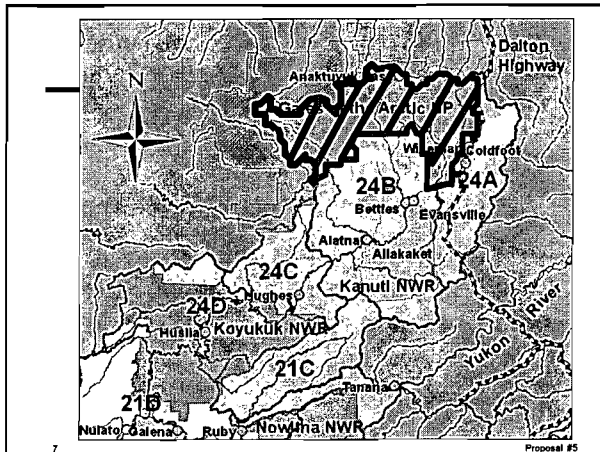
Proposal would eliminate Black Bear Denning

➤ **NPS Lands in**

- ❖ Unit 24 (Gates of Arctic)
- ❖ Eastern Unit 19D (Denali)
- **Black Bear Denning Methods**
 - ❖ Use of artificial light
 - ❖ Take of cubs & sows with cubs

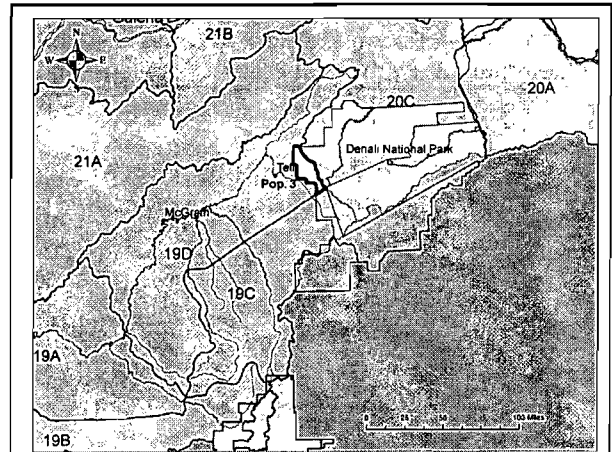
6

Proposal #5



7

Proposal #5



Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

■ **Black bear populations & harvest**

- Units 19D East & Unit 24 combined
- Population estimate
 - 2000 – 4000
- Annual harvest estimate
 - 50 – 180 bears
 - Estimated harvest by denning
 - ❖ 0–40 bears

9

Proposal #5

Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

Denning Affirmed

As Customary & Traditional by

- Fish & Game Advisory Committees
 - ❖ Koyukuk River AC (Unit 24)
 - ❖ Central Kuskokwim AC (Unit 19)
 - ❖ Unit 19D local residents
- Federal Regional Advisory Councils
 - ❖ Western Interior RAC
 - ❖ Eastern Interior RAC

10

Proposal #5

Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

■ **Black Bear Denning**

- Customary & Traditional
- Provides resident hunter opportunity
- Low harvest
- No risk to black bear populations



11

Proposal #5

Proposal #5 — Exempt National Park lands from Customary & Traditional Black Bear Denning

5AAC 92.080 (artificial light) &
5AAC 92.260 (cubs and sows with cubs)
When denning during Oct 15 – April 30

Department Recommendation

**No Recommendation
Allocation Issue**

12

Proposal #5

Proposal #1 — Correct error in beaver trapping regulations

Unit 20D & Remainder of Unit 20B

Department Recommendation

Adopt

What this proposal does:

- Corrects an error in the regulations.

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(1) Beaver		

Remainder of Unit 20B

and Unit 20D	Sept. 25–May 31	No limit
	[SEPT. 25–JUNE 10]	

What this proposal does (cont.):

- Regionwide seasons realigned spring 2008
- 2008 intent to close these areas on May 31

– Rationale

- Avoid user conflicts in June

– Lots of

People recreating

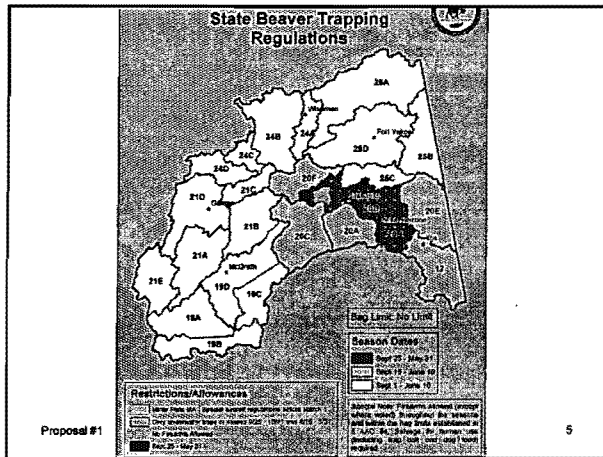
– Pets

Spring 2009 & 2010

- Closed by Emergency Order on May 31

- Avoid user conflicts

- May 31 closing printed in Trapping Regs



Proposal #1 — Correct error in Beaver Trapping Regulations

Remainder of Unit 20B and Unit 20D

Department Recommendation

Adopt



Delta Bison Management Plan

RC 118

Randy - I would like to offer some comments on the efforts of the Bison Working Group. I've only attended the one meeting on the 8th so I'm not familiar with all the discussions and efforts you've made previously. Please forward this to the Working Group as appropriate.

Herd Size - The ADF&G Bison Management Plan is supposed to balance the herd size with the forage habitat available to the animals on public lands. The Plan is aware of the natural migratory habits of the animals and should work to modify those habits. If the bison end up relying on private land forage to sustain themselves and this results in an excessive financial loss to landowners then it appears the management plan has failed and the department needs to be held accountable for corrective action. Commercial agriculture should expect and accept a certain amount of wildlife impact on their farms but when that damage jeopardizes their financial solvency then corrective action is needed.

Hopefully the Working Group will find solutions that will reduce the pressure on private landowners but without action the department may be forced to reduce herd size to bring their management plan into balance.

The hunting community won't want the numbers reduced but agriculture shouldn't bear the brunt of overgrazing or uncontrolled migration habits. If the grain fields didn't exist then these same bison would be in downtown Delta creating damage and public safety issues.

Fencing - I was surprised to find that the Working Group and staff had such limited knowledge on fencing practices, animal control techniques with fencing, and fencing costs. I've been involved with the construction of livestock & game fencing, sale of fence materials, and exclusion of wildlife from property for over 20 years. I've designed and built many miles of fence, I know how livestock and wildlife react to fencing, and I have records of construction cost. Fencing is one tool that can alleviate the bison problem but it isn't the only solution. The fence "IN" principle may be the idealistic solution but it isn't practical and not worth pursuing. The statutes of the State of Alaska, the mindset of ADF&G, and public opinion will never tolerate the concept of enclosing wildlife in fenced compounds. In addition, a fence requires continuous maintenance and the State has a terrible track record of building capital assets and ignoring maintenance. Even a drift fence, if deemed acceptable, would become victim to the adaptable nature of bison and be circumvented. The fence "OUT" practice is always available to landowners to protect crops and property but the capital investment is high and difficult to cash flow on a marginal crop. A cost share program could permit a landowner to construct a long term asset and gain the added benefits of security and increased crop yields. To provide a public benefit to a cost share program, one option could stipulate that the fenced fields would only exclude animals during the harvest season, say August and September, and the gates reopened to allow the animals to feed on the residue during late fall and winter. This would require a careful design of the fence layout with adequate gates to allow the animals avenues of access and egress. Also the fenced fields would need to be large enough to prevent unintended confinement. The fence design and materials used can influence the cost of building the fence as well as its effectiveness at controlling access. The costs that were bantered about during the meeting are much higher than we have experienced with our construction. That is not to say a design agency like NRCS or DOT can't over-design a fence and run the costs up. Material requirements are a factor of the nature of the animals confined, the terrain & soil conditions, the design principles of the wire, and the availability of post materials. Labor & equipment cost can vary with employee skill, installation techniques, and the availability of specialized equipment.

Solutions - I don't think its realistic to rely on one solution (fencing) to solve the bison impact problem. The complexity of the problem requires several options to address site specific issues and meet the expectations of differing public expectations. It may be a combination of 1) reducing the bison numbers so the free range habitat will support the numbers without a burden to private crops, 2) barricading with fencing to keep bison off certain fields during harvest, and/or 3) compensating farmers for their losses. A method to compensate for bison damage may be to implement a

"bison crop insurance program". It could be patterned after existing crop insurance programs currently offered by the USDA-FSA (Farm Service Agency). To qualify, a farmer could buy insurance with a reasonable premium but the premiums alone wouldn't cover the claims. Public funds from an appropriation or a portion of bison license fees could capitalize the insurance. If a claim is made, an adjuster could review the damage and provide payment. FSA has the experience and structure and could possibly administer the program under a MOU from the funding entity. In my opinion if the insurance is subsidized with public funds then it should only cover excessive losses and not be used to recover profits. That may balance the normal losses expected by the farmers with the excessive damage caused by public wildlife on private lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Delta Bison Management Plan and the efforts of the Working Group. An impasse or failure to find solutions is not an option. If you have any questions on my experience with fencing feel free to contact me.

Bill Ward

Proposal 34 from Statewide Board meeting Jan. 2010 with corrections

PROPOSAL - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans

(xx) **Unit 15A Northern Kenai Intensive Management Area.** GMU 15A encompasses 1314 square miles (840,960 acres) and includes that portion of GMU 15 which is north of the north bank of the Kenai River and the north shore of Skilak Lake. Approximately 80% of the land mass in GMU 15A is managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct an intensive management program on the Kenai Peninsula in Unit 15(A):

(1) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:

(A) the Northern Kenai Peninsula moose population information is as follows:

(i) the Northern Kenai Peninsula moose population information is as follows:

(a) the most recent moose population peak occurred in 1971; the near absence of wolves from 1913-1968, and the increased moose productivity following the 1947 wildfire (approx. 309,000 acres) were two events that led to increased moose numbers throughout the 1950's and 1960's, although harvest seasons were long and either-sex harvest was allowed, the moose population increased beyond carrying capacity and extensive over-browsing occurred by the late 1960's,

(b) a wildfire in 1969 (approx. 79,000 acres) that initially reduced moose habitat in GMU 15A, coupled with harsh winters in 1971-1974 caused the moose population in GMU 15A to decrease by 59% [47%] (from 5298 [5900] to 2175 [2500]) by 1975; after the low number in 1975, new habitat created by the 1969 burn and more favorable winter condition, allowed the GMU 15A moose population to grow until the mid-1990's; the ADF&G conducted moose censuses in GMU 15A during February of 1991, 2001, and 2008 with respective point estimates of 3432 [2931], 2068 [1704], and 1670;

(c) since 1991 moose harvest followed a similar pattern with annual variation over this same time period; the peak reported harvest during this period (1991-2008) was 271 [260] animals in 1998 [1996] and the 2008 reported harvest was 113 [101] moose.

(d) 75% of the collared adult cows in GMU 15A were pregnant in March 2007, as identified from blood samples; this compares to pregnancy rates of 85-90% in the sub alpine portion of GMU 7 which is adjacent to GMU 15A; lower pregnancy rates in the lower elevations indicate habitat may be limiting the growth of the population;

(e) the percent calves in the moose population for GMU 15A is about half of what it was during the 1990's (down from about 22% to 11% during our last full composition survey in 2005).

(f) over-all bull ratios have been consistent since the 1990's.

(g) the intensive management objectives for moose are as follows:
Moose population objective of 3000—3500 moose; harvest objective of 180-350 moose.

(ii) the predator population and human use information is as follows

(a) wolves are a major predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula;
(b) the wolf population in GMU 15A is believed to be stable, anecdotal evidence obtained from biologists, pilots, trappers, and local residents indicates that the wolf population is healthy throughout the area;

(c) an average of 8 wolves (range of 2 to 16 wolves) have been harvested annually in GMU 15A since 1991/92;

(d) brown bears are also considered to be a predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula, but the extent of their predation has not been documented; while brown bears have been known to kill adult moose opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 6 weeks of life;

(e) anecdotal information combined with available data indicate the Northern Kenai Peninsula supports a healthy brown bear population.

(f) human caused brown bear mortalities in GMU 15A have averaged 7 (range, 1—~~16~~[15]) brown bear annually from 2000 to 2008;

(h) black bears are also an important predator of moose calves during the first 6 weeks of life;

(i) black bears are considered abundant in GMU 15A with a 1991 population estimate of 205 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1947 burn and 265 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1969 burn, black bear harvests have averaged 44 bears annually during 1991/92 – 2007/08, this compares to an annual average of 27 bears from 1973/74-1977/78;

(B) moose habitat information is as follows:

(i) the history of fire on the Kenai Peninsula has generally involved human caused fires. Natural fires from lightning strikes are rare, but have increased in frequency in recent years.

(ii) the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge initiated a fire management program in 1985 in part from the objectives set in their moose habitat management plan.

(a) since 1970, wildfires have only burned about 10000 [4500] acres in GMU 15A.

(b) since 1995, controlled burns have encompassed 1795 acres in GMU 15A;

(iii) moose population objectives for Unit 15A are to maintain 3000-3500 moose, the moose population objective for Unit 15A is not currently being met;

(C) the commissioner may initiate a habitat enhancement program with the concurrence of the land owners to increase the moose population given the following thresholds:

(i) the bull-to-cow ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf-to-cow ratio can be sustained above 20 calves per hundred cows; or pregnancy rates above 80% for adult cows ;

(ii) the population can grow at a sustained rate of 2% annually until we are within our intensive management objectives

- (D) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:
- (i) for up to 10 years beginning July 1, 2010,
 - (ii) annually the Department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring meeting a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose population, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(1-31-10) SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT ON PROPOSED BOARD OF GAME
PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND CYCLE CHANGE

Advisory Committee	Comment number, BOG Jan. 2010 meeting	AC meeting date(s)	A. Annual proposal deadline	B. Three-year cycle
Southeast Region				
Angoon (inactive)				
Craig	AC 29	Jan. 29	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
East Prince of Wales				
Edna Bay	AC 4	Jan. 12	no comment	no comment
Elfin Cove (inactive)				
Hydaburg (inactive)				
Hyder (inactive)				
Icy Strait				
Juneau/Douglas	AC2	Jan. 8	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kake (inactive)				
Ketchikan	AC1	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
Klawock				
Klukwan				
Pelican (inactive)				
Petersburg	RC8			COMMENT
Port Alexander (inactive)				
Saxman	AC 13	Jan. 12	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Sitka	AC5	Jan. 7	no comment	SUPPORT
Sumner Strait				
Tenakee (inactive)				
Upper Lynn Canal				
Wrangell	AC3	Jan. 12	no comment	OPPOSE
Yakutat				
Southcentral Region				
Anchorage	RC23	Dec. 29, Jan. 5	SUPPORT w/Am	OPPOSE
Central Peninsula	AC18	Jan. 13	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Cooper Landing	AC22	Jan. 15	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Copper Basin	AC17	Jan. 5	no comment	no comment
Copper River/PWS	AC30	Nov. 2	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Denali	AC14	Dec. 30, Jan. 19	no comment	no comment
Homer	AC28	Jan. 12	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Kenai/Soldotna	AC19	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
Matanuska Valley	AC13, AC16, AC32	Dec. 9	comment	comment
Mount Yenlo				
Paxson				
Seldovia	AC11, AC28	Dec. 8	no comment	no comment
Seward	AC24	Jan. 14	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Susitna Valley				
Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road				
Tyonek	AC31	Dec. 4	comment	comment
PWS/Valdez				
Whittier				

Submitted by ADF-6, Boards Support

Advisory Committee	Comment number, BOG Jan. 2010 meeting	AC meeting date(s)	A. Annual proposal deadline	B. Three-year cycle
Southwest Region				
Chignik				
False Pass				
King Cove (inactive)				
Kodiak				
Lake Iliamna				
Lower Bristol Bay				
Naknek/Kvichak	AC27	Jan. 11 letter	no comment	no comment
Nelson Lagoon				
Nushagak	AC33	Jan. 6	no comment	no comment
Sand Point				
Togiak				
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor				
Western Region				
Central Bering Sea				
Central Kuskokwim				
Lower Kuskokwim				
Lower Yukon	AC6	Oct. 7	no comment	no comment
Stony-Holitsna	AC15	Dec. 28	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Arctic Region				
North Slope	AC8	Jan. 14	no comment	no comment
Kotzebue	AC21	Jan. 12	no comment	no comment
Lower Kobuk	AC23	Dec. 1	no comment	no comment
Noatak/Kivalina	AC20			
Northern Norton Sound	AC12			
Northern Seward Penn.	AC16			
Southern Norton Sound				
St. Lawrence Island (inactive)				
Upper Kobuk	AC20			
Interior Region				
Central				
Delta	AC26	no date listed	no comment	no comment
Eagle				
Fairbanks	AC32	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
GASH				
Koyukuk River				
Lake Minchumina (inactive)				
McGrath				
Middle Nenana River	AC7	Jan. 4	no comment	no comment
Middle Yukon River				
Minto/Nenana				
Ruby				
Tanana/Rampart/Manley				
Upper Tanana/40 Mile	AC25	no date listed	no comment	SUPPORT
Yukon Flats				

COMPARISON OF CURRENT TWO-YEAR CYCLE¹ AND PROPOSED THREE-YEAR CYCLE

Cycle year	Current Board of Game two-year cycle	Proposed Board of Game three-year cycle
2009/2010	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)
2010/2011	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2011/2012 <i>(transition year)</i>	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)
2012/2013	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2013/2014	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southeast (Region I) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)
2014/2015	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Interior (Region III)
2015/2016	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2016/2017	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southeast (Region I) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)
2017/2018	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Interior (Region III)
2018/2019	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2019/2020	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southeast (Region I) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)

¹ Statewide topics are currently on a four-year cycle.

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¹ Statewide topics are currently on a four-year cycle.

RC 121

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-6085
FAX: (907) 465-6078

MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Larsen, Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation

FROM: Tom Lawson, Director

DATE: February 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Minto Flats Moose Permit Hunt Issues

One of the duties of the Division of Administrative Services is to keep the general public and state employees safe and to mitigate, as feasible, potential unsafe conditions that are within our control. The purpose of this memo is to request your assistance in resolving serious public health and safety concerns arising out of the current practice of issuing moose registration permits from the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Fairbanks regional office building for the Minto Flats hunts – RM775 and RM785.

The registration permits, administered by the Division of Wildlife Conservation on behalf of the Board of Game, are issued simultaneously at Fairbanks, Nenana and Minto. To better assure a chance at obtaining a permit, people or “stakeholders” line up four or more days prior to the drawing. This practice has been occurring since 2004 when the Board of Game converted these hunts from a Tier 2 hunt to a limited registration hunt, and the last two to three distributions has shown a growth in number of applicants and number of days people line up prior to the issuance of the permits. The practice of dozens of stakeholders (80-100 in August, 50-60 in January) literally “camping out” in the ADF&G Fairbanks office parking lot and grounds has created several public safety hazards and resulted in uncomfortable conditions for ADF&G employees. Attached are several pictures that document the situation. It is in the best interest of the public and the state to review this permitting process with the goal of alleviating the potential for injury, damages, and/or liability.

Following is a list of the public health and safety concerns arising from this situation:

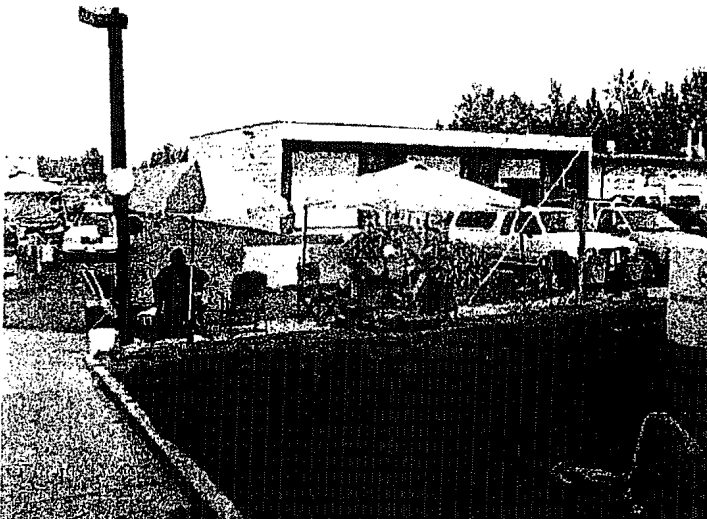
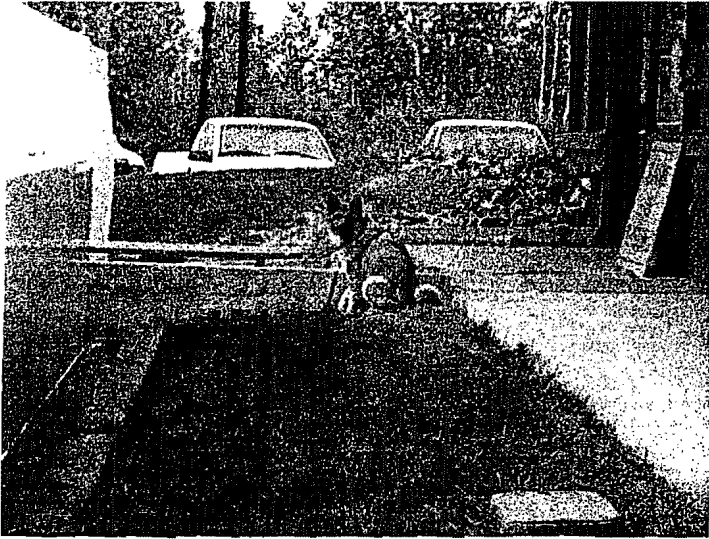
- *Emergency Vehicle Access and Congestion Hazards:*
 - ✓ The stakeholders pitch tents blocking fire lanes, sidewalks, and shop access.
 - ✓ Stakeholders park their personal vehicles in the ADF&G fire lanes.
 - ✓ During cold periods, employees have had difficulties finding plug-ins for their vehicles when they come to work.

- *Premises Hazards:*
 - ✓ The children and pets of stakeholders create a hazard when biologists, preparing for field trips, are driving trucks in the area with boats and trailers attached.
 - ✓ An unsupervised child at one point almost got hit by a vehicle driving through the parking lot.
 - ✓ Unsafe extension cords and space heaters are being used on the premises.
 - ✓ Stakeholders bring their pets which creates the potential for dog bites and/or dog fights.
- *Security Hazards:* There is a concern for both the safety and security of people camping on the premises for four or more days, the general public doing business at the Fairbanks office, and ADF&G employees.
- *Disturbances in the Workplace:*
 - ✓ Last summer, there were two infants, small children and pets running around the compound where employees are trying to work.
 - ✓ In another instance, two men were playing loud video games while an employee was trying to work in the evening.
 - ✓ In January, at the last permit dispersal, a stakeholder unplugged a state truck (the cord was never found) and the employee was unable to leave for field work as he had to thaw out the state vehicle.
 - ✓ In another event, one of our employees, 8 months pregnant at the time, had to cross through several tents, and move chairs to get to her vehicle in the parking lot. No one offered to assist her.
- *Public Drinking:* There have been instances of drinking and the potential of other possible illegal activities.
- *Sanitary Conditions:* ADF&G rented outhouses last summer to address sanitary issues. However, this did not alleviate the problem – an ADF&G employee, on her way to work, was exposed to two stakeholders relieving themselves in the woods across Creamer's Lane.
- *Extra Expense:* Stakeholders plug into the head bolt outlets for days to obtain electricity and outhouses need to be rented.

For the reasons stated above, I am seeking your assistance, along with those receiving a copy of this memo, to revise the permitting process so that stakeholders do not camp at the ADF&G Fairbanks office compound for days to obtain a permit. If this is not feasible, we will need to consider other alternatives, including security/crowd control measures, likely an extra expense cost allocated to ADF&G divisions, to ensure the safety of the public, employees, and the facility. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Attachments

cc: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner
Pat Valkenburg, Deputy Commissioner
Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Board of Game
David James, Regional Supervisor, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks
Chris Vaughan, Administrative Officer II, Division of Administrative Services, Fairbanks
Kevin Saxby, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law





RC 122

26-LS1207\R

HOUSE BILL NO. 267

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KELLY AND NEUMAN, Tammie Wilson

Introduced: 1/19/10

Referred: Transportation, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to travel by snow machine within five miles of the right-of-way of the
2 James Dalton Highway."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 19.40.210 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.** Off-road vehicles are
6 prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway. However, this
7 prohibition does not apply to

8 (1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration,
9 development, production, or transportation;

10 (2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway
11 and who must use land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway to gain
12 access to the mining claim; or

13 (3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway between
14 October 1 and April 30 [CORRIDOR FROM LAND OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR

1 TO ACCESS LAND OUTSIDE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR; THIS
2 PARAGRAPH DOES NOT PERMIT THE USE OF A SNOW MACHINE FOR ANY
3 PURPOSE WITHIN THE CORRIDOR IF THE USE BEGINS OR ENDS WITHIN
4 THE CORRIDOR OR WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY OR IF
5 THE USE IS FOR TRAVEL WITHIN THE CORRIDOR THAT IS PARALLEL TO
6 THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY; IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "HIGHWAY
7 CORRIDOR" MEANS LAND WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY
8 OF THE HIGHWAY].

26th Legislature(2009-2010)

Bill History/Action for 26th Legislature

BILL: HB 267

SHORT TITLE: SNOW MACHINE USE IN DALTON HWY
CORRIDOR

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (H) TRA

STATUS DATE: 01/19/10

THEN RES

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) KELLY, NEUMAN, T.Wilson

TITLE: "An Act relating to travel by snow machine within five miles of the right-of-way of the James Dalton Highway."

Bill Number:

[Search Bills](#)

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[Sponsor Statement](#)

[Display Committee Action with Bill History](#)

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/08/10	1278	(H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/10
01/19/10	1278	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/19/10	1278	(H) TRA, RES
01/19/10	1278	(H) REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION
01/27/10	1356	(H) COSPONSOR(S): T.WILSON

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[EASEMENTS](#)

[HIGHWAYS](#)

[MOTOR VEHICLES](#)

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[Next Bill](#)

[Return to Basis Main Menu \(26th Legislature\)](#)

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01/27/10	1356	(H) COSPONSOR(S): T WILSON

[Similar Subject Match](#) or [Exact Subject Match](#)[EASEMENTS](#)[HIGHWAYS](#)[MOTOR VEHICLES](#)

Bill Number:

[Display Bill](#)[Next Bill](#)[Return to Basis Main Menu \(26th Legislature\)](#)

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

ron Bloomquist, Chair
707 Honeysuckle St #C
Anchorage, AK 99502
Home: 907-677-0405
Cell: 907-982-2471
Email: bloomya@hotmail.com

RC 123

Date: 12/01/09
To: Governor Sean Parnell; Denby Lloyd - Commissioner ADF&G; Alaska State Legislature; Kristy Tibbles – Executive Director Board of Game; Alaska AC Chairs; Jim Marcotte – Executive director Board of Fisheries, ADF&G Directors, Board of Fisheries, Board of Game
Re: **Timely Receipt of Management Reports & ADF&G Comments and Regarding Board Cycle Restructuring**

The Anchorage Advisory Committee and the public in general are concerned with the recent difficulty we are having regarding our ability to receive wildlife management reports and ADF&G comments prior to the deadlines for Board of Game (BOG) and Board of Fish(BOF) meetings. We appreciate local area biologist's willingness to attend our meetings but our AC in particular is often compelled to submit proposals and comments for GMU's statewide. The committee feels it is imperative that we have current management reports or data sets. We need access to the same data that the department will be using at the BOG / BOF meeting. Our ability to effectively address citizen issues of concern is negatively impacted when the committee does not have the same data, or is unaware of department comments, regarding upcoming discussions on management concerns.

The committee is also concerned that the proposed 3 year board cycle will only exacerbate the problem. The proposed deadline for comments is in March for the following winter, November to March, BOG meetings. As you are aware, harvest data and population surveys are often completed in November and December. The committee feels we would be at a significant disadvantage if we were required to submit comments so far in advance when the department will be using more current data at the meetings. It is also very difficult to build relationships with board members, staff, and public in a three year cycle. Most committees only attend meetings relevant to their local area. It is conceivable that the entire board could turn over in the three years between cycles. It is difficult for the Anchorage AC to keep up an ongoing relationship with Board of Fisheries members and other participants even though we attend more meetings than most committees. One year may not seem like a dramatic change but there is a very significant communication disparity between the two year BOG cycle and the three year BOF cycle. Effective communication between committees, the public and individual board members and staff is crucial to develop proposals and pass equitable regulations.



We are also concerned that the public is being asked to compromise regarding their ability to participate in developing wildlife regulations. We fully appreciate the time commitments the existing 2 year cycle demands on the department. We feel much of the problem lies in the fact that the Alaska legislature has been unwilling to fund the department at a level sufficient to allow for participation at the current 2 year cycle. Another concern is the ability of regional AC's to attract members may be negatively impacted if the individual only gets one opportunity to participate in a BOG meeting for his/her region. Several seats on our committees are for only one year as well.

We do acknowledge, moving the BOF meeting to alternate years from the BOG meeting is a significant improvement. The Anchorage AC strongly supports improving the situation but we also want to be sure increased funding for the department is also being considered, and aggressively sought by the department to alleviate the difficulties both the AC's and the department are facing with the current 2 year cycle

An alternative or addition to a board cycle restructuring may be to change the regulatory year from the current July 1 – June 30 to a January 1 – December 31 year. This should allow more time to produce regulatory language, a single call for proposals, current data BEFORE proposals are drafted, a month separation between major spring BOG and BOF meetings, and department comments in time for public review. The proposal deadline could be December 1 after most game surveys are finished. Board meetings would be held February through April with the shortest meeting first to allow more time for more complicated meetings. Staff will have a full six months to get regulations compiled and submitted for publishing. Biologists will have a few extra months to finalize data before the BOG meetings. Hunters will have more time to plan for busy hunting seasons with new regulation booklets available in December. This idea seems to be the preferred public option and was approved unanimously by the committee.

The Anchorage AC looks forward to working cooperatively with the department to address these concerns. We also request that the Alaska legislature realize the importance of our unique opportunity as residents of Alaska to participate in the development of wildlife policy. It is our hope the legislature will agree and fully fund the mission of the department and the regional AC's. In particular the rural AC's are having a very difficult time due to increased travel costs, long distances between villages and the fact that many rural AC's currently do not have a local AC coordinator to facilitate and support rural AC meetings and dissemination of meeting notes.

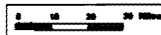
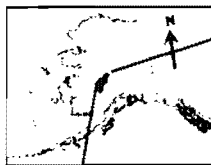
The Anchorage AC voted unanimously to send this letter.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Response of Moose to Removal of Bears and Public Wolf Control Near McGrath, Alaska



Study Area



180 East (8,513 mi²)

"the BOG has authorized the Department to conduct predator removals within this entire area."

EMMA (528 mi²)

"8 black bears and 6 grizzly bears (13 in all) captured and removed May 11-21, 2003 (80% by the resident during May 22). 54 black bears (7 females) and 1 grizzly bear captured and removed May 1-22, 2004 (100% by resident during day). In total, the department removed 142 individual black bears and 7 grizzly bears from the area."

"44 black bears were captured using aerial search followed by helicopter capture. 12 black bears were captured using leg snares. Three grizzly bears were captured using aerial search, 2 with leg snares, and 2 with radio-equipped leg snares."

Original wolf control zone (3,210 mi²)

"public aerial wolf reduction was allowed between FY03 and present in this area. The intent was to focus control efforts on those wolves that resided/ utilized the EMMA. Take of wolves in the 3,210 mi² area has been:

Year	Total take	GDA take
2003/04	27	17
2004/05	22	14
2005/06	11	4
2006/07	12	2
2007/08	19	17
2008/09	21	15

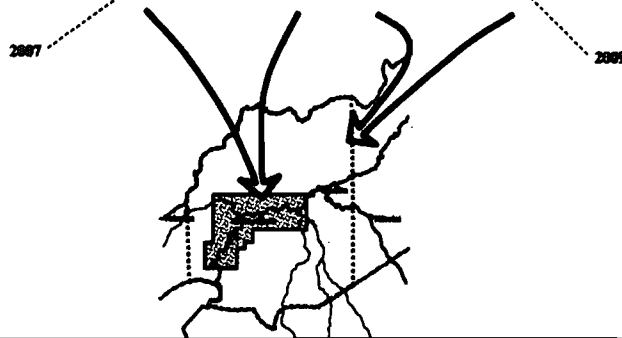
Moose Management Area (1,118 mi²)

"this area best captures the moose population in the McGrath area, based on radio collar data and population modeling."

HS/ 28

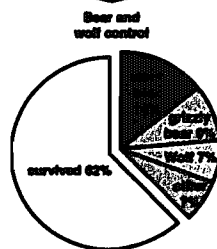
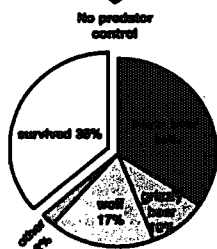
Estimates of black bears and wolves in the McGrath area pre- and post-control

	Black Bears (632km ² EMDA)		Wolves (3,218km ² wolf control area)	
	Population estimate	Density (bears/100km ²)	Population estimate	Density (wolves/100km ²)
Pre-control	96	18	47	1.5
Immediate post-control	4	0.8	11	0.3
Most recent estimate	70	13	16	0.5



Survival of McGrath area moose calves

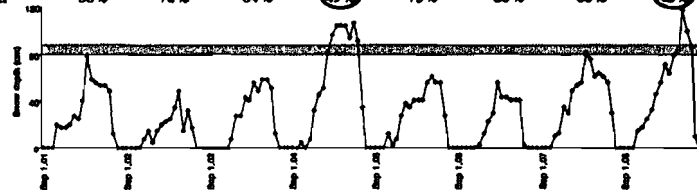
Season	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Summer/Fall	37%	36%	62%	79%	54%	73%	45%	54%	55%



Wolf control or 'predator sampling'?

Survival of McGrath area moose calves

Season	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Summer/Fall	37%	36%	62%	79%	54%	73%	45%	54%	55%
Winter	88%	76%	84%	89%	75%	86%	80%	42%	-



Survival of McGrath area moose calves

Season	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Summer/Fall	37%	36%	62%	79%	54%	73%	45%	54%	55%
Winter	88%	76%	84%	89%	75%	86%	80%	42%	-
Annual	33%	26%	51%	40%	41%	63%	35%	23%	-

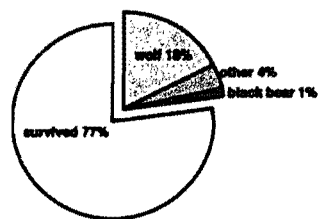
Annual survival = summer survival (function of predators) x winter survival (function of weather)

Survival of McGrath area yearling moose

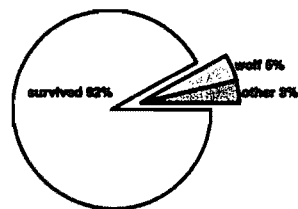
Annual survival

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
83%	74%	75%	94%	96%	84%	--	92%	--

No wolf control



Wolf control



Survival of McGrath area yearling moose

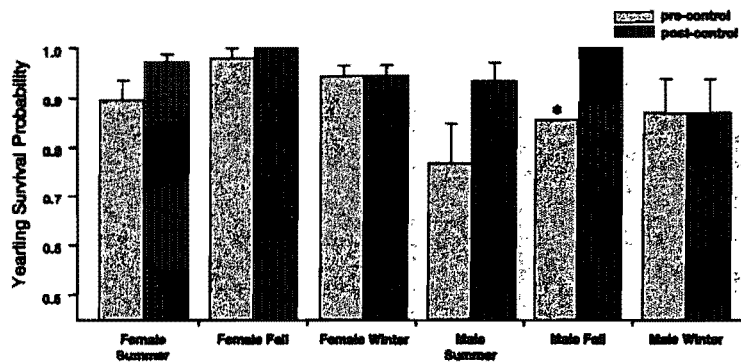
Annual survival

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
83%	74%	75%	94%	96%	84%	--	92%	--

Winter survival during deep snow winters 96%

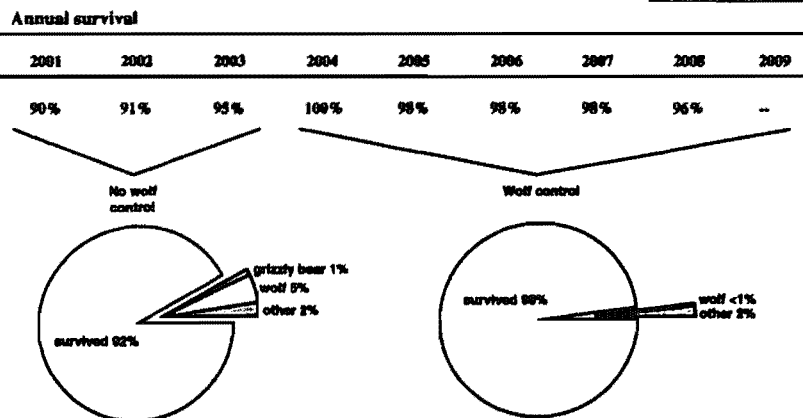
92%

Survival of McGrath area yearling moose



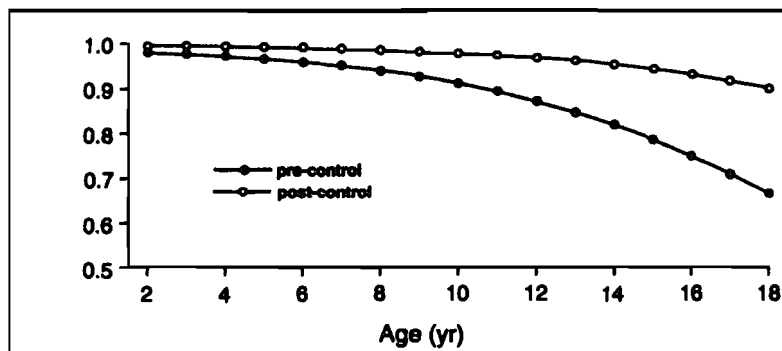
Yearling survival is higher for females

Survival of McGrath area adult moose



*Adult survival is heavily influenced by age

Survival of McGrath area adult moose



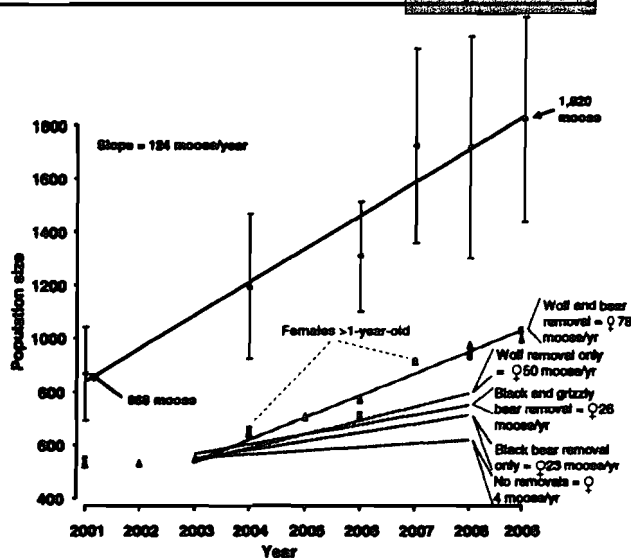
*Adult survival is heavily influenced by age

Moose Management Area population trends

Moose numbers within the management area have increased since 2001.

Data from radioed moose is consistent with survey data and can be used to create models to predict outcomes of alternative actions:

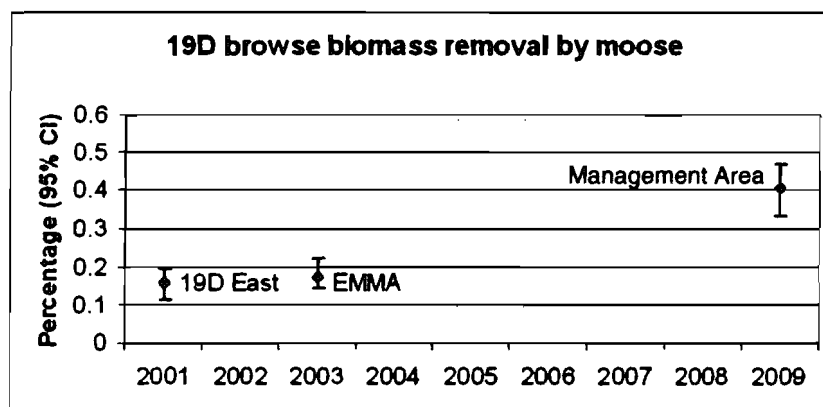
- 1) What would have happened if we had taken no action?
- 2) What would have happened if we only had wolf control?
- 3) What would have happened if we only had bear removals?
- 4) What would have happened if we only had black bear removals?



Reproduction and condition indices

Year	Observed rate of parturition for radiocollared cows > 2 yr-of-age (n)	Observed rate of twinning for radiocollared cows > 2 yr-of-age (n)	Observed rate of twinning for uncollared cows (n)	Newborn weights in kg (n)		10-month-old calf weights in kg (n)
				Singletons	Twins	
2001	73% (22)	25% (16)	—	18.1 (24)	15.8 (20)	178.1 (15)
2002	88% (25)	59% (22)	39% (46)	16.8 (17)	15.7 (37)	191.4 (15)
2003	84% (31)	24% (25)	36% (39)	17.7 (23)	14.9 (20)	179.2 (15)
2004	80% (40)	32% (31)	39% (31)	18.2 (23)	14.5 (26)	184.5 (15)
2005	92% (51)	44% (45)	50% (40)	15.9 (20)	13.3 (32)	174.8 (15)
2006	97% (62)	40% (60)	35% (29)	15.6 (15)	13.1 (30)	167.9 (15)
2007	95% (59)	52% (56)	50% (30)	16.5 (14)	13.8 (23)	185.3 (15)
2008	88% (58)	55% (51)	—	—	—	—
2009	85% (52)	33% (43)	26% (87)	—	—	160.7 (15)

Browse usage in the McGrath area



Board of Game Meeting Cycles & Proposal Deadline

March 1, 2010
Region III BOG Meeting

Conflicts Between BOF and BOG Cycles

Cycle	Board of Fisheries (3 year cycle)	Board of Game (2 year cycle)
2009-2010	Bristol Bay AK Peninsula/Aleutians AYK	Reg. V Statewide Reg. III
2010-2011	Cook Inlet Kodiak & Chignik	Reg. I Reg. II
2011-2012	PWS Southeast/Yakutat Finfish Southeast/Yakutat Shellfish	Reg. V Statewide Reg. III
2012-2013	Bristol Bay Area AK Peninsula/Aleutians AYK	Reg. I Reg. II
2013-2014	Cook Inlet Kodiak & Chignik Areas	Reg. V Statewide Reg. III
2014-2015	PWS Southeast/Yakutat	Reg. I Reg. II

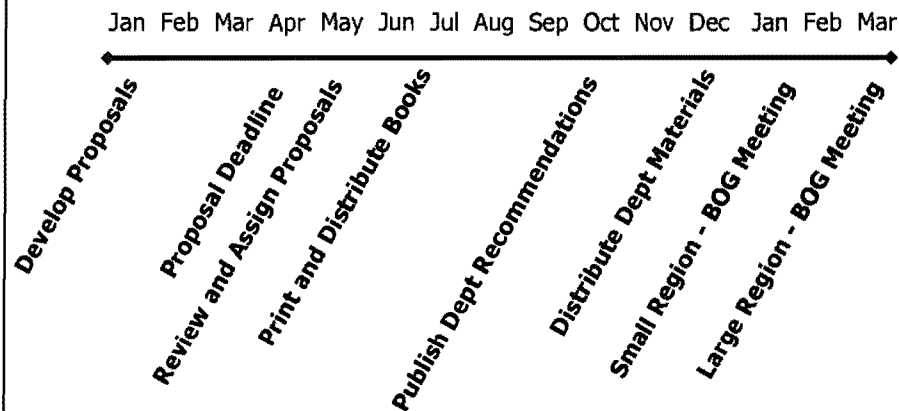
Sequence and timing of meetings in 3-year cycle

Cycle	Regional Groups	Meeting Time
2012-2013	<i>Region I</i> <i>Region II</i>	Late January Late March
2013-2014	<i>Statewide</i> <i>Region III</i>	Late January Late March
2014-2015	<i>Region V</i> <i>Region IV</i>	Late January Late March

Transition from 2-year to 3-year cycle

Cycle	2-Year Cycle	3-Year Cycle
2009-2010	Reg. V Statewide - A Reg. III	Reg. V Statewide – A Reg. III
2010-2011	Reg. I Reg. II	Reg. I Reg. II (Reg. IV ?)
2011-2012	Reg. V Statewide - B Reg. III	Reg. V Statewide – B Reg. III
2012-2013	Reg. I Reg. II	Reg. I Reg. II & IV?
2013-2014	Reg. V Statewide - A Reg. III	Statewide Reg. III
2014-2015	Reg. I Reg. II	Reg. V Reg. IV
2015-2016	Reg. V Statewide - B Reg. III	Reg. I Reg. II

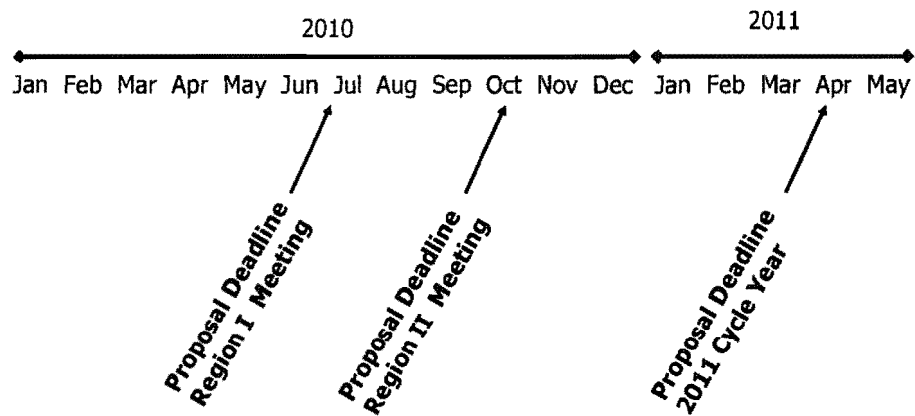
Timeline for Single Call for Proposals



Lead time (weeks) before a BOG Meeting when an activity will be completed.

Activity	Current	Proposed
Publish Proposal Books	8	20
Publish Department Recommendations	4	8
Distribute Department Materials	--	4

Transition to Single Call for Proposals



Comparison of 2-year and 3-year cycles with and without single call for proposal

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Board Meeting	Current 2-yr Cycle		
	21 mo.	3 mo.	
	2-yr Cycle with Single Call for Proposals		
	15-16 mo.	8-9 mo.	
	3-yr Cycle with Single Call for Proposals		
	27-28 mo.		8-9 mo.

RC 126

Proposal 104 Amended Language

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
----------------------------	---	------------------------------------

...

(21)

...

Unit 26(B) that portion north of
69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east
bank of the Kuparuk River to a point
at 70° 10' N. lat, 149° 04' W. long.,
then west approximately 22 miles to
70° 10' N. lat., and 149° 56' W. long.,
then following the east bank of the
Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; [10 CARIBOU]
however; only bull caribou may
be taken May 16-June 30

July 1-June 30 [APR. 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1-Apr. 30

Unit 26(B) south of 69° 30' N. lat.
(Milepost 362 Dalton Highway)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however only bull
caribou may be taken
May 16-June 30

July 1-June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however only bull
caribou may be taken
May 16-June 30

July 1-June 30

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**5 [2] caribou; [HOWEVER, COW
CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN
ONLY FROM OCT. 1-APRIL 30]**

July 1-Apr. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; [2 BULLS]

July 1-Apr. 30

RC 127

Proposal 99 Amended Language

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident Open
Season (Subsistence
and General
Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

(20)

Unit 25(A), those portions east
of the east bank of the East
Fork Chandalar River extending
from its confluence with the
Chandalar River upstream
to Guillbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and the
remainder of Unit 25(D)

[UNITS 25(A), 25(B), AND THE
REMAINDER OF 25(D)]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
10 caribou

July 1–Apr. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull
[5 CARIBOU]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
[JULY 1–APR. 30]

Unit 25(A), remainder

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
10 caribou; however only
bulls may be taken
May 16–June 30

July 1–June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou; however only
bulls may be taken
May 16–June 30

July 1–June 30

...

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only
bull caribou may be taken
June 23-June 30

July 1-Apr. 30
June 23-June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull
[5 CARIBOU]

Aug 1-Sept. 30
[JULY 1-APR. 30]

RC 128

Northeast Alaska Area

Area Biologist: Beth Lenart, Fairbanks

Asst. Area Biologist: Jason Caikoski, Fairbanks

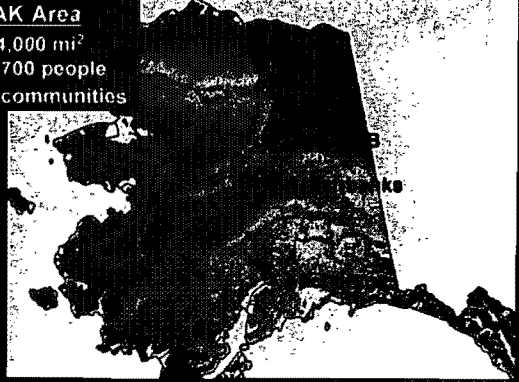
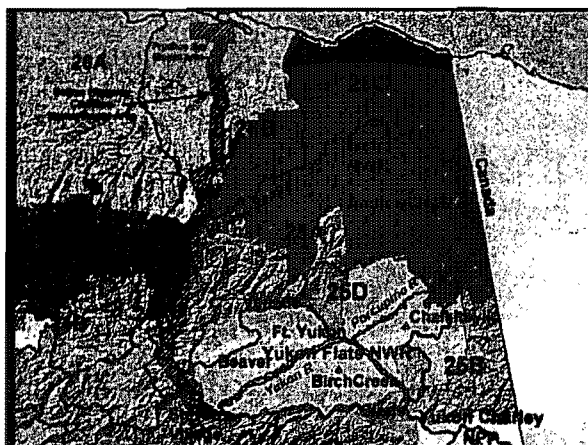
Units: 25A, 25B, 25D, 25E & 25C

Includes upper Yukon drainage
and central and eastern north slope
(73,300 mi²)

Northeast Alaska Area

NEAK Area

- 74,000 mi²
- 1,700 people
- 9 communities

State Advisory Committees

- Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
- Arctic Advisory Committee

Federal Regional Advisory Councils

- Eastern Interior
- North Slope

BLACK BEAR

Unit 25

- Abundant & lightly harvested
- Black bear abundance estimate (spring 2010)
- Effects of bear predation on moose in Unit 25D
- IM objectives to increase black bear harvest

2 Proposals

BROWN BEAR

Unit 25

- Moderate density
- Low harvest in 25B & D
- Moderate harvest in western 25A

Unit 26B & 26C

- Low density in 26B & 26C
- Low to moderate harvest

Effects of bear predation on moose in Unit 25D and on muskox in Unit 26B

Moose

Units 25A, 25B, 25D

- Widely distributed at low densities
- Harvest = 250-350 annually
- Stable or slightly declining
- Chronically low densities in Unit 25D
- Effects of bear and wolf predation
- Harvest of cow moose
- Local harvest reporting
- Developing Intensive Management Plan
- Completed household harvest surveys in 25D



Units 26B & 26C

Moose cont'd

- Limited distribution
- Severe decline 1992 - 1995
- Season closed in 1996
- Opened season in 26B in 2006
- Recovering population
- Providing opportunity to hunt in Unit 26B
- Unit 26C has not increased
- Migratory moose in a portion of Unit 26C

2 Proposals

Muskox

Northeast Alaska Muskox (Units 26B & C, eastern 26A)

- Substantial decline (Steve Arthur provided update)
 - Stabilized at 200
- All hunts closed by 2006
- Research initiated in 2007 to investigate:
 - Nutrition, predation, weather, & disease



Dall Sheep



- Population stable at reduced density
- Localized issues relating to hunting pressure

Wolf

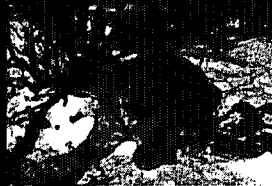


- Low density population
- Low harvests
- Effects of wolf predation on moose in Unit 25D
- USWFS & ADFG conducting wolf kill rate study

Fur -- Small Game

Fur/Small Game

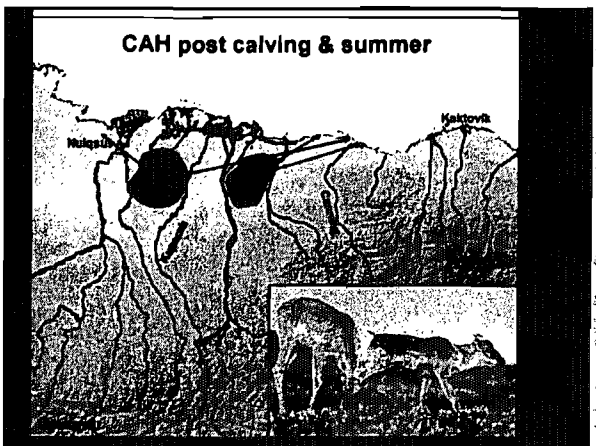
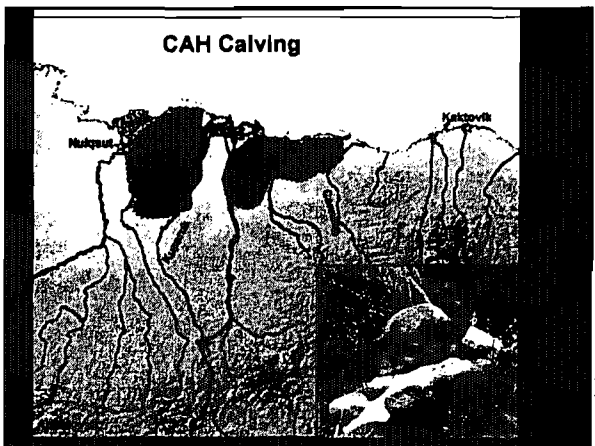
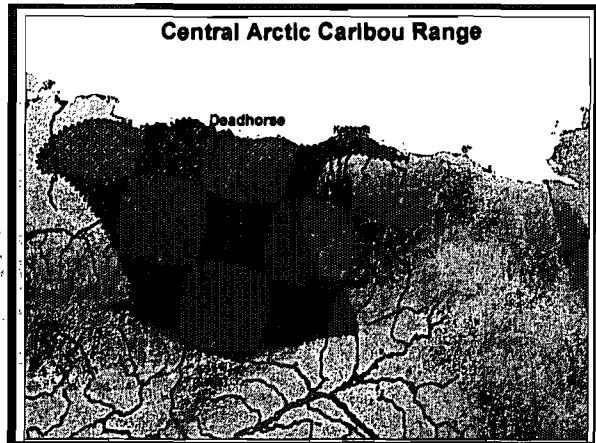
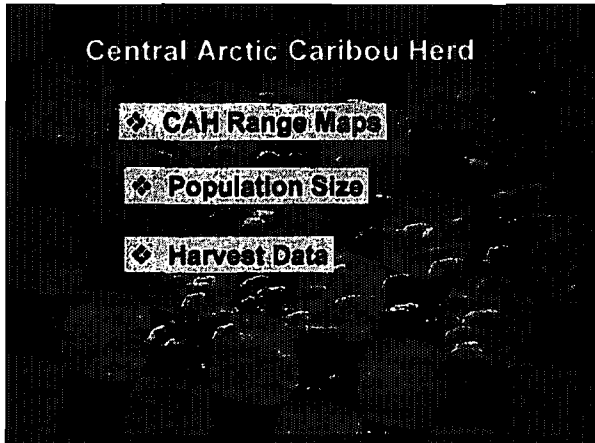
- Abundant lynx, fox, marten, mink, beaver, snowshoe hares and grouse
- Harvest is low relative to populations

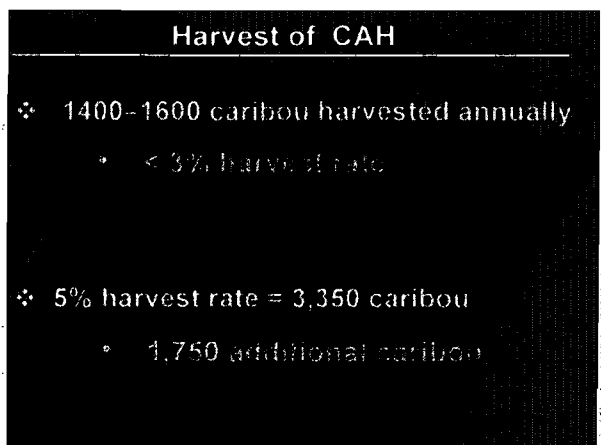
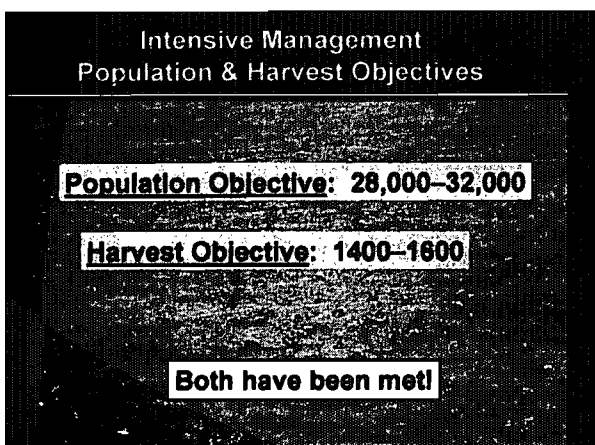
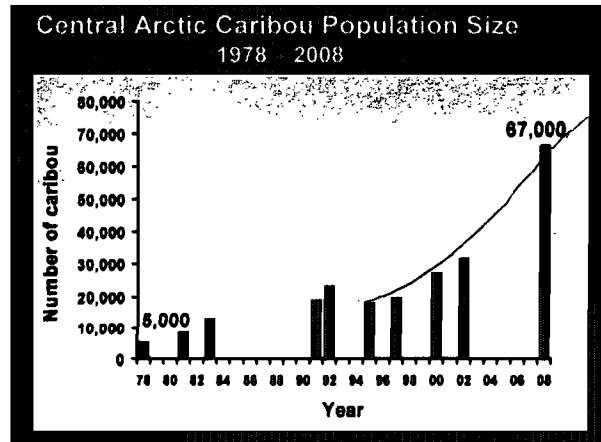
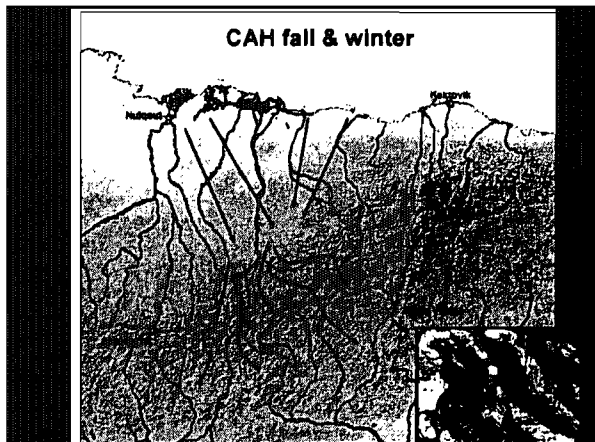


2 Proposals

Two Significant Management Issues Related to Proposals

1. Increasing harvest on the CAH
 - Limited access
 - 6 proposals
2. Declining PCH herd
 - Developing harvest strategies with Alaskans and Canada
 - Estimating population size
 - 1 proposal





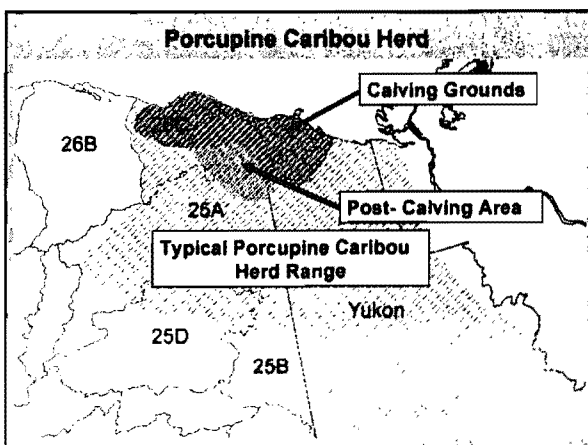
Social considerations with increase in number of hunters

- Crowding along highway among hunters during peak hunting
- Roadside hunting & ethics
- Concerns about increased wanton waste and wounding loss
- Conflicts with other highway uses
- Concerns about disturbing caribou migration

Conclusion

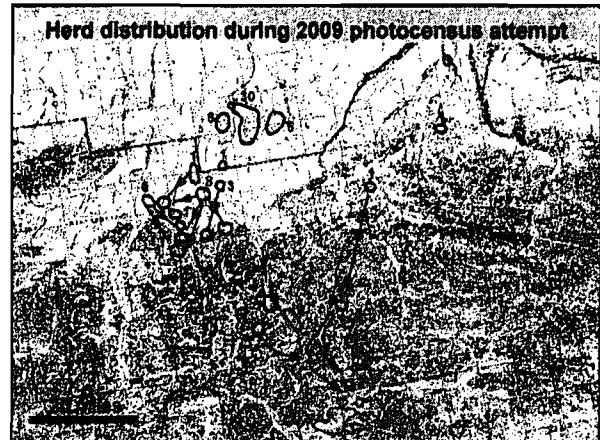
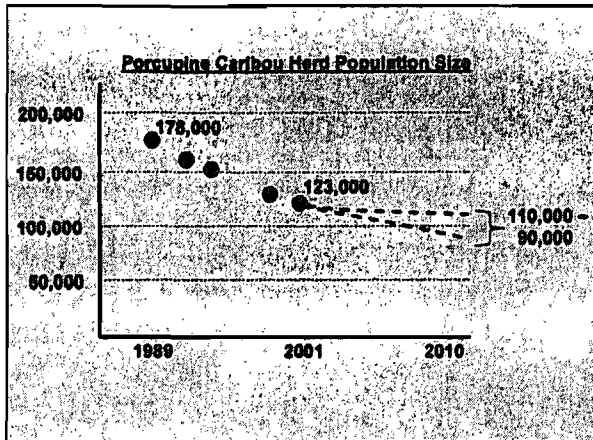
- The CAH has increased substantially
- Harvest rate = 2%
- The herd can withstand the harvest

The Board will review 6 proposals related to the CAH



Porcupine Caribou Herd

- United States and Canada are party to an international agreement to conserve the herd
- Established the International Porcupine Caribou Board (has not met since March 2000)
- Established the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (regularly holds meetings to discuss biological monitoring programs and management)



Porcupine Caribou Herd

- Current harvest is poorly documented
- Past harvest was estimated at 4,000- 6,000 annually
- About 85% of harvest occurs in Canada (most by subsistence hunters)
- About 15% of harvest occurs in Alaska (most by local Alaskan resident hunters)
- Non-resident Alaska harvest accounts for less than 1% of total harvest

Porcupine Caribou Herd

- Canada is in the process of regulating harvest through a harvest management plan
- Implemented interim season and bag limits for 2009-2010
 - Licensed hunters limited to 1 bull
 - Subsistence hunters limited to bulls only
 - Mandatory harvest reporting
- Harvest management in Canada is a contentious issue between the Yukon Government and local user groups
- Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game is in the process of implementing household harvest surveys for local residents

1 Proposal

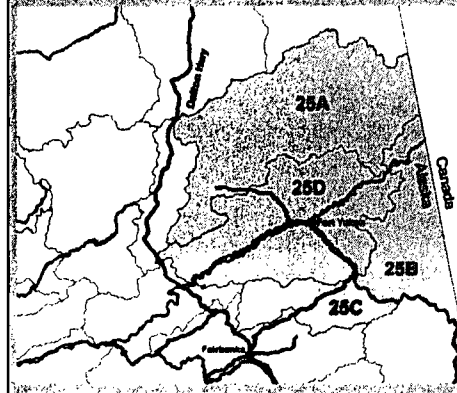
Proposal 106

Effect of Proposal:

Modify the salvage requirements for moose in Unit 25 to require that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

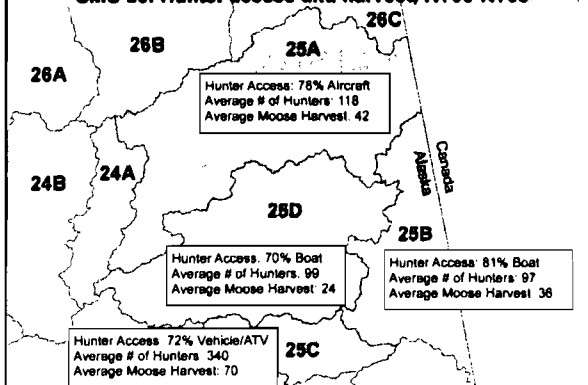
Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 106



Proposal 106

GMU 25: Hunter access and harvest, RY06-RY08



Proposal 106

Effect of Proposal:

Modify the salvage requirements for moose in GMU 25 to require the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

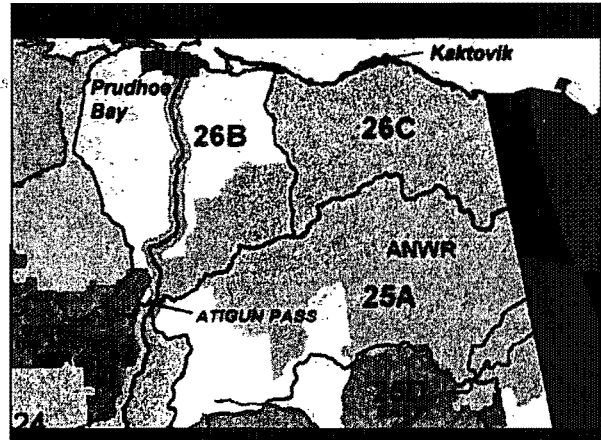
Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Open moose hunting seasons in Unit 26C by registration permits:

- 1 moose Sept 5 - April 15 for Resident
- 1 bull 50 in or 4+ brow Sept 5 - Nov. 30 for NR

Recommendation: Anchorage AC

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

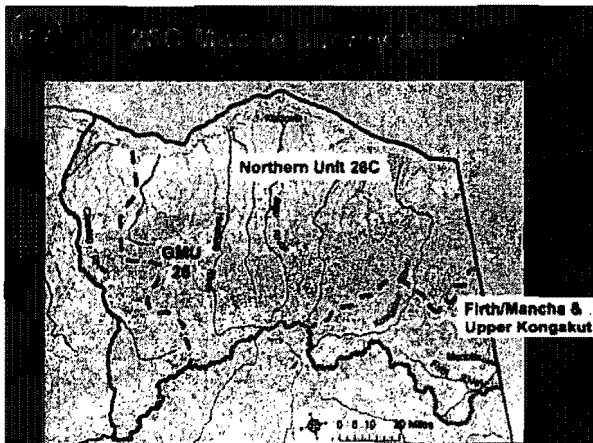


26C Moose Population

- ❖ NO open season in state regulations (Closed since 1996)
- ❖ Open in Federal regulations (2 bulls total harvest quota)

26C Moose

- ❖ Northern limit of moose range
- ❖ In mid 1990s, population crashed along with 26A & 26B
- ❖ 26A & 26B moose have increased
 - 26B season opened 2006
 - 26A season liberalized
- ❖ 26C remains low & stable



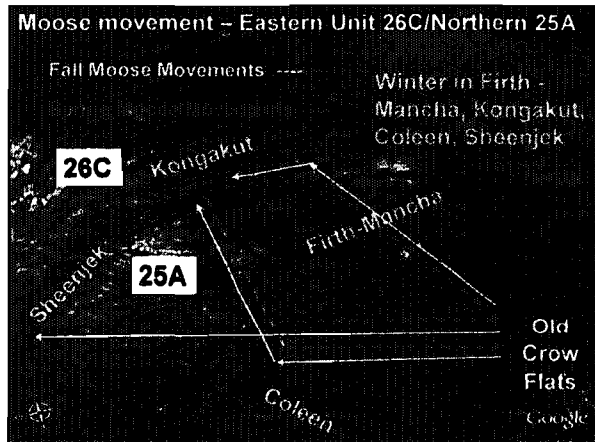
Northern Unit 26C Moose Survey

Year	Northern 26C
2003	52
2005	47
2007	59
2009	61

- ❖ Allowable harvest = 2 bulls
(3% of 60 moose = 2)
- ❖ Allowable harvest provided in
Federal season

Firth/Mancha & Upper Kongakut Moose Survey

Year	Firth/ Mancha	Upper Kongakut	Total
1991	245	163	408
2000	87	70	157
2002	132	95	227



- ❖ Historical reported harvest was 2 to 4 usually taken by nonresidents

Considerations

- ❖ All on federal land
(Closed to nonfederally qualified users)
- ❖ ANWR movement study in northern 26C planned for 2011
- ❖ Work with ANWR to determine if there is some opportunity in Firth/Mancha

Proposal 107 Conclusion

Effect:

- ❖ Open moose season in Unit 26C

**ADF&G
DO NOT ADOPT**

**Arctic AC
DO NOT ADOPT**

**Fairbanks AC
DO NOT ADOPT**

Proposal 103

OBJECT: Develop management plan for the Central Arctic caribou herd

Proposed by: Public

Recommendation: Take No Action

Proposal 104

OBJECT: Increase bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B

Proposed by: ADF&G

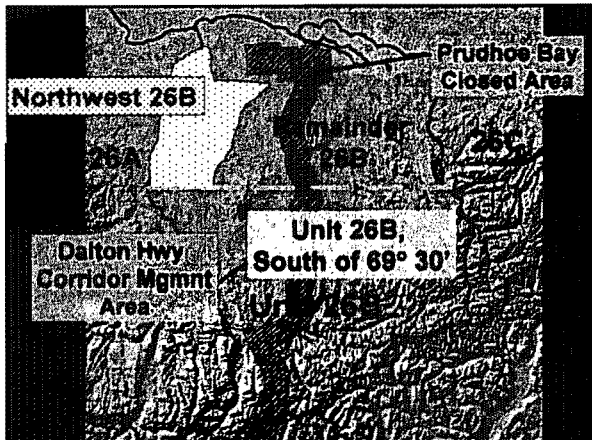
Recommendation: AMEND & ADOPT

Original proposal 103 regulations

Unit & Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season	Open Season
5 day Resid: 10 caribou/year	1 July-30 Apr	
Nonresid: 5 caribou/year		1 July-30 Apr
Resident & Nonresident: 5 caribou/year; however, cow caribou may be taken 1 Oct-30 Apr 1 Sep	1 July-30 Apr	1 July-30 Apr

(104)

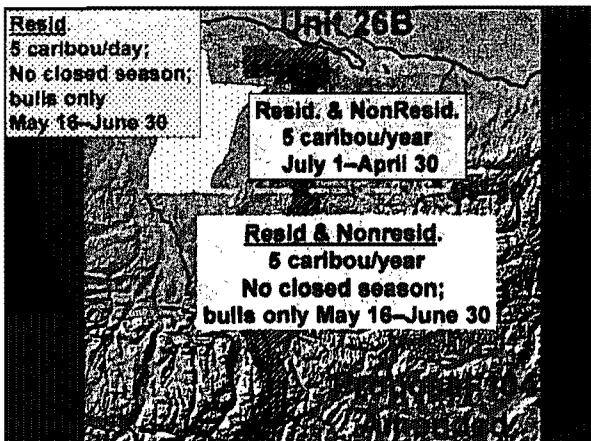
- ❖ Extends the season & eliminates restriction on cow harvest
- ❖ Results in 3 areas - different regulations
 - Unit 26B, South of 69° 30' N. lat.
- ❖ The amendment incorporates elements of public proposal 103



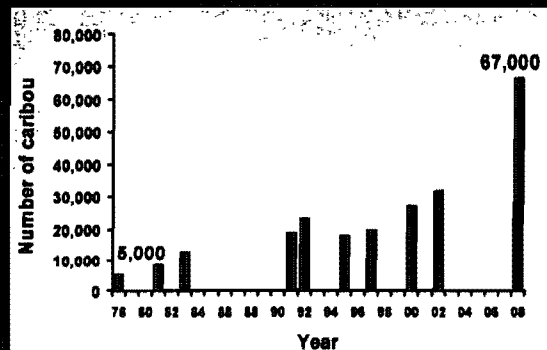
Unit & Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season	Open Season
Resident: 5 day Resid: 10 caribou/year However, only bulls may be taken May 16-June 30	June 1 July-30 Apr	
Nonresid: 6 caribou/year		1 July-30 Apr

Unit & Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season	Open Season
Unit 26B, South of 69° 30'		
Resident & Nonresident: 5 caribou/year However, only bulls may be taken May 16-June 30	1 July-30 June	1 July-30 June

Unit & Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season	Open Season
Resident & Nonresident: 5 caribou/year, however cow caribou may be taken 1 Oct-30 Apr 1 Sep-	1 July-30 Apr	1 July-30 Apr



Central Arctic Caribou Population Size
1978–2008



Harvest of CAH

1400–1600 caribou harvested annually

- ✓ 1000 caribou harvested on general harvest tickets
- ✓ 400–600 harvested by local residents

Harvest of CAH

Reported harvested (general harvest tickets)

✧ 5 year mean 2004–2008

- ✓ 746 reported harvested annually
- ✓ 1400 hunters

25% Nonresidents
75% Nonlocal residents

Apply a 32% correction factor to reported harvest

✓ **985 caribou harvested annually on general harvest tickets**

Harvest of CAH

Estimated harvest by local hunters

- ❖ Data extrapolated based on Div Subsistence household surveys & modeling

North Slope: Nuiqsut Kaktovik Anaktuvuk Pass

South Brooks Range: Arctic Village Venetie
Bettles Coldfoot/Wiseman

✓ **400–600 caribou harvested
by local hunters**

Harvest Rate of CAH

Population size: 67,000 caribou

Estimated harvest: 1,600 caribou

< 3% harvest rate

Harvest Rate of CAH

- ❖ 5% harvest rate = 3,350 caribou

1,750 additional caribou

What affects CAH harvest?



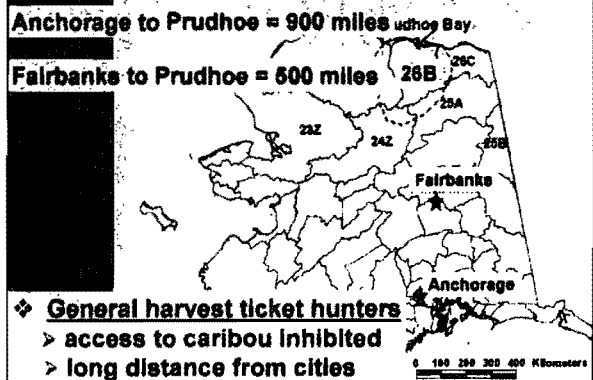
- ✓ Dalton Hwy restrictions in 10 mile corridor
- ✓ No rifle hunting
- ✓ No snowmachine
- ✓ No 4 wheeler
- ✓ Access by:
 - ✓ walking, ski, dogs
 - ✓ boats
 - ✓ airplane

- ❖ **General harvest ticket hunters**
 - access to caribou inhibited

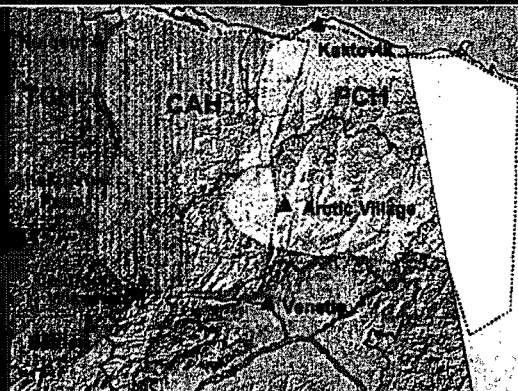
What affects CAH harvest?

50 % access by vehicle
15-30% access by airplane
20% by boat & airboat

What affects CAH harvest?



What affects CAH harvest?



Social considerations with increase in number of hunters

- Crowding along highway among hunters during peak hunting
- Conflicts with other highway uses
- Concerns about disturbing caribou migration
- Concerns about increase wanton waste and increased wounding loss

Proposed 2004 Caribou Season

- ❖ The CAH has increased substantially
- ❖ Harvest rate < 3%
- ❖ The herd can withstand more harvest

Proposed 2004 Caribou Season

ADF&G Increase caribou bag limit in Unit 26B

ADF&G
AMEND & ADOPT

Amend extended seasons

Arctic AC
ADOPT in NW corner
DO NOT ADOPT in remainder

Amend to 3 caribou/year

Fairbanks AC
ADOPT

Koyukuk AC
DO NOT ADOPT

Proposed 2004

Extend the resident caribou season in Unit 26B to No Closed Season, however, only velvet antlered bulls & antlerless cows may be taken May 1–June 30

Proposed by Public

Recommendation: Take No Action

Proposed 2004

Extend the resident caribou season in Unit 26B, south of 69° 30' to a No Closed Season, however, only velvet antlered bulls & antlerless cows may be taken May 1–June 30

Proposed by Public

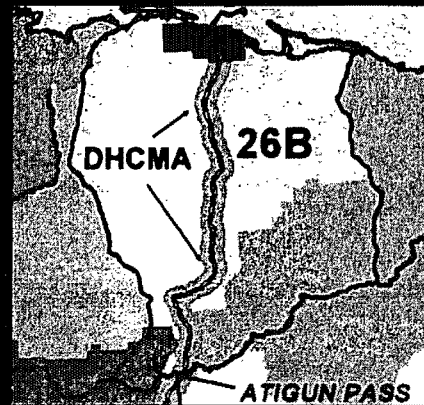
Recommendation: Take No Action

Modify the bag limit for caribou in the DHCMA by requiring hunters who walk in from the highway:

- to take 1 caribou of the bag limit at a time.
- remove all edible meat from field to road.
- then they are allowed to take more caribou

Public

No recommendation



Considerations for Proposal 101

- North Slope caribou are smaller than interior caribou

Adult cows weight 180 - 200 lbs
(carcass weight of 100-120 lbs)

Adult bulls weight 250-300 lbs
(or carcass weight of 150-180 lbs)

Considerations for Proposal 101

- About 8% of current hunters take more than 1 caribou
- Transport of meat on the North Slope by foot can be difficult especially in tundra like terrain
- Season is open in summer, fall, winter, and spring
- Meat will still be left at vehicle
- Some non-motorized methods of transport include dog sled, sking w sleds/poiks, and canoes

Proposal 100

Modify the bag limit for caribou in the DHCMA by requiring hunters who walk in from the highway:

- to take 1 caribou of the bag limit at a time,
- remove all edible meat from field to road,
- then they are allowed to take more caribou

Public

No Recommendation

Proposal 99

Effect of Proposal:

Restricts the nonresident caribou hunting season and bag limit for the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Unit 25B, 25D, 26C, and the eastern portion of Unit 25A.

Season: From July 1-April 30 to August 1-September 30

Bag Limit: From 5 caribou to 1 bull

Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

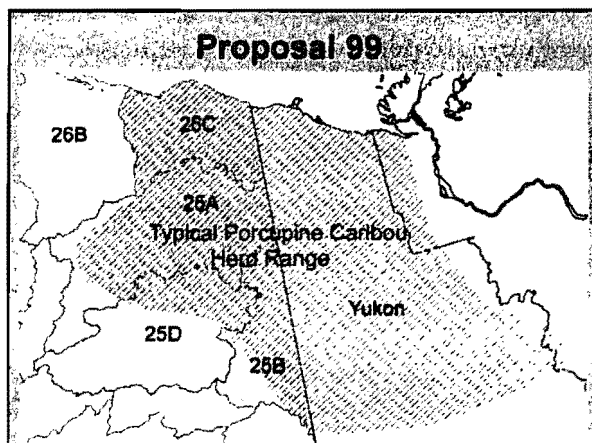
Proposal 99

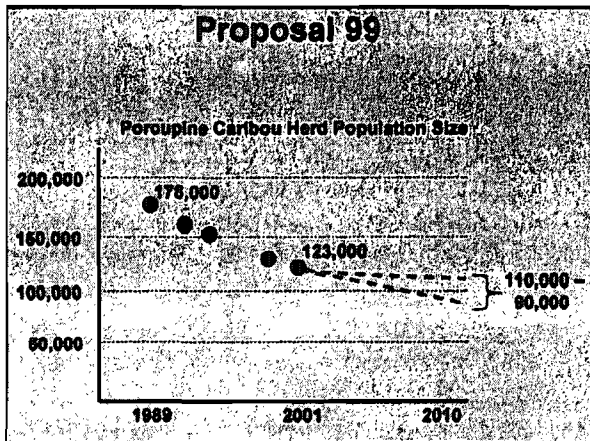
Amendment:

Extends the resident and non-resident caribou hunting season in the western portion of Unit 25A (remainder) from July 1-April 30 to July 1-June 30 (no closed season), however, only bulls may be harvested during May 15 - June 30.

This amendment incorporates elements of public Proposal 100 and Department Proposal 104, liberalizing seasons and bag limits for Central Arctic Caribou.

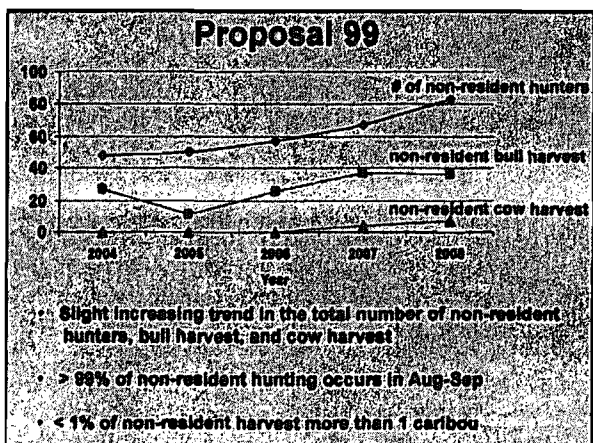
Proposal 99

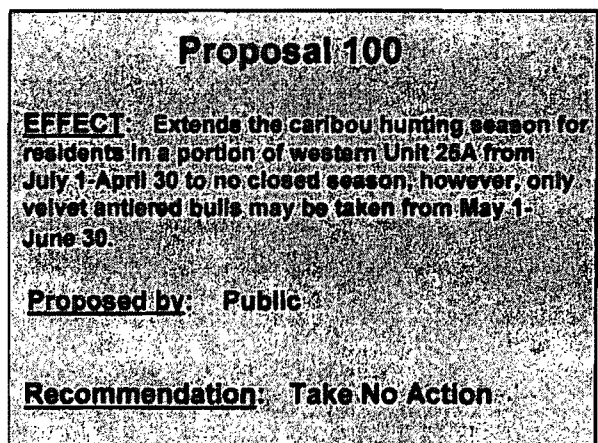
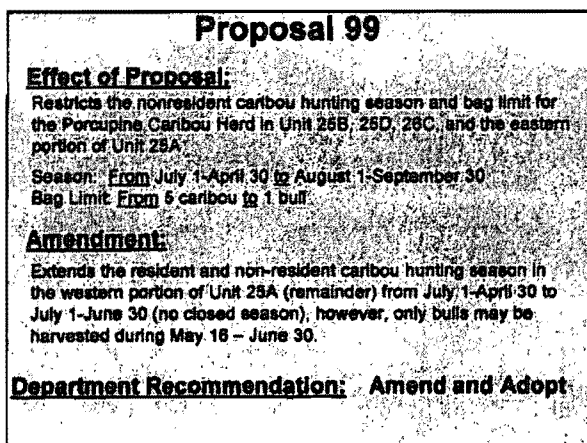
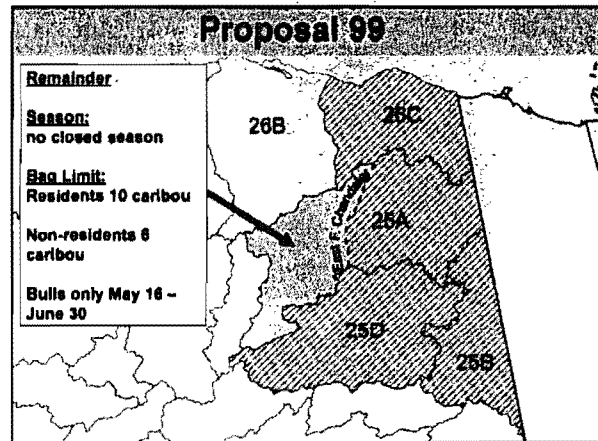
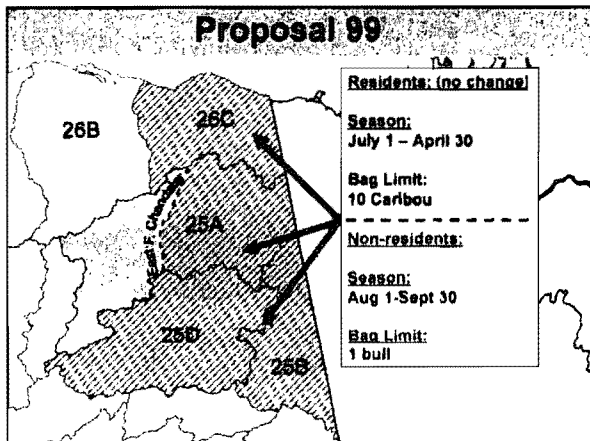




- ### Proposal 99
- Current harvest is poorly documented
 - Past harvest was estimated at 4,000- 6,000 annually
 - About 85% of harvest occurs in Canada (most by subsistence hunters)
 - About 15% of harvest occurs in Alaska (most by local Alaskan resident hunters)
 - Non-resident Alaska harvest accounts for less than 1% of total harvest

- ### Proposal 99
- Canada is in the process of regulating harvest through a harvest management plan
 - Implemented interim season and bag limits for 2009-2010
 Licensed hunters limited to 1 bull
 Subsistence hunters limited to bulls only
 Mandatory harvest reporting
 - Harvest management in Canada is a contentious issue between the Yukon Government and local user groups





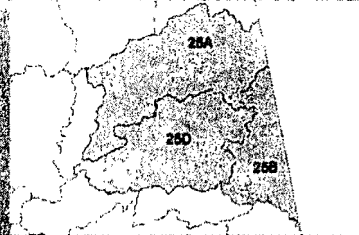
Proposal 95

Effect of Proposal:

Reduces the bag limit for beaver during the trapping season from no limit to 50 beaver per season in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 95



- No conservation concerns associated with a no bag limit
- Current bag limit is consistent with remainder of Region 3
- Sealing records no trapper harvests more than 30 beavers per year
- Beavers are abundant in Unit 25 and harvest pressure is low

Proposal 95

Effect of Proposal:

Reduces the bag limit for beaver during the trapping season from no limit to 50 beaver per season in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 96

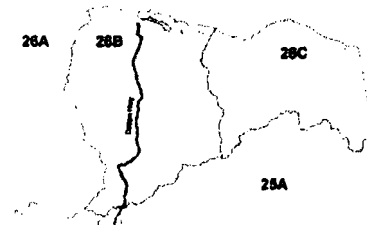
Effect of Proposal:

Extends the end date of the trapping season for mink and weasel in Units 26B and 26C from:

November 1 - January 31 to November 1 - April 15

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 95



- Aligns the mink and weasel season with trapping seasons for other furbearer species (fox, river otter, lynx, wolverine, marten, coyote)
- Aligns the mink and weasel season in Unit 26B and Unit 26C with Unit 26A (recently changed by the Board during the Region V meeting in November, 2009)
- No conservation concerns associated with extended trapping season

Proposal 96

Effect of Proposal:
 Extends the end date of the mink and weasel season in Units 26B and 26C from:
 November 1- January 31 to November 1- April 15

Department Recommendation: Adopt

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

(a) A person may not establish a black bear bait station to hunt black bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

(1) a person may establish a black bear bait station only if that persons obtains a permit under this section;

(2) in Units 6(D), 7, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16(A), and 20(B), a person must complete a bear hunter clinic given by the department before that person may obtain a permit from the department under this section;

(3) a person must be at least 16 years of age to be issued a permit;

(4) a person may not have more than two bait stations established with bait present at any one time however, in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, a registered guide-outfitter may register up to ten bait stations at a time and may either personally or through licensed class-A assistant or assistant guides, establish and maintain up to ten bait stations simultaneously, provided that a signed guide-client agreement is used for each hunter that uses any of the sites;

(5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within

(A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

(B) one mile of a house or other permanent dwelling; or

(C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

(6) a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods; however, this paragraph does not apply to a registered guide outfitter, class-A assistant guide, or assistant guide [LICENSED GUIDE-OUTFITTER] who personally accompanies a client at the bait station site;

(7) a person using bait or scent lures shall clearly identify the site with a sign reading "black bear bait station" that also displays the person's hunting license number, and the permit number;

(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

(9) in areas where the bag limit is greater than one bear, the department may limit the number of bears taken over bait as condition of the permit;

(10) a permittee must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed;

(11) in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area described in 5 AAC 92.125(d) , except for a licensed guide-outfitter, a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods; a licensed guide-outfitter and the guide-outfitter's contracted assistant guides may register up to an aggregate of 10 bait station sites per year, and a signed guide-client agreement is required for each hunter that uses any of the sites.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Spring, 2010
Interior Region
Proposal Index

REGION III – INTERIOR

1. Shorten the spring beaver trapping season for Units 20B and 20D.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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2. Modify the trapping season for lynx in Units 20 and 25C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Upper Tanana w/Am AC8 Anchorage AC10 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Ahtna Inc. PC47	Minto-Nenana AC7	Central AC3 Middle Nenana AC4 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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3. Require trappers to check traps in all Region III units.

Yukon w/Am AC2 Minto-Nenana AC7 Anja Phenix PC 9 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48 Troy Dunn PC 67		Delta AC1 Central AC3 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 McGrath AC6 Upper Tanana AC8 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Dm Ilqenfrit PC 21 Tad Fujioka PC 35 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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4. Establish a “no closed” hunting season for coyote in Unit 20.

Delta AC1	Minto-Nenana AC7	Barbara Brease PC 6
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10	National Park Service PC 71	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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5. Exempt certain areas from the provision that allows taking bear with artificial light and taking cubs in Units 19D & 24.

Sierra Club Alaska Chapter PC 4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48 National Park Service PC 71 Kim Smith PC 100 Carol Clemens PC 102 Mary Helen Stephans PC 103 Hugh Rose and 74 Signatories PC 121		Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10
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6. Reclassify black bear to allow trapping and the sale of hides in Units 25, 20 and 12.

Central AC3 Middle Nenana AC4 Upper Tanana AC8 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40	Fairbanks AC5 National Park Service PC 71	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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7. Change the black bear baiting season for the Interior Region Units.

Central AC3 Yukon AC2 Middle Nenana AC4 Upper Tanana AC8	Fairbanks AC5 Ahtna Inc. PC47	Minto-Nenana AC7 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage w/Am AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40		
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8. Allow guides and assistant guides to place and maintain bait stations for clients.

Fairbanks AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40	Ahtna Inc. PC47 National Park Service PC 71	Yukon AC2 Middle Nenana AC4 Minto-Nenana AC7 Upper Tanana AC8 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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9. Allow guides to maintain up to ten bait stations.

Stony Holitna AC9	Ahtna Inc. PC47 National Park Service PC 71	Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Minto-Nenana AC7 Upper Tanana AC8 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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10. Modify the salvage requirement for black bear in Unit 20.

Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Minto Nenana w/Am AC7 Anchorage AC10		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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11. Eliminate black bear sealing in Interior Units where harvest tickets or registration permits provide necessary harvest data.

Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Upper Tanana AC8 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley AC11 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47		Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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12. Authorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions for Region III.

Delta AC1 Central AC3 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 McGrath AC6 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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13. Modify seasons and bag limits, and apply certain motorized restrictions for the Fortymile Caribou Herd; Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48		Central AC3 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 David Lester PC 38 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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14. Revise the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan by changing season dates, bag limits and permit conditions for Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

Delta AC1 Central AC3 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 David Lester PC 38
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Alaska Outdoor Council w/Am PC 39 National Park Service PC 71		
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15. Reduce the Fortymile Caribou Herd population objective to 45,000 to 75,000 caribou.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48		Central AC3 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 David Lester PC 38 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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16. Modify season dates for Dall sheep for all Region III Units.

Yukon AC2 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Eric Eriksen PC 17 Vern Fiehler PC 18 Dm Ilqenfrit PC 21 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Steve Pankhurst PC 43 Nancy Sydnam PC 49 Gary Halmstad PC 50 Michael Dullen PC 59 Debra Waugaman Curnow PC 62 Sharon Swisher PC 69 Richard Fuelling PC 80	Ahtna Inc. PC47	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Upper Tanana AC8 Matanuska Valley AC11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Dave Morris PC 68 Henry D. Tiffany IV PC 70 Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation PC 79
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TOK AREA – UNITS 12 & 20E

17. Change the season dates for trapping lynx in Units 12 and 20E.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Dm Ilqenfrit PC 21 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Ahtna Inc. PC47	Alaska Trappers Association PC 11	
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18. Open a fall hunting season for the Chisana Caribou Herd in Unit 12.

Upper Tanana AC8 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 National Park Service PC 71	Fairbanks AC5	Delta AC1 Matanuska Valley AC11 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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19. Establish a fall registration hunt for youth and individuals with disabilities in Unit 20E.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1	Anchorage AC10	Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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20. Increase the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 20E.

	Fairbanks AC5	Delta AC1 Central AC3 Upper Tanana AC8 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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21. Apply restrictions to the Fortymile caribou permit hunt in Unit 20E.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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22. Extend the moose season on certain private lands in Unit 12.

		Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley AC11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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23. Reduce the number of permits for the Tok Management area for Dall sheep in Units 12 and 20.

Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley w/Am AC11 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47	Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation PC 79	Delta AC1 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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24. Restrict nonresident hunting for moose and caribou in the Upper Yukon/Tanana predation control area in Units 12 and 20.

Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48		Delta AC1 Central AC3 Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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25. Change the description of the Ladue Controlled Use Area for Unit 20E.

Upper Tanana AC8	Fairbanks AC5	
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FAIRBANKS AREA - UNIT 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, AND 25C

26. Shorten the beaver trapping season in Unit 20B.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25	Alaska Trappers Association PC 11	
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27. Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 20A.

Delta w/Am AC1 Alaska Professional Hunters Association w/Am PC 44	Fairbanks AC5	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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28. Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in Units 20A, 20B and 20C.

Delta w/Am AC1	Fairbanks AC5	Middle Nenana AC4
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40	National Park Service PC 71	Minto-Nenana AC7 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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29. Allow the taking of brown bear over bait and extend the hunting season in Unit 20C.

Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40	Fairbanks AC5 National Park Service PC 71	Minto-Nenana AC7 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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30. Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in Unit 20C.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10	National Park Service PC 71	Middle Nenana AC4 Minto-Nenana AC7 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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31. Expand the brown bear season dates for Units 20C and 20A.

Delta w/Am AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Alaska Professional Hunters Association w/Am PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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32. Modify the antler restriction for moose in Unit 20A.

Stony Holitna AC9 Dm Ilqenfrit PC 21 Ahtna Inc. PC47	Fairbanks AC5	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Sierra Club Alaska Chapter PC 4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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33. Prohibit the taking of moose calves in Unit 20.

Middle Nenana AC4 National Park Service PC 71		Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Minto-Nenana AC7 Anchorage AC10 Dm Ilqenfrit PC 21 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47 John Giuchici PC 54
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34. Manage the moose hunt in Unit 20A with certain permit and registration hunts.

Ahtna Inc. PC47	Fairbanks AC5 Kotzebue AC14	Middle Nenana AC4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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35. Modify the antler restrictions in Unit 20A.

Ahtna Inc. PC47		Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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36. Require nonresidents to hunt with guides or 2nd degree kindred in Unit 20A.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley AC11 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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37. Change the muzzleloader moose season and antler restrictions for Unit 20A.

Middle Nenana AC4		Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley AC11 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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Support

Comment

Oppose

38. Modify the antler restrictions in Unit 20A.

	Fairbanks AC5	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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39. Close the muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20A; open a muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20B.

Fairbanks AC5 Ahtna Inc. PC47		Matanuska Valley AC11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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40. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20A.

Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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41. Lengthen the resident muzzleloader season for moose in Unit 20B.

		Fairbanks AC5 Matanuska Valley AC11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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42. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks w/Am AC5		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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43. Allocate a number of antlerless moose permits for a youth hunt in Unit 20B

		Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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44. Eliminate antlerless moose hunts in a portion of Unit 20B.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40
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Support

Comment

Oppose

45. Restrict the use of motorized vehicles and aircraft for hunting moose in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B.

Minto Nenana w/Am AC7 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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46. Establish a community harvest permit hunt for the Village of Minto.

Minto-Nenana AC7		Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Dm Ilqenfrut PC 21 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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47. Modify the muzzleloader hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 20B.

		Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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48. Open a muzzleloader permit hunt in Unit 20B.

		Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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49. Establish an archery permit hunt for moose in Unit 20B.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Anchorage AC10		Delta AC1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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50. Modify the moose season dates in Unit 20C.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Dm Ilqenfrut PC 21
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51. Delay the moose season in Unit 20C.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40		Middle Nenana AC4 Dm Ilqenfrut PC 21
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52. Expand the moose season in Unit 20C.

Middle Nenana AC4		Fairbanks AC5 Dm Ilgenfrit PC 21 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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53. Remove the prohibition against shooting white moose.

Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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54. Open a muzzleloader season for antlerless moose in the Fairbanks Management Area.

		Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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55. Expand the Stampede Close Area in Units in 20A and 20C.

Sierra Club Alaska Chapter PC 4 Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 Betty Quattrochi PC 22 John Toppenburg PC 23 Wayne Hall PC 24 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Andra Silgailis PC 27 Sharon Lowe PC 28 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Janice Kasper PC 31 Amy Holonics PC 32 Pat Huseby OC 33 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 Denali Citizens Council PC 42 William Brown PC 46	National Park Service PC 71	Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47
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56. Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas in Units 20A and 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47	National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 John Toppenburg PC 23 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. I de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Tom and Jane Meacham PC 53 NJ Gates PC 55 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Nan Eagleson PC 58 Readfield Maine PC 61 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Anne Beaulaurier PC 65 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Kneeland Taylor PC 73 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Thomas Klein PC 76 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Johnny Johnson PC 84 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Alaska Center for the Environment PC 86 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Katherine Hoak PC 89 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 George Herben PC 96 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 Jane Heltebrake PC 107 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Carolyn Rhodes PC 118 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119		
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		Geri Tillett PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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57. Eliminate the Nenana Canyon Closed Area in Units 20A and 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44	National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 John Toppenburg PC 23 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99
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		William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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58. Expand the current wolf closure areas in Unit 20.

Barbara Brease PC 6 Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 Betty Quattrochi PC 22 John Toppenburg PC 23 Wayne Hall PC 24 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Andra Silgailis PC 27 Sharon Lowe PC 28 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Janice Kasper PC 31 Amy Holonics PC 32 Pat Huseby OC 33 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Tom and Jane Meacham PC 53 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Readfield Maine PC 61 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64	National Park Service PC 71	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Kneeland Taylor PC 73 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Thomas Klein PC 76 Marybeth Holleman PC 77 Rick Steiner PC 78 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Johnny Johnson PC 84 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Alaska Center for the Environment PC 86 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Katherine Hoak PC 89 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 George Herben PC 96 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 Jane Heltebrake PC 107 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Carolyn Rhodes PC 118 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119		
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59. Expand the Nenana Canyon closed area in Units 20A and 20C.

Matt Farling PC 7 Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15	National Park Service PC 71	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 Betty Quattrochi PC 22 John Toppenburg PC 23 Wayne Hall PC 24 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Andra Silgailis PC 27 Sharon Lowe PC 28 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Janice Kasper PC 31 Amy Holonics PC 32 Pat Huseby OC 33 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Tom and Jane Meacham PC 53 Dr. I de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Readfield Maine PC 61 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Kneeland Taylor PC 73 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Thomas Klein PC 76 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Johnny Johnson PC 84 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Alaska Center for the Environment PC 86 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Katherine Hoak PC 89 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 George Herben PC 96 Long Gilbert PC 99 Kim Smith PC 100		Association PC 44
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Support

Comment

Oppose

William Taylor PC 101 Carol Clemens PC 102 Mary Helen Stephans PC 103 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 Jane Heltebrake PC 107 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Carolyn Rhodes PC 118 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119 Hugh Rose and 74 Signatories		
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60. Expand the Stampede Trail closed area in Unit 20C.

Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 Betty Quattrochi PC 22 John Toppenburg PC 23 Wayne Hall PC 24 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Andra Silgailis PC 27 Sharon Lowe PC 28 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Janice Kasper PC 31 Amy Holonics PC 32 Pat Huseby OC 33 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Tom and Jane Meacham PC 53 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57	National Park Service PC 71	Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Readfield Maine PC 61 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Kneeland Taylor PC 73 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Thomas Klein PC 76 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Johnny Johnson PC 84 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Alaska Center for the Environment PC 86 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Katherine Hoak PC 89		
Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 George Herben PC 96 Long Gilbert PC 99 Kim Smith PC 100 William Taylor PC 101 Carol Clemens PC 102 Mary Helen Stephans PC 103 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 Jane Heltebrake PC 107 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Carolyn Rhodes PC 118 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119 Hugh Rose and 74 Signatories		

61. Eliminate the Stampede Closed Area for Unit 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5	National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<p>Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Jan St. Peters PC 95</p>		<p>Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 John Toppenburg PC 23 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. I de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117</p>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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62. Establish a wolf predation control area implementation plan for Unit 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 John Giuchici PC 54	Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 John Toppenburg PC 23 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. I de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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63. Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Area in Unit 20A and 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Jan St. Peters PC 95	National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		Geri Tillett PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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64. Open the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas in Unit 20A and 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47 Jan St. Peters PC 95	National Park Service PC 71	Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 John Toppenburg PC 23 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
		Susan Super PC 26 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Dr. I de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Mark Balitzer PC 82 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94 Jan St. Peters PC 95 Long Gilbert PC 99

Support

Comment

Oppose

		William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillet PC 112 Megan Klune PC 114 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119
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65. Prohibit the taking of wolf in a portion of Unit 20C.

Donnie Hagen PC 8 Vic Van Ballenberghe PC10 Andrew Gach PC 12 Austine Brisco PC 13 Janet Rhodes PC 14 Ashley Rolph PC 15 Lee Purcell PC 16 Jenny Pursell PC 20 Betty Quattrochi PC 22 John Toppenburg PC 23 Wayne Hall PC 24 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Susan Super PC 26 Andra Silgailis PC 27 Sharon Lowe PC 28 Lydia Garvey PC 29 Janice Kasper PC 31 Amy Holonics PC 32 Pat Huseby OC 33 Nancy Wallace PC 34 Susan Braun PC 41 William Brown PC 46 Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann PC 51 Tom and Jane Meacham PC 53 Dr. l de Baintner PC 56 Dorie Klein PC 57 Readfield Maine PC 61 Kathleen T. Wagner PC 63 Linda Wagner PC 64 Troy Dunn PC 67		Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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Support

Comment

Oppose

National Park Service PC 71 Lynn Ledgerwood PC 72 Kneeland Taylor PC 73 Dave Bachrach PC 74 Joan Beldin PC 75 Thomas Klein PC 76 Marilyn Houser PC 81 Svetlana Ostrovskaya, Yakov Sverdlov, Deanna Sverdlov, Marsha Sverdlov PC 83 Johnny Johnson PC 84 Matthew Kerby PC 85 Alaska Center for the Environment PC 86 Jeff Sloss PC 88 Katherine Hoak PC 89 Jennifer Thiermann PC 90 John and Elaine Vrabel PC 92 Linda Dinegan PC 94		
George Herben PC 96 Long Gilbert PC 99 William Taylor PC 101 Connie Brandel PC 105 Art Greenwalt PC 106 Jane Heltebrake PC 107 RH Torborg PC 108 Robert Watson PC 110 Donna McCall PC 111 Geri Tillett PC 112 Dolphine Subosits PC 115 Didler Lindsey PC 116 Reta Hanks PC 117 Carolyn Rhodes PC 118 Louis D. Rhodes PC 119		

66. Establish an intensive management area of Unit 20C.

Delta AC1 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44	Fairbanks AC5 National Park Service PC 71	Jenny Pursell PC 20 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48 Matthew Kerby PC 85
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Support

Comment

Oppose

67. Establish a bear predation control area implementation plan for Unit 20C.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10	National Park Service PC 71	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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68. Established a Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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69. Modify the motorized vehicle restriction for the Wood River CUA in Unit 20A.

		Fairbanks AC5 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 David Pott PC 19 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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70. Allow the use of motorized vehicles for permit winners hunting in the Wood River controlled Use Area for Unit 20A.

		Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 David Pott PC 19 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Steve Pankhurst PC 43 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Gary Halmstad PC 50 Debra Waugaman Curnow PC 62 Tom Lamal PC 66 Sharon Swisher PC 69
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Support

Comment

Oppose

71. Designate Creamers Migratory Waterfowl Refuge as a youth hunting and trapping area in Unit 20C.

		Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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72. Restrict the use of traps near certain recreational and residential areas in Unit 20C.

Christine Byl PC 2 Barbara Brease PC 6 Anja Phenix PC 9 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Gretchen Shaw PC 93 David Braun PC 122 Mary Anderson PC 123		Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11
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DELTA JUNCTION AREA - UNIT 20D

73. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10		
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74. Modify the bison season dates for residents and nonresidents.

Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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75. Allow the taking of Delta bison the same day airborne.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10		Middle Nenana AC4 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
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Support

Comment

Oppose

76. Allow radio communications to locate bison in Unit 20A.

Delta AC1 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Anchorage AC10		Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1
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77. Make specific radio collared bison illegal to shoot in the Delta Bison Herd.

Delta AC1 Middle Nenana AC4 Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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MCGRATH AREA - UNIT 19, 21A, AND 21E

78. Eliminate the nonresident closed area for caribou Unit 19A.

Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44	Fairbanks AC5	Stony Holitna AC9 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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79. Change registration permit and general hunt areas and season dates in 19D.

Fairbanks AC5 McGrath w/Am AC6 Anchorage AC10		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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80. Lengthen the moose season for nonresidents in Unit 21A.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		McGrath AC6 Holy Cross Tribal Council PC 36 Luke and Alice Demientieff PC 60
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81. Lengthen the nonresident moose season in 21E.

Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Anchorage AC10 Fairbanks AC5 Holy Cross Tribal Council PC 36 Luke and Alice Demientieff PC 60
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Support

Comment

Oppose

82. Open a registration hunt for Dall sheep in 19C for residents.

McGrath w/Am AC6		Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10
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83. Eliminate the early reporting requirement for wolves harvested in 19D.

Fairbanks AC5 McGrath AC6 Anchorage AC10		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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84. Establish a predation control implementation plan in 21E.

Fairbanks AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48 Kneeland Taylor PC 73
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85. Establish a predation control implementation plan in 21E.

Fairbanks AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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86. Establish a predation control implementation plan in 21E.

Fairbanks AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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87. Modify the aircraft restrictions for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in 19C.

Fairbanks AC5		Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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Support

Comment

Oppose

GALENA AREA - UNIT 21B, 21C, 21D, 24A, 24B, 24C, AND 24D

88. Change the moose hunt area boundary in Unit 21B.

		Fairbanks AC5
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89. Improve flexibility to operate a check station and clarify salvage requirements: 21D and 24.

Fairbanks AC5 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Anchorage AC10
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90. Open a winter moose hunt in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area for Unit 24B.

Fairbanks AC5 U.S.F.W.S. PC 52		
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91. Open a winter moose hunt in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area for Units 24C and 24D.

		Fairbanks AC5
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92. Clarifies and fully implements proxy restrictions for Units 21 and 24.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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93. Change the Intensive Management Objectives in Unit 21B.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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94. Modify the boundary of Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5		U.S.F.W.S. PC 52
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NORTHEAST ALASKA AREA - UNITS 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, 26C

95. Reduce the bag limit for beaver trapping in Unit 25D.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25	Fairbanks AC5	Anchorage AC10 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11
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Support

Comment

Oppose

96. Extend the ending date of the mink and weasel season in 26B and C.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Arctic AC12 Alaska Trappers Association PC 11 National Park Service PC 71		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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97. Allow black bear snaring in Unit 25D during open seasons: 25A, 25B, and 25D.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10	Alaska Trappers Association PC 11	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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98. Allow the harvest of any black bear in Unit 25D.

Yukon AC2 Fairbanks AC5 Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10		Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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99. Shorten the nonresident season for Porcupine Caribou Herd: Units 25A, B, D, and 26C.

Yukon AC2 Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Anchorage w/Am AC10 Arctic AC12 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 National Park Service PC 71		
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100. Change the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 25A.

Yukon AC2		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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Support

Comment

Oppose

101. Modify the caribou bag limit in Unit 26B, Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

Arctic AC12 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		
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102. Modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou Unit 26B, remainder.

	Fairbanks AC5 National Park Service PC 71	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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103. Modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B, remainder.

Arctic w/Am AC12 National Park Service PC 71	Fairbanks AC5	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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104. Expand bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Anchorage w/Am AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44	Arctic AC12 National Park Service PC 71	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 William Lange and Nicole Fliss PC 97
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105. Develop a management plan for the Central Arctic Herd in Units 26B and 26C.

Arctic AC12	Fairbanks AC5	
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106. Modify the salvage requirement for moose in Unit 25.

Yukon AC2 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25		Central AC3 Fairbanks AC5 Matanuska Valley AC11 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 1
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107. Open a general hunting season for moose in Unit 26C.

Anchorage AC10	Fairbanks AC5	Arctic AC12 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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REGION I - SOUTHEAST

108. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in Berners Bay for Unit 1C.

Anchorage AC10		
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Support

Comment

Oppose

109. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in the Gustavus area for Unit 1C.

Anchorage AC10		
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110. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in Unit 5A.

Anchorage AC10		
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REGION II - SOUTHCENTRAL/SOUTHWEST

111. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

Anchorage AC10 Copper River / Prince William Sound AC13		
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112. Reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.

Anchorage AC10 Copper River / Prince William Sound AC13		
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113. Reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

Copper River / Prince William Sound AC13		Fairbanks AC5
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114. Reauthorizes the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A.

Anchorage AC10		Matanuska Valley AC11
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115. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage for Units 7 and 14C.

Anchorage AC10		
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116. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Fort Richardson Mgmt area for Unit 14C.

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117. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Mgmt area for Unit 14C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

Support

Comment

Oppose

118. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Mgmt area for Unit 14C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

119. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Elmendorf Air Force Base for Unit 14C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

120. Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit Ship Creek for Unit 14C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

121. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Mgmt area for Unit 15C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

122. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season for Unit 15C.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

123. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island for Unit 16B.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

124. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region II for Unit Region II Brown bear.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10 Matanuska Valley AC11 Northern Norton Sound AC15		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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REGION V - ARCTIC/WESTERN

125. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

126. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26(A).

Anchorage AC10		
----------------	--	--

Support

Comment

Oppose

127. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of 22D.

Anchorage AC10 Kotzebue AC14 Northern Norton Sound AC15		
---	--	--

128. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for Brown Bear; 18, 22, 23, 26A.
Region V Brown Bear.

Fairbanks AC5 Anchorage AC10		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
---------------------------------	--	--------------------------------

129. Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in Unit 21D

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage w/Am AC10		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44
--	--	---

130. Open a fall black bear hunt over bait in Unit 21D.

Fairbanks w/Am AC5 Stony Holitna AC9 Anchorage w/Am AC10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44		Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
---	--	--------------------------------

131. Make the following modifications to subsections

Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10 Organized village of Kwethluk PC 40 Alaska Professional Hunters Association PC 44 Ahtna Inc. PC47	U.S.F.W.S. And N.P.S. PC 87	Sierra Club Alaska Chapter PC 4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25 National Parks Conservation Association PC 30 Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC 48
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132. Establish a predator control area for Unit 10, Unimak Island.

Upper Tanana AC8 Anchorage AC10		Sierra Club Alaska Chapter PC 4 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 25
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→ K C 131
- Spring 2010 meeting
• RC 147 from fall 2009 meeting

● Proposal 198 suggested substitute:

Unit 16 B black bear bait guide permit.

1. Allow outfitted bait hunting by amending 5aac 92.044 for 16 B only

(5 aac 92.044 A person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods; however, this paragraph does not apply to a licensed guide-outfitter. [WHO PERSONALLY ACCOMPANIES A CLIENT AT THE BAIT STATION SITE])

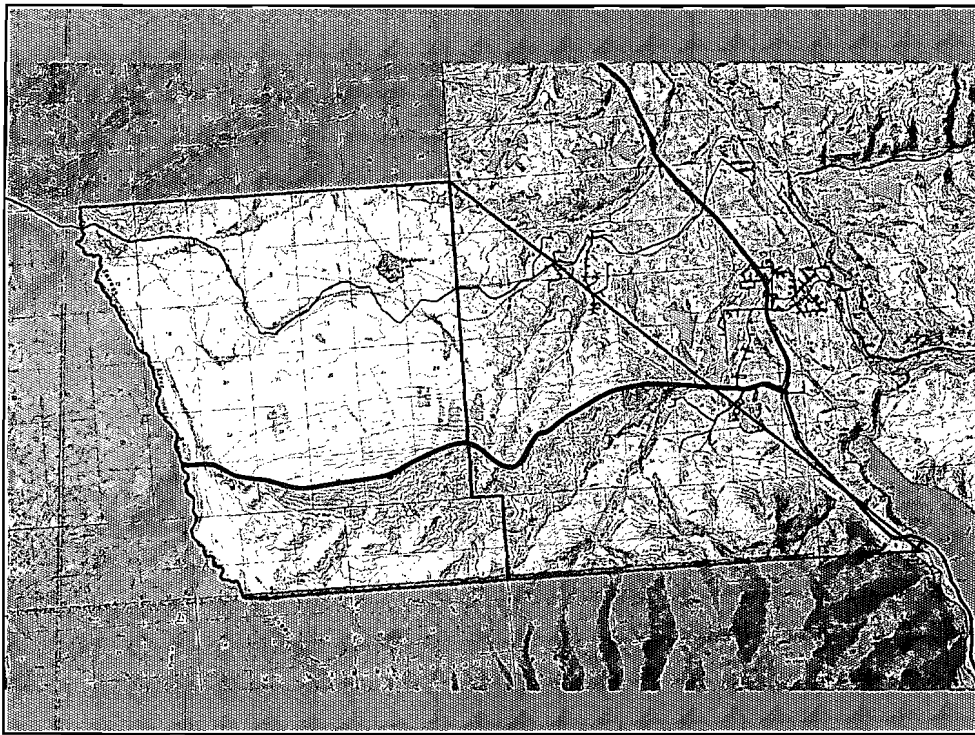
2. Allow big game guides licensed under Title 8 to register up to 10 bait stations per year and maintain stations registered by employees. All other standard bear bait permit conditions will apply.

3. Allow residents and non-residents to hunt guide's baits under general hunting regulations with guide-client contract.

Justification: There is a large harvestable surplus of black bears in unit 16B. This could be a valuable regulation to assess a new Baited Black Bear Guiding system that may allow for additional take and economic development through conventional hunting practices (not predator management) without biological risk.

● Submitted by: Aaron Bloomquist

By Boards Support,
ADFG



Further NPS comments on proposed extension of the Stampede Closed Area (Proposal number 65 for the spring 2010 Interior Region meeting of the Alaska Board of Game):

NPS has proposed an extension of the Stampede Closed Area, eastward to the diagonal blue line on the map above.

A closed area boundary that followed the ridge line west of Otto Lake (red line) would include all of the GPS collar locations of “park road” wolves from 2003 to 2006. In prior years, however, wolves from the interior of the park have traveled to the area north of this line, particularly to the Eightmile Lake area.

The Stampede Road area has easy travel conditions for wolves and their prey, provided by the flat terrain, windblown snow conditions, and the travel corridors of the Stampede Road and the rivers that cross it. This makes it likely that wolves from farther west and south will continue to move back and forth across the Savage River and occupy the Eightmile Lake area from time to time.

NPS would like to go on record as preferring the larger closed area boundary that we proposed in Proposal #65, but would also support a smaller extension of the closed area that centered on the Ewe Creek and Dry Creek drainages as bounded by the red line in the figure above.

Prop 87
by Virgil Umphenour

Virgil L. Umphenour
2400 Davis Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-456-3885, Fax 907-456-3889
Email akhunt@ak.net

RC 133

October 27, 2009

Geoff Haskett
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road,
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 656-1708

RE: Appeal of non-selection of award of permit for KOY-03 of the Koyukuk
National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Haskett,

At the conclusion of the interview on October 21, you asked me to explain the paradox in the selection of Joe Schuster over Shawn Huffman. I believe that I got a bit off track, but succinctly put, the paradox is that the Federal government has decreed that the Refuge lands are to be virtually undisturbed, the residents of the area are not to be interfered with, the animal harvest is to be controlled and not overharvested, and that the commercial guide operation must be both experienced and eco-friendly — and then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selects an *air taxi operator* who has no fuel spill containment plan, no extensive first-hand guiding experience, admits that he flies his planes over the area and knows where the animals are concentrated, and actually lays out his plans for *expanding* his operation because he knows where the healthy herds are. Excerpts from Schuster application at enclosure 1.

During our conversation, I explained the history of the State's relaxing the standards for the minimum requirements for obtaining a registered hunting guide license. I also spoke about the number of people who were awarded their registered guide license during this period and the efforts of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association to revise this legislation and reinstitute the Big Game Commercial Services Board and develop higher standards of professionalism and ethics for professional hunting guides. However — and unfortunately — it was during this time of relaxed guide standards that air taxi operators like Mr. Schuster were able to obtain their registered guide license. Under current standards, he would be ineligible for a registered guide license.

Close scrutiny of Mr. Schuster's application discloses areas where he was nonresponsive and/or in violation of State statutes. These are as follows:

1. He has documented a mere *17 days* in the field during the past 10 years.
2. In response to the requirement (form F5) to "Describe your knowledge, ability, and experience in caring for meat, capes, and hides for big game. List the number of years

and estimated number of animals of each species that you and your employees have taken care of (e.g. field dressed, skinned, caped, boned, butchered etc.). Mr. Schuster *did not even respond* other than to say "Actual numbers of animals and trophies, in addition to those listed in form D, this applicant has participated in the handling of, part or whole, cannot be calculated within reason." With the exception of one brown bear in 2003, Mr. Schuster documents no other animals other than those which he has handled loading and unloading into an airplane. This sweeping generalization is non-responsive.

On Page 11, General Terms 2, of the Invitation for Proposals it states "Applications containing false or incomplete information may be rejected by the Service." On page 15 *in bold print*, it further states that an applicant who knowingly provides false or incomplete information will be disqualified."

3. Mr. Schuster has contracted guided hunts and allowed assistant guides to conduct the hunts. In the majority of his guided hunts between 2001-2008, neither Mr. Schuster nor a class A assistant guide participated (*in the field*) in the hunt as required by State statute. To elaborate, A.S.08.54.610(e)(2) states "A registered guide-outfitter who contracts for a guided hunt shall be:

(2) in the field and participating in the contracted hunt, unless the hunt is being conducted by a class A assistant guide or a registered guide-outfitter employed by the contracting registered guide-outfitter."

A review of Mr. Schuster's forms D and F clearly document that he violated these statutes from 2001 through 2008. Excerpts from State of Alaska's "Statutes and Regulations Big Game Commercial Services Board" dated March 2009 included as enclosure 2.

Both Shawn and I appreciate your time and willingness to listen to our appeal. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

2 incl as

Virgil L. Umphenour

RC 134

Motion to approve proposal 200. 2nd. amended to match AOC amendment wording. amendment passed 15-0-0. Amended motion passed 15-0-0.

Motion to approve proposal 201. 2nd. Motion passed 15-0-0. student vote 1-0-2.

refer to RC 135
for AOC amendment wording

165 and 166 motion and 2nd. passed 15-0-0 (did not get student vote).

Motion to approve 190. 2nd. ADF&G opposes because of attempt to keep sport halibut limit at 2 fish. Mel said ADF&G working this under emergency order is not right -- especially if ADF&G does not allow fishing when additional fish are available. Andy asked if it would be possible for crews to catch other species besides halibut and that the emergency orders seemed to be based on reducing halibut harvest, but there were no biological concerns with many other species of fish. ADF&G's response was that the Department did not have authority to manage halibut / but the regulation that restricts charter crews from fishing or retaining fish while running a charter is clearly aimed at reducing harvest of the halibut resource. ADF&G said that a regulation restricting all fishing and harvest of all fish by the charter crew was it's only means of restricting the charter halibut harvest, and that such a restriction assisted in allowing a 2 halibut daily limit for charter clients through out the summer season in some areas. Motion carries 14 -0 -1 students 1-0-2.

Proposals 182 and 183. Motion and 2nd. 0-14-1. and 0-2-1.

Proposal 189 Motion and 2nd. Motion failed 0-15-0 and 0-2-1.

10:15 p.m. Meeting break and scheduled for continuation at 7 p.m. on March 10, 2010 at MTA building in Palmer.

Minutes taken by Andrew Couch

Oppose Three yr board cycle!

Partial meeting minutes submitted by the
Mat Valley AC

*Submitted by Mat-Valley AC

RC 135



Alaska Outdoor Council

310 K Street, Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99501

Email: aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Do you live a “subsistence way of life”?

AOC, and the Alaska Supreme Court, says if you are an Alaskan resident who gathers your own wildfood harvest you are.

Alaska Statute 16.05.258(b)(3)(B) says if there is a large enough harvestable surplus of fish or game to meet the needs of all Alaskans, but not all consumptive uses, then we are all in it together as equals participating in a Tier I hunt.

That is exactly what the case is regarding salmon in the Copper River; where there is enough harvestable surplus to meet the needs of all Alaskans who chose to harvest a winters supply of fish. No Alaskan should be limited from gather salmon when ten times that ~~about~~ ^{AMOUNT} are being taken at the mouth of the Copper River commercially.

AOC recommends that the Board of Fish (BOF) do one of two things when they deliberate on Proposal #200:

- 1. Either defer proposal #200 to a future meeting of the Joint Boards since this will affect game as well as fish or;**
- 2. Amend the BOF definition of “subsistence way of life” to read;**

“subsistence way of life” means a way of life that is consistent with the long term use of fish and game resources, when available, to supplement the basic necessities of life.

AOC recommends that the Board of Fish adopt Proposal #201 as written.

It is in Alaska’s best interest to treat Alaskans equally when there is enough wild harvest available to supplement our food supplies. That is part of the reason why people have chosen to live in Alaska since the first people arrived. It is important that Alaskans who chose to supplement their basic food supply with salmon and wild game let the BOF know they want to be treated equally. (Information on how you can do that is printed on the back of this page.)

RC 136

Subsistence Way of Life

Alaska Statute 16.05.258(b)(3)(B) says if there is a large enough harvestable surplus of fish or game to meet the needs of all Alaskans, but not all consumptive uses, then we are all in it together as equals participating in a Tier I hunt.

The Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee (MVFGAC) recommends that the Board of Game (BOG) deliberate on the definition of "subsistence way of life. The MVFGAC unanimously supports the definition as follows:

"subsistence way of life" means a way of life that is consistent with the long term use of fish and game resources, when available, to supplement the basic necessities of life.

It is in Alaska's best interest to treat Alaskans equally when there is enough wild harvest available to supplement our food supplies. That is part of the reason why people have chosen to live in Alaska since the first people arrived. It is important that Alaskans who have chose to supplement their basic food supply with salmon and wild game

Representing the MVFGAC - Mat Valley AC



Melvin B. Grove Jr.

RC 137

Feb 5, 2010

RECEIVED

MAR 02 2010

BOARDS

Dear Board of Game Members,

I am requesting that you pass the following proposals which support expanding the current buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park boundary: proposals 55, 58, 59, 60 and 65.

I am also requesting that you oppose and vote down proposals that would shrink or eliminate current buffers, thereby allowing trapping right up to the park boundary. Please defeat proposals 56, 57, 61, 62, 63 and 64.

People come to Alaska to hear and see wolves in Denali National Park. Alaska should treasure and protect wolves for this reason. Few individuals would be impacted by expanding the buffer zone. Why should few or so trappers be favored over thousands of people inside and outside Alaska who want to protect the wolves?

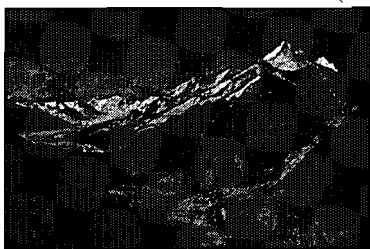
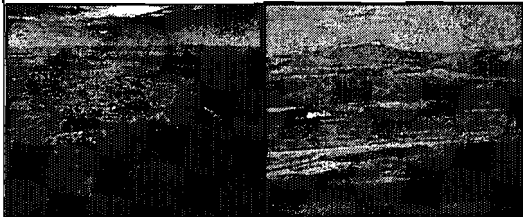
Sincerely,
Ginny DeVries
a frequent visitor
to Alaska



Ginny DeVries
4260 Blackhawk Dr.
Willits, CA 95490

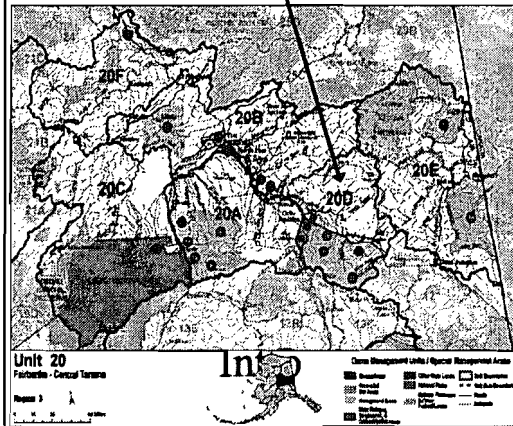
RC 138

2010 Unit 20D

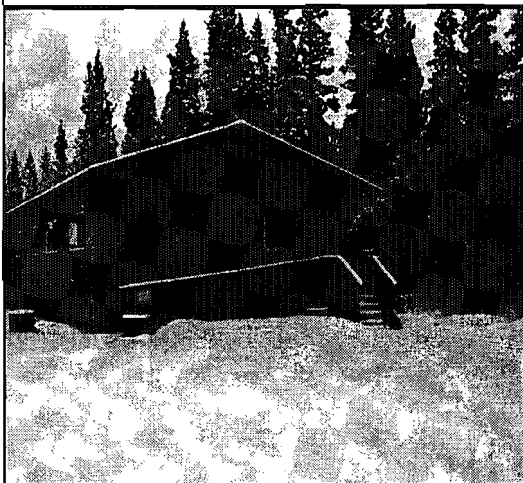


State of the Unit Address

Unit 20D Delta Junction Area Office



Unit 20D Delta Junction Area Office



Delta Staff



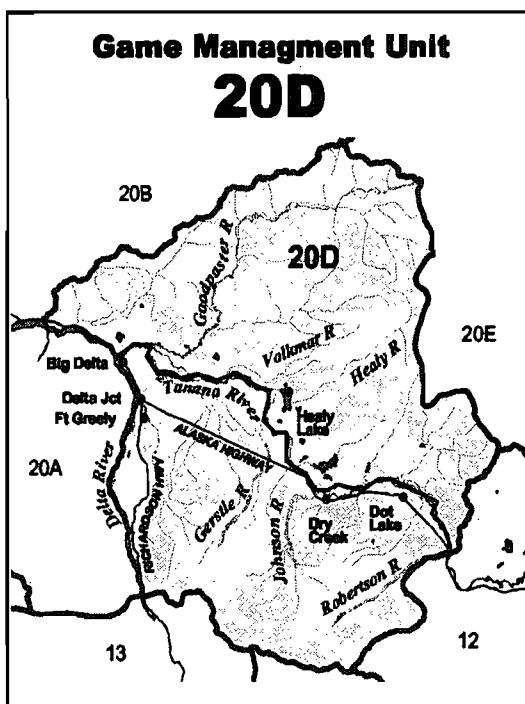
**Steve DuBois,
Area Biologist**

**Ron Riesgaard,
PS FWT 4, Bison
Range Manager**



**Dave
Davenport, PS
FWT 3**

20D 3A



Southern Unit 20D

- Mountains of eastern Alaska Range
- Lowlands of Tanana Rv valley



Northern Unit 20D

- Hills of Tanana uplands
- Lowlands of major river valleys



**Delta Junction,
Big Delta, Deltana**



Population ~3,200

Ft. Greely,
Donnelly Training Area,
National Missile
Defense Site,
Population ~500

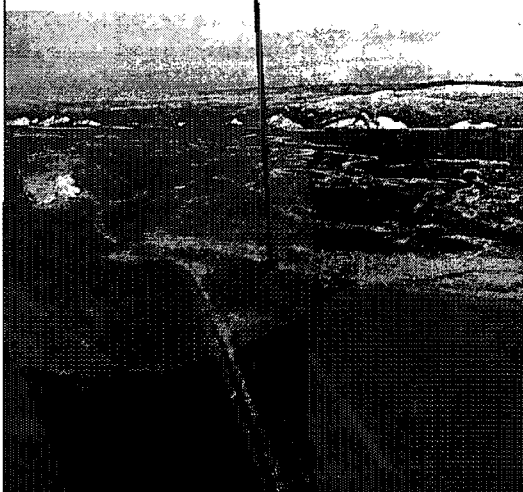


Dry Creek



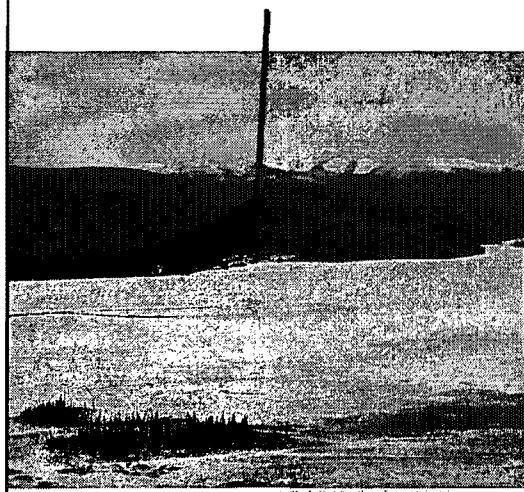
Population ~100

Dot Lake



Population ~80

Healy Lake



Population ~25

DBH; BRYHMA



With bison forage management,
more moose & hunters were
attracted to the fields

BRYHMA

- Goals were to:
 - 1) Improve ADFG's ability to meet
 - DJBR legislative mandates
 - Bison Management Plan objectives
 - 2) Benefit farmers by improving bison use of DJBR

BRYHMA

- Objectives (cont.)
 - 3) Reduce damage to bison forage crops from moose hunters
 - 4) Provide safer work environment for ADFG staff

BRYHMA

- Objectives (cont.)
 - 5) Provide opportunity for youth hunters to be introduced to moose hunting with high opportunity for success



BRYHMA

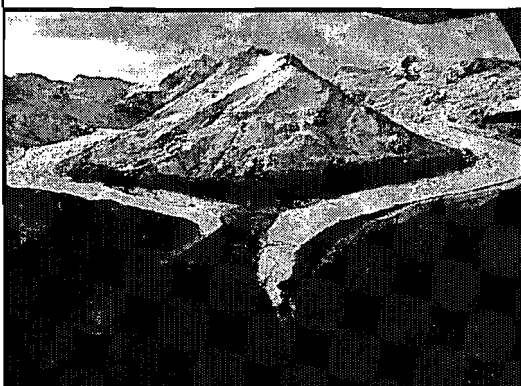
- **10 draw permits for SF50 bull moose or cow w/o calf**
- **Hunting season = Sept 1-30**
- **Hunt Friday-Monday 1st three weekends in Sept.**
 - **Each hunter has 4 days**
- **Hunters assigned weekend**
- **No motorized vehicles**

BRYHMA

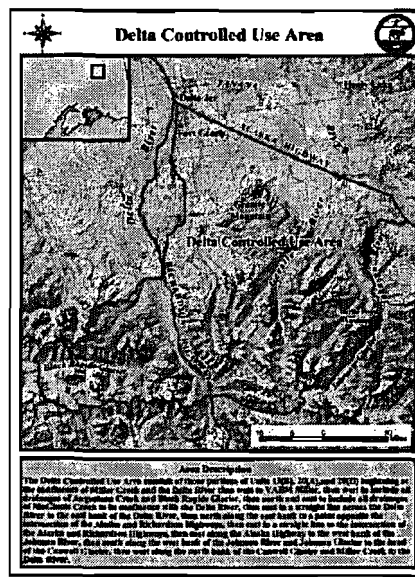
- **BRYHMA hunt is meeting objectives:**
 - **Reduction in bison forage damage**
 - **Improved workplace safety resulting in more field work**
 - **Bison increased use of fields & less time on farms during moose hunting season**
 - **Youth hunt successful**
 - **2009 = 80% success**

Delta Controlled Use Area

- **Estab. 1971 to meet sheep hunter desire for a walk-in hunting & uncrowded area**
- **1,680 mi² in 20D, 20A, & 13B**



DCUA map



Delta CUA

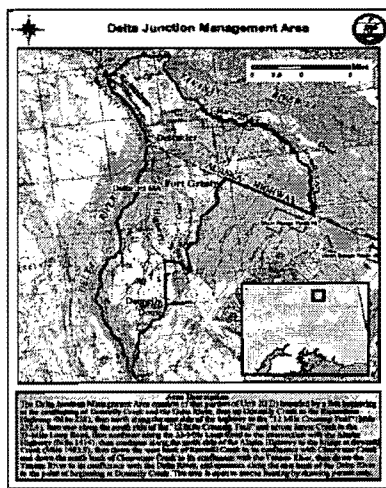
- **Management goal:**
 - **Provide:**
 - Uncrowded hunting
 - Walk-in hunting
 - By managing hunter numbers, access, & transportation
 - **Harvest objective:**
 - Harvest 35 full-curl rams/yr with mean horn length 36 in. & 8+ yrs old

Delta CUA

- DCUA is hunt is conducted as 2 drawing permit hunts
- DS203 = Aug 10 – 25
 - Nonmotorized
 - 75 permits
- DS204 = Aug 26 – Sept 20
 - Unrestricted access
 - 75 permits
- 2009 harvest
 - DS203 = 23
 - DS204 = 28
- 5 yr mean horn size = 35.2 in.
- 5 yr mean age = 8.5 yrs

Delta Junction Management Area

278 mi² around Delta Jct

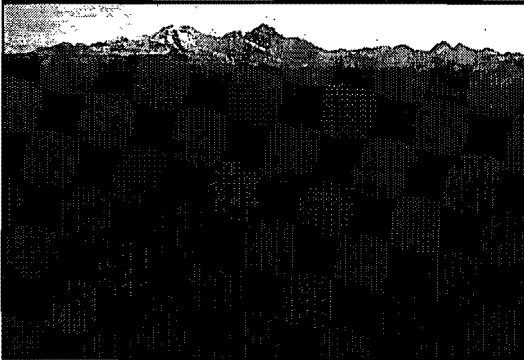


Delta Junction Management Area

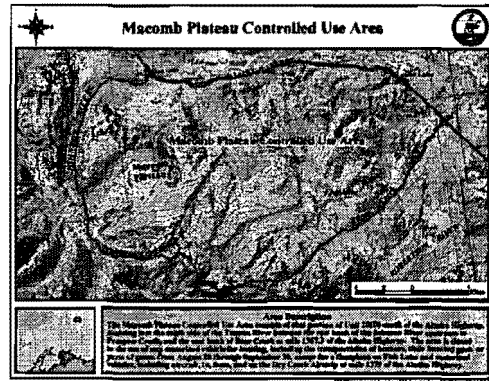
- Estab. 1974 at request of Delta AC to close hunting around Delta Jct. when moose low
 - Delta Junction Closed Area
- Reduced in size in 1991
- Renamed DJMA in 1996
 - First issued drawing permits
 - 25 permits for SF50 bull moose
- 2009 harvest = 13

Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area

- Created 1974 to:
 - Protect critical MCH calving habitat by restricting motorized vehicles from Aug 10 - Sep 30
 - Regulate MCH harvest
- 304 mi²



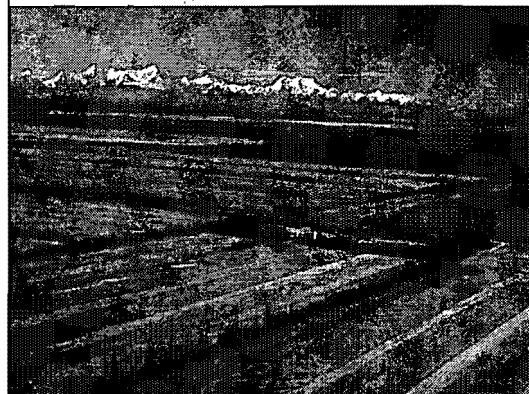
MPCUA



Macomb Plateau CUA

- Meeting objectives to:
 - Prevent habitat degradation from motorized vehicles
 - Control harvest
 - Provide nonmotorized hunting opportunity

Private Agricultural Lands



~100,000 acre (156 mi²)

Hunting for bison (70%),
waterfowl, sharp-tailed
grouse, moose

Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

- Delta AC serves Delta Jct. & Dry Ck.
- Dot Lk. & Healy Lk. served by Upper Tanana Fortymile AC

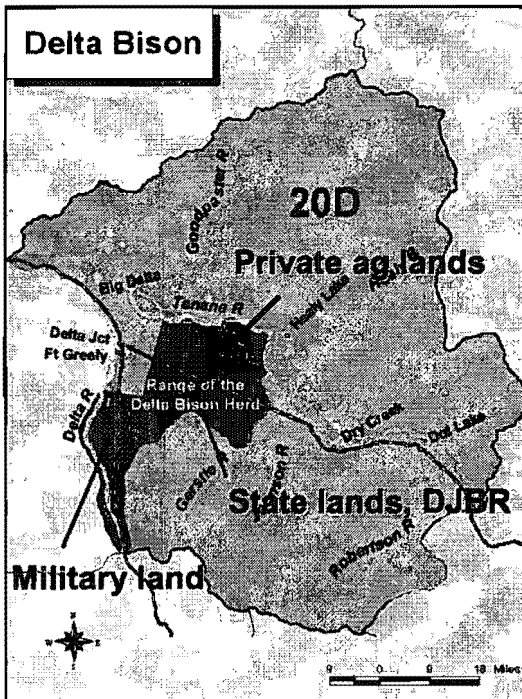


Delta Bison Herd



- Herd ranges in SW 20D

Delta Bison



Delta Bison Herd

- Mgmt based on plan developed with Delta Bison Working Group
- Plans since 1980
–Approved by Board



Delta Bison Herd

- DJBR managed to reduce bison-agriculture conflicts
- Herd size managed by drawing permit hunt

- 15,000+ applications/yr
- 60-170 permits/yr
- Season July 20-Mar 31
- Permits issued starting Oct 1
- 2008 - 100% permits successful
- 2008 - 6.7% hunter success

Delta Bison Herd

- Management Activities
 - Aerial population estimate
 - Ground based sex-age composition counts
 - Radio collars
 - Serologic survey
 - Manage bison forage on DJBR
 - Administer drawing permit hunt

Delta Bison Herd

- Issues:
- Reduce damage to private agricultural crops while maintaining free-ranging herd
 - Accomplished with DJBR & forage management
- Military training on bison summer & calving range
 - Cooperating with military to minimize conflicts

Delta Bison Herd

- Issues:
- Bison may be calving in agricultural lands
- Other Issues include:
 - Retain access to private land for hunters
 - Escape of domestic bison
 - Livestock diseases
 - Conservation of genetic purity

Delta Bison Herd

- **Issues**
- **Delta Bison Management Plan**
- **Planning started in winter 2008 with DBWG**
 - **DBWG reached consensus on several points**
 - **DBWG reached an impasse in Dec. 2009 over**
 - **Herd size**
 - **Fencing**
- **Detailed discussion follows**

Black Bear

- **Accurate pop. est. not available but extrapolated to 750**
- **Hunting season = no closed season, 3 bag**
- **Harvest objective not to exceed:**
 - **15 bears south of Tanana**
 - **35 bears north of Tanana**
 - **Hunting and baiting is popular**
- **2009 Harvest = 11**

Black Bear

- **Management Activities**
 - **Seal bears**
 - **Register bait stations**
 - **Nuisance bears**
- **Issues**
 - **None**

Brown Bear

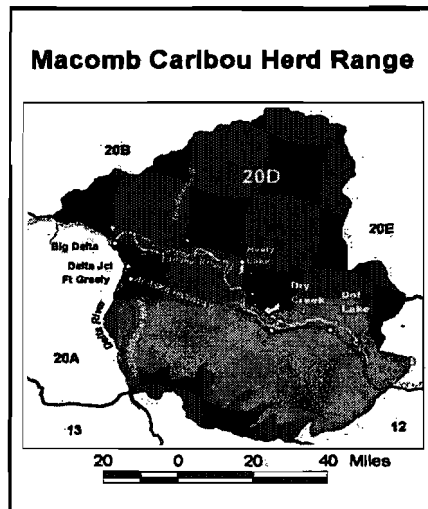
- **Extrapolated population = 181-210 bears**
- **Harvest obj = 5-15/yr**
- **Current Regulations:**
 - **No resident tag fees**
 - **Season = Aug 10-Jun 30**
 - **Bag limit = 1/yr**
- **Ave. mortality = 12/yr & 55% males w/current regs**

Brown Bear

- Management Activities
 - Seal bears
 - Nuisance bears
- Issues
 - Role in Intensive Management

Macomb Caribou Herd

- MCH small herd in southern Unit 20D



Macomb Caribou Herd

- Human consumption is highest use
- Identified for intensive management in 1995
- Positive C&T with amounts necessary = 10-40
- Pop. obj = 600-800
- Fall 2009 pop. = 838 – 1,000
 - Meets IM population obj
 - 26 calves:100 cows
 - 32 bulls:100 cows

Macomb Caribou Herd

- IM Harv obj. = 30-50/yr
- History of making hunting regulations manageable & meet A&S with a small, road accessible herd
- Current hunting by registration permit Aug 10-27
 - Aug 10-25 overlaps Delta CUA & Macomb Plateau CUA access restrictions
 - DCUA restrictions expire Aug 26
- 2009 harvest quota = 50
 - 2009 harvest = 52

Macomb Caribou Herd

- **Management Activities**
 - Annual aerial population estimate & composition survey
 - Hunting season distribution survey
 - Radio collars
 - Registration permits

Macomb Caribou Herd

- **Issue**
 - Avoiding overharvest of small, road accessible herd

Furbearers

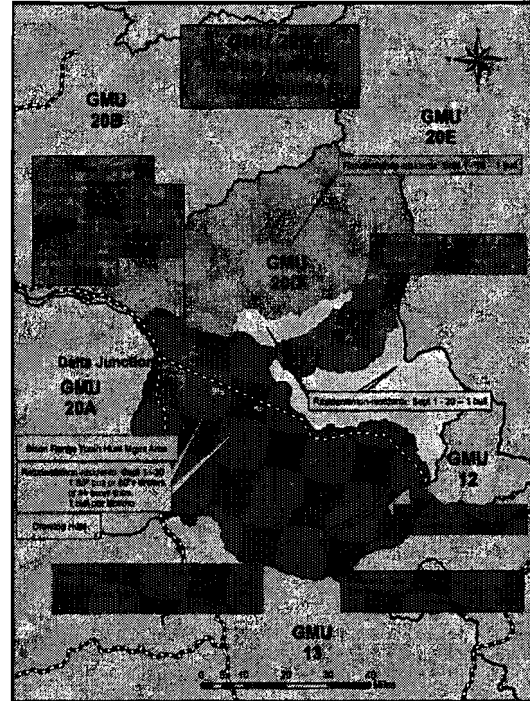
- **Species of importance include:**
 - Beaver
 - Coyote
 - Lynx
 - Marten
 - Red fox
 - Wolverine

Furbearers

- **Management Activities**
 - Seal furs
 - Mail trapper questionnaire
 - Annual snowshoe hare population survey
- **Issues**
 - Incidental trapping of moose & caribou

Moose

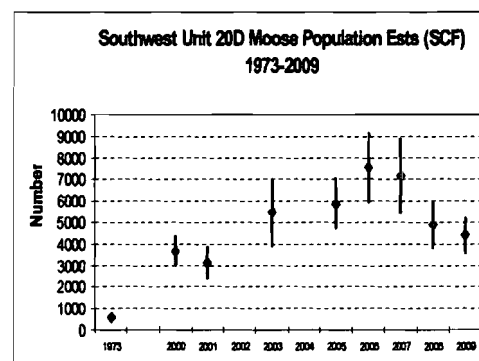
- Human consumption identified as highest use
- Intensive Mgmt adopted 1995
- Pop. objective = 8,000-10,000
- North of Tanana
 - 63% of area
 - 2004 = 2,411 moose
 - (0.8 moose/mi²)
- South of Tanana
 - 37% of area
 - 2009 = 5,606 moose
 - (3.0 moose/mi²)
- Harv. obj = 500-700
 - 2009 harv = 350 bulls + cows



History Of Unit 20D Antlerless Moose Hunts

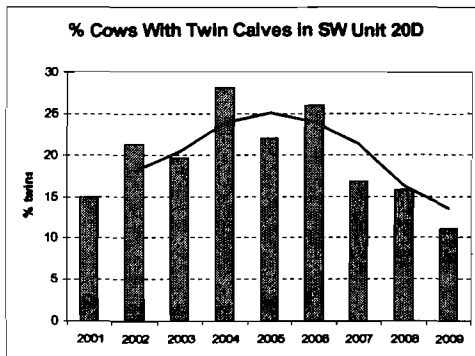
- Antlerless moose (cow w/o calf) hunting initiated in 2006 to reduce the population in SW Unit 20D with 5.6 moose/mi²
- Browse surveys showed 25% overwinter browse removal (range = 22% lowlands - 37% foothills)
- Twinning rate moderately low at 24%
- Cow harvest
 - 2006 = 52
 - 2007 = 507
 - 2008 = 380
 - 2009 = 113
 - 2010 = 0

Southwest Unit 20D Population Trend



2009 density = 3.5 moose/mi²

Southwest Unit 20D **Twinning Surveys**



- 2009 twinning = 11.1%
- Do not know how long it will take twinning rates to respond
- Two year average = 13%

SW Unit 20D Moose **Research**

- SW Unit 20D research project initiated in October 2009 with Army \$
- Radio collared 42 bull moose
- Plan to radio collar ~15 cow moose in spring 2010
- Collect spring weights from 30 calves
- Intensive browse survey in spring 2010
- Collect movement data
- Collect area specific moose survey sightability data for more accurate population estimates

Moose

- Management Activities
 - General hunting, drawing & registration permit hunts
 - Annual GSPE population estimates in north or south
 - Annual aerial twinning surveys
 - Periodic browse surveys
 - Regulatory signs
 - Public meetings

Moose

- Issues
 - High density in SW Unit 20D & antlerless hunt
 - Antler restrictions unpopular
 - High incidence of vehicle collisions with moose

Dall Sheep in Delta CUA

- 2008 – 2009 population estimate = 1,674 sheep
 - Slightly below 1,800 population objective
- Sheep hunting divided into 2 permit hunts:
 - DS 203 Aug 10-25
 - Walk-in only
 - DS 204 Aug 26-Sept 20
 - Unrestricted access
- 75 permits each hunt
- Average harvest = 51/yr last 3 yrs.

Dall Sheep Mt. Harper- Goodpaster Rv



- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, and 20E
- ~240 mi² of sheep habitat
- 2009 pop est = 108 sheep
- 4 drawing permits for full-curl ram
 - Hunting can occur outside the drawing permit area with harvest ticket
- 1 sheep killed last 3 years

Dall Sheep

- Management Activities
 - Plug horns
 - Conduct aerial surveys or population estimates
 - Issues
 - Protecting habitat from development
 - Disease prevention

Small Game

- Important species:
 - Sharp-tailed grouse
 - Ruffed grouse
 - Spruce grouse
 - Snowshoe hares
- Popular hunting area for statewide hunters
- Grouse numbers currently moderate
- Hare numbers currently high

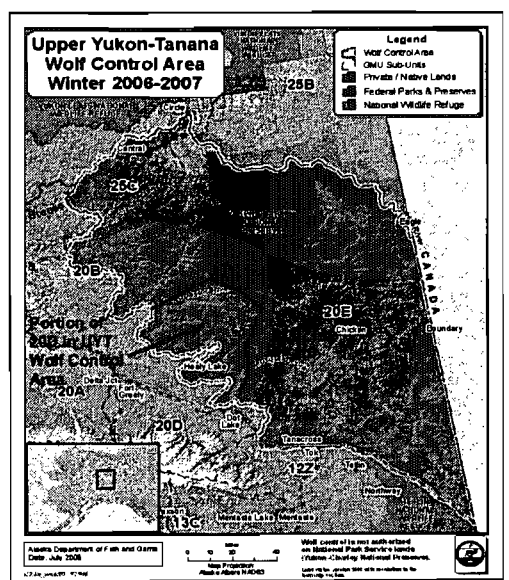
Small Game

- **Management Activities**
 - Ruffed grouse drumming surveys
 - Monitor sharptailed grouse leks
 - Ruffed grouse habitat management area on DJBR
- **Issues**
 - Developing habitat mgmt techniques

Wolf

- Unit 20D pop. objective = 15-125
- Fall 2008 pop est = 117 in 12 packs
- Hunting season = Aug 10 – Apr 30; 5 wolves
- Trapping season = Oct 15 – Apr 30
- Harvest averaged 47/yr last 3 years
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon – Tanana wolf control area

Wolf



Wolf

- **Management Activities**
 - Seal pelts
 - Annual aerial surveys & trapper interviews to estimate population size
- **Issues**
 - Role of wolves in Unit 20D intensive mgmt

Other Issues

- **Forestry:** Cooperating to improve wildlife habitat
 - Timber sales, wildfire
- **Mining:** New road in N. 20D to Pogo Mine
- **Big game ranching:** Bison, elk, yak, reindeer
- **Domestic livestock & disease**
- **Enforcement:** poaching

Unit 20D Summary

- **Bison**
 - Damage to farm crops reduced but not eliminated
 - Meeting population objective
- **Black Bear**
 - Harvest objective met
- **Brown Bear**
 - Harvest objective met
- **Macomb Caribou Herd**
 - Population objective met
 - Harvest objective met
 - A&S harvest met

Summary

- **Moose**
 - Population objective met
 - Harvest below objective
- **Dall sheep**
 - Population slightly below objective
 - Harvest objective
 - Horn size slightly below obj
 - Age met
- **Wolf**
 - Population objective met

The End



Questions?

RC 139

Unit 20D 2010 BOG Regulation Proposals



Proposal 74

- **Proposal:** Modify the Delta bison hunting season dates
- **Submitted by:** Delta Bison Working Group
- **Issue:** Having a year round hunting season in codified gives ADF&G options for managing bison/agriculture conflicts
- **ADF&G Recommendation:** Adopt
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** Adopt
- **Rationale:** Bison hunter success is declining, some bison may be calving on private, agricultural lands, & no closed season provides options to use hunting as a tool for managing bison

Proposal 74

- **Background:**
- The Delta bison herd (DBH) is managed via a management plan developed with input from the Delta Bison Working Group (DBWG)
- DBWG is a 7-member citizens advisory group representing
 - Farmers, hunters, Delta business, military, & Delta community interests



Proposal 74

- **Background:**
- The DBWG began working on an update to the Delta Bison Management plan in winter 2008
- Many of the issues discussed involve conflicts when bison forage on private agricultural lands
 - Bison are on private land from ~late Aug – April - May
- Another factor is that some bison (ests range from a few to 30 – 50) remain on ag lands to calve and during the summer months

PEI JA

Proposal 74

- **Background:**
- Current bison hunting season is codified is July 20 – March 31
- At the request of farmers, ADF&G does not issue permits until Oct. 1, to reduce conflicts between bison hunting and farmers harvesting crops
- Actual hunting season is Oct. 1 – Mar 31
- The current July 20 – Sept. 30 season dates are available to use hunting as a tool to reduce bison conflicts with farmers



Proposal 74

- Extending the season to July 1 – June 30 will give ADF&G the greatest possible options for using hunting as a tool to manage bison/agriculture conflicts
- To date the option of using dates outside the Oct 1 – March 31 hunting season has rarely, if ever, been used to reduce depredation
- ADF&G has no plans to use additional time from July 1 – September 30 & April 1 – June 30 at this time

Proposal 74

- **Summary:**
- Extending the Delta bison hunting season to July 1 – June 30 will not result in changes to the permit hunt dates of October 1 – March 31.
- It will give ADF&G the greatest flexibility to use hunting as a tool to manage bison/agriculture conflicts.

Proposal 74

Questions?

Proposal 75

- **Proposal:** Allow the taking of Delta bison the same day airborne (SDA)
- **Submitted by:** Delta AC
- **Issue:** Allowing hunting SDA (with restrictions) will increase declining hunter success
- **ADF&G Recommendation:** Amend & Adopt
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** Adopt
- **Rationale:** Bison hunter success is declining, making it necessary to issue too many permits to meet the population objective

Proposal 75

- **Amended Proposal:**
- "8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; however, this paragraph does not apply to"
 - (G) taking bison in Unit 20(D) for persons departing from and returning to Delta D66 airstrip
- **Amended Rationale:** Allowing hunters to take bison when they are at least 300 feet from the airplane when they have been airborne has a potential to result in conflicts between hunters on the ground and SDA hunters

Proposal 75

- Amended Proposal 75 would allow hunters to take off from the "downtown Delta" airstrip i.e. D66, fly approximately 20 miles east of Delta & search for bison, then return to D66 and begin hunting the same day.



Proposal 75

- **Background:**
- Current DBH population objective = 360 bison precalving (~475 postcalving)
- DBH is managed at this size to reduce damage to agricultural crops
- Herd size is managed through hunting
 - Two drawing permits
 - D1403 = bull or either-sex occasionally
 - D1404 = cow
 - Bison hunters have a staggered start with a new group of hunters starting about every 5 days

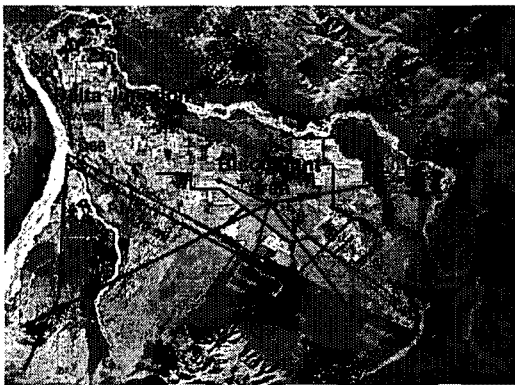
Proposal 75

- Current SDA regulations do not allow hunters to hunt until after 3 a.m. the following day in which the flying occurred
- Currently, most Delta bison hunters hunt from the road system through private agricultural lands or on the Delta Junction Bison Range.

Proposal 75

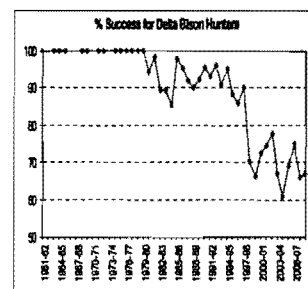
- Hunters commonly drive hundreds of miles/day for numerous days without seeing bison
- Bison commonly stay in spruce forest or away from roads
- Roads, particularly in winter, access only a very small proportion of bison range

Proposal 75



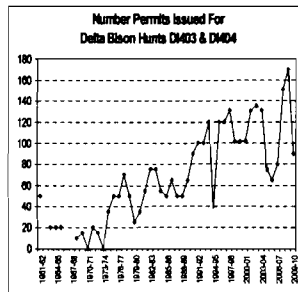
Proposal 75

- Hunter success has been declining from 100% thru 1970's
- To most recent 5-yr ave of 68%
- Reasons are:
 - More fenced farms
 - Fewer farmers giving permission to hunt
 - More farmers only allowing 1 party to hunt at a time
 - Bison becoming nocturnal during hunting season
 - Many more landowners to contact
 - Bison go to crops & less acreage in crops



Proposal 75

- Result of declining hunter success is issuing more permits to achieve harvest to meet herd size objective
- Issued 170 permits in 2008 = too many
- DBH hunt area becomes overcrowded at ~100 – 120 permits, reducing hunter success & hunter satisfaction



Proposal 75

- Summary:
- Delta bison hunter success is declining
- It is necessary to issue too many permits to meet harvest objectives & population objectives
- SDA would be allowed with hunters returning to D66 before hunting

Proposal 75

Questions?

Proposal 76

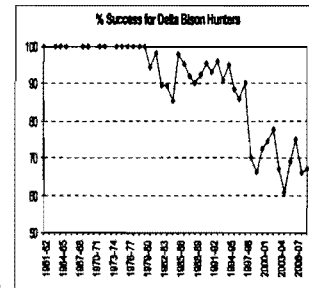
- **Proposal:** Allow the use of radio communication while hunting Delta bison
- **Submitted by:** Public
- **Issue:** Allowing the use of radio communication to increase hunter success
- **ADF&G Recommendation:** Do not adopt
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** ?
- **Rationale:** Bison hunter success is declining, making it necessary to issue too many permits to meet the population objective. Combining SDA with radio communication for hunting Delta bison is not advisable

Proposal 76

- **Background:**
- Current DBH population objective = 360 bison precalving (~475 postcalving)
- DBH is managed at this size to reduce damage to agricultural crops
- Herd size is managed through hunting
 - Two drawing permits
 - DI403 = bull or either-sex occasionally
 - DI404 = cow
 - Bison hunters have a staggered start with a new group of hunters starting about every 5 days

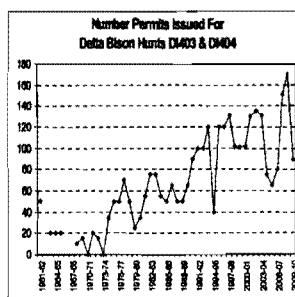
Proposal 76

- Hunter success has been declining from 100% thru 1970's
- To most recent 5-yr ave of 68%
- Reasons are:
 - More fenced farms
 - Fewer farmers giving permission to hunt
 - More farmers only allowing 1 party to hunt at a time
 - Bison becoming nocturnal during hunting season
 - Many more landowners to contact
 - Bison go to crops & less acreage in crops



Proposal 76

- Result of declining hunter success is issuing more permits to achieve harvest to meet herd size objective
- Issued 170 permits in 2008 = too many
- DBH hunt area becomes overcrowded at ~100 – 120 permits, reducing hunter success & hunter satisfaction



Proposal 76

- Current regulations do not allow hunters to use radio communication, cell phones, etc. for hunting
- During the DBWG planning process, options were discussed with the public to improve hunter success rates & reduce the number of hunting permits necessary to meet harvest objectives
- In addition to allowing limited SDA hunting as in Proposal 75, allowing the use of radio & cell phone communication was discussed

Proposal 76

- ADF&G determined that SDA would be the most beneficial of the SDA vs radio options
- ADF&G did not feel that combining the two options was advisable
- However, a member of the public submitted this proposal
- Concern is that an observer in the air could communicate with a hunter on the ground

Proposal 76

- Summary:
- During the Delta bison planning process, the use of limited SDA & radio communications was discussed as a method to improve hunter success
- ADF&G supports limited SDA as the preferred option
- ADF&G does not support allowing both limited SDA & radio communication

Proposal 76

Questions?

Proposal 77

- Proposal: Make specific bison (i.e. radio collared) illegal to shoot
- Submitted by: ADF&G
- Issue: Hunters appear to be targeting radio collared bison to shoot because they are known sex
- ADF&G Recommendation: Adopt
- Delta AC Recommendation: Adopt
- Rationale: ADF&G uses radio collared bison to facilitate population estimates and track herd movements. When hunters shoot collared bison it creates a financial hardship & safety issue for ADF&G

Proposal 77

- The Delta bison herd is probably one of the most intensively managed big game herds in the state
- ADF&G keeps radio collars on ~8 – 15 Delta bison to facilitate managing the herd for
 - Population estimates,
 - Composition surveys, and
 - To track herd movements in relation to damage to agricultural crops
 - etc

Proposal 77

- Year after year, radio collared bison are shot in higher proportion than they occur in the herd
 - Hunters shot 6 during the RY08 hunting season
- We mostly collar cow bison because bulls tend to separate from the main herd
 - I think cow hunters know this and look for and shoot radio collared cows In 2008, ADF&G attached 10 radio collars
- During the Delta bison orientation, hunters are informed of the presence of radio collared bison & asked not to shoot them

Proposal 77

- Attaching radio collars to Delta bison is difficult
- ADF&G has a relatively short time window to radio collar Delta bison due to
 - ADF&G policy & FDA guidelines pertaining to drug residue
 - Army regulations
 - Calving
 - Private land issues
- ADF&G policy (based on FDA guidelines) prohibit bison from being immobilized during the hunting season due to drug residue
 - Because of the long hunting season combined with ADF&G policy, bison can not be radio collared from Sept – March

Proposal 77

- Because we collar primarily cows, we do not want to immobilize bison during calving which starts mid-April
- This leaves about a 2 week window between the end of the hunting season & start of calving
- At this time they are commonly in military artillery impact areas where we can not work due to the presence of live ordnance

Proposal 77

- After most calving ends in late-June bison are still commonly on military impact areas
 - Scheduling helicopters pilots is difficult because we do not know when bison are accessible on military land from day to day
 - Ambient air temperatures are higher in mid-summer and can result in capture mortality
- When the Delta bison herd moves onto private land we do not radio collar them there
- Etc etc
- Bottom line: Attaching radios to Delta bison is difficult because of finances & logistics

Proposal 77

- This regulation would make it illegal to shoot Delta bison wearing brightly collared, numbered visual collars
- The brightly collared, numbered visual collars detract from the aesthetics of viewing bison
- When specific collars become inoperable, we will notify hunters that they can shoot those specific bison
- This regulation will assist ADF&G keeping enough Delta bison radio collared for the best management possible

Proposal 77

Questions?

Proposal 73

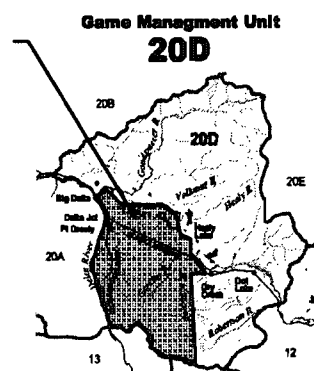
- **Proposal:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D
- **Submitted by:** ADF&G
- **Issue:** The Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually
- **ADF&G Recommendation:** Adopt
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** Adopt
- **Rationale:** Although current plans are to issue no antlerless permits for RY10, reauthorization is requested in the event that new data indicates a hunt is preferable.

Proposal 73

- **Background:**
- BOG adopted Intensive Mgmt for Unit 20D moose in 1995
 - Population objective = 8,000 – 10,000
 - Harvest objective = 500 – 700
- By 2006, population in SW Unit 20D increased to 5.6 moose/mi²
 - Moderately low twinning rate
 - Moderately high overwinter browse

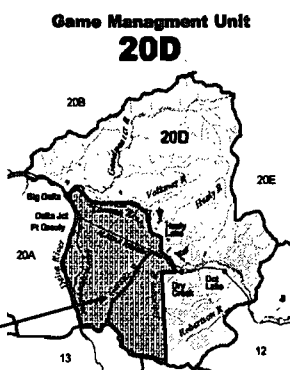
Proposal 73

- Southwest Unit 20D
 - South of Tanana Rv
 - West of Johnson Rv
- Location of highest moose density & population growth
- Extensive agricultural land clearing & wild fires last 30 years
- Created abundance of high quality moose habitat
- High bear & wolf harvest



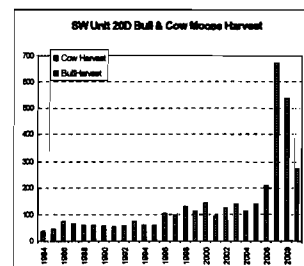
Proposal 73

- Proposal is to reauthorize antlerless hunts in southwest Unit 20D
 - for a cow not accompanied by a calf,
 - from Oct 10 – Nov 25
- Southwest Unit 20D hunt area is:
 - South of Tanana Rv
 - West of Gerstle Rv



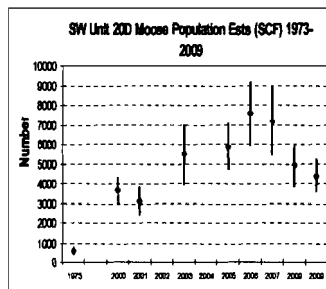
Proposal 73

- Unit 20D antlerless moose harvest (cow not accompanied by a calf) + BRYHMA
- 2006 (token hunt) = 75 permits
 - 52 cows taken
- 2007 = 901 drawing permits
 - 507 cows taken
- 2008 = 748 drawing & registration permits
 - 382 cows taken
- 2009 = 200 drawing permits
 - 113 cows taken
- 2006 – 2009 cows taken = 1,054
- Harvest achieved even with restrictive bag limit = cow not accompanied by a calf
- Harvest due to good access with many roads & trails



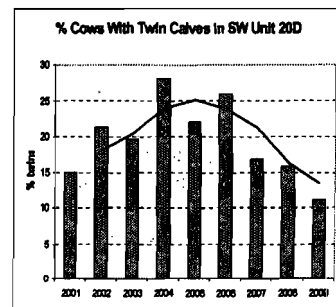
Proposal 73

- SW Unit 20D cow hunt has reduced moose population density:
- 2006 = 7,559 moose
– 5.6 moose/mi²
- 2009 = 4,401 moose
– 3.1 moose/mi²
– Reduced to ~2002 – 2003 population levels



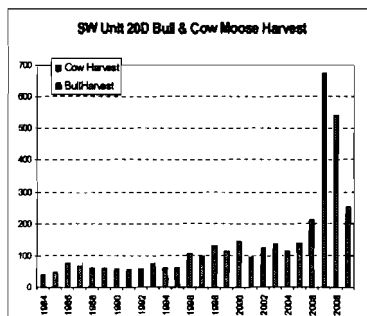
Proposal 73

- SW Unit 20D twinning rates continuing decline to 11.1% despite reduction in population
- Do not know time lag between population reduction & twinning response



Proposal 73

- SW Unit 20D bull harvest is remaining steady & high
- Harv = 147/yr 2007-2009
- 2009 bull:cow ratio = 30:100
- 2009 calf:cow ratio = 33:100



Proposal 73

- SW Unit 20D moose research project begun fall 2009 due to availability of Army funds
- Radio-collared 42 bull moose
- Radio-collared 15 cow moose
- Weigh 30 short yrags
- Data to be collected:
 - Movement & population identity
 - Aerial survey sightability
 - Short – yearling spring weights
 - Overwinter 2009 – 2010 browse utilization



Proposal 73

- **Summary:**
- SW20D had very high density moose population = 5.6 moose/mi²
- 1,035 Cow moose harvested in 4 years
- Moose population reduced to 2002 – 2003 levels but still high = 3.1 moose/mi²
- No more cow moose permits issued until research conducted & population status reevaluated
- Keep antlerless moose hunt authorized in case research indicates cow hunts need to be resumed quickly

Proposal 73

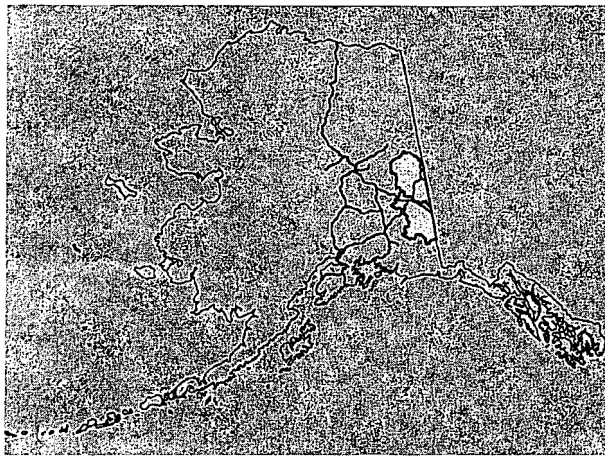
Questions?

RC140

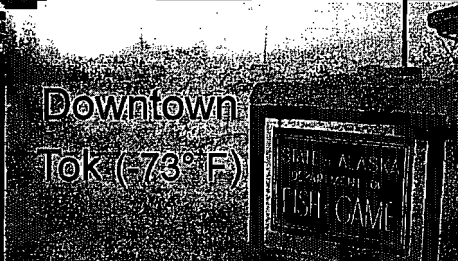


Tok ADF&G Wildlife Program - 2010

RC 140



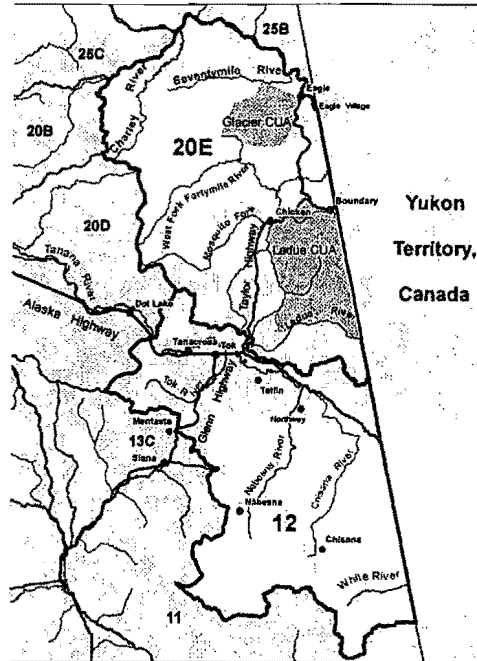
Tok ADF&G Office and Staff



04/10

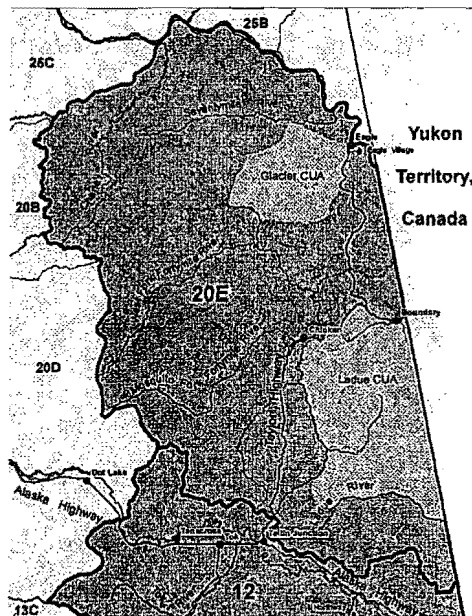
Tok Area

- Diverse Habitat
- Diverse Land Ownership
- 13 Communities
- 3 ACs



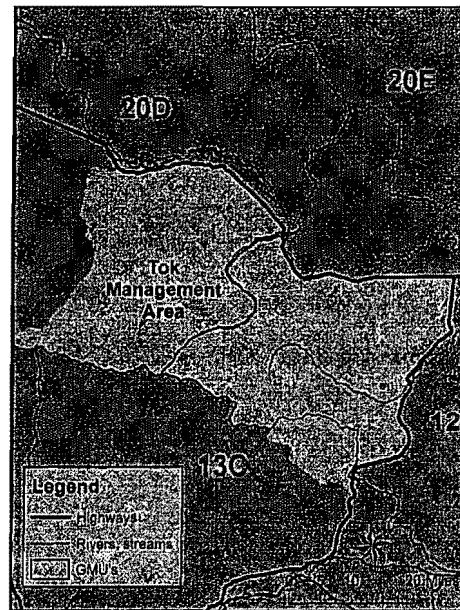
Controlled Use Areas (CUA)

- Glacier Mountain CUA (Unit 20E)
- Ladue River CUA (Unit 20E)



Management Areas

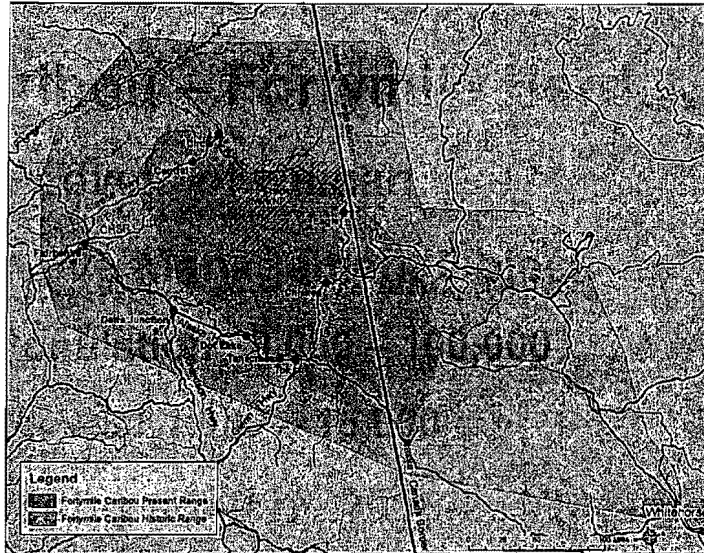
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12)
 - Trophy Sheep Management
 - Uncrowded Hunting Conditions



Caribou – Chisana Herd



Caribou – Fortymile Herd



Caribou – Fortymile Herd

High Levels of Human Use

Intensive Management Objectives

- Population 50,000 – 100,000
- Harvest 1,000 – 15,000

Harvest guided by 2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

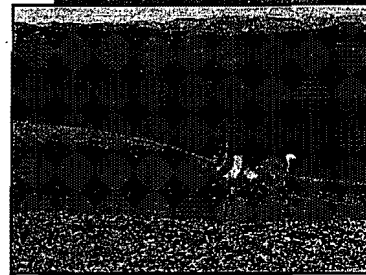
Caribou – Fortymile Herd

Current Population Est.

- 46,500 caribou (2009)
- Increasing

Management Activities

- Photo Census
- Fall Comp
- Spring Birthrate
- Harvest Monitoring



Caribou – Fortymile Herd

Harvest

➤ Fall and Winter Registration Hunts

- ~3,000 Hunters Annually
- Annual Quota of 850 Caribou
 - season and area allocation

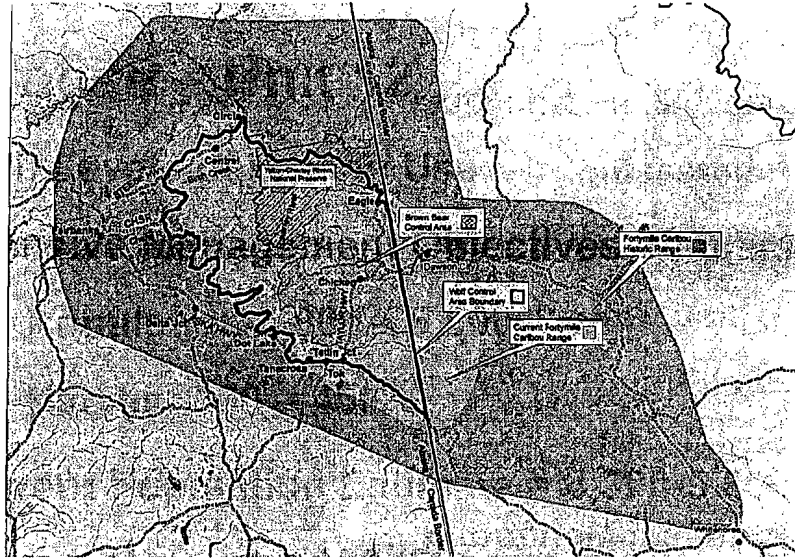
➤ EO closures numerous

- Subsistence concerns

➤ Hunt Management issues



Caribou – Fortymile Herd



Moose – Unit 12

High Levels of Human Use

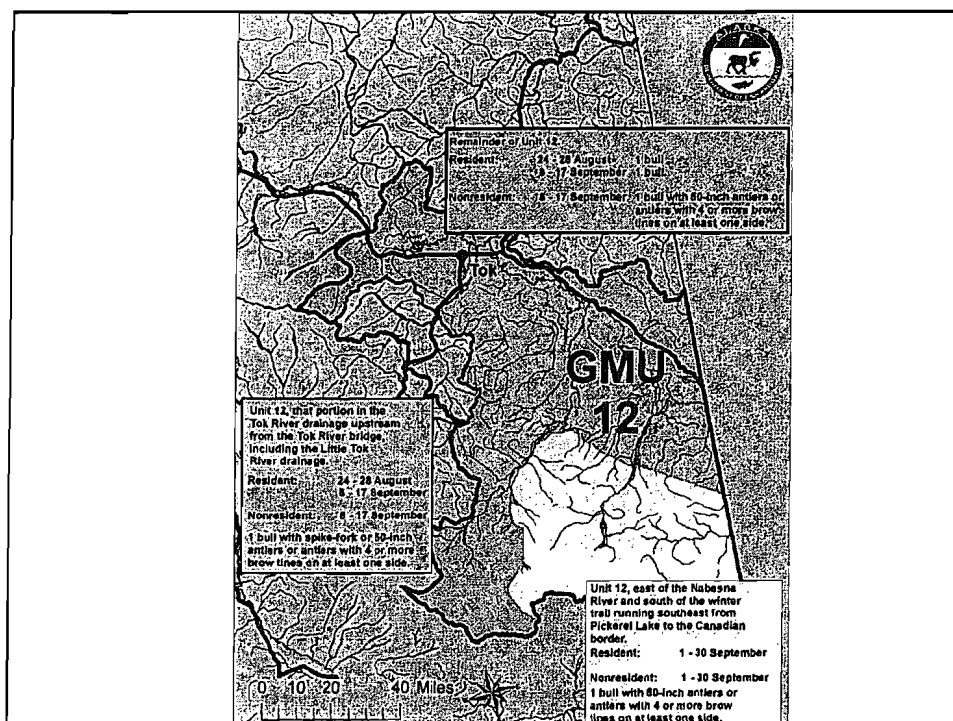
Intensive Management Objectives

- Population 4,000 – 6,000
- Harvest 250 – 450

Current Population Estimate = 4,300-5,600

Current Harvest = 132 (5-year avg.)





Moose – Unit 12

Management Activities

- Periodic population surveys
- Periodic twinning counts
- Periodic browse surveys
- Harvest Monitoring
 - General Harvest Reports

Moose – Unit 20E

High Levels of Human Use

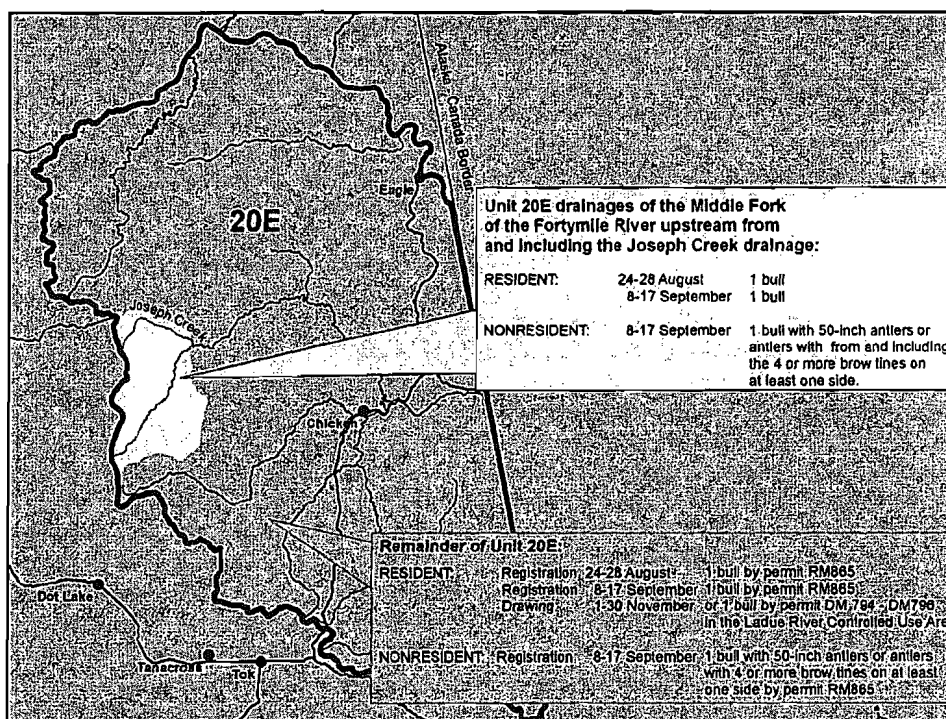
Intensive Management Objectives

➤ Population 8,000 – 10,000

➤ Harvest 500 – 1,000

Current Population Estimate = 3,900 –
5,400

Current Harvest = 153 (5-year avg.)



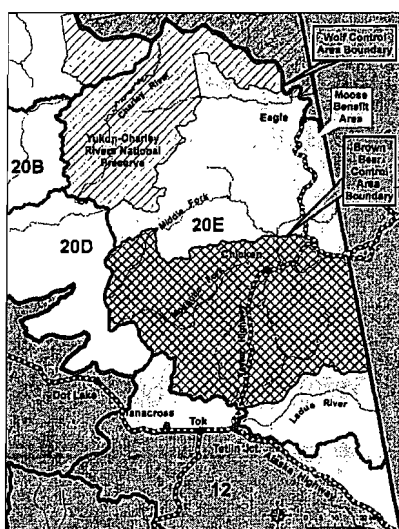
Moose – Unit 20E

Management Activities

- Annual population surveys
- Annual twinning counts
- Periodic browse surveys
- Harvest Monitoring
 - Registration Harvest Reports

Moose – Units 12 and 20E

Predator Control



Wolves

Units 12 and 20E

- **High densities**
- **Primary management related to Wolf Control Program**



Grizzly Bears

Units 12 and 20E

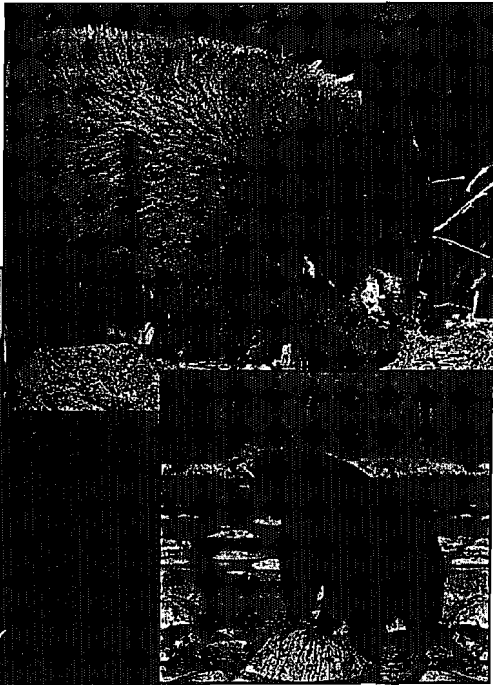
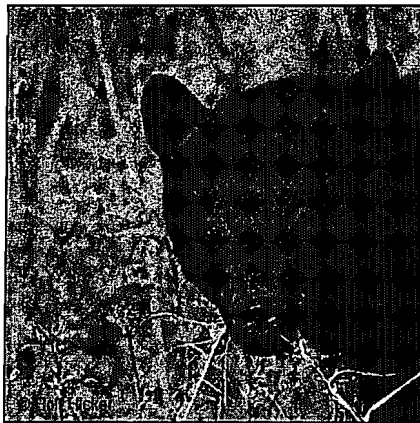
- **Relatively high densities**

Harvest (5-year avg.)

- **Unit 12 – 17 bears/year**
- **Unit 20E – 15 bears/year**
- **Sustainable Levels**



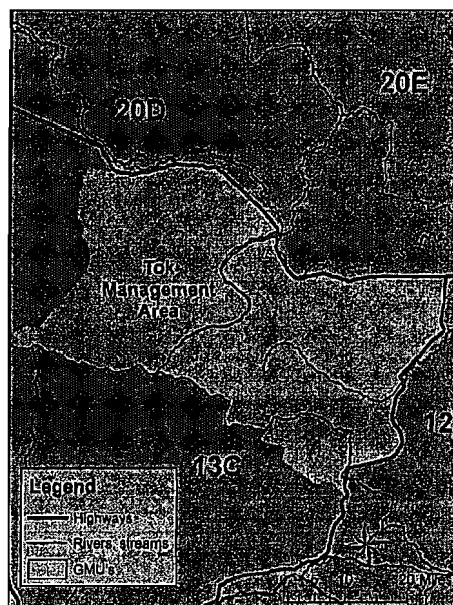
Black Bears



Sheep

Tok Management Area

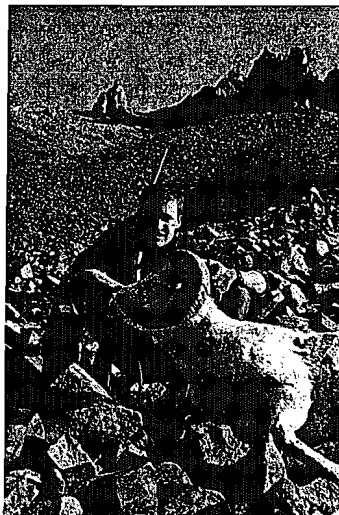
- 101 Permits
- 30-45 Rams Annually
- Mt. Harper Permit Hunt
- 4 Permits
- 0-2 Rams Annually



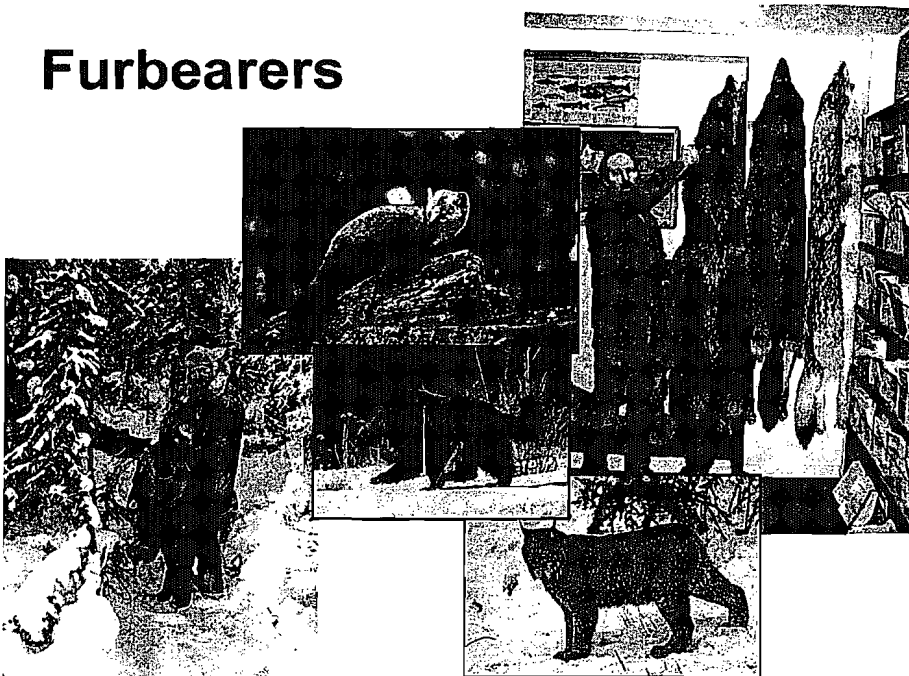
Sheep

Management Activities

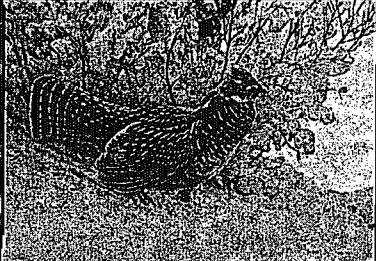
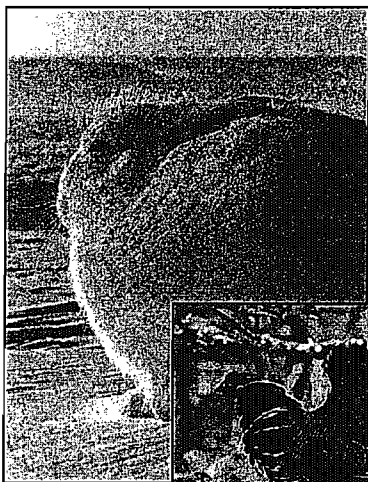
- Annual Survey –TMA
- Periodic Surveys
 - Unit 12 – N. Wrangell Mts.
 - Unit 20E – Tanana Hills
- Seal ~50-60 Rams/Year



Furbearers

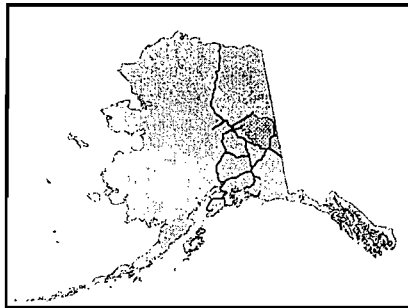


Small Game



RC 140

Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Program BOG Report 2004-2010



(Unit 20E and portions of 12, 20B, 20D & 25C)

Background

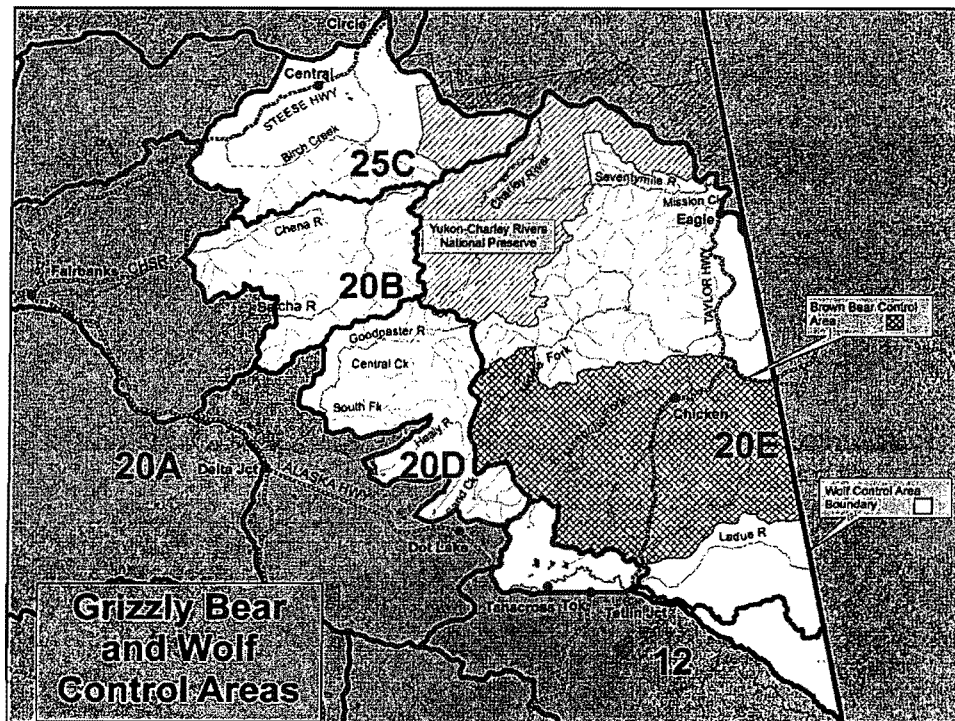
- **Adopted November 2004**
 - Reduce Predation - wolves and brown bears
 - Increase moose –portions of Units 12 and 20E
- **Implemented January 2005**
 - Up to 5-Years
- **Expanded May 2006**
 - **Wolf Control Area**
 - Fortymile Caribou Range
 - Larger portion of Units 12 and 20E – Moose
 - **Bear Control Area**
 - Larger Portion of southern Unit 20E

Background

- **Amended and Reauthorized in March 2009**
- **Bear Control – Suspended (July 1, 2009)**
- **Wolf Control – Continued**
 - **Helicopters allowed**
 - **Department – Shooting**
 - **Public – Retrieval**
- **5-year authorization (July 1, 2009 – July 1, 2014)**
 - **Fortymile Caribou – Range in AK**
 - **Moose - northern Unit 12 and 20E**

Program Objectives

- **Increase the Fortymile Caribou Herd** to aid in achieving the intensive management population objective of 50,000–100,000 and harvest objective of 1,000–15,000.
- **Increase the moose population in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway and in Unit 20E** to aid in achieving the geographically proportional intensive management moose population objective of 8,744–11,116 and harvest objective of 547–1,084.



Wolf Control Objective

- **75% reduction** in the pre-control population (350-410 wolves)
- Minimum population objective = 88 wolves

Brown Bear Control Objective

- **60% reduction** in the pre-control brown bear population
- Minimum population = 68 brown bears

This map illustrates the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and its surrounding region in Alaska. The preserve is shaded with diagonal lines and labeled 'Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve'. Major roads shown include the Alyeska Hwy (BTEAE HWY) running north-south, the Fairbanks Circle, and the Delta Jct. The map also shows the Fairbanks Circle, the Delta Jct., and the Tanacross Tpk. Key locations marked include Fairbanks, Delta Jct., Dot Lake, Tanacross Tpk, Tedlin, and Chicken. The map includes a legend for 'Forty-Mile Caribou Calving Area' and a scale bar for 'Miles'.

- **Permits valid until April 30, to early to draw conclusions**

Wolf Population Estimates

Fall 2008 Population Estimate (early fall)

- **393–431 wolves or approximately 21–23 wolves/1000 mi²**

Fall 2009 Population Estimate (early fall)

- **262–299 wolves or approximately 14–16 wolves/1000 mi²**

Brown Bear Control

2008 - 2009

- **August 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**
- **44 Permits Issued**
- **20 Bait Sites Registered**
- **10 bears taken in Brown Bear Control Area**
 - **2 by control**
 - **8 by hunters (under general hunting regulations)**
- **Control Objective not met**
- **Bear Control Suspended on July 1, 2009**

Brown Bear Population Estimates

Summer 2008 Population Estimate

- 150 bears (range 111–189) or approximately 27 brown bears/1000 mi²

Summer 2009 Population Estimate

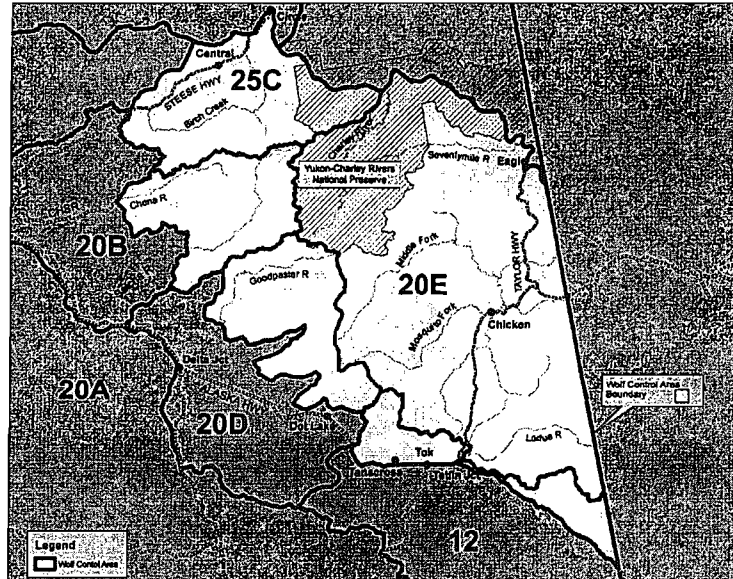
- 150 bears (range 111–189) or approximately 27 brown bears/1000 mi²

Effects of 2004 Fires

- 31% of Brown Bear Control Area burned
- Redistribution of bears following burn
- Likely effected success of bear control program
- Likely resulted in a decline in moose calf predation within the burned area.



Caribou Benefit Area



Fortymile Caribou Population Status

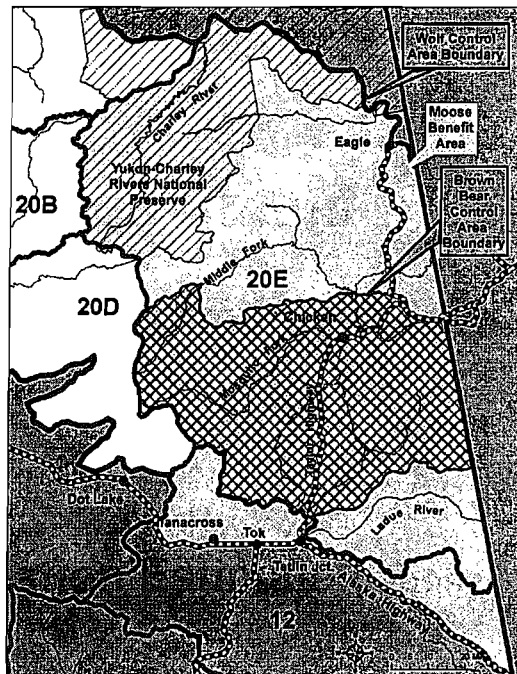
Population Estimate = 46,510 (July 2009)

Population Composition (Oct. 2009)

➤ **34 calves:100 cows**

Population Trend increase expected in 2010.

Moose Benefit Area



Moose Population Status

2008 Fall Population Estimate (Moose Benefit Area)

➤ 3,900 – 5,500

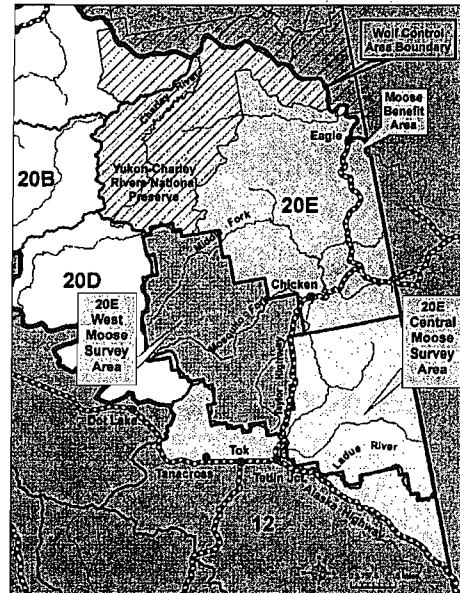
2009 (Fall) Population Estimate (Moose Benefit Area)

➤ 4,700 – 6,600

Unit 20E Moose Survey Areas (4,630 mi²)

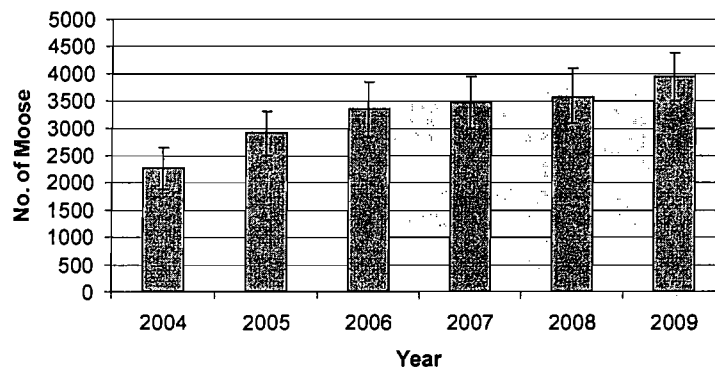
Fall Moose Surveys

> 2004-2009



Moose Population Status

Unit 20E West and Central Combined Moose Survey Results 2004-2009



Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Continue wolf control activities**
 - **as approved by the Board**
- **Wolf Control - progress being made**
- **Bear Control – Suspended**

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

...

8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 am the following day in which the flying occurred; however, this paragraph does not apply to

...

(G) taking bison in Unit 20(D), for persons departing from and returning to Delta D66 airstrip.

Alaska Board of Game
Interior 2010 Meeting
February 26-March 7, 2009

RC 142

Eagle Advisory Committee
Record of Comment

1) Proposal 14

Efforts are currently underway to rebuild Yukon River salmon stocks and we currently face restrictions to this resource as a means of conservation. Moose densities in our area are some of the lowest in the state and are currently under intensive management. Harvesting a moose in the fall is not a guaranteed thing. Therefore, we the Eagle Advisory Committee recognize that caribou and salmon are some of our major sources of food.

We as an Advisory Committee recognize the importance that all hunters need reasonable access to caribou. By adopting proposal 14, the Board will take steps towards positive change in the Fortymile caribou hunt by spreading out harvest over time. This will provide hunters more opportunity to hunt at a time that is traditionally very busy for local Eagle residents, while maintaining the joint federal-state management structure as outlined on page 10 of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (RC 3, Tab 2).

We as an Advisory Committee over the last few years have had concerns over waste in the Fortymile caribou hunt. We as a committee support and promote ethical hunting practices and values such as:

- Proper in field care and transport of meat and salvageable parts
- Proper and safe shot placement
- Judging and determining male from female caribou

By adopting this proposal, the board will help to eliminate field conditions that have been a problem in the past. Problems such as "flock shooting", viscera left near roadways, *etc.* that are contrary to our values.

The Eagle Advisory Committee recognizes that changes are needed to the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan and wishes to participate in the planning process when the plan is revisited in 2012. By adopting interim changes to the Fortymile caribou hunt as outlined in proposal 14, the board will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to gain insight into solutions to problems with the current plan, prior to revisiting the plan in 2012.

2) Mandatory 72 hour Trap checks --Proposal 3

We as an Advisory Committee do not support mandatory trap checks, and echo reasons for opposing mandatory trap checks as outlined by individual trappers, ADF&G department staff, and enforcement. We wish to thank the board for taking action and not adopting proposal 3.

3) Proposals pertaining to black and grizzly bears

We as an advisory committee recognize that locals utilize bears for subsistence and we support and encourage local hunters and trappers in their own predator control efforts through harvest of these animals.

Proposal 22 – Moose – Tetlin Village Corporation Lands



- Submitted by: Public
- Effect of Proposal: Extends moose season on private land (Tetlin village corporation) in Unit 12
 - resident season 15 days - extended to 28 days
 - nonresident season 10 days - extended to 20 days
- ADF&G Recommendation:
No Recommendation

Proposal 22

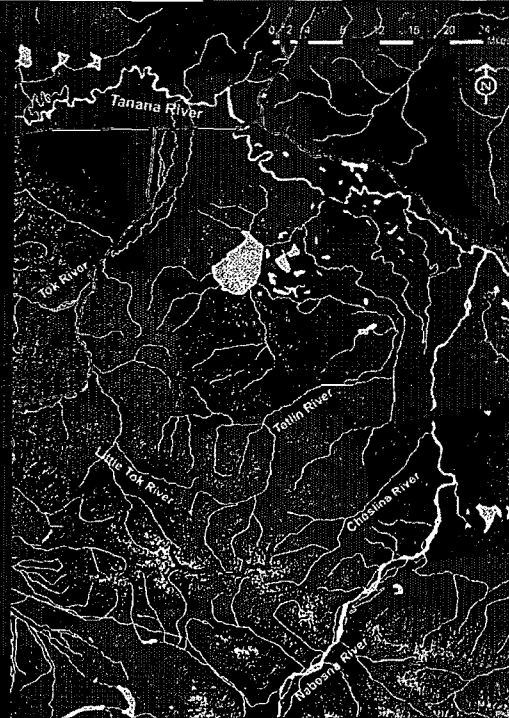
Allocation Issue

- Current hunting seasons, bag limits, and related regulations in Alaska are not configured to private land boundaries.
- This approach is a substantial departure from established regulatory practices.
- The department recommends the establishment of basic management and regulatory guidelines before adopting regulations such as this proposal
- The department would prefer to wait until a cooperative management plan is developed with the village and the participating concession holder (proposer of this change).

Proposal 22

Background

- There may be an additional harvest opportunity for moose on the southern portion of the 741,000 acre (1151.8 mi²) Tetlin tribal land holding.
 - Hunter access is restricted
- Based on data collected in 1984 and 1985 by ADF&G and TNWR these moose move freely between private and public lands.



Proposal 22

- Additional moose movement data may be necessary to determine how additional hunting opportunity provided on Tetlin land would effect opportunity on adjacent land.
- The bull:cow ratio in the southern part of this area is relatively high (58 bulls:100 cows). However, on adjacent public lands the bull:cow ratio is at the desired level.
- Increased bull harvest could precipitate the need for more restrictive regulations on surrounding public lands such as antler restrictions.



Proposal 22

Extends moose season on private land (Tetlin village corporation) in Unit 12 for both resident and nonresident hunters

Recommendation: No Recommendation
Allocation Issue



Proposal 18

Chisana Caribou - Unit 12

Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC

Effect of Proposal: Establishes a joint state-federal drawing permit hunt for the Chisana caribou herd, starting in fall 2011

ADF&G Recommendation: Adopt

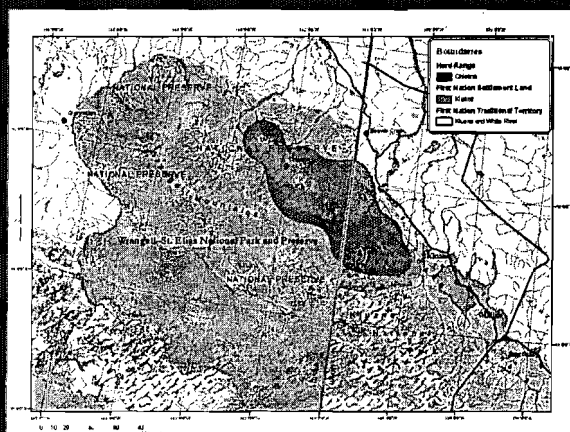
Eastern Interior RAC: Adopt

Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH)

Small International Herd

➤ 733 caribou in 2007

➤ Range ~ 5,100 mi²



➤ Upper Tanana and White River Drainages (Unit 12 – Alaska)

➤ Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska

➤ Klauene Wildlife Sanctuary in Yukon

International Management

1994 –Licensed hunting stopped in Alaska and Yukon

2008 –Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC submitted a proposal to the Board to reopen a hunting season for Chisana Caribou

- The Board was asked to wait until a management plan could be developed

2009 –Draft CCH Management Plan

Yukon Department of Environment, White River First Nation, Canadian Wildlife Service, US National Park Service (Wrangell St. Elias), US Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G

- Final draft by RY 2010
- Guidelines for population and harvest management

Population Background

1988-2003 Herd Decline

- 1,882 caribou in 1988
- 2003 census found 720 caribou
- Captive rearing Recovery program 2003-2006
(Yukon Department of Environment)
- 766 caribou in 2007



2003-2007 Herd Trend Stable (706-766 caribou)

- average fall composition of 21 calves:100 cows and 42 bulls:100 cows

2008-2009 Herd composition remained stable based on fall herd composition counts.

- 2008 - 21 calves:100 cows and 44 bulls:100 cows
- 2009 - 15 calves:100 cows and 48 bulls:100 cows

Management Plan

- **Harvest Quota**
2% Bulls-only harvest sustainable
- **Quota Allocation**
50:50 Split between Alaska and Yukon
- **Based on 2010 census, harvest recommended only if:**
 - 1) Population trend remains stable or increasing
 - 2) Bull:cow ratio does not fall below 35 bulls:100 cows
 - 3) 3-year average fall calf:cow ratio remains at or above 15 calves:100 cows

CCH Harvest

Assuming a 2010 population of 700-750 caribou

- **Alaska quota = 7-8 caribou annually**
(Split between state and federal hunt)
- **Drawing hunt is the only reasonable management option.**
- **Earliest possible hunting season for Chisana caribou is fall 2011.**

Subsistence Harvest

- Federal harvest allocation

To be addressed by May 2010 Federal Subsistence Board Meeting

- State subsistence

The board will need to consider the 8 criteria in 5AAC 99.010 to determine whether the herd is associated with customary and traditional uses, and if so, establish regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence

Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet:

Chisana Caribou Herd,
GMU 12, Upper Tanana – White River
Area

Prepared by the
ADF&G Division of Subsistence for the
February-March 2010 Alaska Board of Game meeting

Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use

A long-term consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.

Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use, continued

- A well documented component of the annual harvest cycle of the Ahtna and Upper Tanana Athabaskan people of the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Residents in Upper Tanana and Copper River basin communities continue to be active in caribou hunting.
 - 1980s research documented that Northway caribou hunters traveled south to the Mentasta and Nutzotin mountains to hunt caribou from the Chisana and Fortymile herds.

Chisana caribou harvests, 1981–1994

Year	AK resident hunters	AK resident harvest	local hunters (Unit 12)	local harvest	non-resident harvest	total harvest
1981	23	14	3	2	9	23
1982	21	10	6	2	11	21
1983	19	17	5	5	9	27
1984	26	14	14	4	16	30
1985	31	21	2	2	13	34
1986	-	-	-	-	-	41
1987	-	-	-	-	-	49
1988	-	-	-	-	-	34
1989	-	-	-	-	-	30
1990	27	11	10	5	21	32
1991	20	12	5	4	8	20
1992	18	7	2	2	9	16
1993	19	9	3	1	10	19
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0
- Hunter residency data unavailable 1986-1989						

Criterion 2: Seasonality

A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

- Historically, the Chisana and Upper Nabesna bands of Athabascan Indians hunted caribou primarily in October - December and April - June (Guédon 1974; Marcotte 1991; McKennan 1959).
- 1980s ADF&G research documented caribou hunting areas by Northway residents from 1974 through 1984.
 - At this time, Northway residents hunted caribou from the Chisana and Fortymile herds (Case 1986).
- Contemporary use has been governed by regulation during the month of September. Currently, no open season for the Chisana herd.

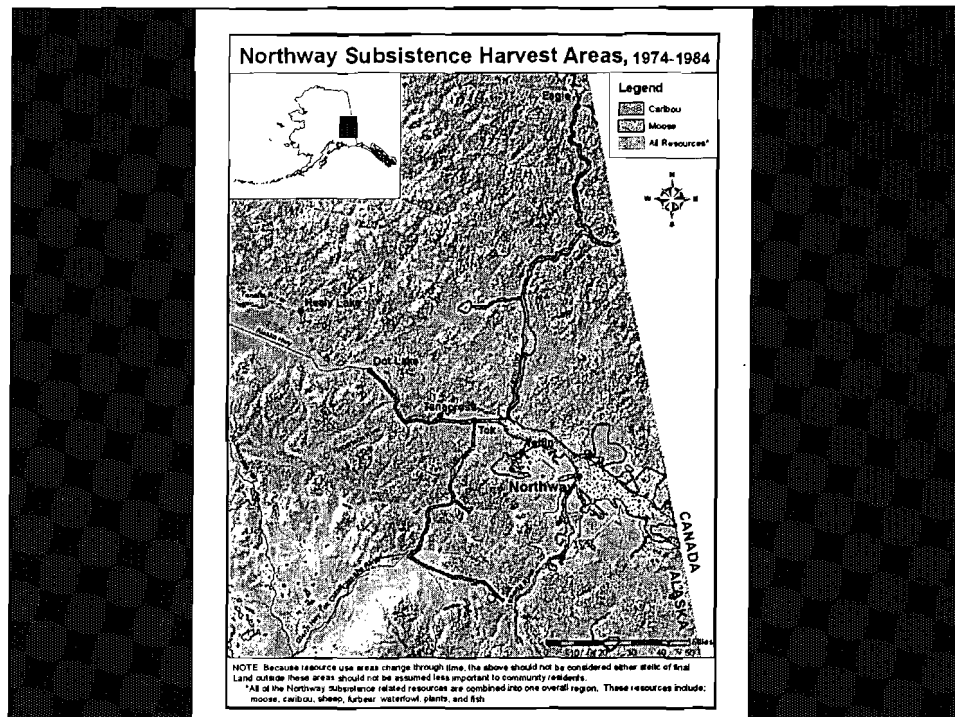
Criterion 3: Means and methods of harvest

A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

- ▣ Historically, caribou were taken by groups of Upper Tanana residents along caribou fences and in corrals
- ▣ Historically, hunters primarily used snares during spring and fall migrations. Hunters equipped with bow and arrow and snowshoes also pursued caribou, and firearms quickly replaced these traditional methods in the late 19th/early 20th century.
- ▣ Today, hunters from the Upper Tanana and Copper River basins report using aircraft, off road vehicles, or boats to access hunting areas.

Criterion 4: Geographic areas

The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock and game population has been established.



Criterion 5: Means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing

A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

- ❑ Historically, caribou were used primarily for food and their skins for clothing and tents in small settlement areas (Marcotte 1991; McKennan 1959; Vitt 1971:70, 98).
- ❑ Caribou and moose hide also was used as boat covers, to carry heavy loads, or to cross rivers.
- ❑ Today, most caribou meat is typically used fresh or frozen for later use.
 - ❑ In Northway, 95% of households froze their caribou meat; 63% processed into sausage, and 32% dried caribou meat (Koskey *in prep.*)

Criterion 6: Intergenerational transmission of knowledge, skills, values, and lore

A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

- Historically, mobile camps organized along family lines.
- Knowledge of hunting resources was shared within family context through direct participation, observation of hunting and processing practices, and wintertime storytelling (e.g., Guédon 1974:200).
- McKennan (1959) and Vitt (1970) document some of the lore and values associated with caribou hunting and use.

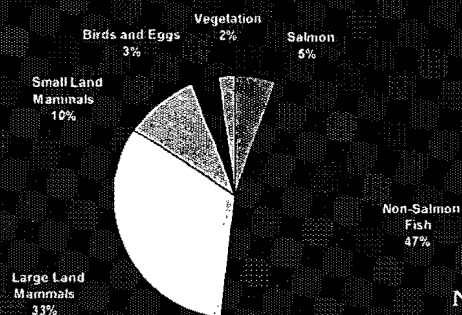
Criterion 7: Distribution and exchange

A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

- Historically, caribou meat was widely traded among Upper Tanana bands.
- Area residents continue to share caribou among community households.
 - In 1987-1988, estimated 64% of households reported using caribou, 49% attempting to harvest caribou, and only 20% of households actually reported harvesting caribou.
 - More than one-third of Northway households obtained caribou through sharing (Marcotte 1991:122).
- In Chisana, where a small number of current residents participate in a guiding and outfitting operation, extra meat from non-local hunters is widely available.

Criterion 8: Diversity of resources in an area; economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements

A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide variety of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.



Northway, 1987

Continuing Management Concerns

Recruitment still low

- 15 calves:100 cows (fall 2009)

Continued monitoring efforts

- Annual fall composition surveys
- Periodic census counts
 - Use to adjust harvest quota



International Cooperation

- Long history of cooperative management
- International use of CCH
- Continued support of CCH Management Plan

Establish a joint state–federal drawing permit hunt for the
Chisana caribou herd, starting in fall 2011



Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 17 – Lynx - Unit 12 and 20E.



- Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC
- Effect of Proposal: Eliminate the November portion of the lynx trapping season in Units 12 and 20E and extend the closing date from March 15 to March 31
- ADF&G Recommendation:
 - Eliminate November season – No Recommendation
 - Extend closing date to March 31 – Do Not Adopt

Proposal 17

November Season

- Lynx are an economically important furbearer in Units 12 and 20E.
- November bag limit of 5 lynx
 - Allows trappers to retain lynx caught while targeting other species.
- Alaska Wildlife Trooper (AWT) in Tok and ADF&G staff observe trappers targeting lynx in early November, primarily along Highways.
 - Area trappers indicate some trappers exceed the 5-lynx limit and illegally report the harvest in December.
- Reduce legal and illegal harvest in November

Proposal 17

March Season

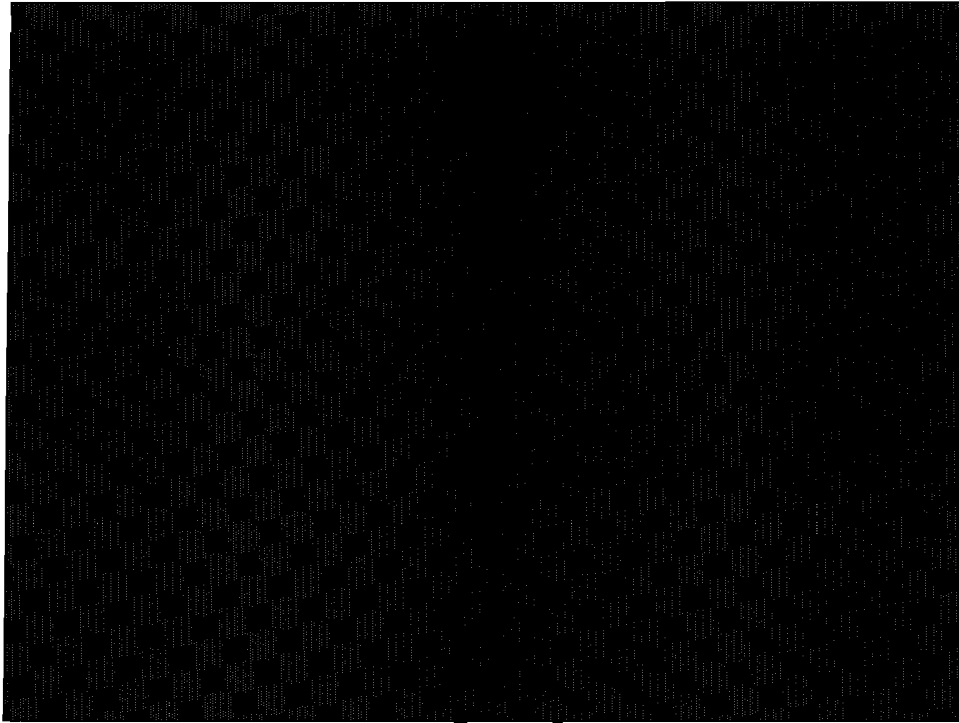
- Increase trapping opportunity in March
- Fur quality in late March is generally poor
- Extended trapping during March breeding season may slow recovery from lows in the lynx population cycle
- Misalign lynx season with fox and wolverine

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Recommendation:

- Eliminate November season – No Recommendation
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RC 146

Proposal 19 – Establish youth, senior, disabled fall Fortymile Caribou hunt in Unit 20E

Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Allocate a portion of the fall FC hunt quota to an early registration hunt limited to youth, senior, disabled hunters.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

Proposal 14

- Department supports
- Provides youth, senior and disabled hunters opportunity

Proposal 19

- Registration Hunt (youth, senior and disabled hunters)
- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation



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- Provides youth, senior and disabled hunters opportunity

Proposal 19

- Registration Hunt (youth, senior and disabled hunters)
- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation



RC 146

Proposal 19 – Establish youth, senior, disabled fall Fortymile Caribou hunt in Unit 20E

Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Allocate a portion of the fall FC hunt quota to an early registration hunt limited to youth, senior, disabled hunters.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

Proposal 14

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- Provides youth, senior and disabled hunters opportunity

Proposal 19

- Registration Hunt (youth, senior and disabled hunters)
- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation



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ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

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ADF&G – No Recommendation



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ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

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ADF&G – No Recommendation



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ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

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Proposal 19

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- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation



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Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Allocate a portion of the fall FC hunt quota to an early registration hunt limited to youth, senior, disabled hunters.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

Proposal 14

- Department supports
- Provides youth, senior and disabled hunters opportunity

Proposal 19

- Registration Hunt (youth, senior and disabled hunters)
- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation



RC 146

**Proposal 19 – Establish youth, senior, disabled
fall Fortymile Caribou hunt in Unit 20E**

Submitted by: Public

**Effect of Proposal: Allocate a portion of the fall
FC hunt quota to an early registration hunt
limited to youth, senior, disabled hunters.**

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

FCH Hunts

Proposal 14

- Department supports
- Provides youth, senior and disabled hunters opportunity

Proposal 19

- Registration Hunt (youth, senior and disabled hunters)
- Season: August 10 – 15
- Quota: 100
- Smaller Quota for later fall hunts
- Hunt Management difficulties

ADF&G – No Recommendation

RC 147

RC 147

**Proposal 15 – Reduce the Fortymile Caribou
Herd population objective.**

Submitted by: Public

**Effect of Proposal: Reduces Fortymile Caribou
Herd (FCH) Population Objective from 50,000–
100,000 to 45,000–75,000.**

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: Do Not Adopt



FCH Health

Proposers Concerns

- Excessive population objectives

Monitoring (ADF&G)

- Spring birthrates
- Fall calf weights

Status

- Birthrates (adult cows)
 - 1989 – 2009 Average of 86% (range 77 – 98%)
 - 2003 and 2009 about 70%
- Fall calf weights – 10% below average in fall 2008 and 2009



74139

FCH Population Obj.

Conclusions

- Herd health good
- Possible early indications of habitat effects
- Additional monitoring efforts planned for 2010

2006-2012 FCH Harvest Plan

- Primary Goal = Herd Growth
- Plan revision planned in next 2-years.
 - Including review of Population Objective

ADF&G Recommendation – Do Not Adopt

RC 147

**Proposal 20 – Increase the harvest limit for
Fortymile caribou in Unit 20E**

Submitted by: Public

**Effect of Proposal: Increase Fortymile Caribou
Herd harvest to hold population at current
levels.**

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: Take No Action



RC 148

Proposal 24 – Restrict Nonresident hunting for moose and caribou in the Upper Yukon Tanana Predation Control Area.

Submitted by: Anchorage AC

Effect of Proposal: Eliminates nonresident hunting for moose and caribou in UYTPCA (5AAC 92.125(b)) when populations are below objectives (5AAC 92.108).

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation



Current Allocation Method

Case-by-case determinations

- **Alaska Statute 16.05.258**
 - **Eliminate consumptive uses except subsistence when:**
 - **Positive C&T finding**
 - **Harvestable surplus is less than ANS**
 - **Not enough harvestable surplus for reasonable opportunity to harvest ANS**

84135

UYTPCA Allocation Method

Moose Units 12

- Positive C&T findings
- ANS 60–70 moose
- Harvestable Surplus 198 bulls (fall 2008)
- Harvest (average RY04–RY08)
 - Resident = 102/year
 - Nonresident = 33/year
- Nonresidents restrictions
 - Shorter season
 - Restricted to bull with 50-inch or 4 brow tine

UYTPCA Allocation Method

Moose Units 20E

- Positive C&T findings
- ANS 50–75 moose
- Harvestable Surplus 186 bulls (fall 2009)
- Harvest (average RY04–RY09)
 - Resident = 121/year
 - Nonresident = 21/year
- Nonresidents restrictions
 - Shorter season
 - Restricted to bull with 50-inch or 4 brow tine
- Subsistence hunter opportunity?

UYTPCA Allocation Method

Moose Units 12 & 20E

- Subsistence hunter opportunity?
 - Board may wish to review if reasonable opportunity exists for subsistence hunters

UYTPCA Allocation Method

Fortymile Caribou

- Positive C&T finding
- ANS 350–400
- Harvestable Surplus 850 allocated
- Resident Harvest
 - 750–1,000 caribou/year (since RY06)
- Nonresident Harvest
 - Harvested about 80 - 110 bulls/year (since RY06)
 - Bulls only, shorter season
- Subsistence Hunter Opportunity?

Proposal 24

**Restrict Nonresident hunting for moose
and caribou in the Upper Yukon Tanana
Predation Control Area.**

ADF&G Recommendation:

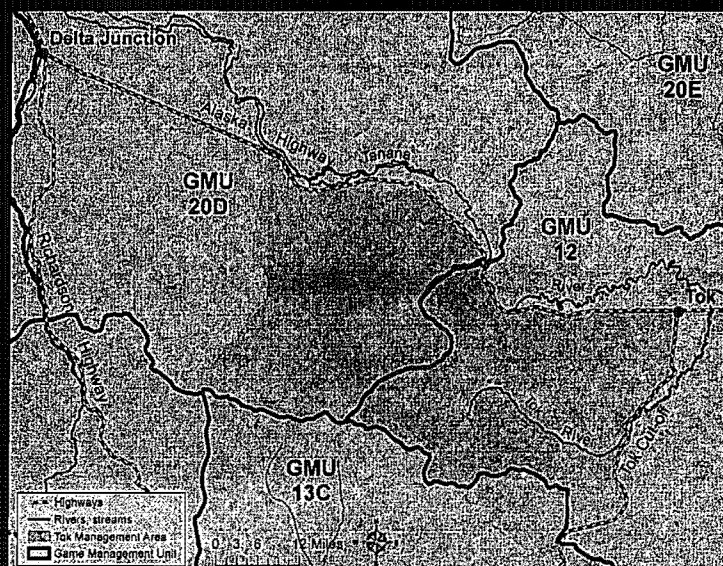
No Recommendation

Proposal 23 – Sheep – TMA (Tok Management Area).



- Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC
- Effect of Proposal: Reduce the number of TMA Dall sheep drawing permits from 100 to 80 to increase the number of rams with horns ≥ 40 inches
- ADF&G Recommendation: Take No Action

Tok Management Area (TMA)





Proposal 23

TMA Management Objectives

- Maintain a population capable of allowing hunters to be selective in harvesting 30–45 rams each year
- Maintain a mean horn length of 36–37 inches among harvested rams and a mean age of 8–9 years
- Maintain an average of 7–10% rams with 40-inch or greater horns in the harvest
- Prevent unacceptable increases in hunter concentration and maintain the existing aesthetically pleasing qualities associated with sheep hunting in the TMA

Proposal 23

Harvest of rams with horns >40 inches

- Guides hunters and transporters concerned with increasing difficulty of finding rams with horns >40 inches.
- 7-22% >40 inches, 1974-2006
- 5% >40 inches, 2007-2009

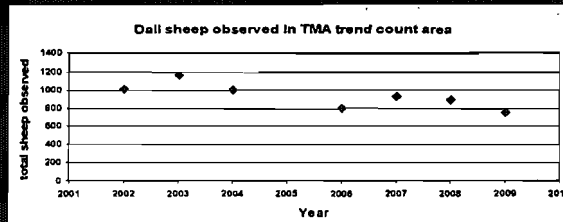
Hunter Effort and Success

- Since early 80s' average horn size, hunter effort, and age of rams harvested have been stable

TMA Dall Sheep Population

550 mi² Trend Area 2002 – 2009

- ▣ Lamb and ram to ewe ratios have remained stable since 2003, with an average of 35 lambs/100 ewes and 45 rams/100 ewes.
- ▣ 20% fewer sheep observed in trend area during 2006 – 2009 (average = 840), compared to 2002 – 2004 (average = 1052).
 - ▣ Severe winter conditions 2004-2005
- ▣ The population in the trend area has remained relatively stable since 2005, but the effects of winter 2008-2009 have not yet been determined.



Proposal 23

TMA Draw Permit Numbers

- 120 permits issued annually (1974-2001)
 - Average harvest 44 rams, 1990-2001
- 100 annual permits (2002-2009)
 - 1 governors tag 2000-2009
 - Nonresident permits limited to 10%, 2007-2009
 - Average harvest 42 rams, 2002-2009



Proposal 23

Likely Results of Reduction in Permits

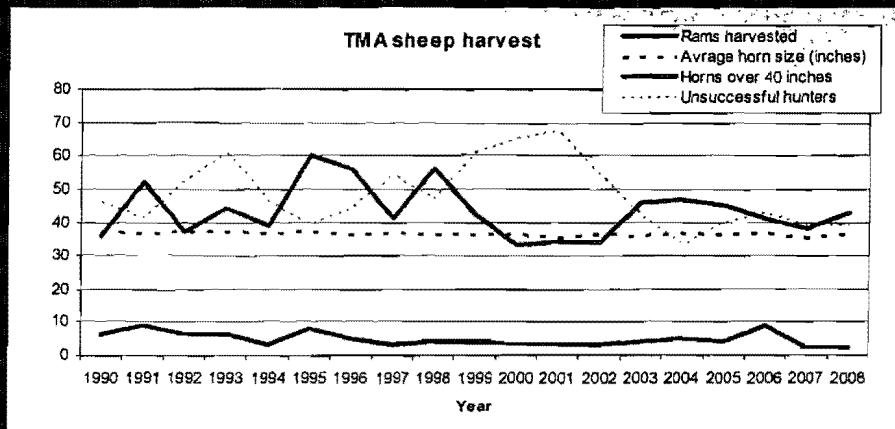
- Reduce Annual Harvest
- Allow more rams to reach 40 inches
- Allow harvest objective to be reached
(7-10% of harvested rams over 40 inches)

Proposal 23

- ❑ ADF&G has discretionary permit authority to reduce the number of sheep drawing permits in the TMA
- ❑ The department intends to implement the proposed change to the number of sheep drawing permits.
 - ❑ Provide opportunity for public process
- ❑ Therefore, we recommend the Board take no regulatory action on this proposal

Recommendation: Take No Action







RC 150

**Proposal 25 – Reduce the size of the Ladue
Controlled River Use Area in Unit 20E.**

Submitted by: Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC

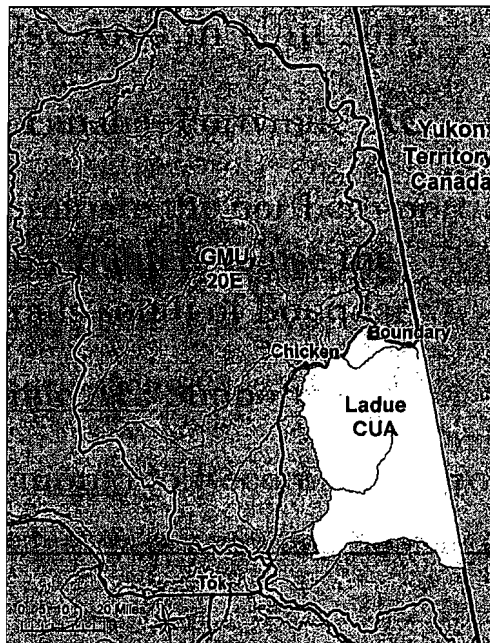
**Effect of Proposal: Eliminate the northern portion
of the LRCUA to allow hunters to use the
network of mining trails south of Boundary.**

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Supports

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

LRCUA

**➤ 1,375 mi²
area in
southwest
Unit 20E**



02109

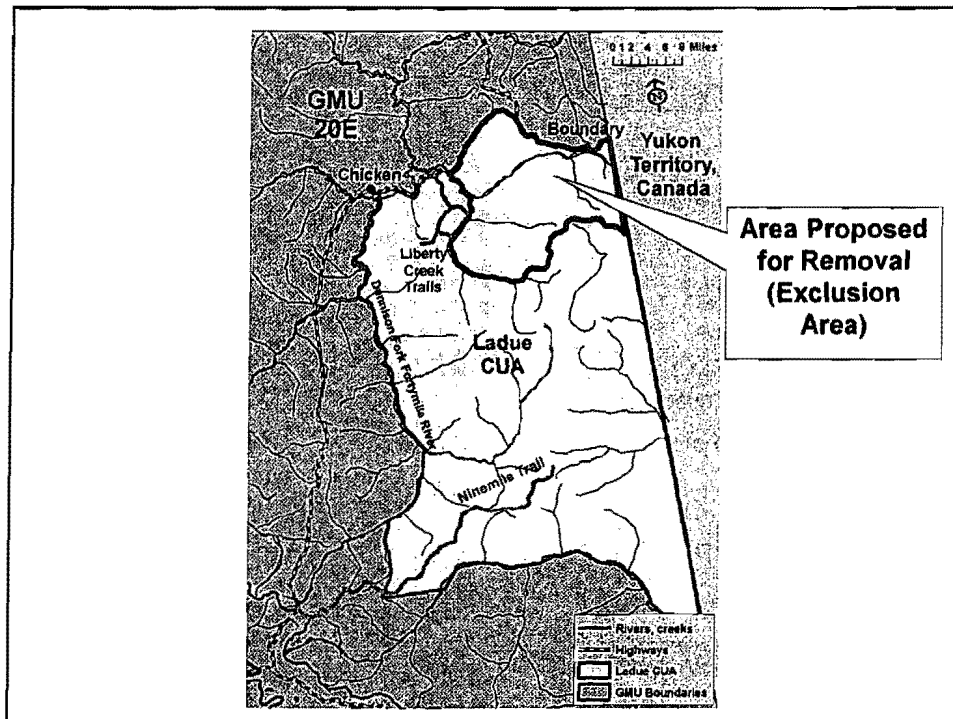
Additional Information - Background

Original Intent of LRCUA

- Established in 1994
- Concerns about displaced hunters pioneering new trails in this area.
- Potential impacts of new trails and more hunters on the low density moose population and the habitat.

Current Travel Restrictions in LRCUA

The LRCUA is closed to the use of any motorized land vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, from August 24 through September 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Nine Mile and Liberty Creek trails, the Alaska–Canada border, or the Boundary Cutoff of the Taylor Highway.



Moose Population and Harvest

- 2009 Moose Survey
 - 51 Bulls:100 Cows
 - Management Obj. 40 bulls:100 cows
- 2003-2007 Moose Harvest (exclusion area)
 - Avg. 2 bulls/year
- 2008-2009 Moose Harvest (exclusion area)
 - Avg. 2 bulls/year
- No Biological Concerns

AC Comments

Retention of LRCUA

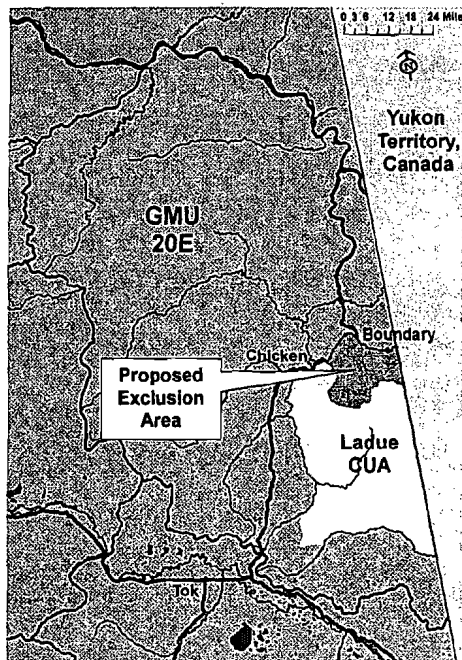
- Prevent trail pioneering.
- Reduce impact on moose population
- Ongoing predator control.



Conclusions

ADF&G

Recommendation: No
Recommendation



RC 151

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

02/18/2010

Called to Order

Roll Call

RECEIVED

MAR - 4 2010

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Present: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Shadura II, Secretary Brandt, Mandurano, Bernecker, Payne, Bucy, Dykema, Ermold, Foust, Joseph, Maher, Carmichael, Eggemeyer. Absent: VanDevere, Corr, Tappan, Darby, and Darch.

Agency Staff Present: Robert Begich, Jeff Selinger, and Ted Spraker from BOG

A. Public - Roland Maw speaking for BOF proposal 200 & 201.

B. Discussion about priority issue.

C. Chair Crawford opened the floor to Statewide BOF proposals, 13 members present for voting.

Attn: Shannon
BOF SW - AC

BOF → Board of Fish proposals

Proposal 200-Shadura II moved to support, Bucy seconded, 0/12/1, nay; concerned about vagueness of the proposal, does not go far enough to define subsistence way of life, too ambiguous. This needs to be a joint board decision, it affects game as well.

Proposal 201- Eggemeyer moved to support, Mandurano seconded, 0/13/0, nay; concern that priority of subsistence fishery will effect other user groups.

Proposal 164- Shadura II moved to support, Ermold seconded, 0/9/4, agree with the department position, abstain; should be restrictions just like on subsistence and personal use.

Proposal 168- Shadura II moved to support, Brandt seconded, 0/13/0, allocative.

BOG → BOG Proposals, 12 members, (Bucy left), 13 Members (Carmichael present)

Proposal 3- Crawford moved to support, Brandt seconded, 0/12/0, it is unnecessary in this area.

Proposal 10- Crawford moved to support, Ermold seconded, 13/0/0, support as written.

Proposal 12- Mandurano moved to support, Ermold seconded, 13/0/0, support as written.

Proposal 30- Mandurano moved to support, Ermold seconded, 11/2/0, No biological reason, opposed; concern for population of brown bear and illegal activity.

Proposal 55- Crawford moved to support, Brandt seconded, 0/13/0, takes away more area from a renewable resource.

Attn: Scott
BOG Int

p182

Proposal 56- Crawford moved to support, Ermold seconded, 10/1/2, no conservation concern, opposes; compromises the prior decision made by the Board, abstain; not enough data present.

Proposals 57 & 61- Brandt moved to take no action based on action taken on 56, Ermold seconded. No objections

Proposals 58, 59, & 60- Brandt moved to take no action based on action taken on 55, Eggemeyer seconded. No objections.

Proposal 115, 121, 122, 123- Crawford moved to support, Ermold seconded. 13/0/0, Support to reauthorize antlerless permits in these areas.

- D. Crawford asked the committee if they wanted to generate a 2011 UCI BOF proposal. Proposals have to be submitted by April 9, 2010. Shadura II as that committee generated proposal be taken up after Statewide Finfish meeting.
- E. Shadura II brought forth a letter asking groups to sign onto the letter regarding habitat issues during subsistence and personal use fisheries.

Next Meeting March 31, 2010 time and location to be announced.

Mandurano moved to adjourn, Foust seconded, no objection, meeting adjourned.

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KSP6AC
2-18-10

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

02/10/2010

Called to Order

Roll Call

RECEIVED

MAR - 4 2010

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Attn: Shannon
AC - BOF SW

Present: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Shadura II, Secretary Brandt, VanDevere, Mandurano, Corr, Bernecker, Payne, Bucy, Dykema, Tappan, Darby, Darch, Ermold, Foust, Joseph, Maher. Absent: Carmichael, Eggemeyer

Agency Staff Present: Robert Begich, Tom Vania

- A. Chair Crawford gave an update on BOG proposals that were passed: exotic animals, bait stations, establishing a predator control plan, seaducks restrictions by species, and BOG Cycle changes.

(Maher excused, Ermold left at 9:15PM)

- B. Shadura II reviewed the letter written by KAFC to BOF regarding having public testimony for the 2011 UCI BOF, during the October work session that will be in Kenai. Shadura II made a motion to support BOF staying one more day for public testimony during the October Work session 2010, Tappan seconded. Crawford asked if there was any objection, seeing none motion passed. Shadura II withdrew his request to represent the AC at the statewide meeting due to conflict of interest.
- C. Public - Ken Tarbox brought forward proposals, 166, 170, 171, & 179 that he submitted for the 2010 Statewide BOF meeting and asked for questions and discussions. Roland Maw also requested that Proposal 200 and 201 be taken up by the AC.
- D. Chair Crawford opened the floor to Statewide BOF proposals, 15 members present for voting. Chair Crawford had a brief discussion with the AC the difference between State and Federal Subsistence.

Board of Fish proposals

Proposal 165- Corr moved to support, Bucy seconded. 0/014/1, nay; fish have already gone by and it may be too late to harvest.

Proposal 166- Tappan moved to support, Corr seconded. Differentiates the personal use and sport fishing usage. 5/8/2, pro; fee should go towards personal use management, nay; does not include fees, abstain; bigger issue.

p182

Proposal 170 & 171- Brandt moved to take no action based on action taken on 172, Bucy seconded. 15/0/0

Proposal 172- Shadura II moved to support, Corr seconded. Department supports this proposal. 14/0/1, clears any unanswered questions, abstain; didn't fully understand.

Proposal 178- Shadura II moved to support, Brandt seconded, 13/0/1, abstain; not clear enough.

Proposal 179- Shadura II, Corr seconded, 3/9/2.

Proposal 180- Bucy moved to support, Shadura II seconded, 14/0/0.

Proposal 182- Bucy moved to support, Corr seconded, 0/14/0, legal methods and means should be allowed by everyone.

Proposal 183- Shadura II moved to take no action based on action taken on 182, Tappan seconded, 14/0/0.

Proposal 184- Shadura II moved to support, Corr seconded, 14/0/0, Committee concerned about invasive species.

Proposal 189- Payne moved to support, Tappan seconded, 0/14/0, pro; competition is healthy for the economy.

Proposal 192- Shadura II moved to support, Brandt seconded, 0/14/0, existing definitions are adequate.

Next Meeting February 18, 2010 at 6:30PM, location to be announced.

Shadura II moved to adjourn, Tappan seconded, no objection, meeting adjourned.

p282

KSF6AC
2-10-10

Tok AC Testimony

RC 152

PROPOSAL 25 (Ladue Controlled Use Area)

- Need to eliminate the area around Boundary to let Fortymile Caribou Hunters hunt in this area
- Change Dates from Aug 24 – Sept 30 **TO** Aug 24 – Sept 20
 - Closes Bear Hunting for no reason.

PROPOSAL 14 (Fortymile Hunt)

- We support hunt changes in **PROPOSAL 14**
 - **Changes**
 - August 29 – Sept. 30 for Residents (September 20th Nonresidents)
 - Bulls only bag for all residents
 - Some closed areas
- We feel these changes will result in **longer season length** and **similar harvest levels**
- **Federal Hunt** opens on August 10 (Quota of 100 caribou)
- We feel this will allow for **“Reasonable Subsistence Hunting Opportunity”**
- We adamantly **OPPOSE** **Tier II Hunt**
 - ALL the ACs oppose a Tier II Hunt
- **Support Nonresident** hunting
 - They pay the bills (Nonresident License fees supply 70% of ADF&G funding)

PROPOSAL 18 (Chisana Hunt)

Hunt Alternatives

1. Tok AC original proposal (Preferred)
2. Early **Federal Hunt** (e.g. – **August 10 - 31**) later **State Hunt** (e.g. – **September 5 - 25**) to allow 5-days for Federal hunters to report.
 - Quota 60% Federal and 40% State. Reallocate any unused Federal Quota to the later state hunt.
 - **1 Governors Tag** for funding ADF&G work
3. Early Federal Hunt (August) later State Hunt (September).
 - Quota 100% to Federal initially.
 - Unused Federal Quota to the later State Hunt.
4. Don't want to loose a joint state/federal hunt.

Notes:

- Past 30 – 40 years...Mostly **NONRESIDENT HUNTERS** and non-local Resident Hunters.
- There's **NEVER BEEN** a federal or state **SUBSISTENCE HUNT**
- **Who's left in Chisana?**...Ethan and Audrey (in there 70s) and Overlys and a few horses
- 22 Miles from Nebesna to Blue Lake/Coopers Pass
- The Eastern Interior RAC supported our proposal (last week)

PROPOSAL 97 (Bear Snaring in Unit 25)

- We want to include **Unit 20E....black bear snaring season**
- **AND...**include a quota of **10 Grizzly Bears** to allow for bi-catch

Danny Grangaard Personal Testimony

PROPOSAL 25 (Ladue Controlled Use Area)

- ***Allow retrieval of game with motorized vehicles in all of the Ladue CUA***
 - Will still keep camps on designated trails...**BUT**...allow salvage of **ALL** the meat (Moose = 500 pound of meat)
 - **Right Now**
 - People are still retrieving meat with ATVs
 - People not using ATVs are probably leaving some meat
 - **Less wasted meat.**

PROPOSAL 97 (Bear Snaring in Unit 25)

- We want to include **Unit 20E....black bear snaring season**
- **AND...include a quota of 10 Grizzly Bears** to allow for bi-catch

AC153

Additional Comments on Proposal #14

By the Joint Coalition on the Fortymile Caribou Herd

The very short duration of the 2008 and 2009 Fall hunting seasons (because of reaching the Fall harvest quota for two of the three management zones within a few days of the season opening), as well as poor hunting conditions, caused mostly by lack of disbursement, prompted the need for the proposed changes. The Joint AC/EIRAC Coalition and the affiliated agencies (see footnote) coordinated efforts through meetings, teleconferences, discussion and review to consider a proposal to the Board of Game for the duration of the harvest plan (2012). Proposal #14 is the result of our efforts:

To further refine and explain Proposal #14, on February 25, 2010 representatives who originally drafted the *Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (Plan)*, met at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. The meeting included staff from affiliated agencies. We discussed Proposal #14 in relation to the comments from the ADF&G and from the Department of Law.

The key points to emphasize to the Board as it deliberates on this proposal are as follows:

- The present harvest plan is a cooperative effort between the Yukon Fish and Wildlife agency, Yukon First Nation and the Alaskan participants listed above. **Please refer to RC 3 tab 2 for a complete copy of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan.**
- The present harvest plan was presented to the Board of Game and adopted by them for the seasons between 2006 and 2012. The Plan is scheduled to be undated and passing this proposal would accomplish at least two things. (1) Put into place an interim harvest modification, and (2) offer an opportunity to actually test the modifications before the Plan is formally revised.
- The Harvest Plan is based on the goals and objectives found in the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan which emphasizes herd growth, over time, to restore the population to historic averages.
- The discussions have always included and considered the effects of the proposed changes on the **reasonable opportunity** for subsistence both under the State criteria and the federal criteria.
- The goal of providing a Fall season in the road accessible areas of at least **7 to 10 days** was considered the best option for maintaining **reasonable opportunity** while continuing to keep the hunt length and conditions "reasonable."

- Moving the season opening to two and half weeks later, from August 10 adopted in the Plan to August 29, was chosen to allow for the best possible distribution of caribou over the zones (based on historical observations), thereby preventing very high harvest rates in small geographic areas. A better distribution of caribou would provide the best opportunity to be able to have a 7 to 10 day season. The board could either authorize a new season opening date or specifically authorize the Department to change the opening date.
- One concern has been that "federally qualified users might take too many of the allowable harvest quota before the state season opens (the federal season opening is expected to remain August 10)." The EIRAC, because of their commitment to retain the joint state-federal permit and to retain the tenants of the Harvest Plan, in their February 23 – 26, 2010 meeting, voted unanimously to support the Federal proposal 10-105 which would allow federally qualified hunters to **only take up to 100** animals during the federal season. Those hunts are restricted to federal land only when the state hunt is closed. In the road accessible zones, the amount of accessible federal land is small.
- The joint federal – state emphasis is to keep focus on the management goal by allowing the herd to grow while still offering reasonable hunting opportunities for the harvest plan quota.
- Our recommendation is for the board to adopt the changes to bag limit and opening date. We fully understand that the Department can still use its discretionary authority to further refine in-season hunt management.

Central AC not available to sign

Delta AC not available to sign

Fairbanks AC Mike Smith

Eagle AC Mike Smith

Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC Danny Brown

PC154

PO Box 81213
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
March 3, 2010

ADF&G Board Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Board of Game Members
Cliff Judkins, Chair
Ted Spraker, Vice Chair
Al Barrette
Lewis Bradley
Ben Grussendorf
Stosh Hoffman
Teresa Sager Albaugh

Regarding Proposals 55, 58, 59, 60, and 65: I urge you to vote NO on any proposal that calls for either keeping or expanding the "Buffer Zone" or "Donut Hole" created by the Stampede Closed Area in Game Management Unit 20C.

I do urge you to consider voting YES on Proposals such as 56, 57, 61, 63, 64. (Curiously and coincidentally, Proposals 62, 66, and 67 want both a wolf and bear predation control area implementation plan for GMU 20C, an intensive management area, – ironically, an indication that some think the moose population is so low the predator populations need to be managed for lower numbers.

When the buffer zone was last considered in 2004, I was on the BOG. The single vote I most regret is voting to keep the buffer zone. I was heavily lobbied by a Commissioner's Office level ADF&G employee (among others) whose arguments were that the department could not stand the black eye on a national level if we did not keep the buffer zone – we needed to show that we allowed all uses.

Well. Hindsight being 20/20, that was a very wrong-headed argument.

First, Alaska's constitution requires manage our natural resources for the use of our people. Groups like Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Animals, and PETA want wolves left alone so viewers can see them. Viewers are merely one segment of Alaska's people; furthermore most of the viewers are tourists who come from elsewhere. Hunters, trapper, fishermen who provide for their families by using moose, caribou, other prey animals, along with bears, wolves, other furbearers, and fish are multi-users and should not be penalized for the benefit of those who are single-use.

Second, biologists will tell you there is no biological reason to have a buffer zone; it simply does not affect the wolf population. This is the conservation issue the Board needs to concern itself with, not the "politics" of anti-hunters and especially anti-hunting groups who use the "magic of Alaska's wolves" and anti-hunting rhetoric as fodder to fund their marketing campaigns to bring large dollars into their coffers. I wish I had adhered to the conservation issue and the Constitution instead of allowing myself to be swayed by the arguments of some who thought removing the buffer zone would somehow harm ADF&G's reputation on the national scene.

Third, as you know, much of Alaska is already unavailable to hunting and trapping activities due to Federal park, reserve, and other restrictions; and due to private ownership. There is no reason or need for further restriction.

Sincerely,

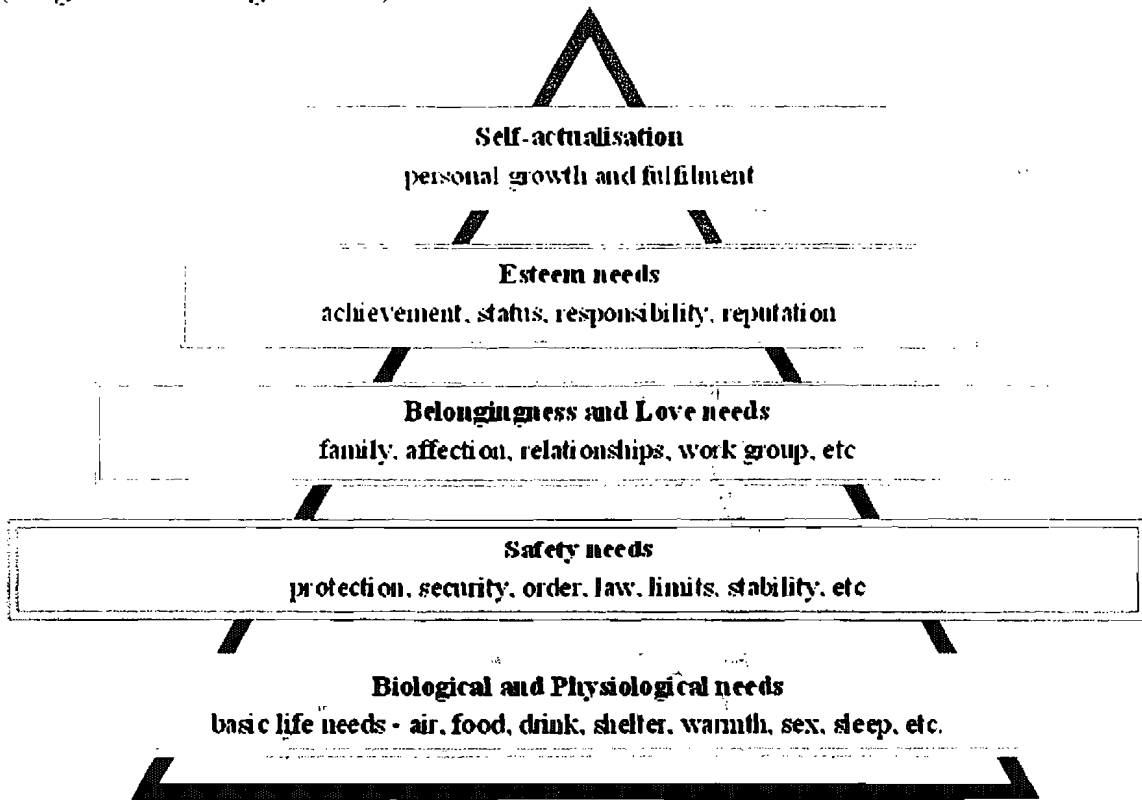
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon McLeod-Everette". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Sharon McLeod-Everette

Fr Virginia Humphreys

RC 155

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
(original five-stage model)



PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 99.0XX. Board of Fisheries subsistence finding standards. Adopt subsistence finding standards as follows:

Add a new section in 5 AAC 99 as follows:

5 AAC 99.0XX. Board of Fisheries subsistence finding standards. In the identification by the Board of Fisheries of fish stocks or portions of fish stocks that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses under 5 AAC 99.010 (b), "subsistence way of life" means a way of life that is based on consistent, long-term reliance upon the fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life.

Amended proposal:

PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC 99.0XX. subsistence finding standards. Adopt subsistence finding standards as follows:

Add a new section in 5 AAC 99 as follows:

5 AAC 99.0XX. subsistence finding standards. In the identification of fish or game stocks or portions of fish or game stocks that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses under 5 AAC 99.010(b), "subsistence way of life" means a way of life that is consistent with the long term use of fish and game resources, when available, to supplement the basic necessities of life.

3/3/2010

Fairbanks Area

This map of the Fairbanks Area illustrates the distribution of various land ownership types across different Game Management Units (GMUs). The map includes the following details:

- Legend:**
 - Private U.S. Land (Solid black)
 - Federal Forest Land (Stippled pattern)
 - Private Land (White)
 - State Land (Horizontal lines)
 - Native Allotment Land (Vertical lines)
 - Native Reservation Land (Cross-hatch pattern)
 - Native Trust Land (Diagonal lines)
 - Native Allotment Trust Land (Diagonal lines with dots)
 - Native Allotment Trust Land (Diagonal lines with dots)
 - Native Allotment Trust Land (Diagonal lines with dots)
- Game Management Units (GMUs):** Labeled include GMU 20F, GMU 25C, GMU 20B, GMU 20C, GMU 20A, and Delta Jct.
- Geographic Features:** The Yukon River and Tanana River are shown. Towns labeled include Tanana, Rampart, Livengood, Fairbanks, Nenana, Anderson, Healy, and Delta Jct.
- Scale and Orientation:** A scale bar indicates distances from 0 to 40 miles. A north arrow is located in the lower-left corner.
- Other Labels:** "Alaska Range" is labeled in the southern part of the map.

Management Areas

The map displays the following Management Areas (GMUs) and their characteristics:

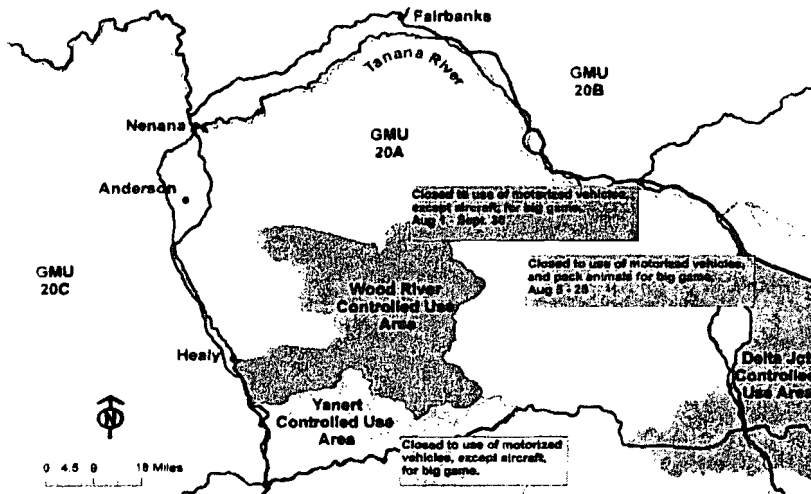
- GMU 20F:** Located in the northwest, near Rampart.
- GMU 20C:** Located in the west, near Rampart.
- GMU 20B:** Located in the east, near Fairbanks.
- GMU 20A:** Located in the south, near Fairbanks.
- Central:** Located in the northeast, near Circle.

Legend:

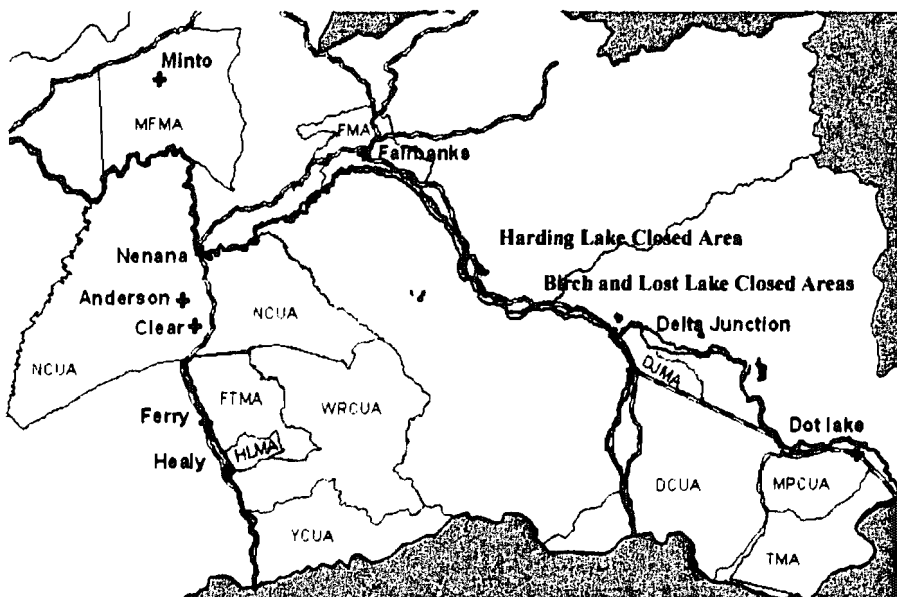
- Delta Jct MA (Stippled pattern)
- Fairbanks MA (Cross-hatched pattern)
- Minto Flats MA (Diagonal lines)
- Healy Lignite MA (Horizontal lines)
- Fairly Trail MA (Solid black)
- GMU Boundary (Solid line)

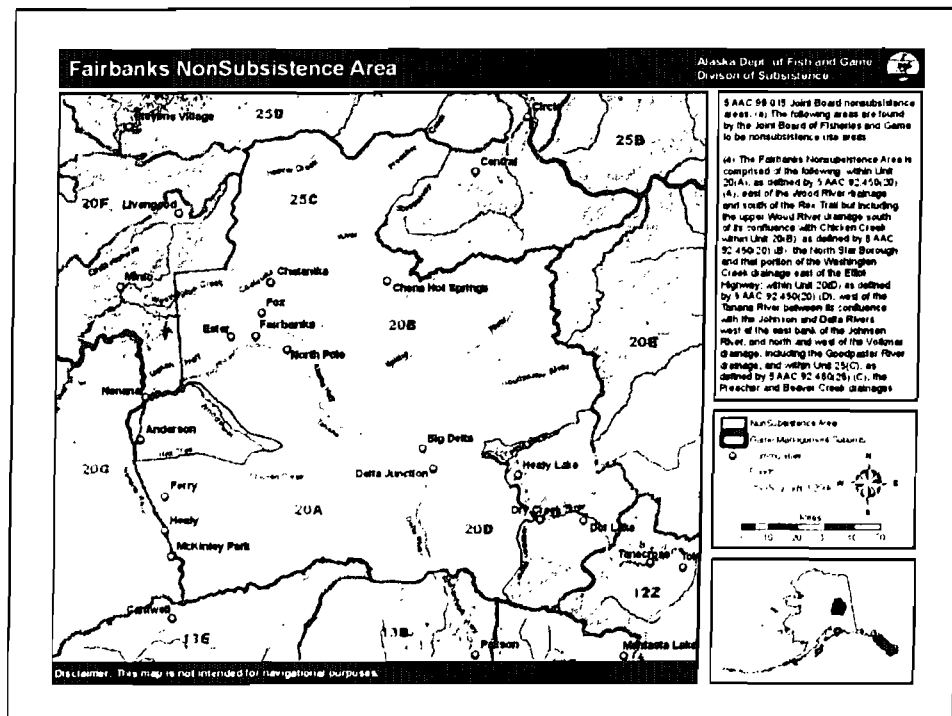
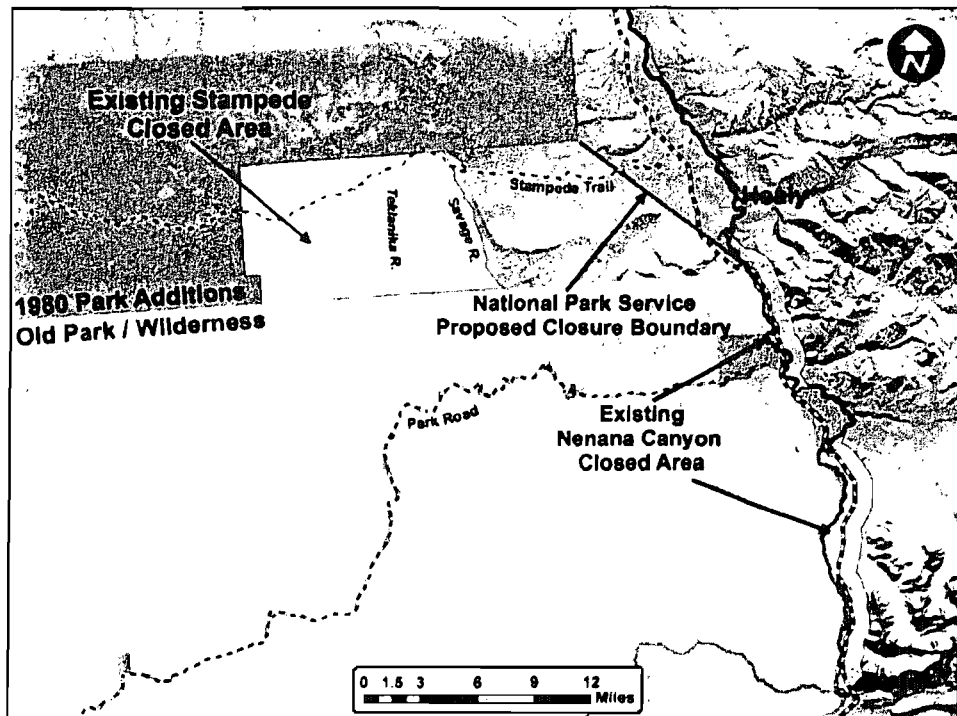
Scale: 0 10 20 40 Miles

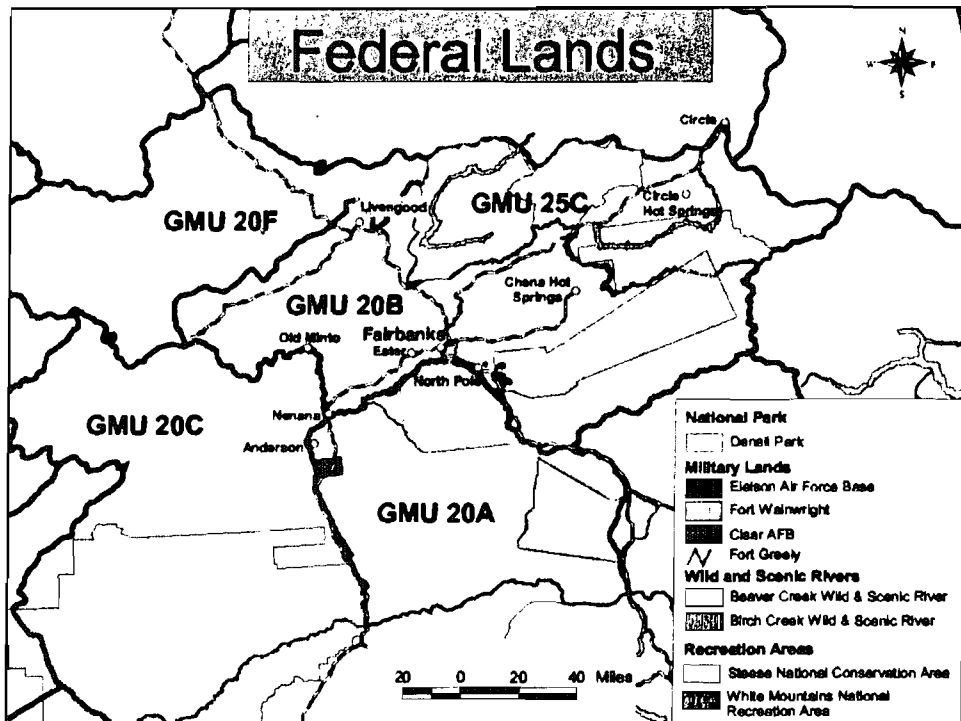
Controlled Use Areas



Harding Lake, Birch Lake and Lost Lake Closed Areas



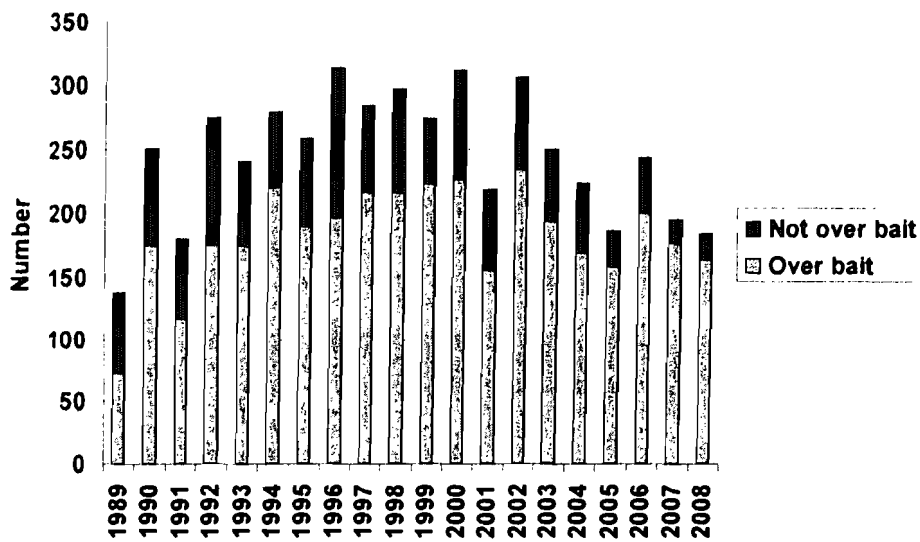




Black Bear

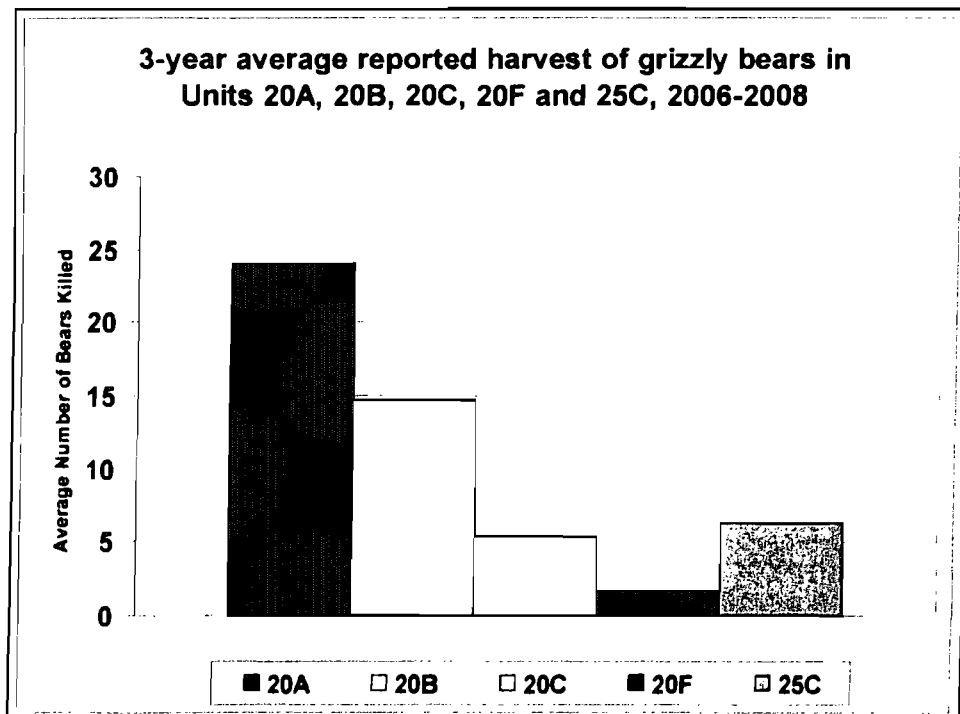
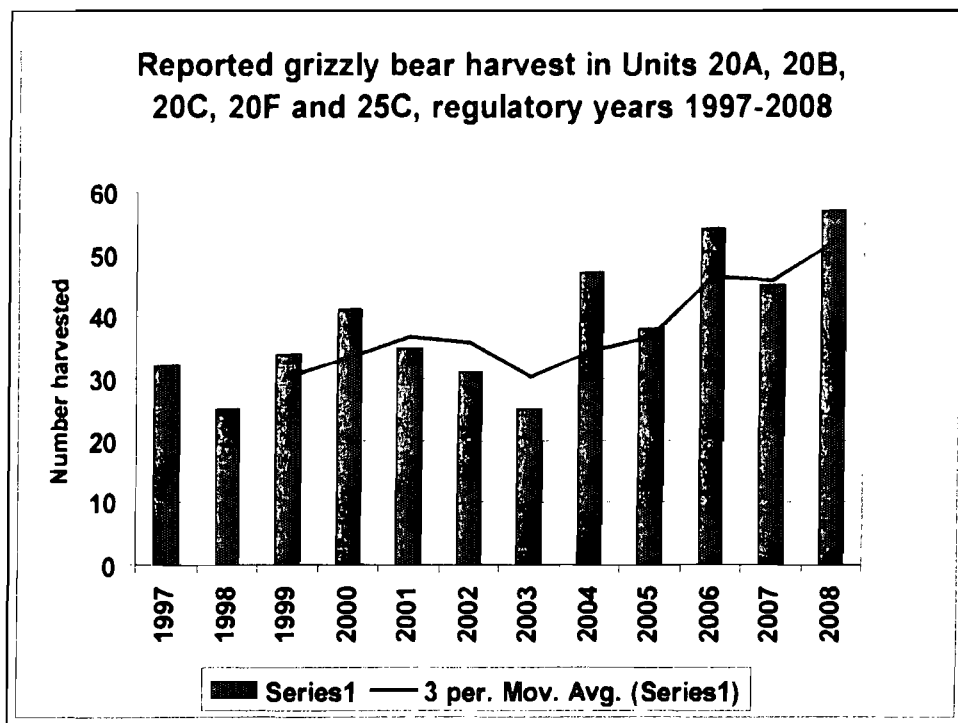
- Common in all units
- Issues:
 - Slight declines in effort/harvest (possibly due to military deployments)
- No proposals

Reported black bear harvest, Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20F, regulatory years 1989-2008



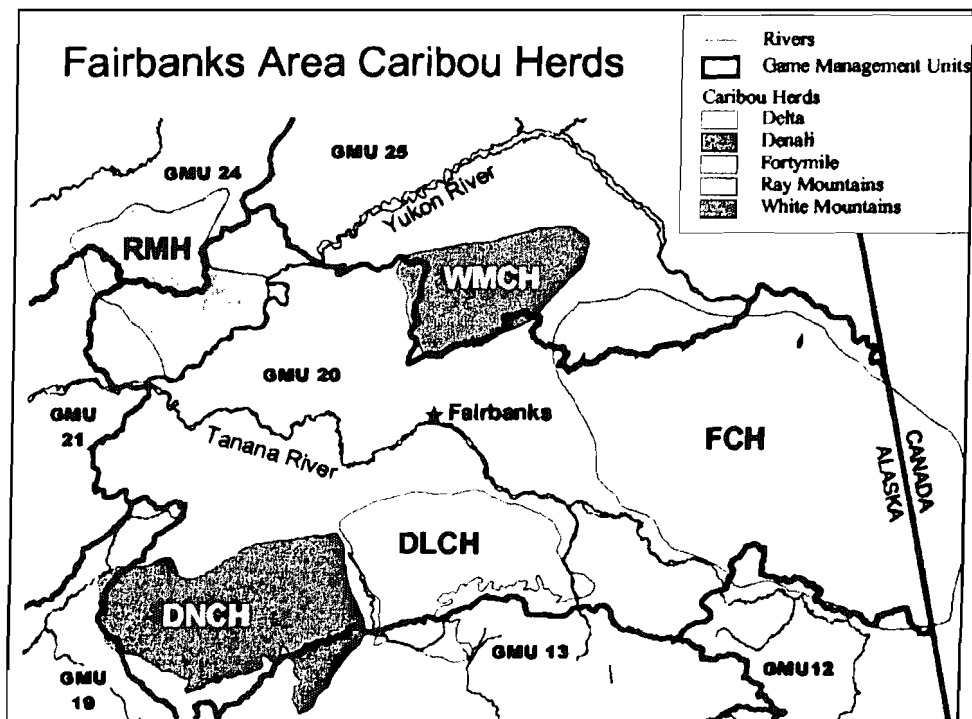
Brown Bear

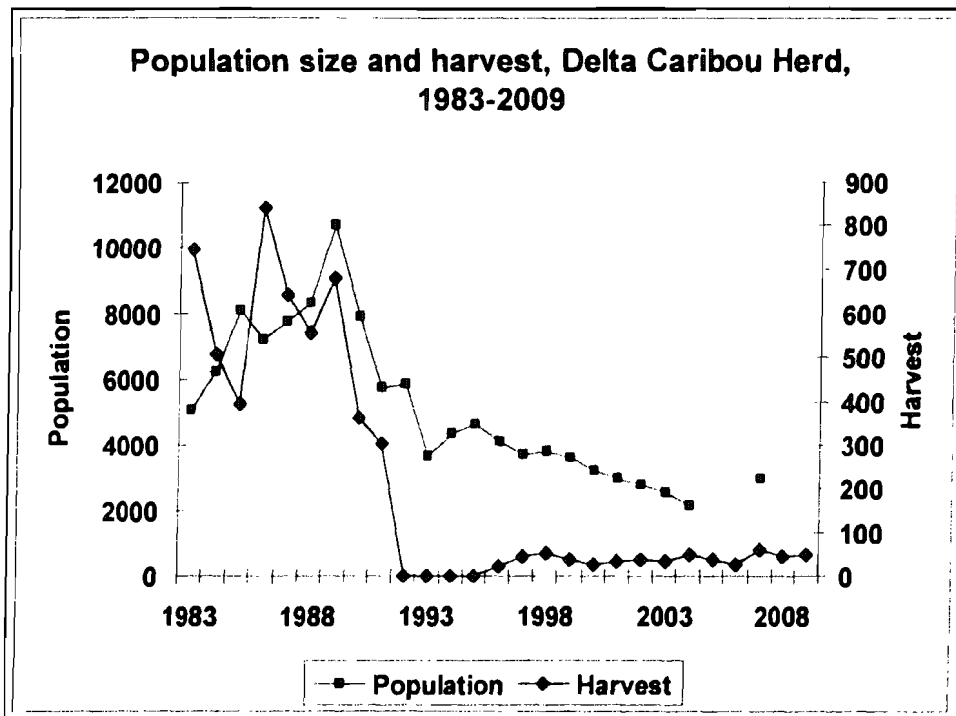
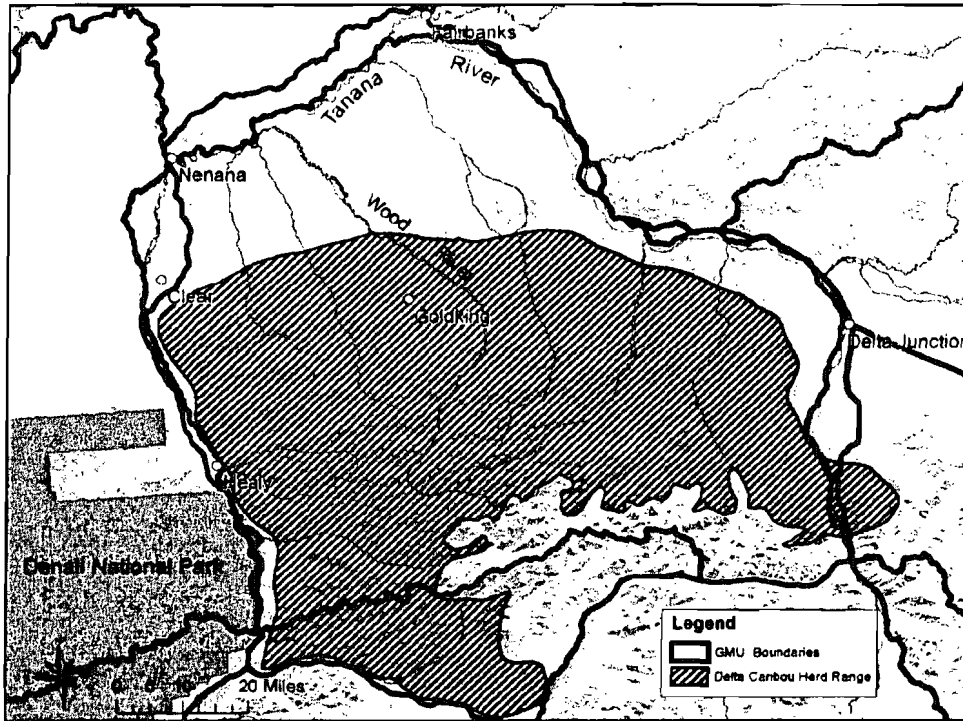
- Common in all units
- Highest densities Alaska Range (Units 20A and 20C)
- Issues:
 - Potential overharvest in Units 20A and 20B due to high moose hunter densities
- 4 proposals:
 - Unit 20A season length
 - Unit 20C baiting; predation control plan



Caribou

- Delta, Denali and White Mountains herds
Fairbanks Area management responsibility
- Relatively small herds < 3000 animals
- Harvest is low
- Issues: Delta herd
 - Relatively low numbers
 - Mixing with Nelchina herd
 - Estimating herd size & trend problematic
 - Vulnerable to overharvest in Unit 13
- No proposals



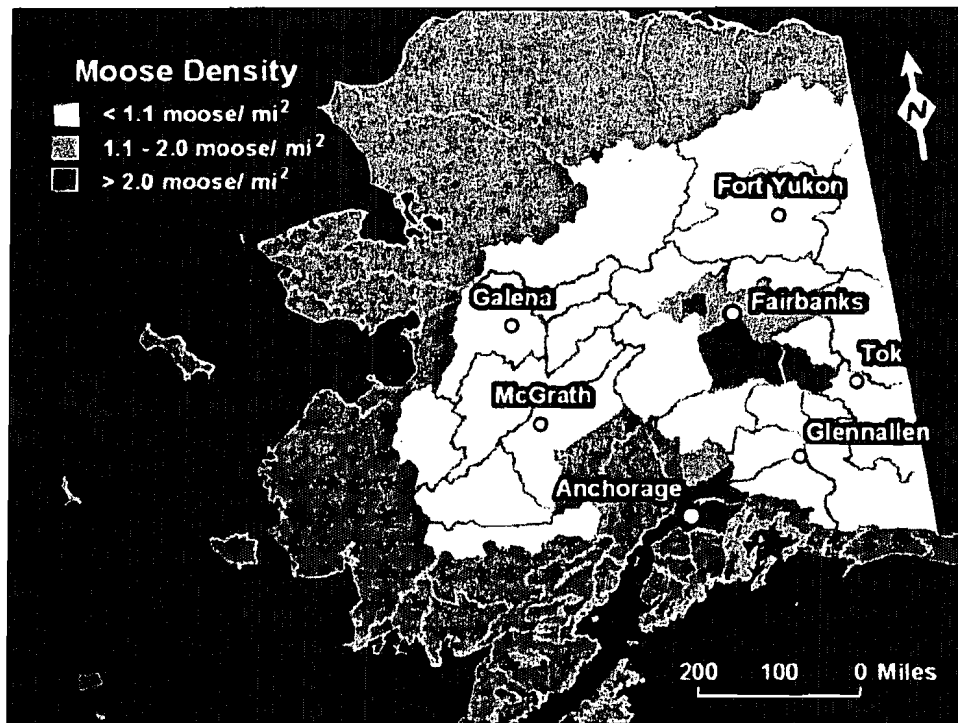


Furbearers

- Annual lynx/hare track surveys discontinued when lynx harvest tracking strategy abandoned
- Lower Chena River beaver management program: balance viewing and nuisances issues; successful
- 2 Proposals: 1 beaver and 1 trapping closed area (Unit 20C)

Moose

- High moose densities in Units 20A and 20B
- Long-term, ongoing research in Unit 20A
- Issues:
 - Intensive Management - Units 20A and 20B:
 - Prescribed fire - Challenging
 - Moose numbers/distribution – public skepticism
 - IM harvest mandates – public not well informed
 - Role of calf harvest in elevating harvest (yield)
 - Unit 20B
 - Moose population growth; population regulation; harvest
 - High road kill, especially in Fairbanks MA
 - Minto Flats MA registration hunt permit distribution
- Proposals (20A, 20B, 20C): 3 Department; 19 public



Goals

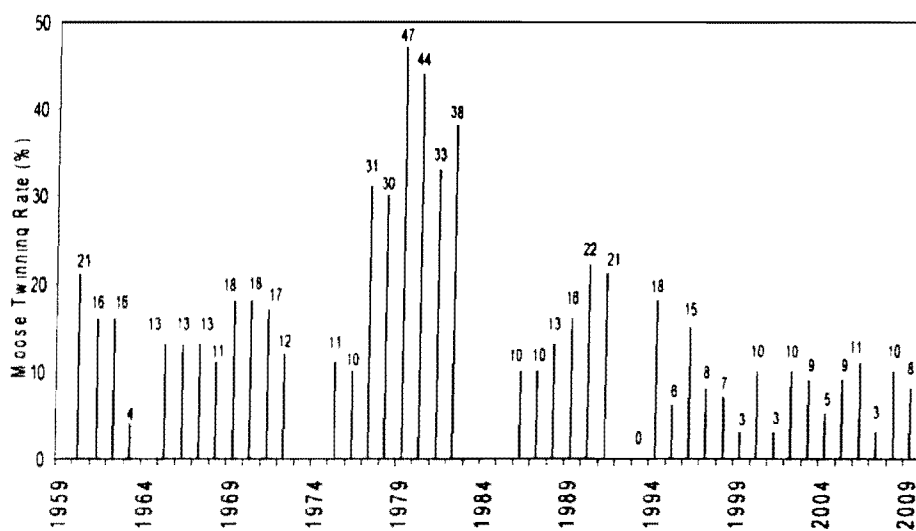
- 1) Protect the moose population's health and habitat
- 2) Fulfill Intensive Management mandate for elevated yield
- 3) Maximize hunting opportunity
- 4) Reduce moose-human conflicts by reducing moose density along roads and Fairbanks vicinity



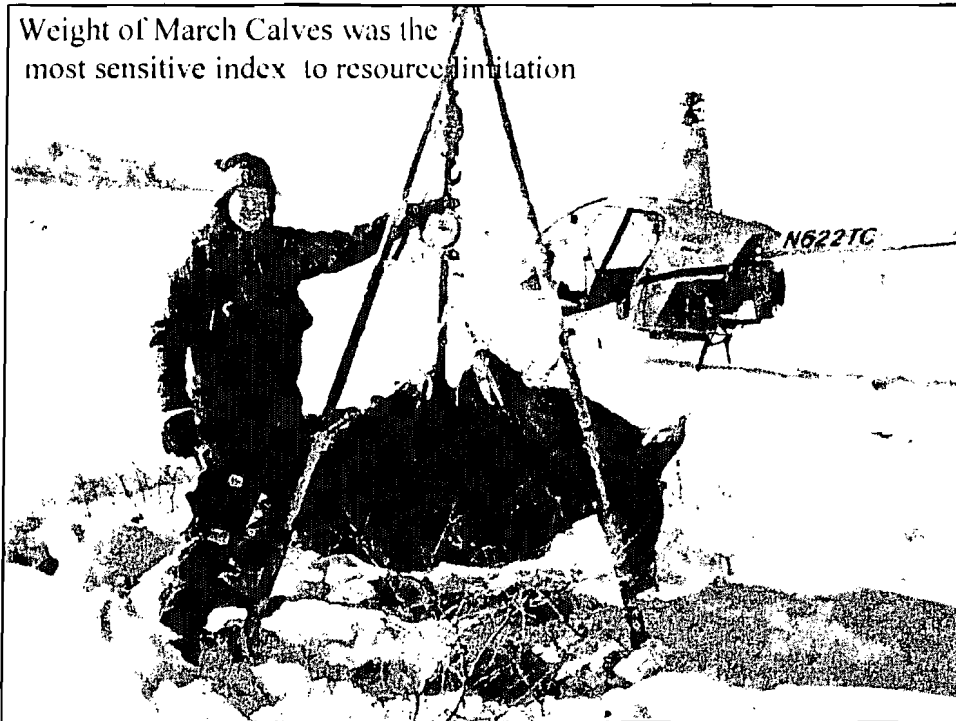
(Example of heavy browsing of willow by moose in Unit 20A)

Management Goal: Protect the moose population's health and habitat

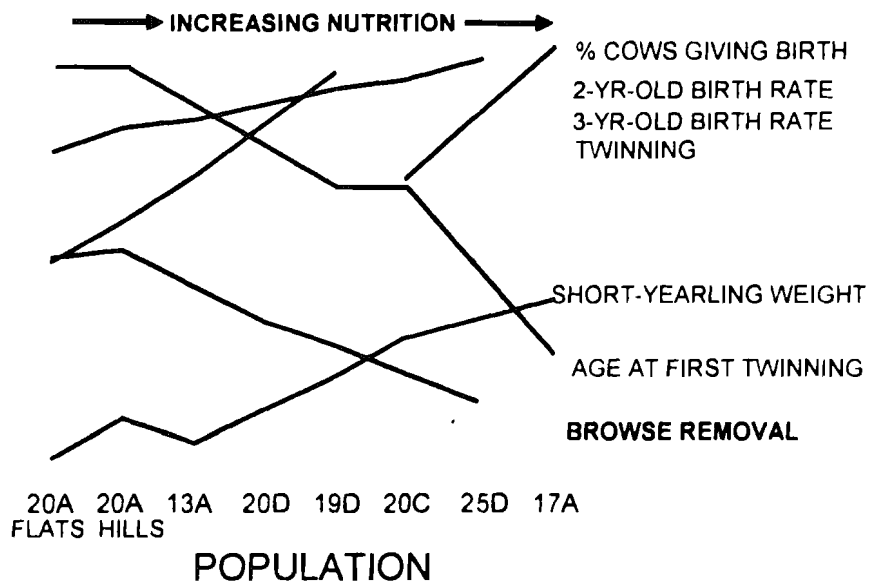
Moose twinning rates, Unit 20A, 1960-2009



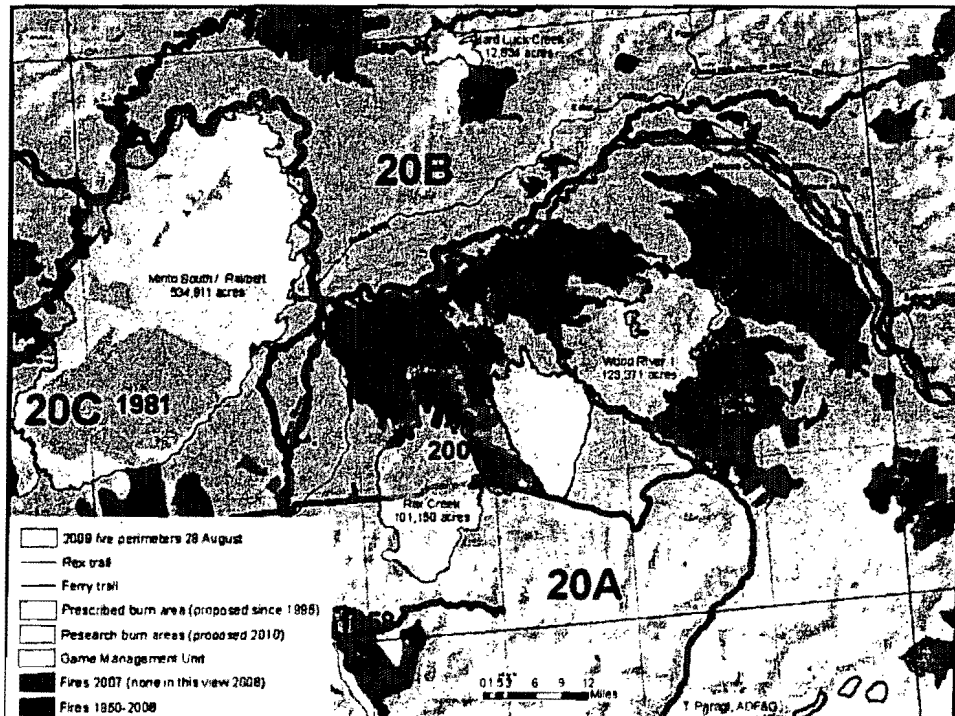
Weight of March Calves was the most sensitive index to resource limitation

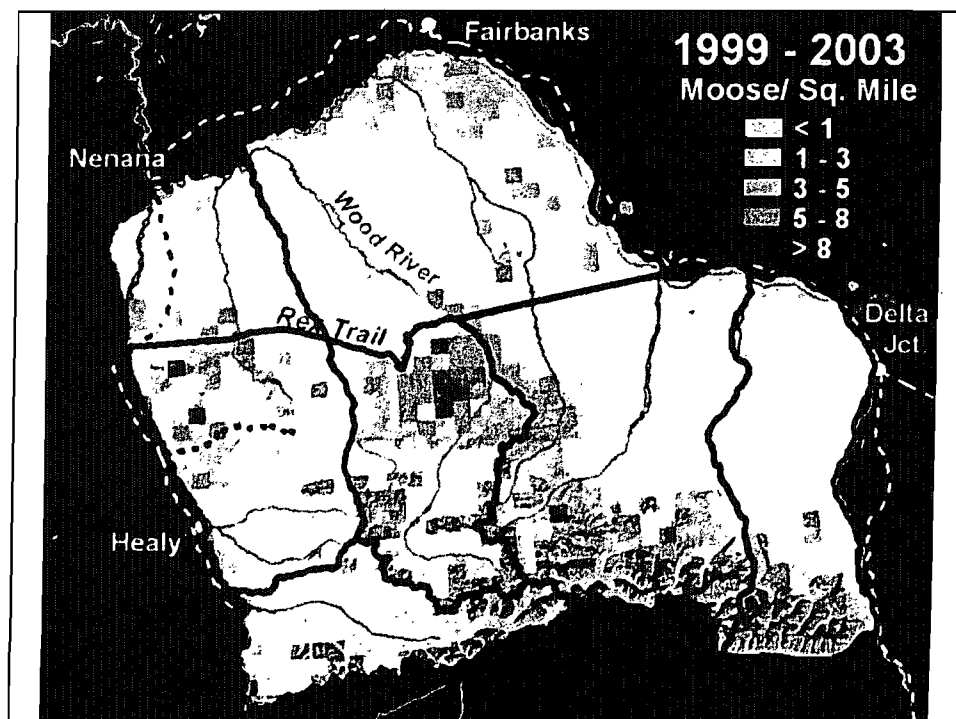
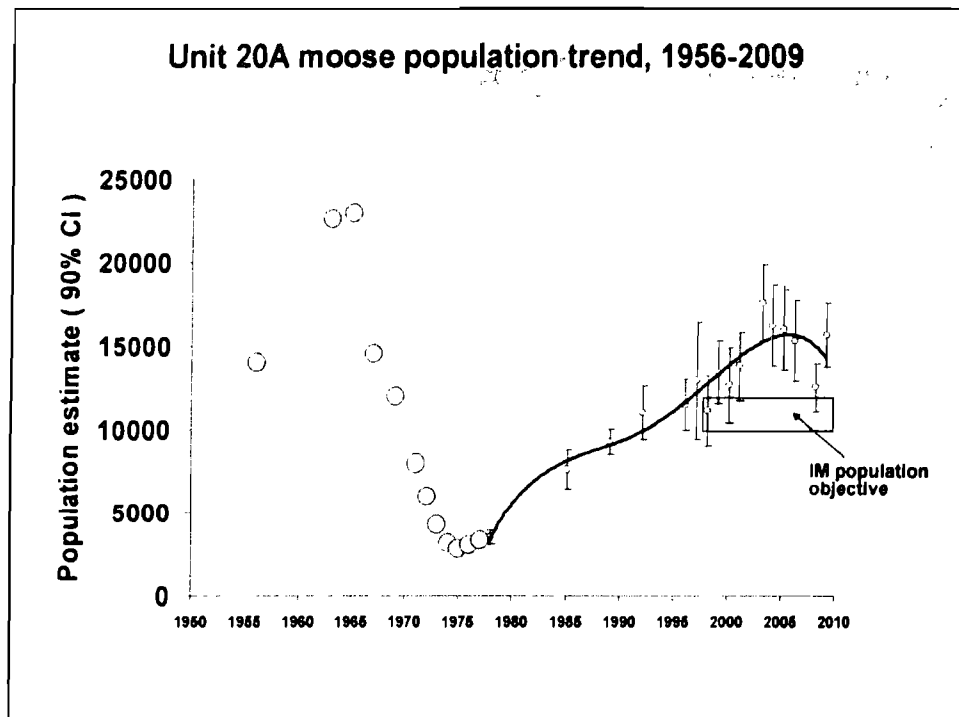


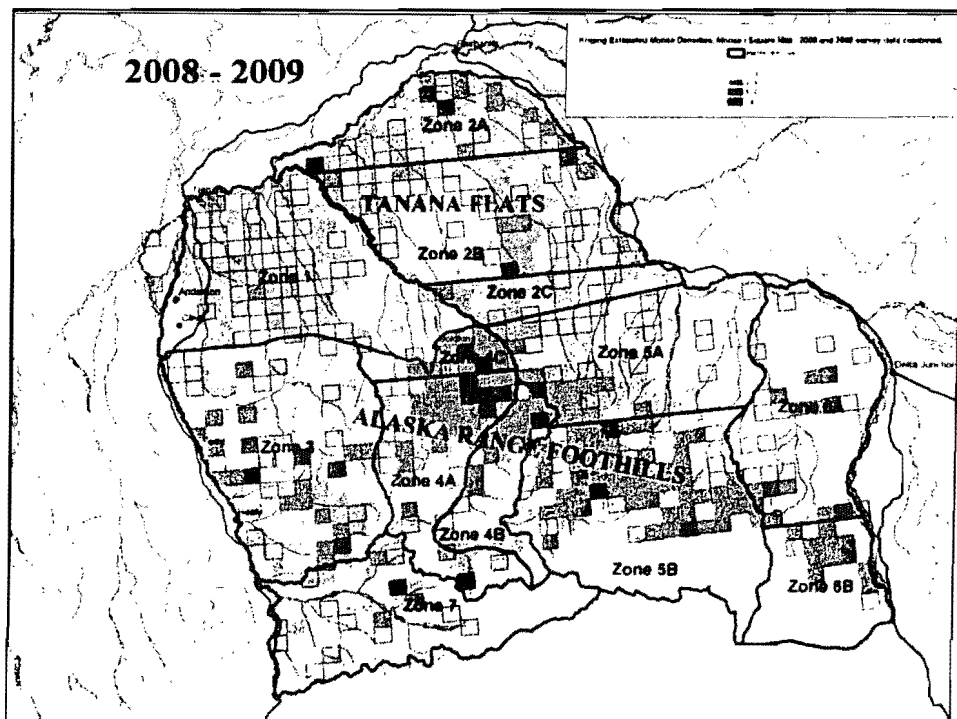
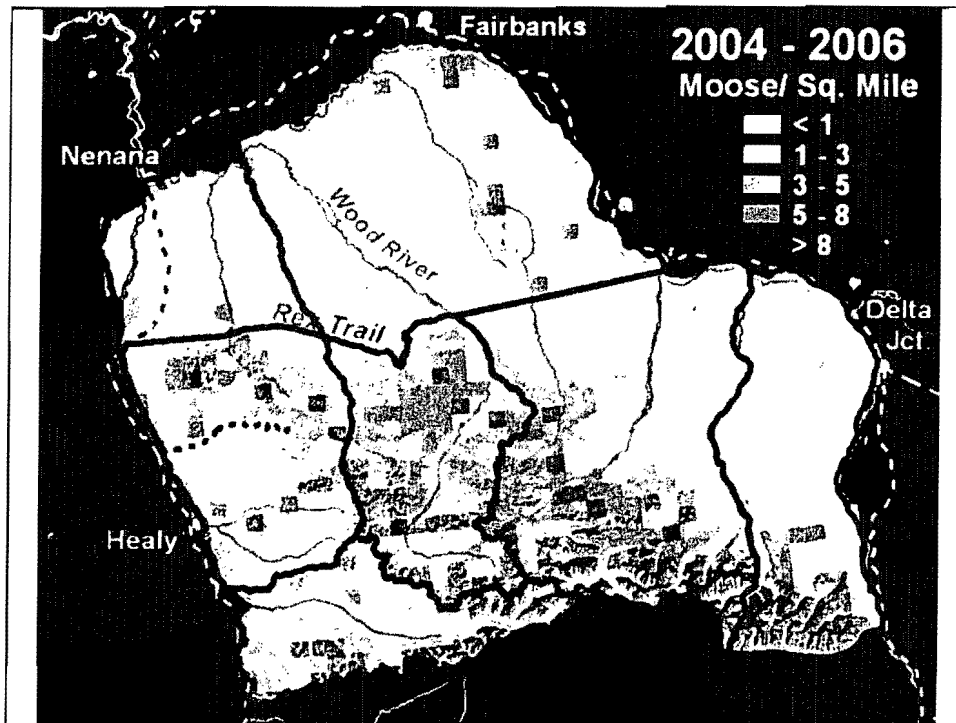
Indices of Nutrition (populations ordered by twinning rate)

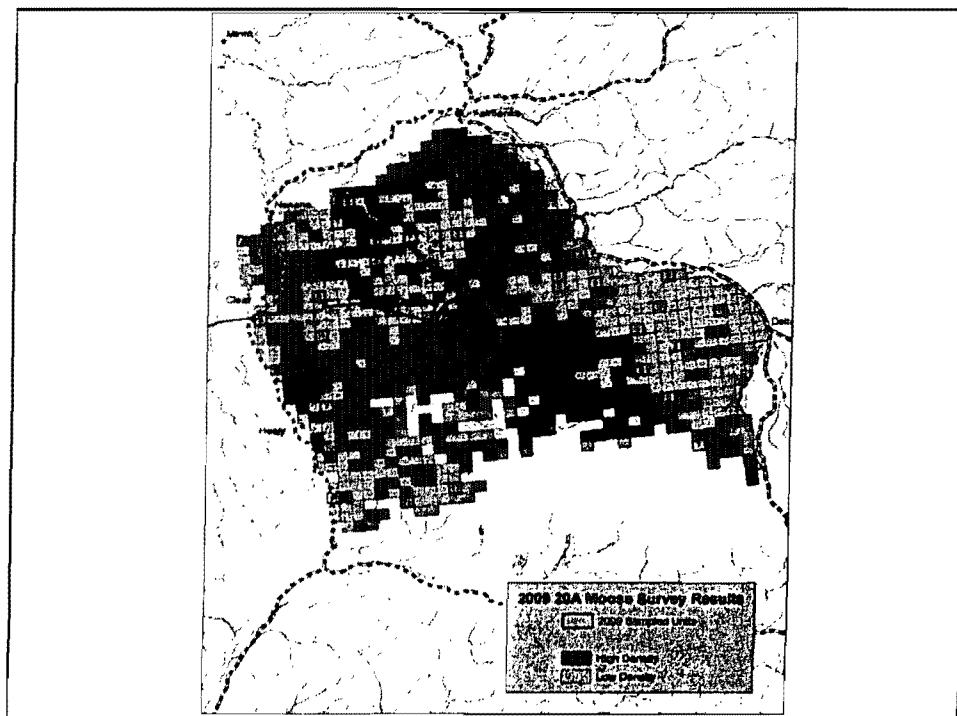
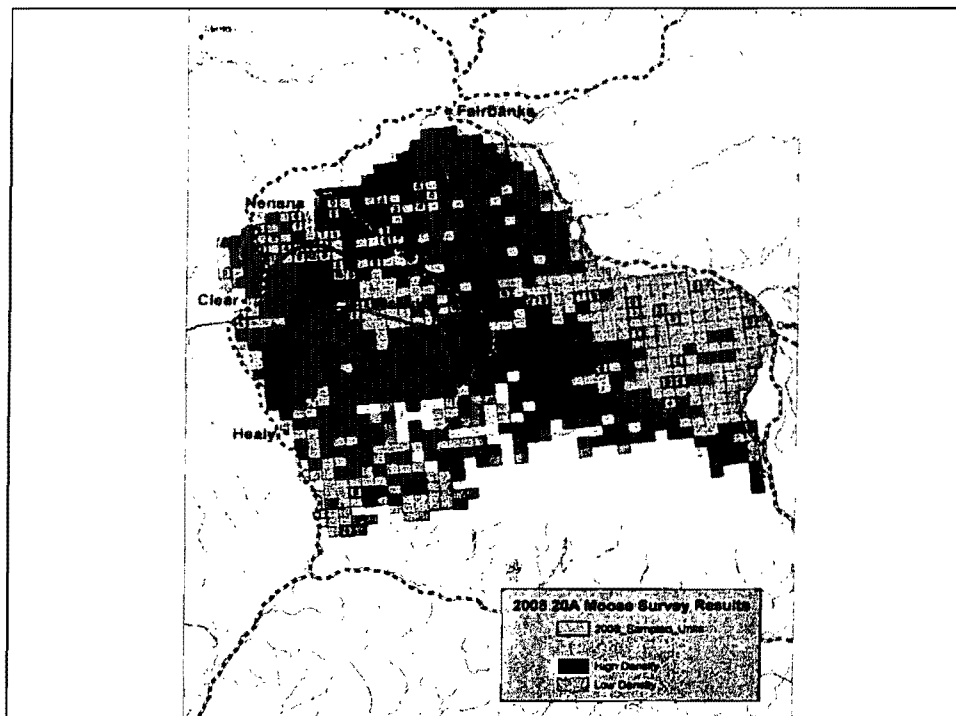


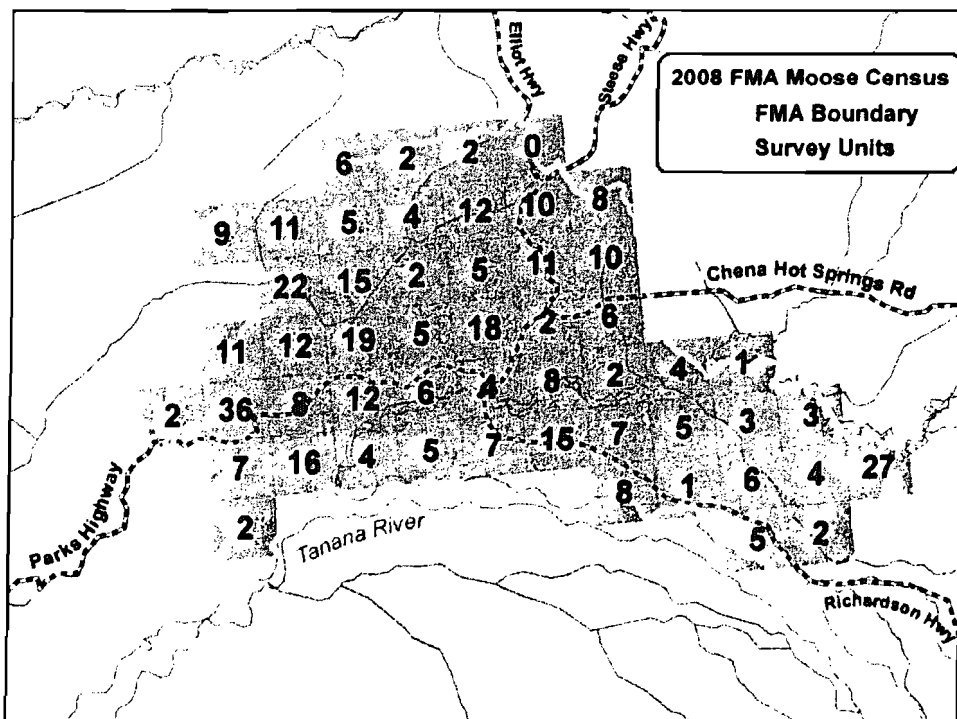
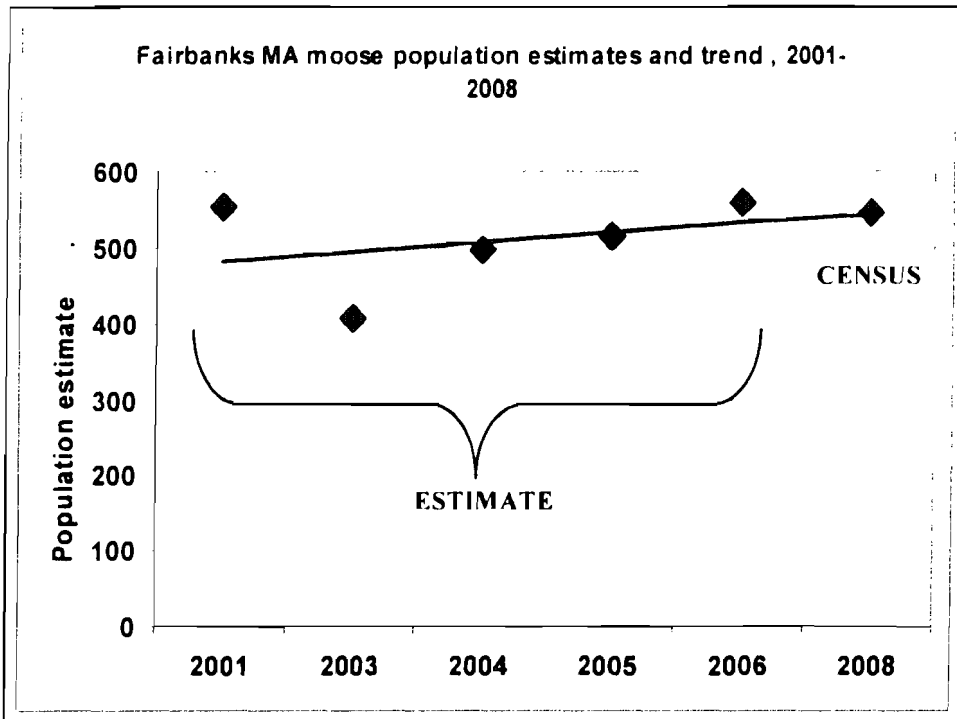




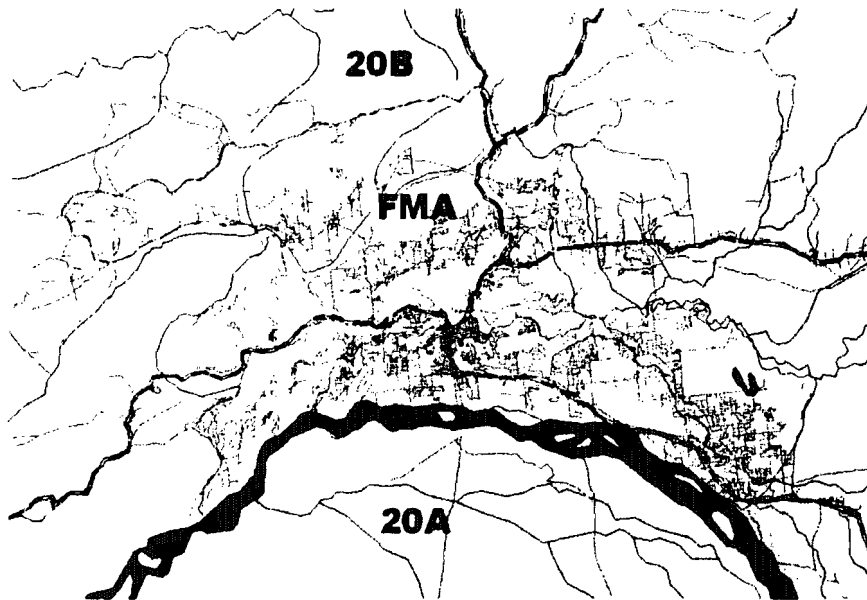






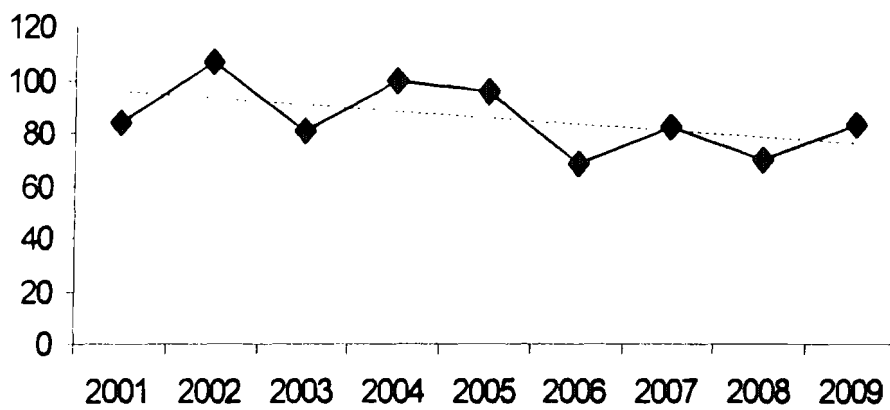


Road density, Fairbanks Management Area

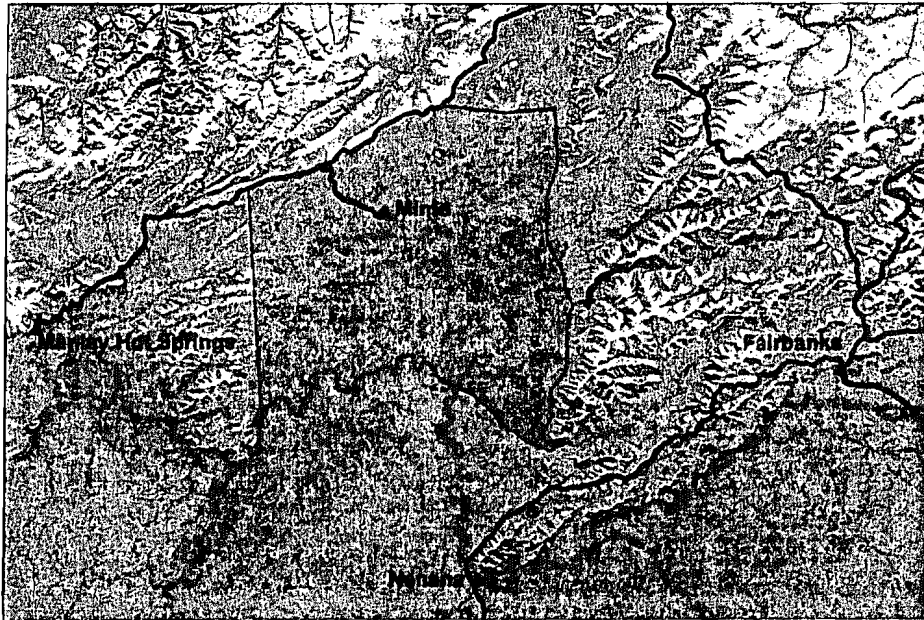


GMU 20B Moose

Annual reported moose roadkill in FMA
2001-2009



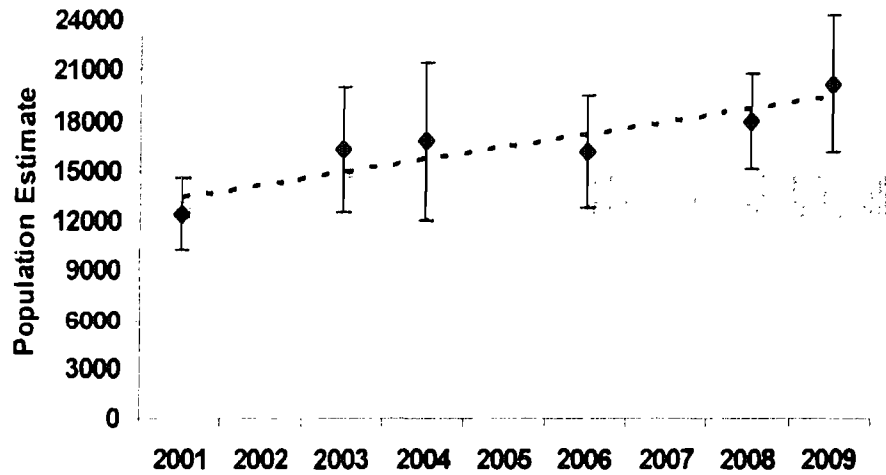
Location of Minto Flats MA moose registration hunts RM775/RM785



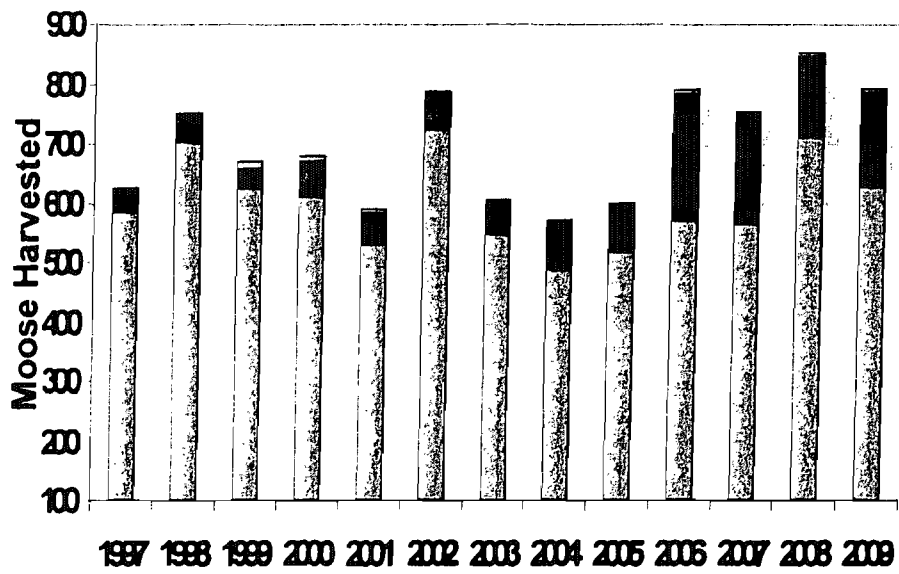
Minto Flats MA registration hunt permit distribution, Fairbanks, August 2006

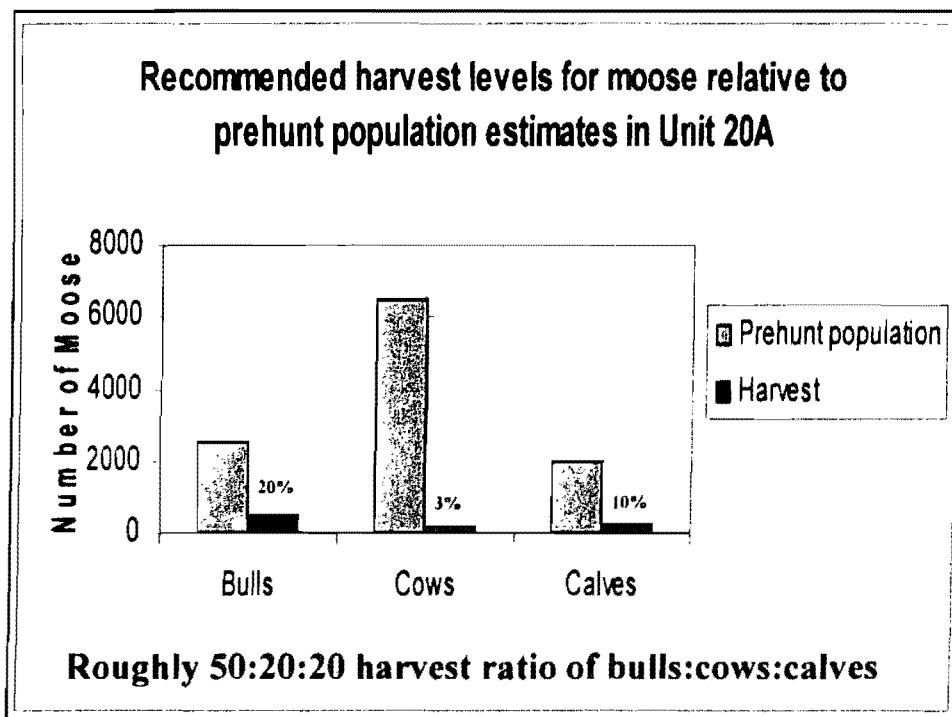
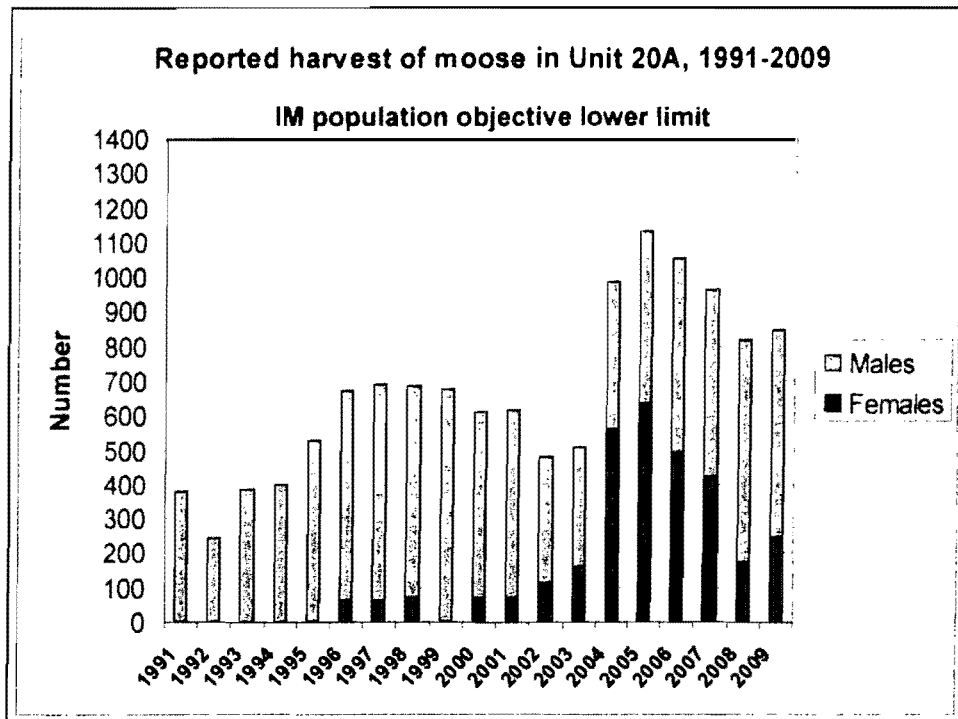


**GMU 20B Moose Population Estimates and Trend
2001-2009**



Reported Harvest of Moose, GMU20B, 1997-2009





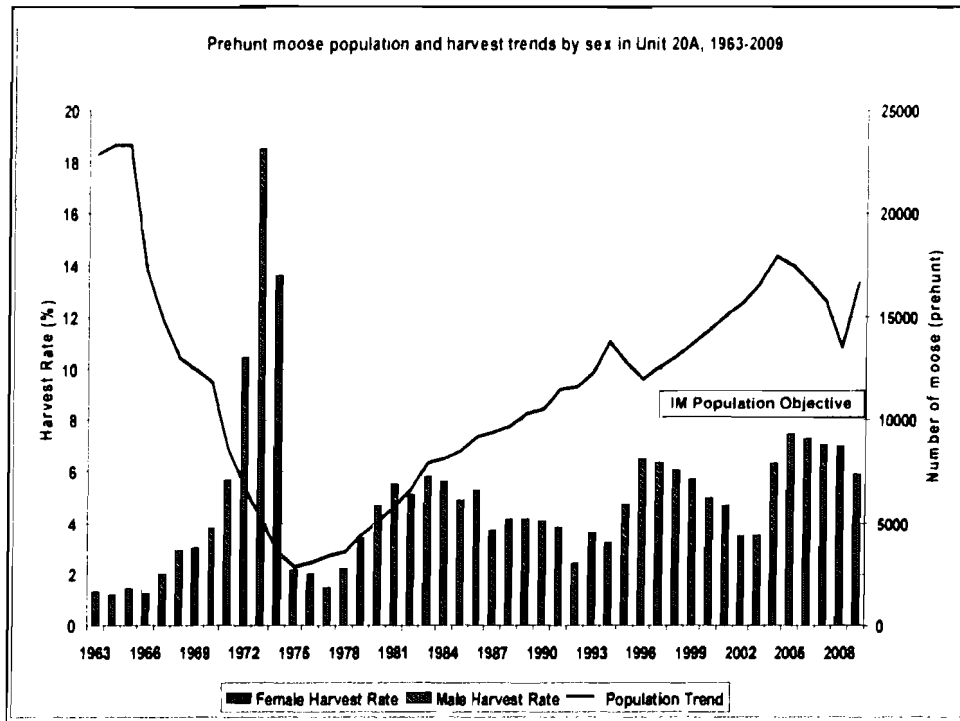
Issues regarding the “harvest of calves”

- **Ethical** – Department respects personal values, but feels important to inform Board of all related issues
- **Biological**
 - Calf harvest more compensatory than adults
 - Calf harvest more resilient to overharvest than that of adult cows (i.e., mortality more additive)
 - More effective management strategy is to allow calf harvests in high-density areas (e.g., IM areas; 20A, 20B), but protect calves in areas of concern (e.g., low density areas)
- **Intensive Management**
 - To optimized yield harvest of calves is necessary (e.g., Scandinavia - harvest ~40% calves, British Columbia, Ontario)
 - ~50 bulls:20 cows:30 calves recommended harvest ratio to optimize yield in Canada
- **Enforcement**
 - Prohibition on take of calves is not enforceable due to overlap in size between calves & yearlings

Issues regarding the “harvest of calves”

(continued)

- **Regulatory**
 - In 2004, Board rescinded statewide moratorium on take of calves that had been adopted in 2002
 - Legal to take bull calves statewide in hunts with “bull” bag limit
 - Take of calves allowed in antlerless hunts in south-central Alaska
 - Confusion (e.g., in FMA, DM788 may take calf, but in general hunt may not; in adjacent antlerless drawing hunt may not take calf, but in general hunt may take bull calf; in MFMA RM775/785 hunts may take calf; in 20A may not take a calf in antlerless hunts; allowed in Unit 14)
 - No analogous prohibition on taking calves or fawns (e.g., caribou or deer)
- **Other**
 - Would allow take of an orphaned calf in cases where a cow accompanied by a calf is mistakenly taken
 - Harvest of calves likely to increase success rates and reduce the length of antlerless seasons, which in turn reduces conflicts with the public and other users, especially trappers
 - Likely to reduce the number of antlerless bulls taken in winter hunts

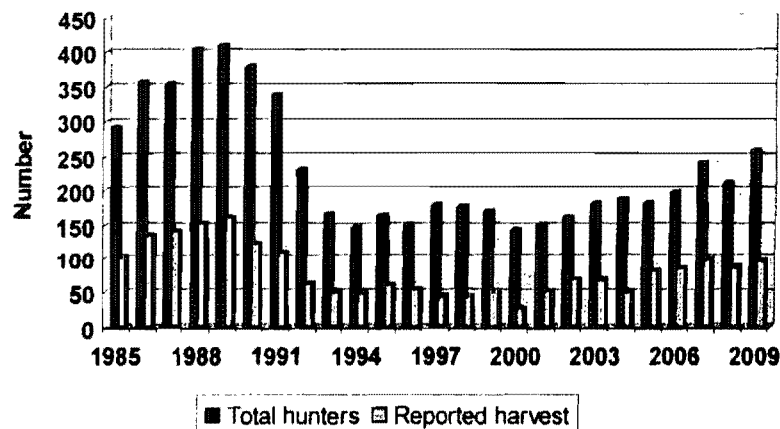


Sheep

- Populations appear to be increasing
- Unit 20A - effort and harvest increasing
- White Mountains – effort and harvest increasing
- No area proposals

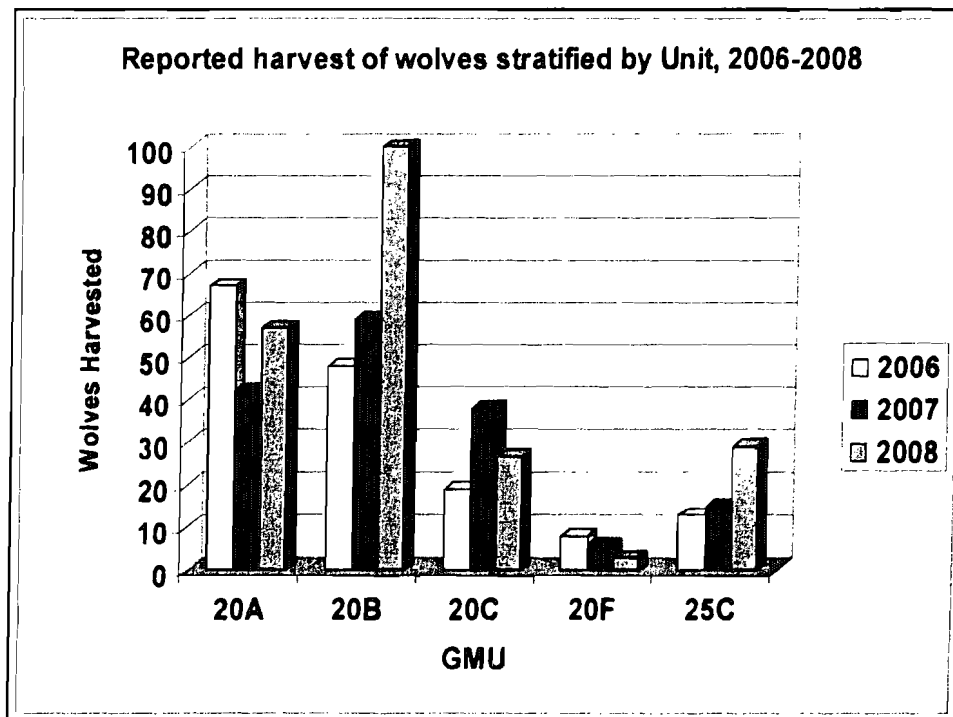
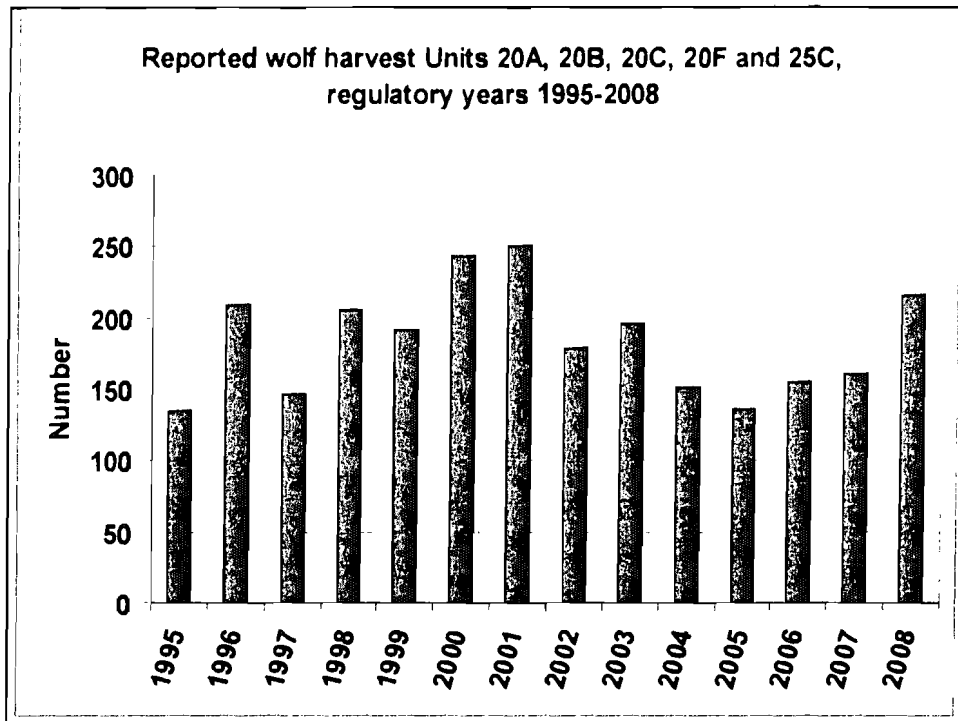
Sheep

Reported sheep harvest and hunters, Unit 20A,
1985-2009



Wolf

- Highest harvests in Units 20A and 20B
- Lower harvests in Units 20C, 20F and 25C
- Issues:
 - Lice identified in Unit 20A wolves in 2004; treatment program effective
 - Stampede/Nenana Canyon Closed Areas
- ~12 proposals – mostly regarding buffer, 1 wolf control implementation

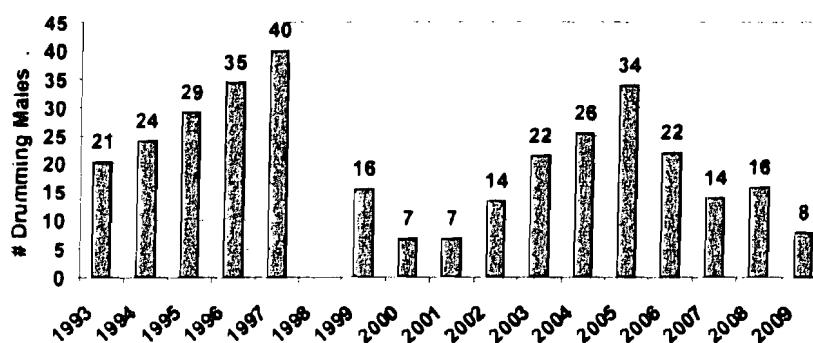


Small Game

- Conduct annual Ruffed Grouse drumming count surveys
- Ptarmigan surveys in Unit 25C
- Small-scale habitat improvement projects for grouse in Unit 20B
- No proposals

Small Game

Ruffed grouse drumming counts, Clear Air Station, 1993-2009



Proposal 40 – Unit 20A Moose

- Reauthorize antlerless hunt
- Increase “up to” language for “antlerless” drawing permits from 500 to 1000

Reauthorization and increase in number of permits supported by all 4 affected ACs



F21 39

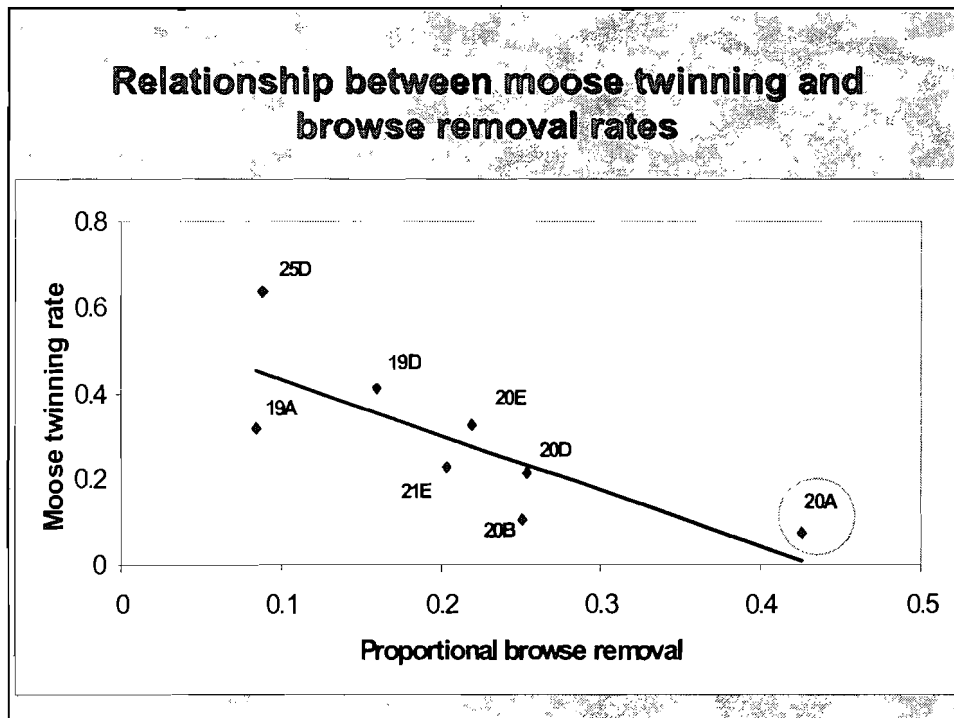
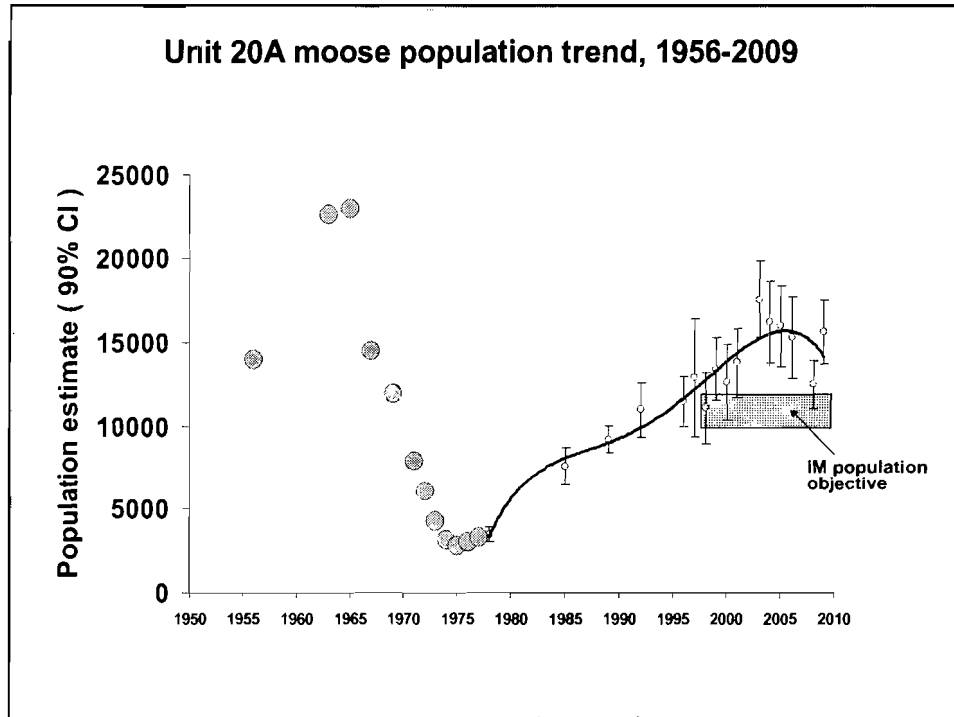
Proposal 40 – GMU 20A Moose

RATIONALE:

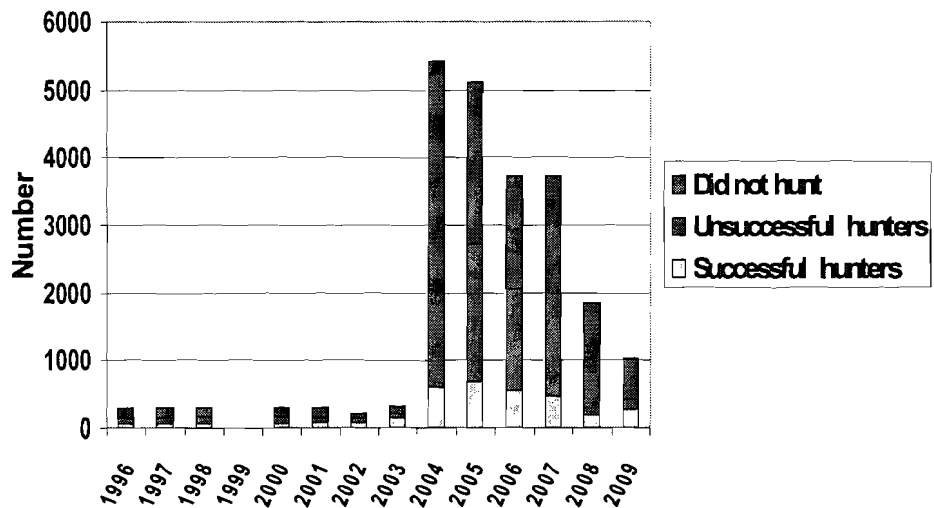
- Population above IM population objective
- Population remains nutritionally stressed
- Liberal antlerless harvest important
 - Biologically – regulate the population
 - Meet IM mandate for elevated yield
- Hunt provides considerable hunting opportunity

Primary Goals

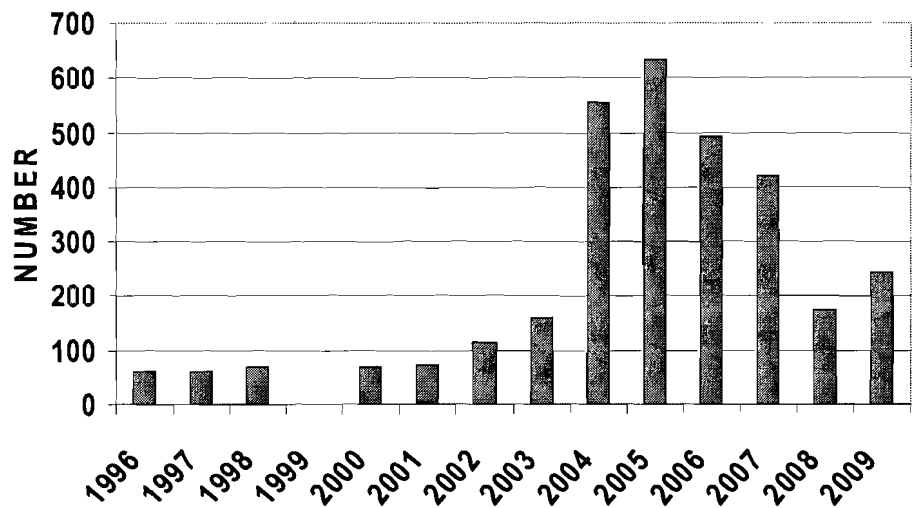
- 1) Protect the moose population's health and habitat
- 2) Fulfill Intensive Management mandate for elevated yield

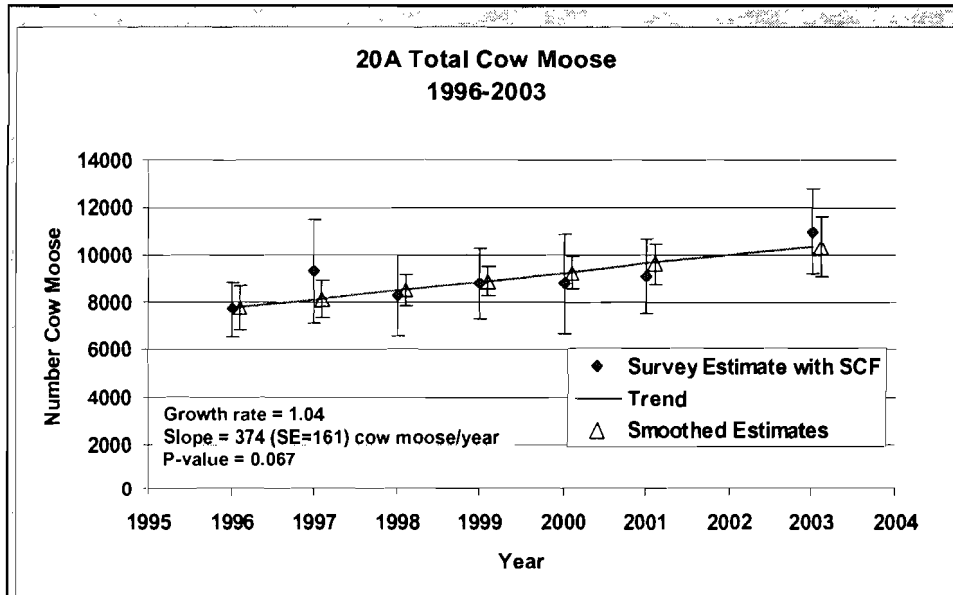


Unit 20A antlerless moose hunts, regulatory years 1996-2009

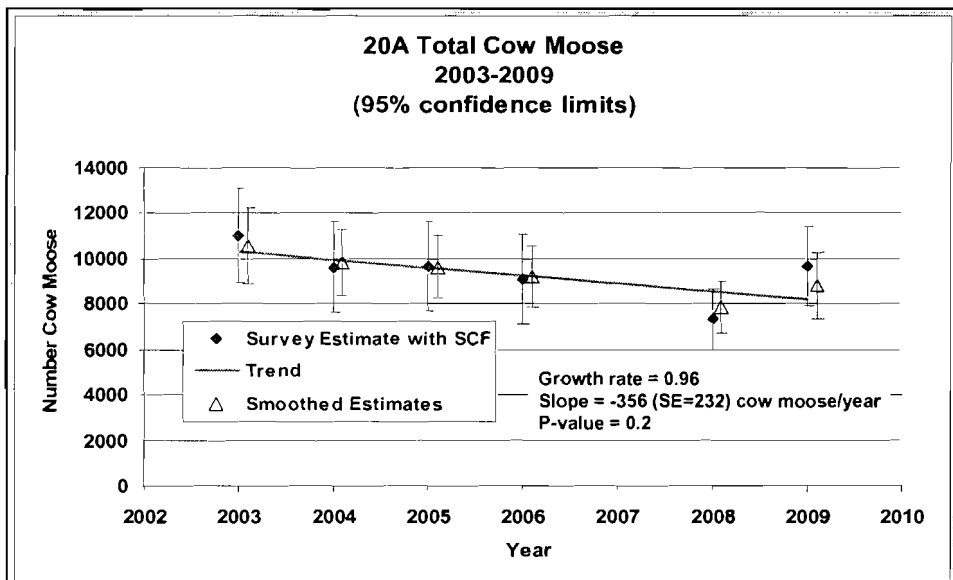


Reported harvest of female moose, Unit 20A, 1996-2009





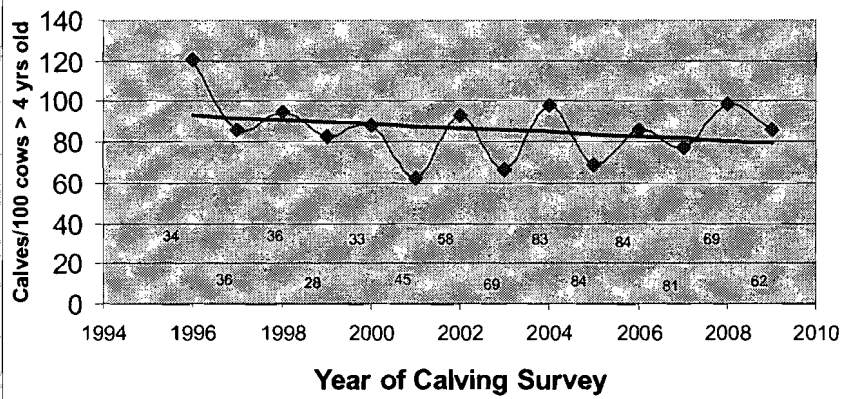
Annual Means 1996-2003:
 permits issued = 253; hunted = 147;
 reported harvest females = 76 (0-159); harvest rate females = 0.6% (0%-1.1%)



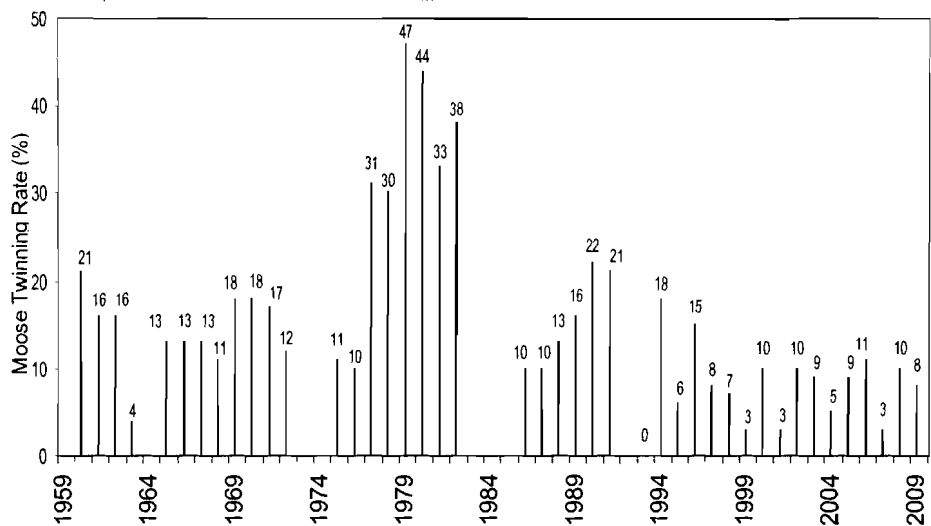
Annual Means 2004-2008:
 permits issued = 3970; hunted = 2025;
 reported harvest females = 460 (194-634); harvest rate females = 3.2% (1.7%-4.2%)

No recent improvement in reproduction since 2004

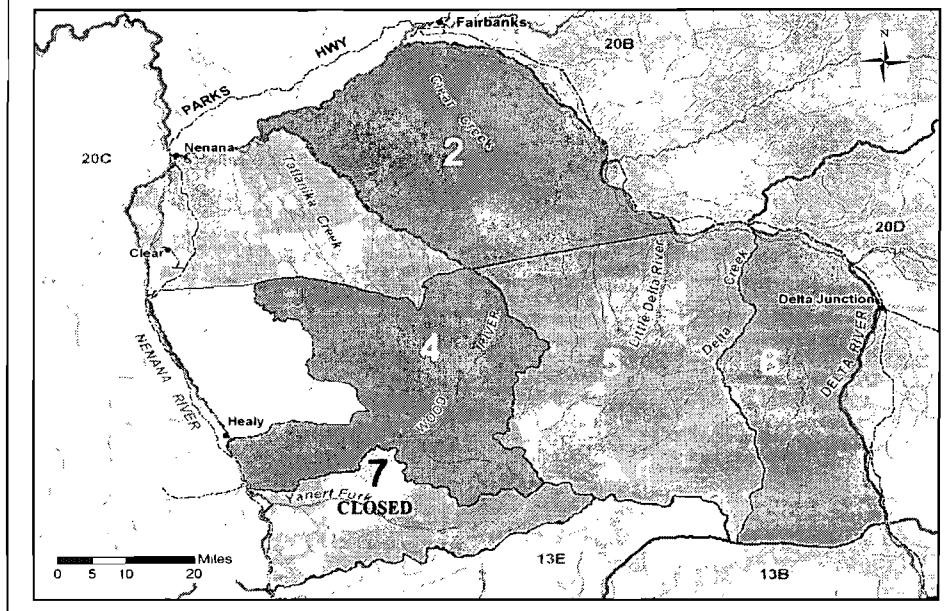
Calves/100 radioed cows >4 years old



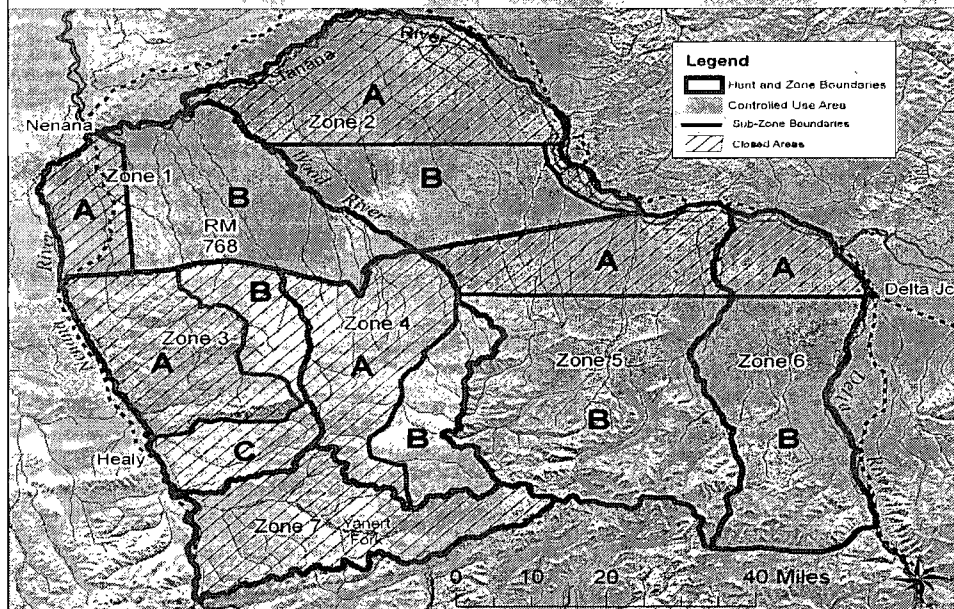
Moose twinning rates, Unit 20A, 1960-2009



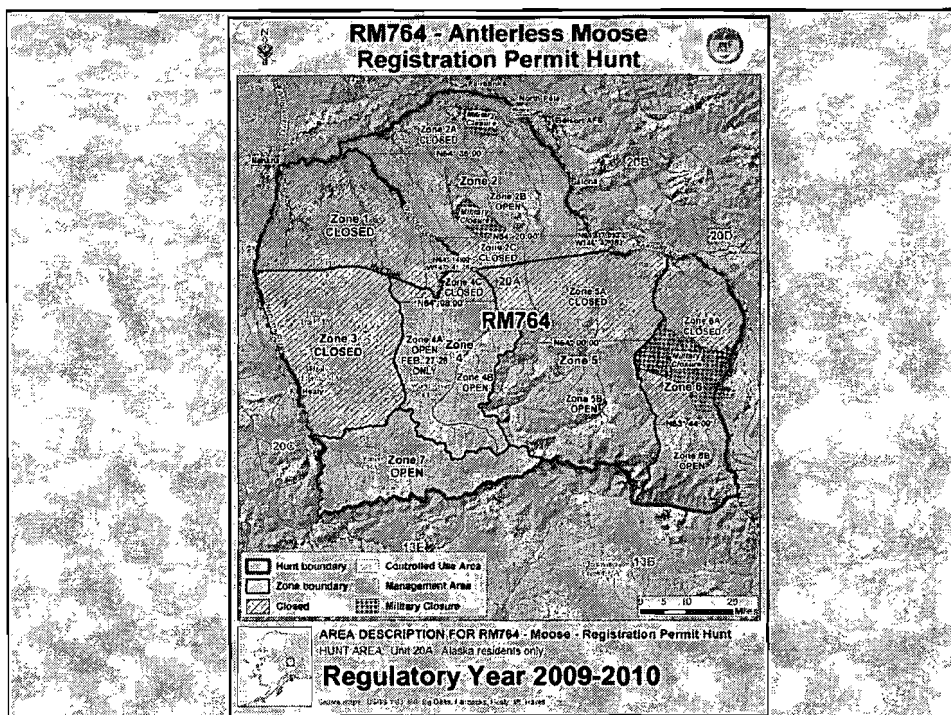
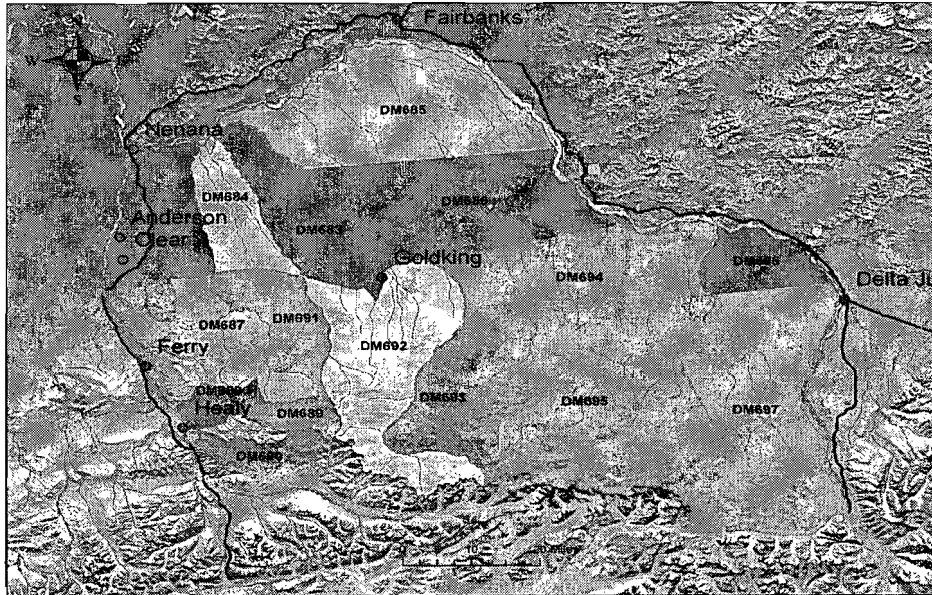
Unit 20A antlerless moose hunt RM764, 2004-2005



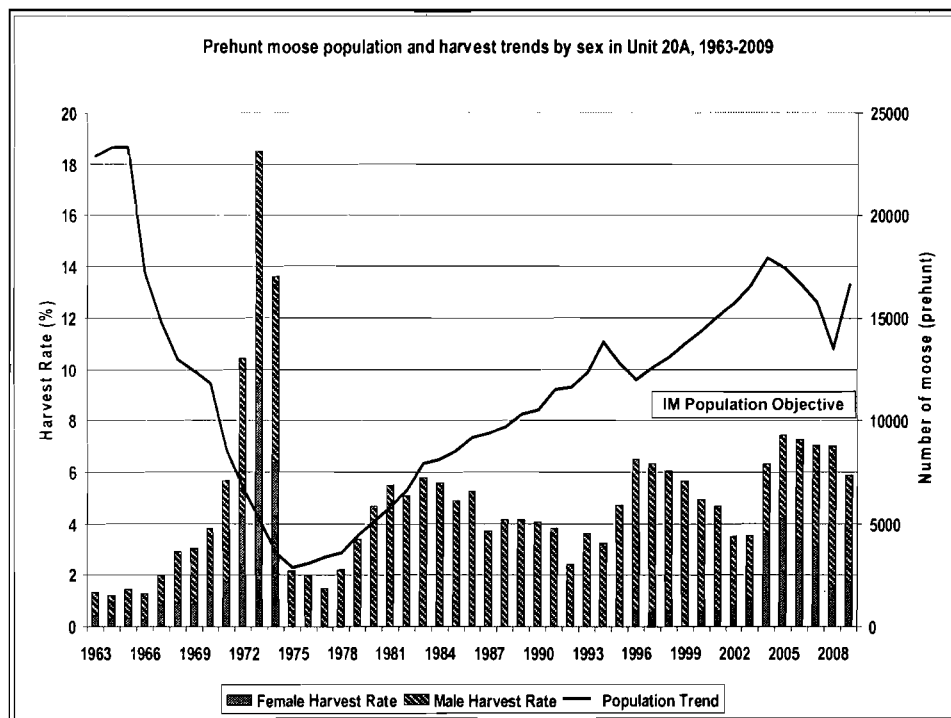
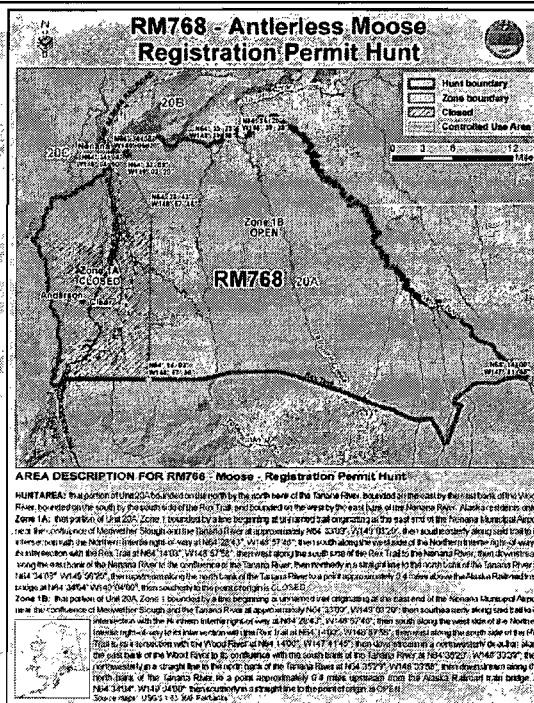
Unit 20A antlerless moose hunts RM764 and RM768, 2008-2009

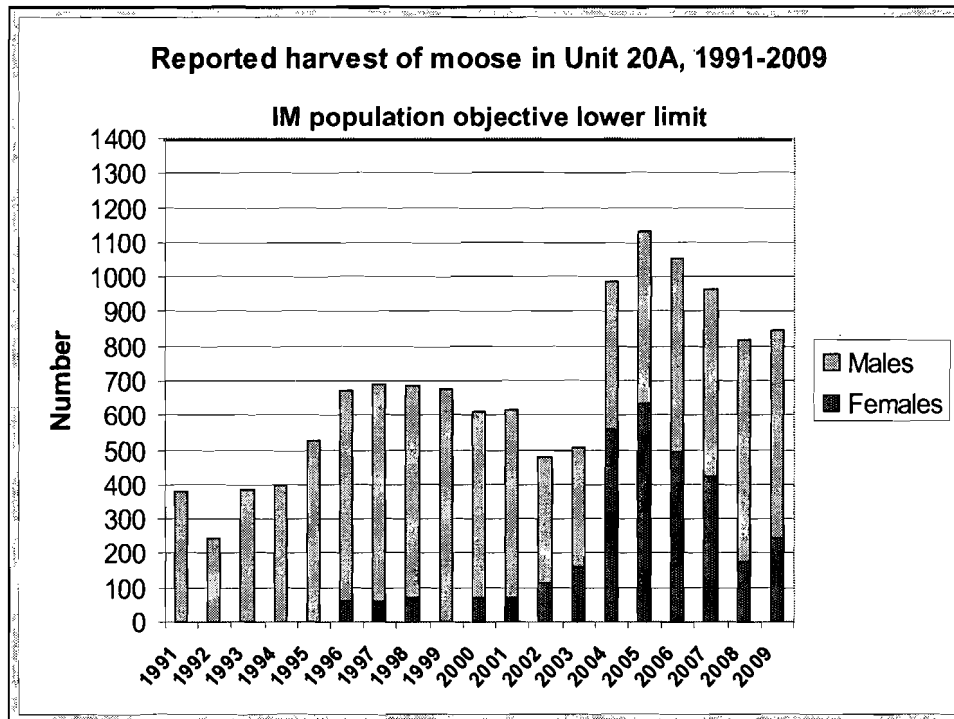


Unit 20A antlerless drawing hunts, 2009-2010



Regulatory Year 2009-2010





Proposal 40 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Population above IM population objective
- Population remains nutritionally stressed
- Liberal antlerless harvest important
 - Biologically – regulate the population
 - Meet IM mandate for elevated yield
- Hunt provides considerable hunting opportunity

Proposal 33 – GMU 20 Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Allow take of moose calves and cows accompanied by calves in antlerless moose hunts in GMU 20 (i.e., Units 20A, 20B and 20D).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

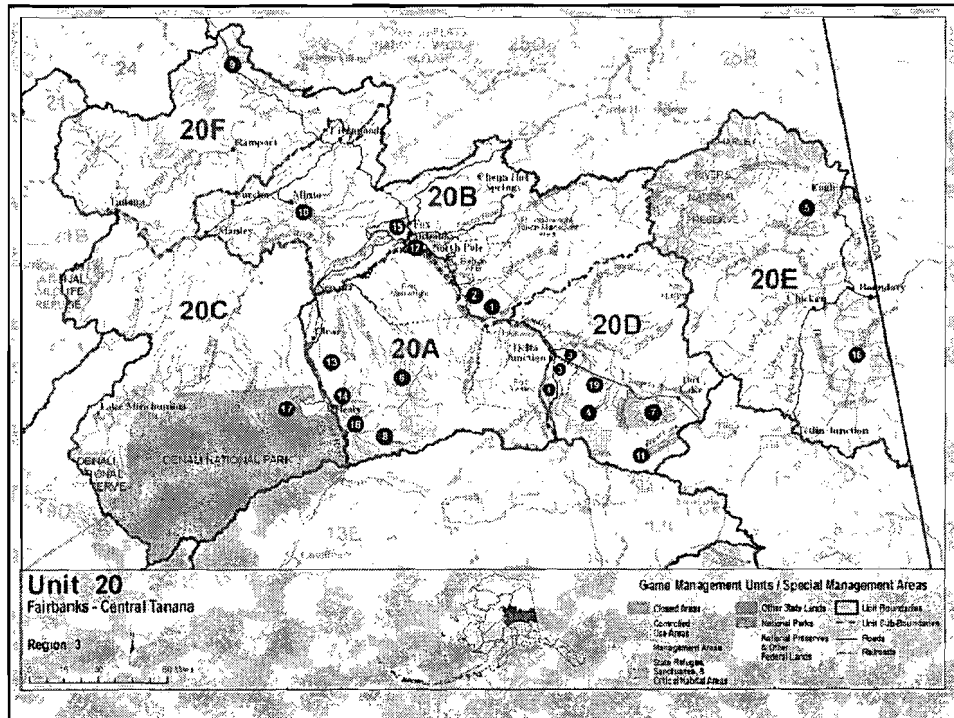
Supported by Middle Nenana AC (Fairbanks, Delta and Minto Nenana ACs did not support)

Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Change bag limit from spike-fork 50-inch \geq 3 brow tines TO 36-inch 2 brow tines.

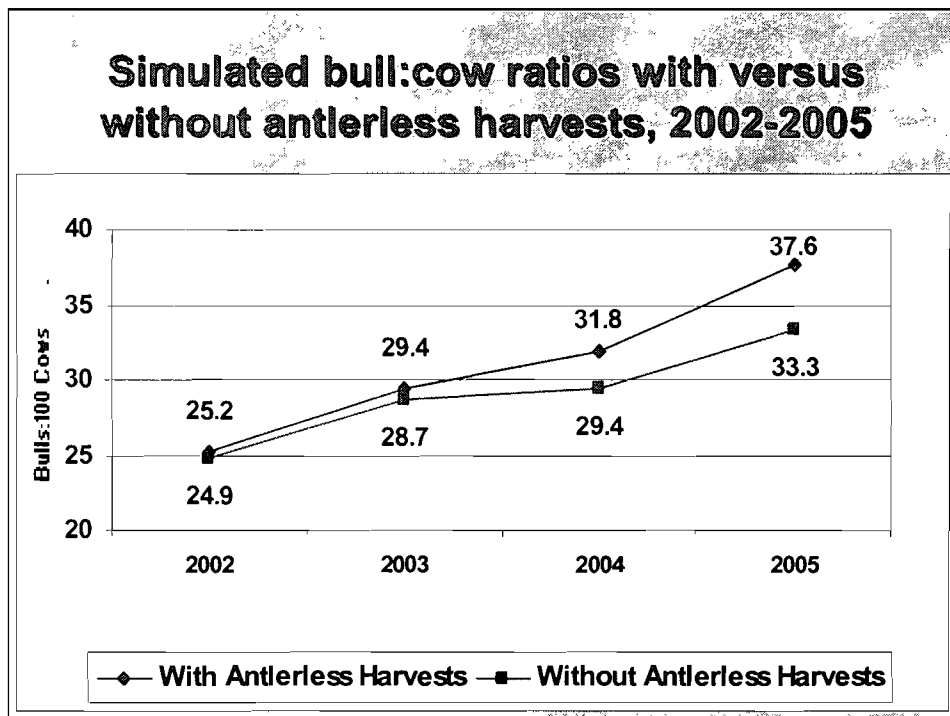
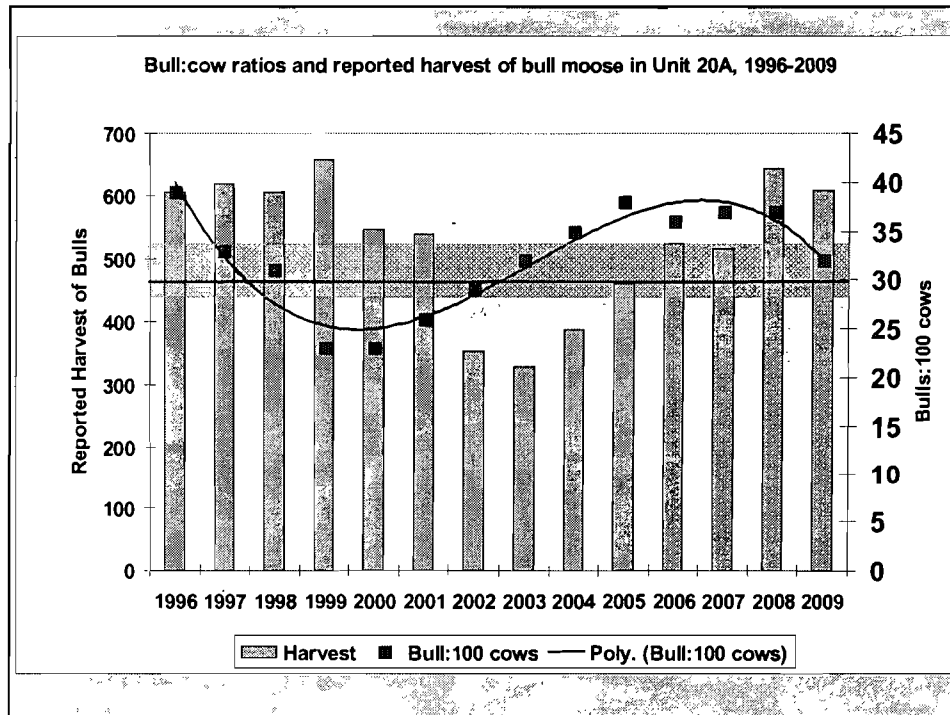
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

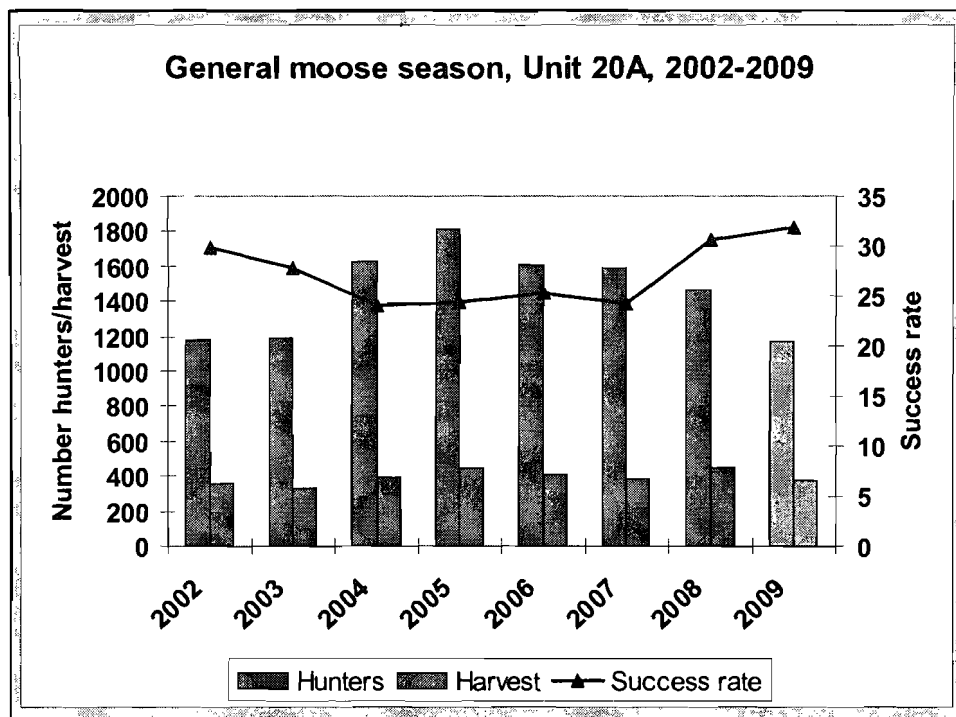
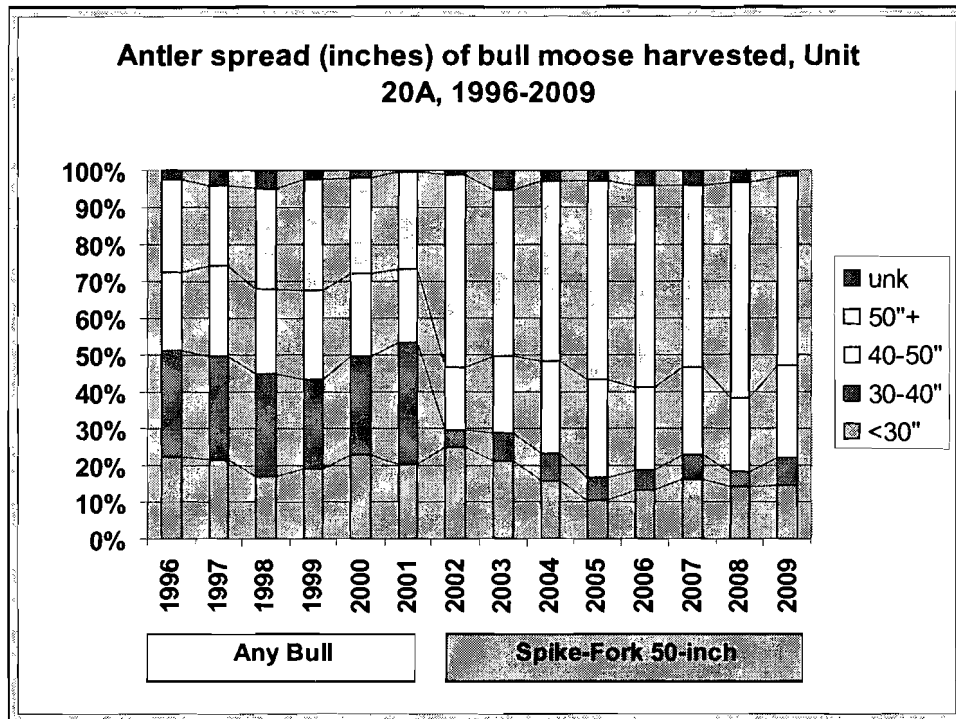


Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

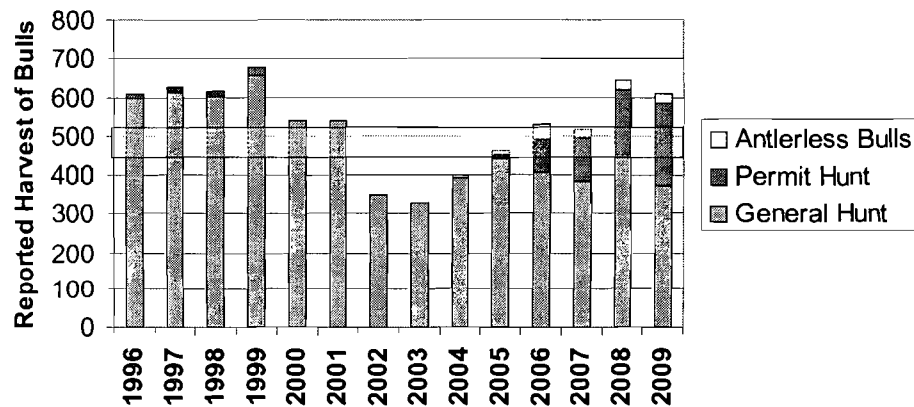
RATIONALE:

- Unit 20A an Intensive Management area for moose
- To optimize yield, harvest strategy includes S-F/50-inch general season, “any bull” and antlerless drawing hunts and antlerless winter registration hunt
- 32 bulls:100 cows (2009) slightly above management objective of 30:100
- 36-inch 2 brow tine regulation inconsistent with statewide 50-inch 3 or 4 brow tine regulation
- S-F bulls make up small proportion of bull harvest
- Only small percentage of yearling bull population harvested annually
- ~ 50% yearling bull population protected (i.e., paddle bulls)
- High yearling bull: and bull:cw ratios indicate recruitment is adequate





Reported general season, drawing permit, and antlerless hunt harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Current harvest strategy effective, optimizes yield
- 36-inch 2 brow tine regulation inconsistent with statewide 50-inch 3 or 4 brow tine regulation
- Only small percentage of yearling bull population harvested annually
- High yearling bull: and bull:cow ratios indicate recruitment is adequate
- More effective to regulate bull harvest and bull:cow ratios with current SF50-inch general season in combination with “any bull” drawing permit hunt (authority to issue up 1000 permits)

Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

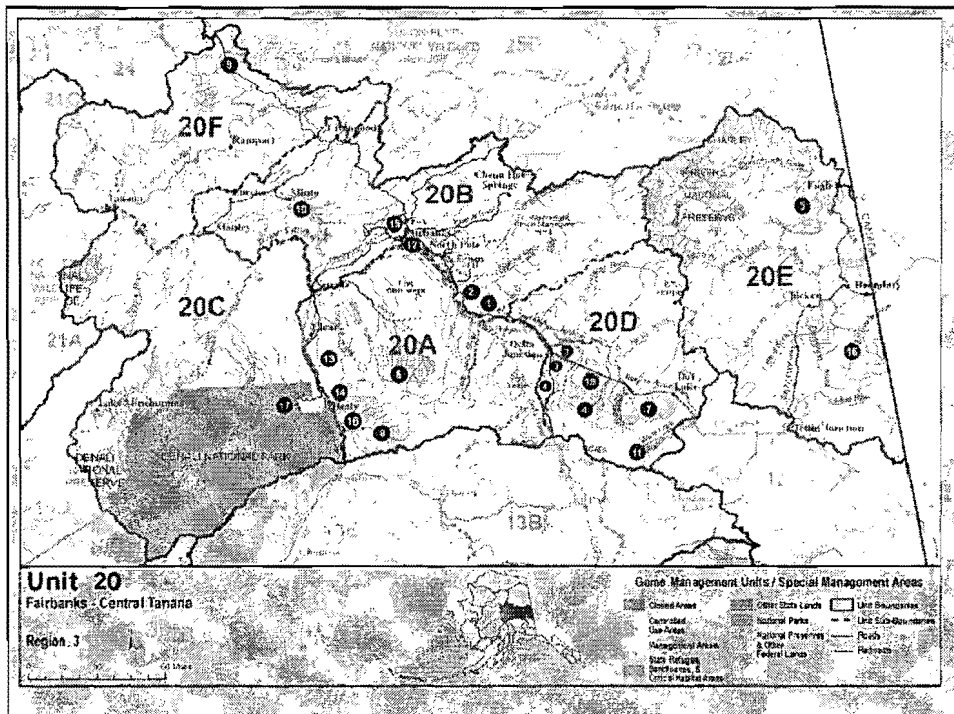
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Add a registration hunt for bull moose when bull:cow ratios exceed management objectives.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Do Not Adopt

Fairbanks AC: “Take No Action”

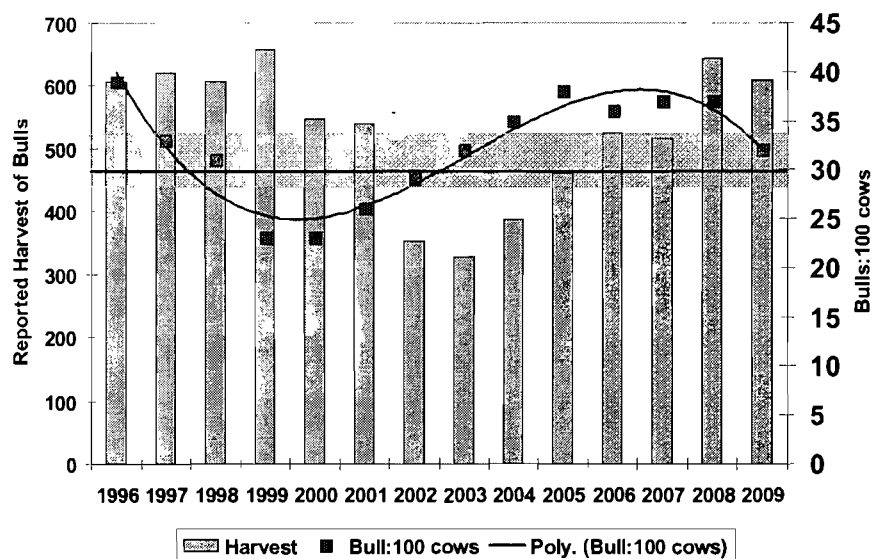


Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

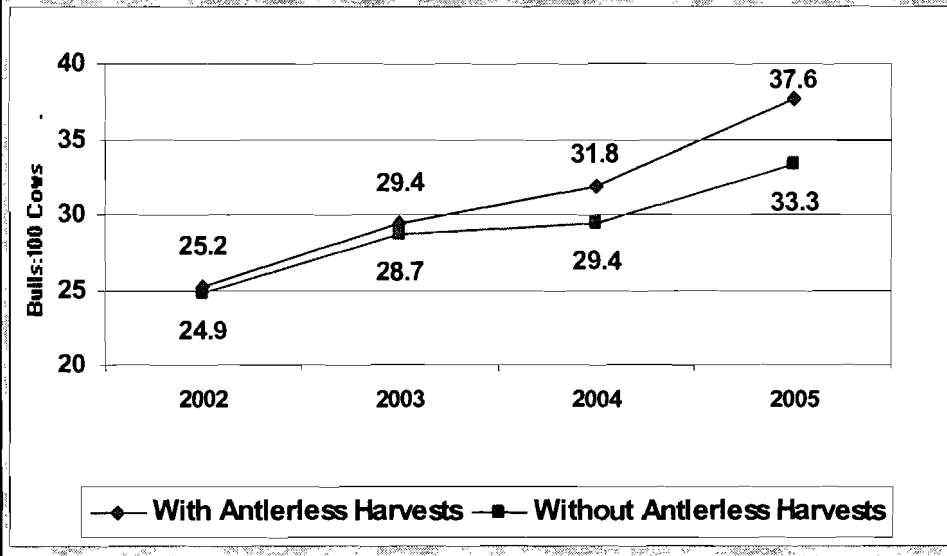
RATIONALE:

- Current harvest strategy effective
- 32 bulls:100 cows (2009) slightly above management objective of 30:100
- Current harvest rate of bulls of 4-5% at upper limit of sustained yield
- 25-day S-F/50-inch general season, 25-day “any bull” drawing permit season, 65-day antlerless drawing permit season, and 50-day antlerless winter registration hunt provides high-level of hunting opportunity
- Difficult to implement (i.e., bull:cow ratios not known until November)

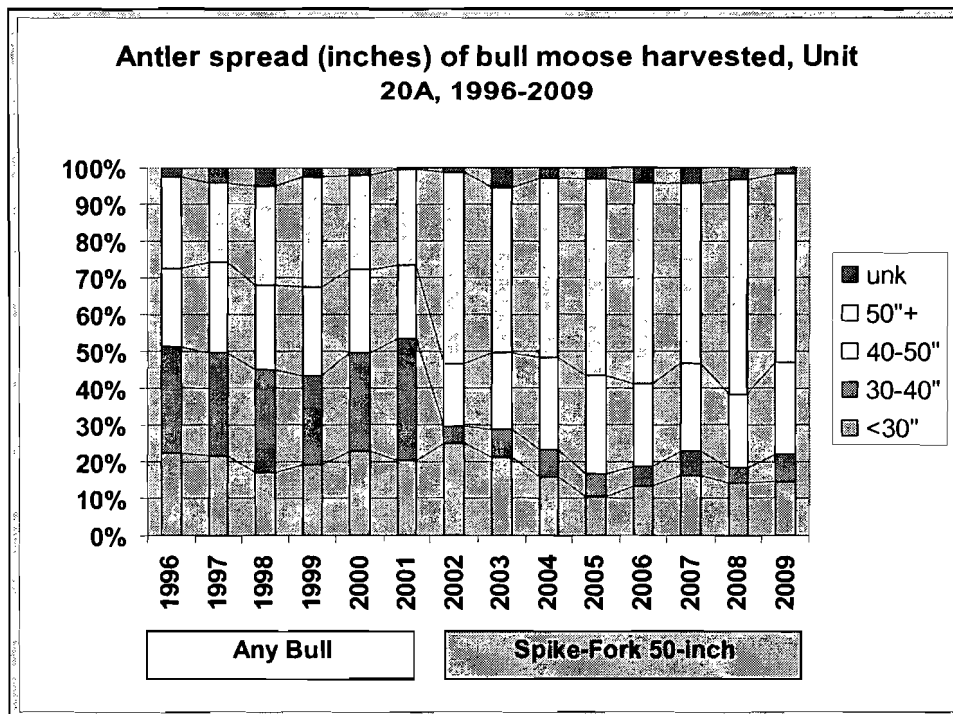
Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



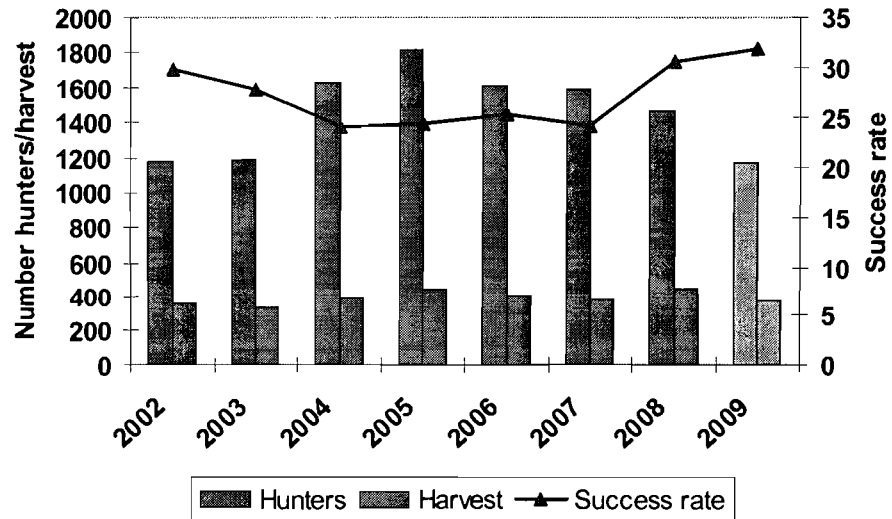
Simulated bull:cow ratios with versus without antlerless harvests, 2002-2005



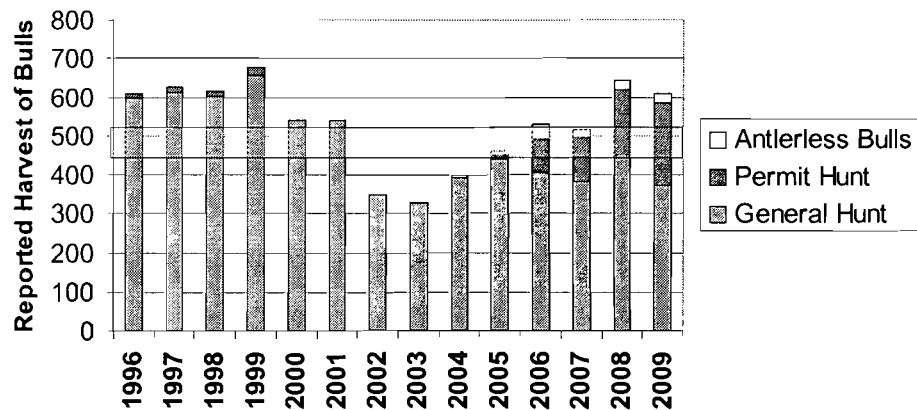
Antler spread (inches) of bull moose harvested, Unit 20A, 1996-2009



General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009



Reported general season, drawing permit, and antlerless hunt harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Current harvest strategy effective
- Current harvest rate of bulls of 4-5% at upper limit of sustained yield
- 25-day S-F/50-inch general season, 25-day “any bull” drawing permit season, 65-day antlerless drawing permit season, and 50-day antlerless winter registration hunt provides high-level of hunting opportunity
- Difficult to implement (i.e., bull:cow ratios not known until November)
- More effective to regulate bull harvest and bull:cow ratios with current SF50-inch general season in combination with “any bull” drawing permit hunt (authority to issue up 1000 permits)

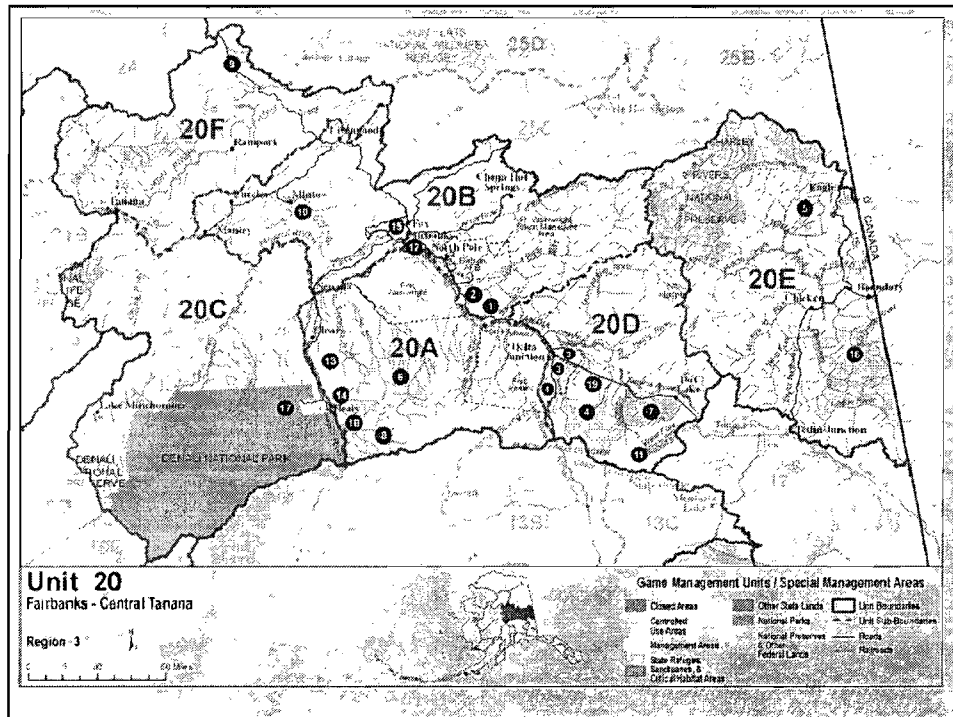
Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate antler restrictions for residents in the Wood River and Yanert CUAs and liberalize antler restrictions for residents and nonresidents in remainder of Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

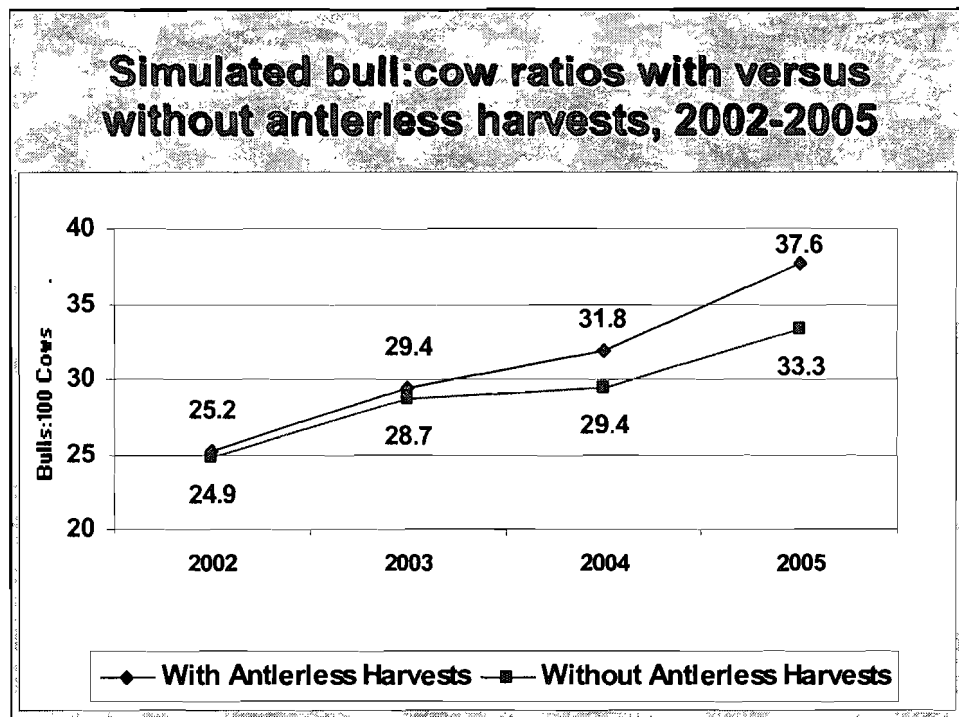
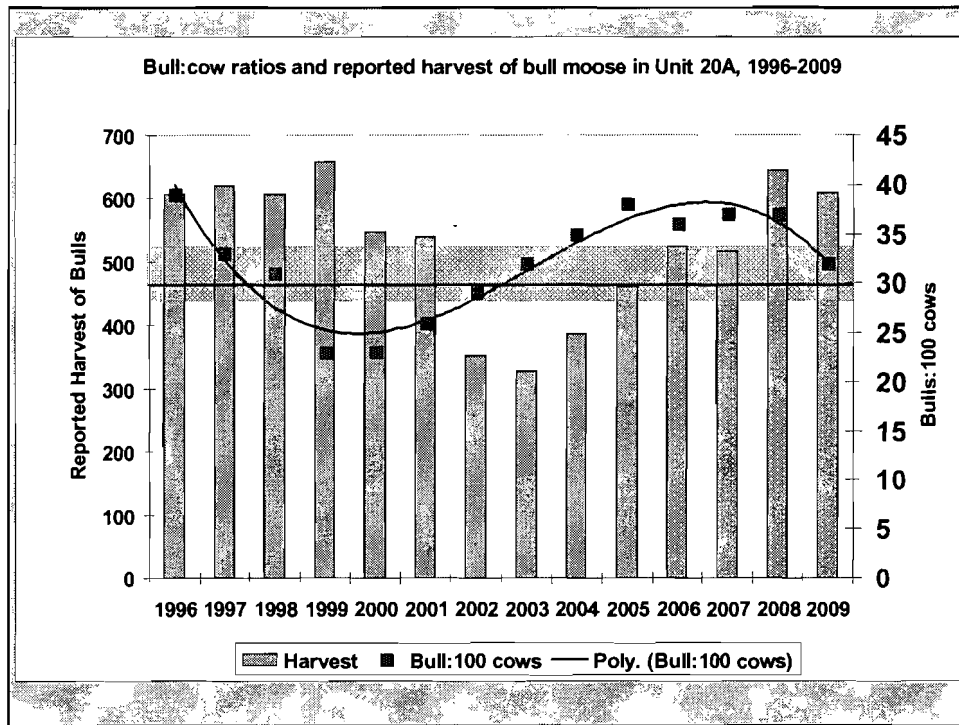
Middle Nenana AC: “Take No Action”

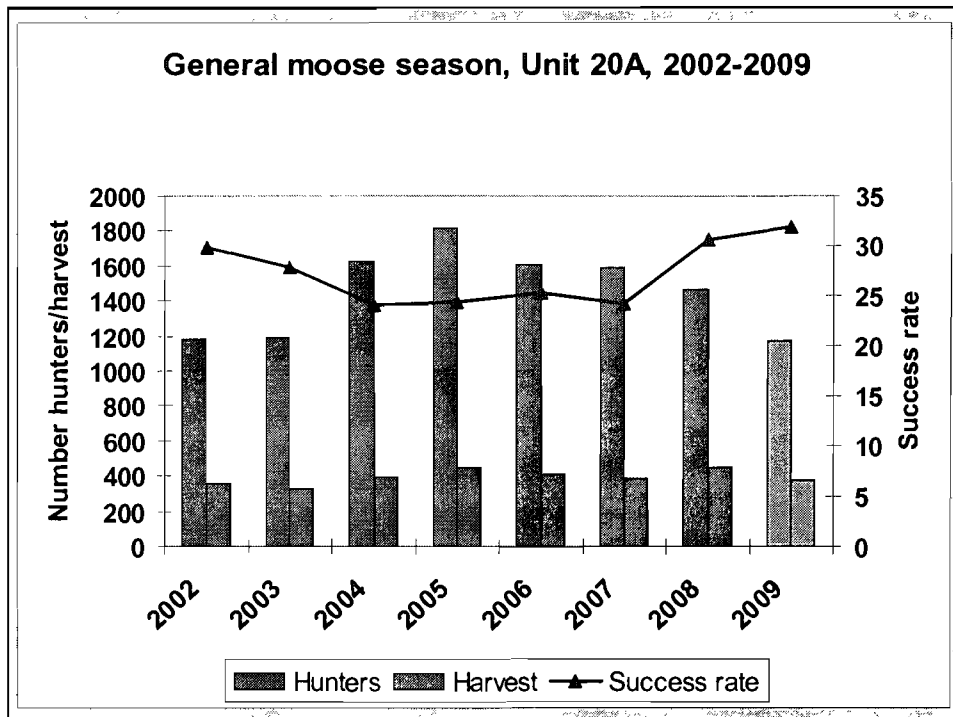
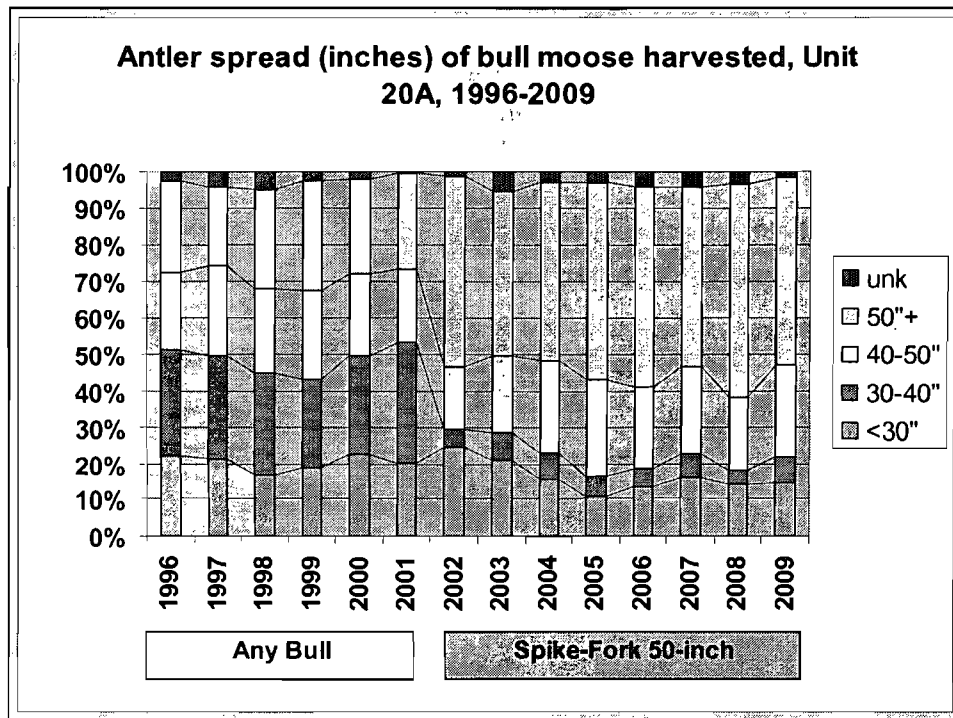


Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

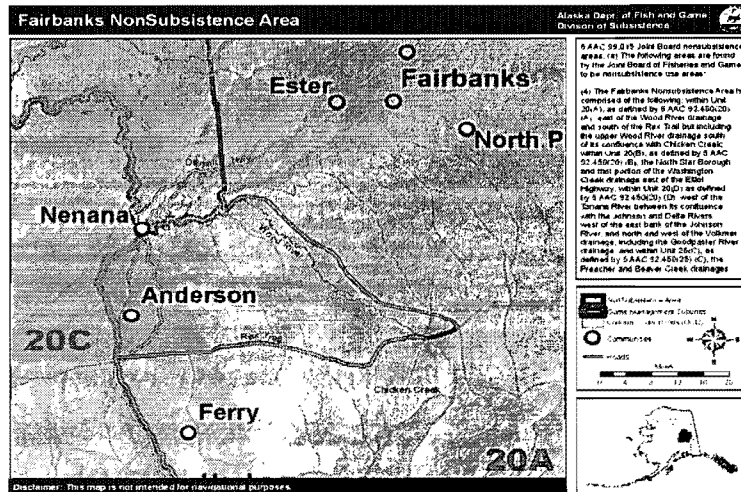
RATIONALE:

- Current harvest strategy effective
- 32 bulls:100 cows (2009) slightly above management objective of 30:100
- 25-day S-F/50-inch general season and 25-day “any bull” drawing permit season provides substantial hunting opportunity
- Any additional harvestable surplus of bulls can be adjusted by issuing additional “any bull” permits the next year
- May result in additional harvest above sustainable limits in highly accessible Ferry Trail MA
- Result in more restrictive bag limit in subsistence area in western Tanana Flats than in nonsubsistence area





Portion of Unit 20A outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area with more restrictive bag limit



Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

RATIONALE:

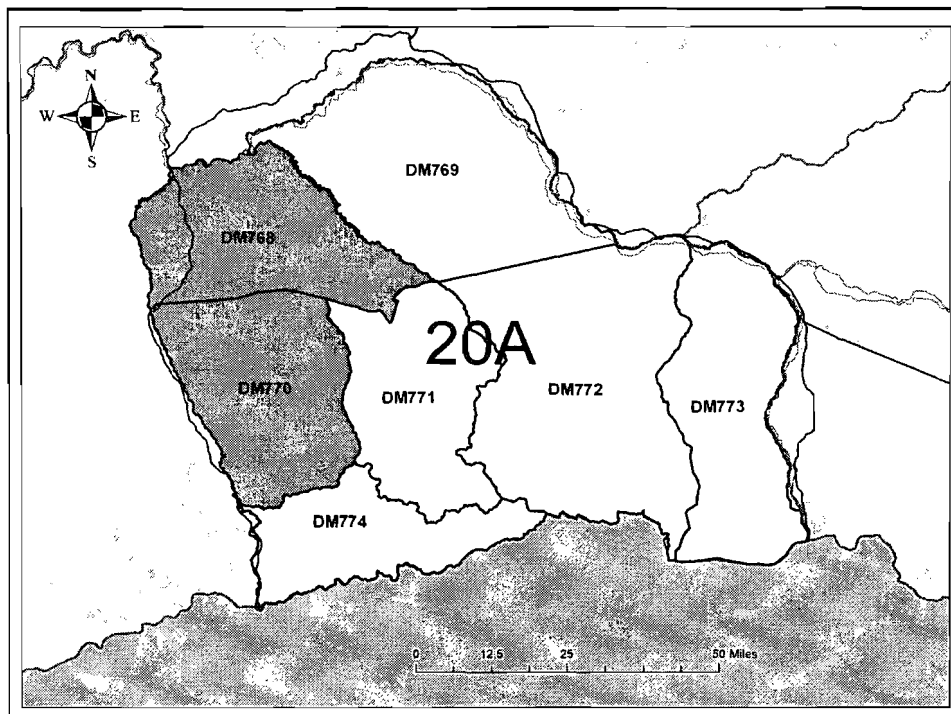
- Current harvest strategy effective
- 25-day S-F/50-inch general season and 25-day “any bull” drawing permit season provides substantial hunting opportunity
- Any additional harvestable surplus of bulls can be adjusted by issuing additional “any bull” permits the next year
- May result in additional harvest above sustainable limits in highly accessible Ferry Trail MA
- Result in more restrictive bag limit in subsistence area in western Tanana Flats than in nonsubsistence area

Proposal 38 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Change bag limit in 2 of the 7 “any bull” drawing hunts to prohibit the take of spike-fork or ≥ 3 brow tine (DM768) or ≥ 4 brow tine (DM770) bulls.
- Restrict hunters with “any bull” permits from hunting in general hunts elsewhere.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

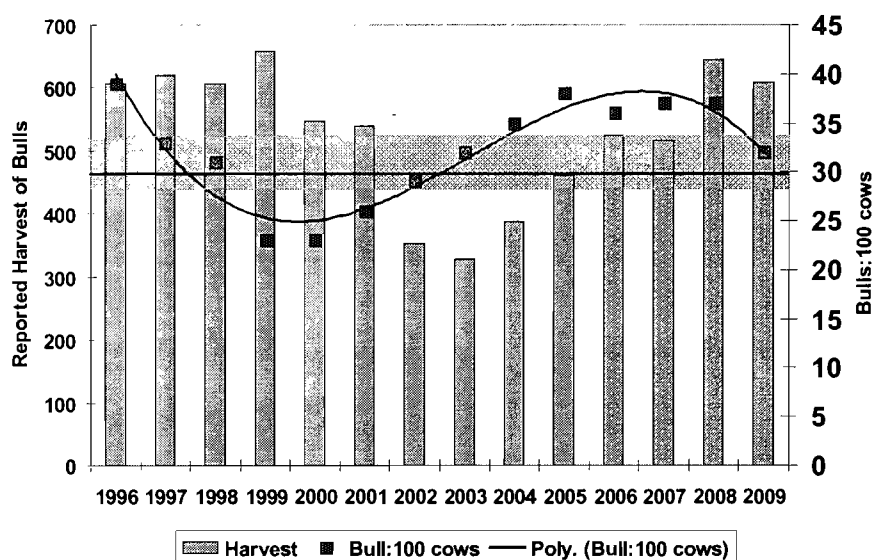


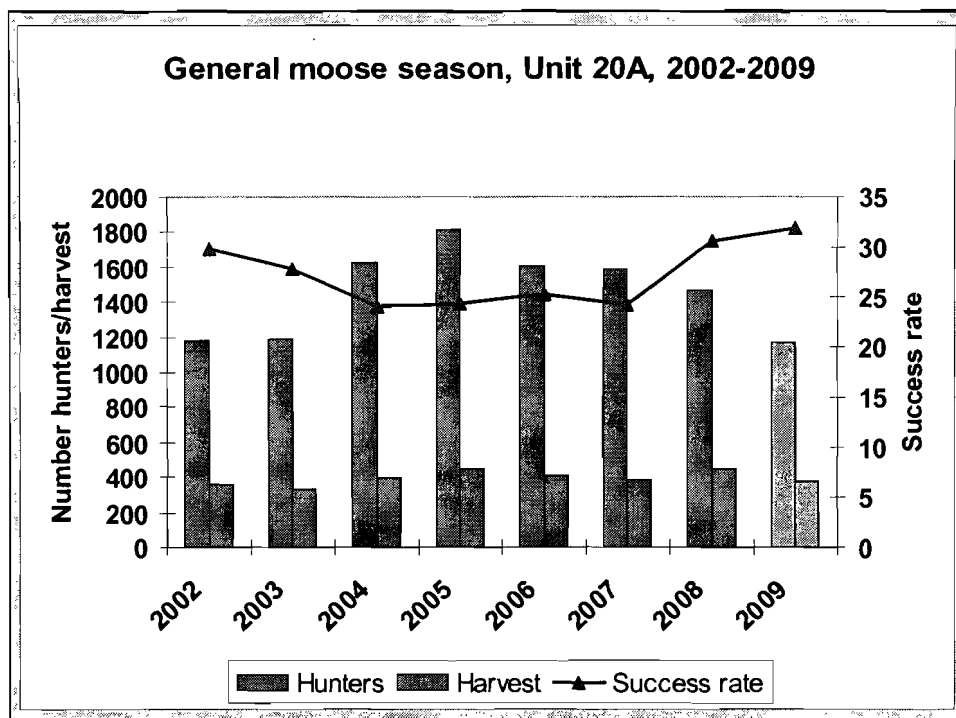
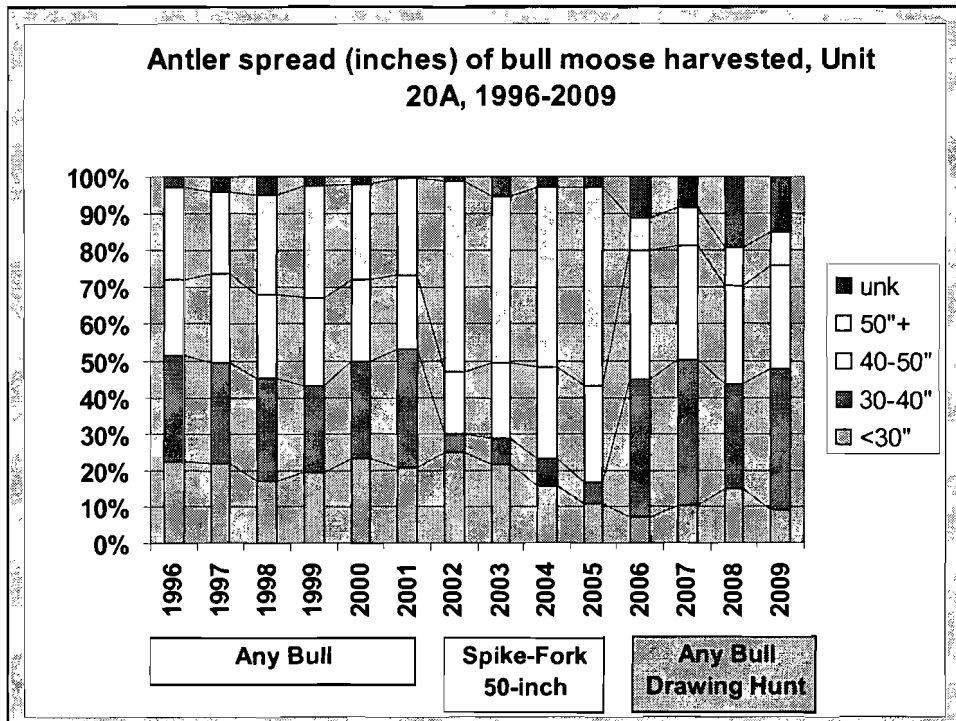
Proposal 38— Unit 20A Moose

RATIONALE:

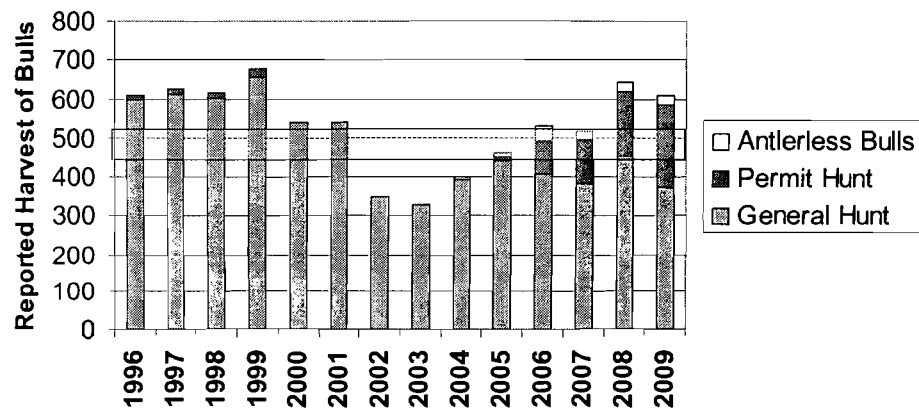
- Current harvest strategy effective
- 32 bulls:100 cows (2009) slightly above management objective of 30:100
- Complicate regulations in that 2 (DM768 and DM770) of the 7 drawing hunt areas for "any bull" moose would have different regulations
- Combined effect of more complicated (i.e., hunters would have to be more selective) and restrictive (recipients of DM768-DM774 permits could not hunt a bull in the general season) regulations may result in a reduction in overall harvest of bulls in Unit 20A

Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009





Reported general season, drawing permit, and antlerless hunt harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



Proposal 38 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Current harvest strategy effective
- Complicate regulations in that 2 (DM768 and DM770) of the 7 drawing hunt areas for “any bull” moose would have different regulations
- Combined effect of more complicated (i.e., hunters would have to be more selective) and restrictive (recipients of DM768-DM774 permits could not hunt a bull in the general season) regulations may result in a reduction in overall harvest of bulls in Unit 20A

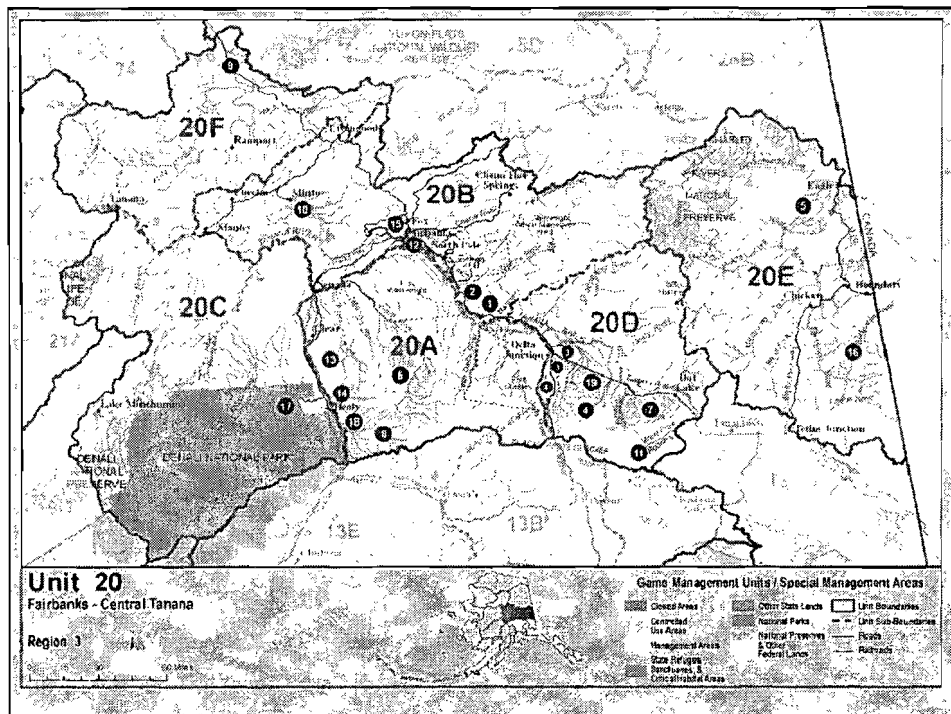
Proposal 39 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

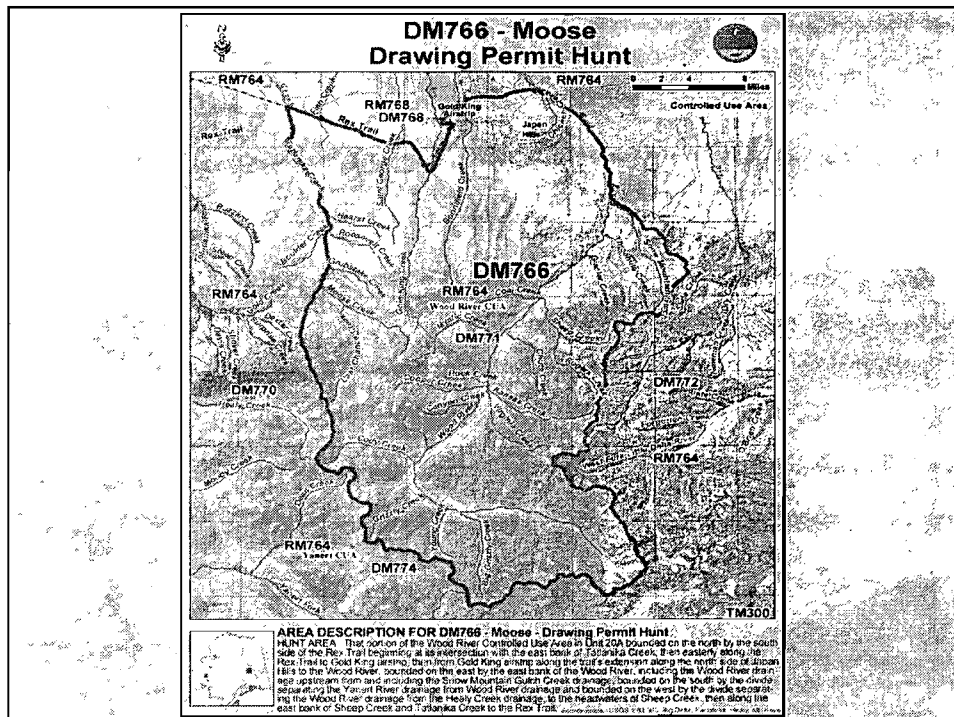
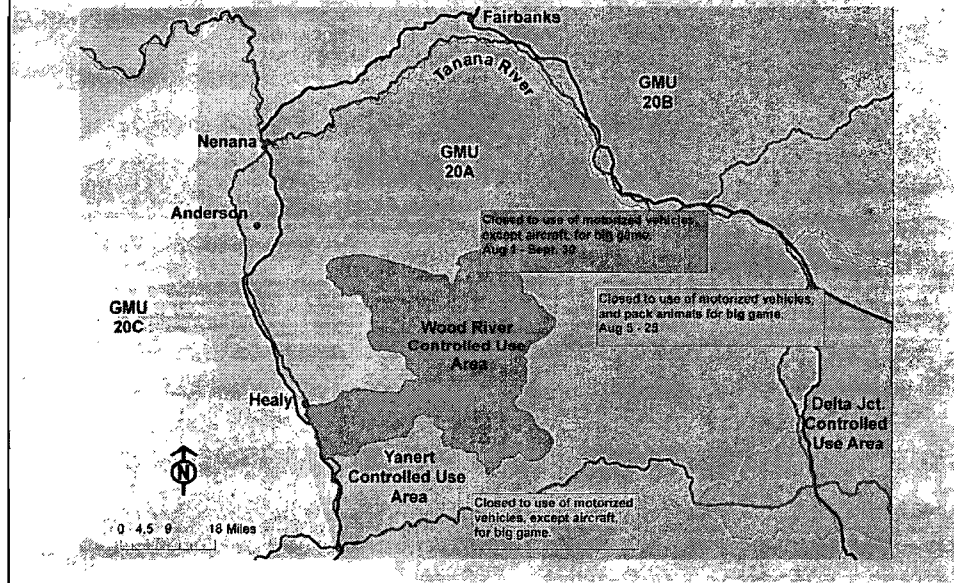
Close the November muzzleloader moose hunt in Unit 20A and open a similar muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20B.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

No Recommendation



Controlled Use Areas

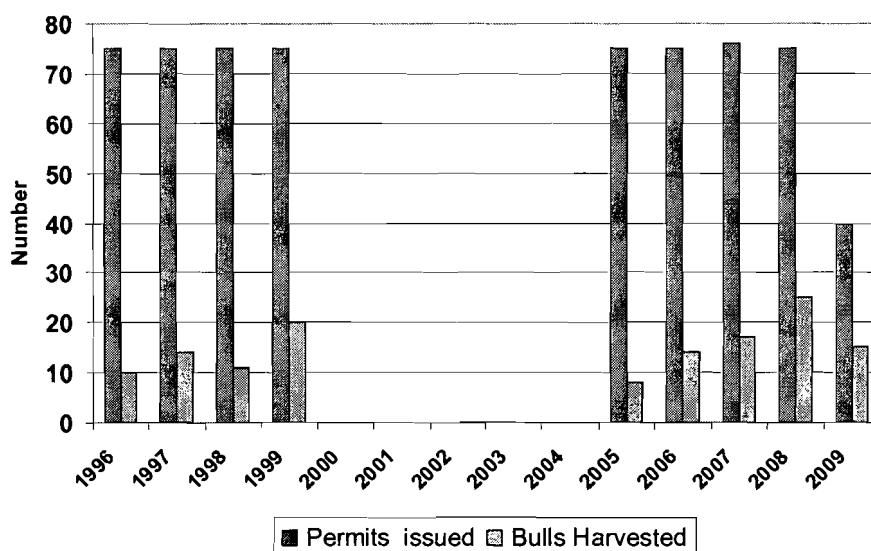


Proposal 39 – Unit 20A Moose

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation/user conflict issue
- Current November muzzleloader hunt (DM766) is small-scale with average annual harvest of 15 (range 8-25) bulls
- Conflicts between hunters, trappers and local residents have been reported
- Areas in Unit 20B that could sustain similar harvests and serve as a substitute hunt area

Reported harvest of bull moose, Unit 20A November muzzleloader hunt, regulatory years 1996-2009



Proposal 39 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation/user conflict issue
- Current November muzzleloader hunt (DM766) is small-scale with average annual harvest of 15 (range 8-25) bulls
- Conflicts between hunters, trappers and local residents have been reported
- Areas in Unit 20B that could sustain similar harvests and serve as a substitute hunt area

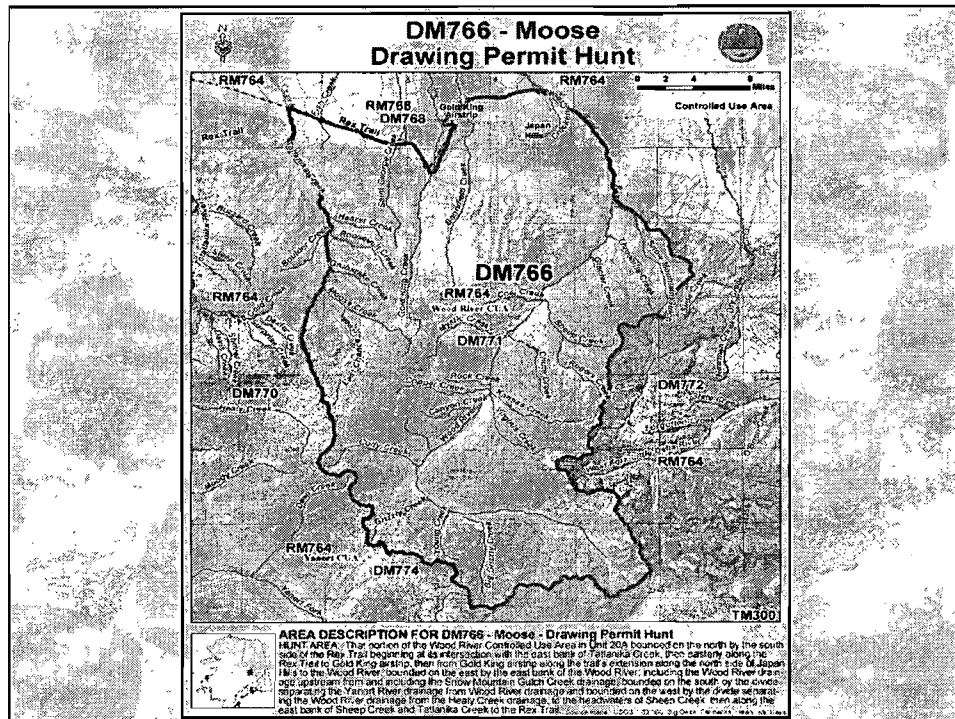
Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Move the November muzzleloader moose season up to September and liberalize antler restriction from 4 to 3 brow tines for nonresidents.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

Middle Nenana AC did not support

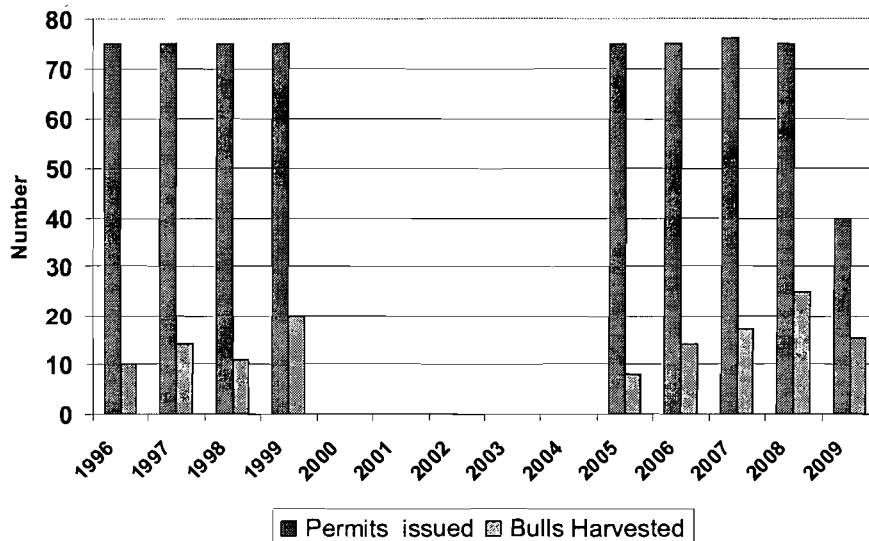


Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Hunt bull moose with a muzzleloader under general hunt and drawing hunt regulations during September
- Complicate antler restriction regulation for nonresident hunters - more liberal in the WRCUA (50-inch or 3 BT) than in the remainder of Unit 20A (50-inch or 4 BT)

Reported harvest of bull moose, Unit 20A November muzzleloader hunt, regulatory years 1996-2009



Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Hunt bull moose with a muzzleloader under general hunt and drawing hunt regulations during September
- Complicate antler restriction regulation for nonresident hunters - more liberal in the WRCUA (50-inch or 3 BT) than in the remainder of Unit 20A (50-inch or 4 BT)

Proposal 36 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Require nonresidents to hunt with an Alaska-licensed guide or resident relative within the second-degree of kindred for moose in Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

RATIONALE:

- The Board is not authorized to mandate that nonresidents be guided for species other than those in AS 16.05.407 and AS 16.05.408 (i.e., brown bear, Dall sheep or mountain goat).
- This proposal would require a change in statute and legislative action.

Proposal 69 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

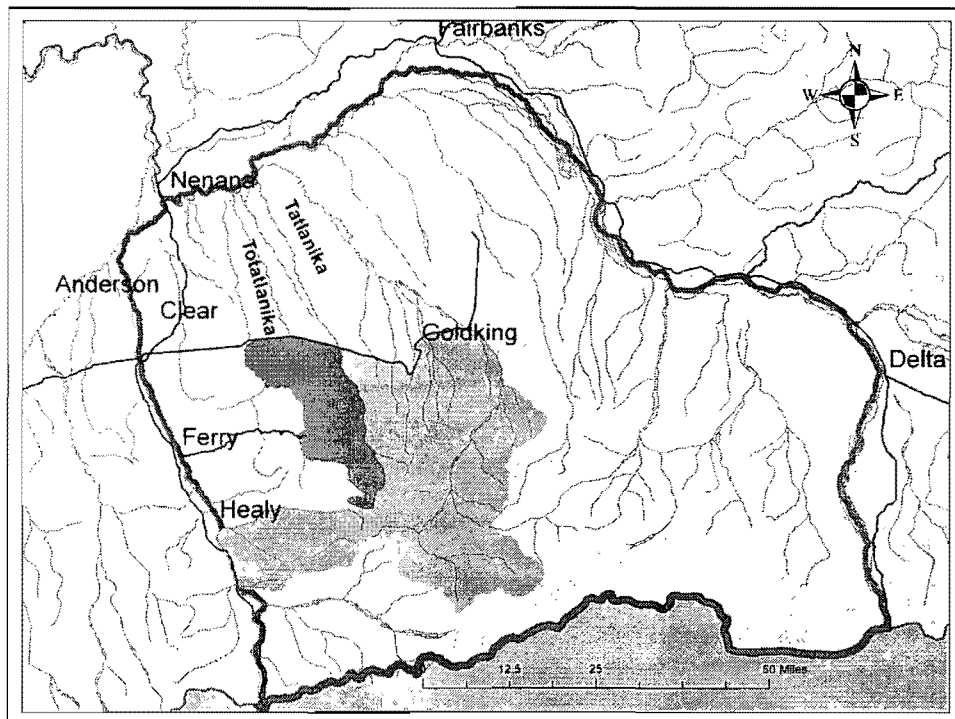
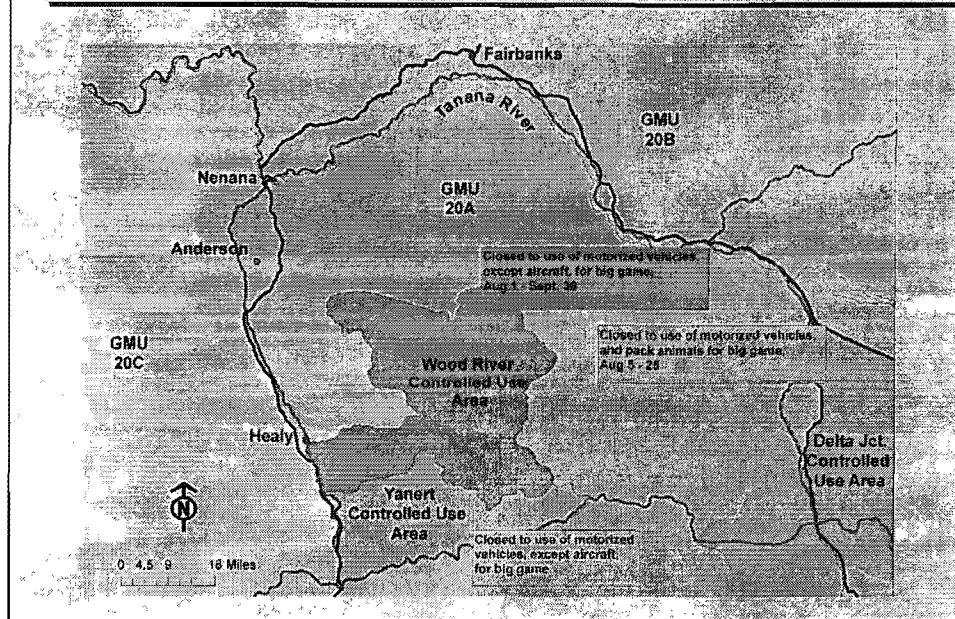
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Allow the use of motorized vehicles for permit winners in the Wood River Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:
No Recommendation

Fairbanks AC did not support

Controlled Use Areas

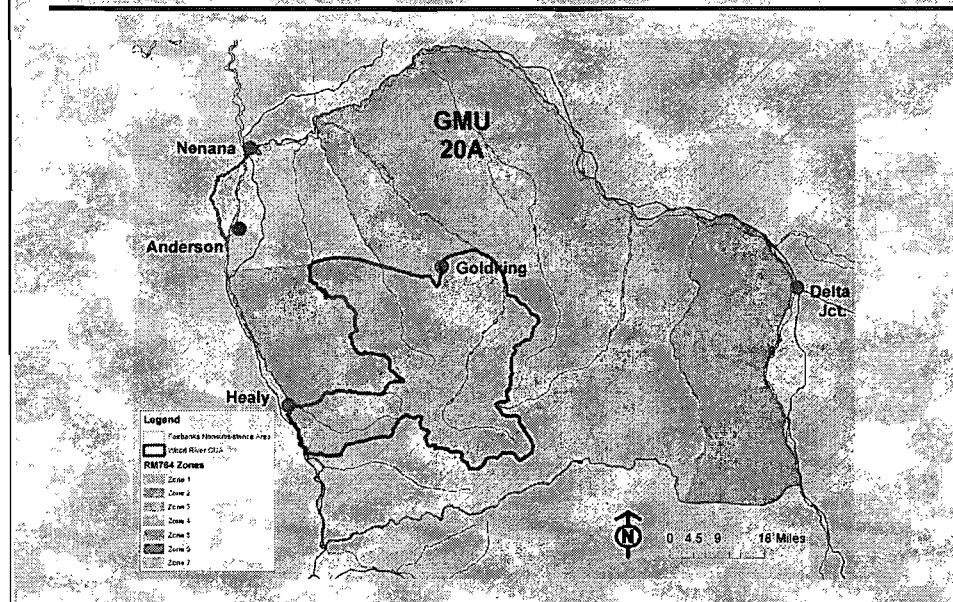


Proposal 69 – Unit 20A Moose

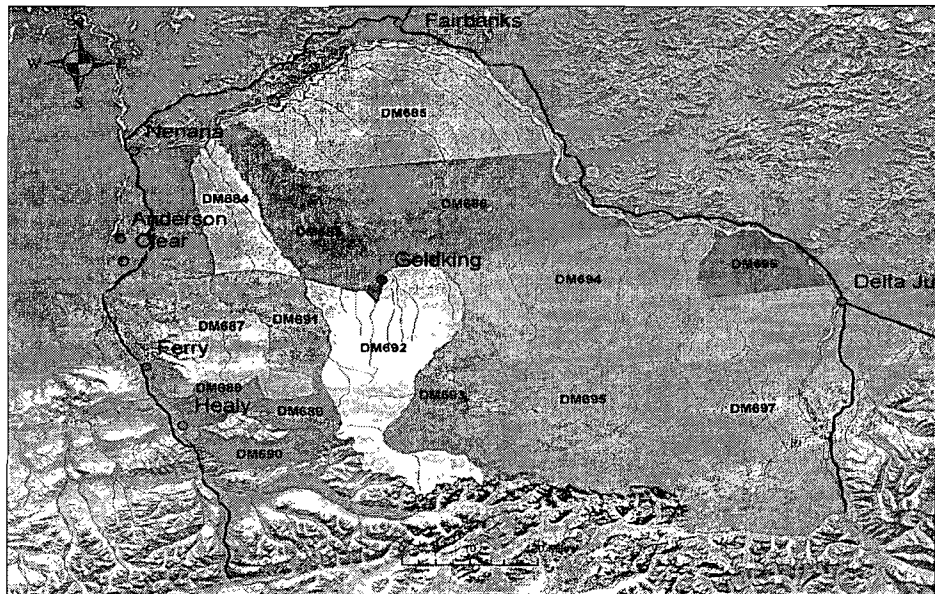
RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

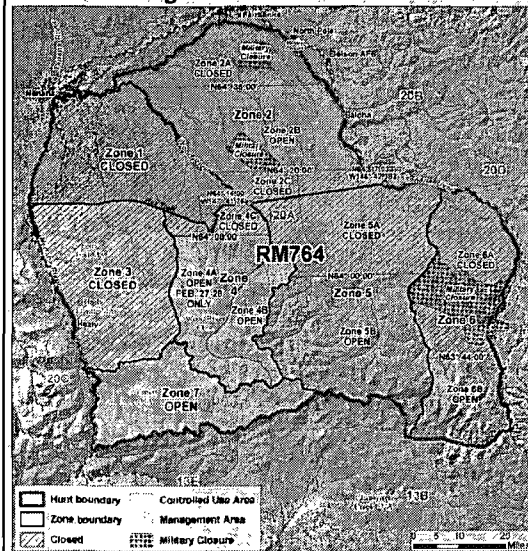
Location of the Wood River CUA in relation to moose hunt zones



Unit 20A Antlerless Drawing Hunts 2009-2010



RM764 - Antlerless Moose Registration Permit Hunt



AREA DESCRIPTION FOR RM764 - Moose - Registration Permit Hunt
HUNT AREA, Unit 20A - Alaska residents only
Regulatory Year 2009-2010

Proposal 69 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Proposal 70 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

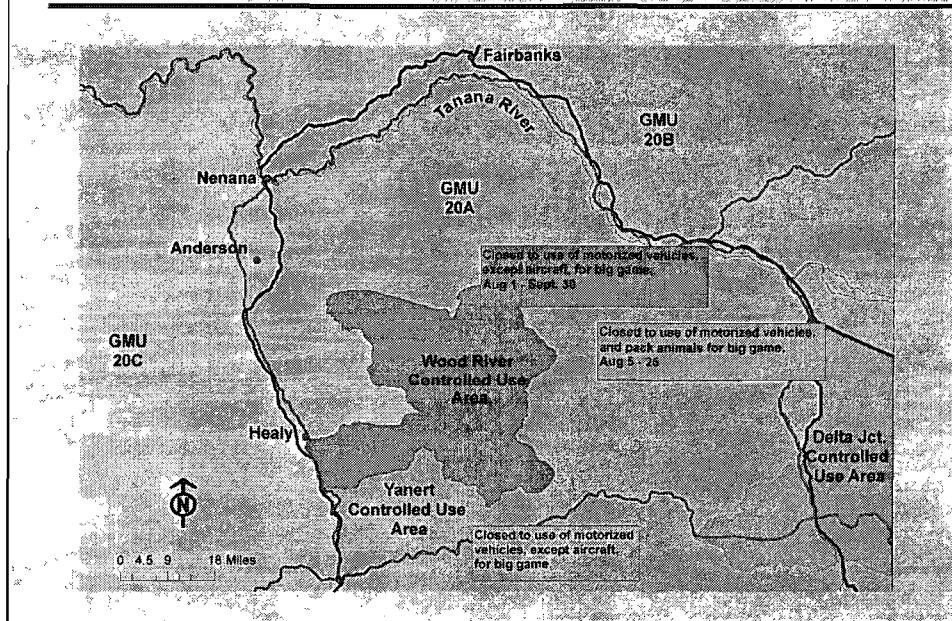
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Allow the use of motorized vehicles for permit winners in the Wood River Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

Fairbanks AC did not support

Controlled Use Areas

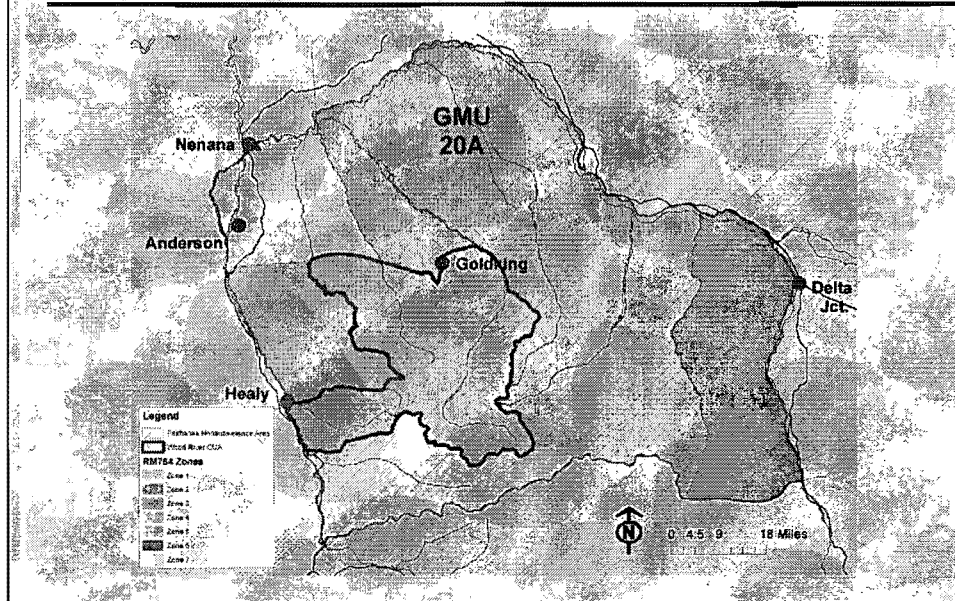


Proposal 70 – Unit 20A Moose

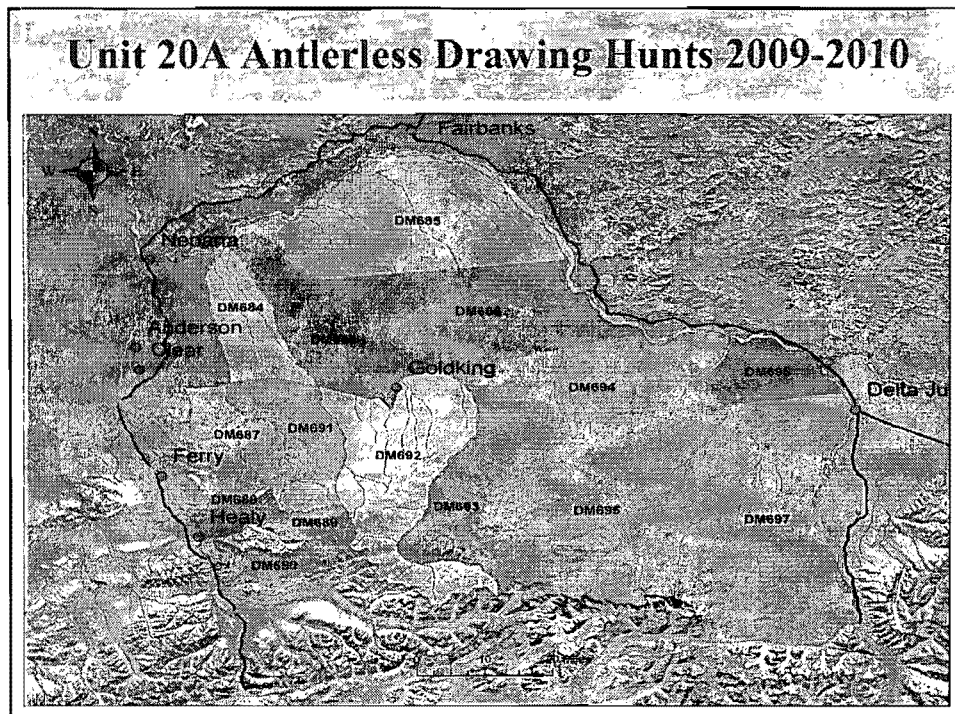
RATIONALE:

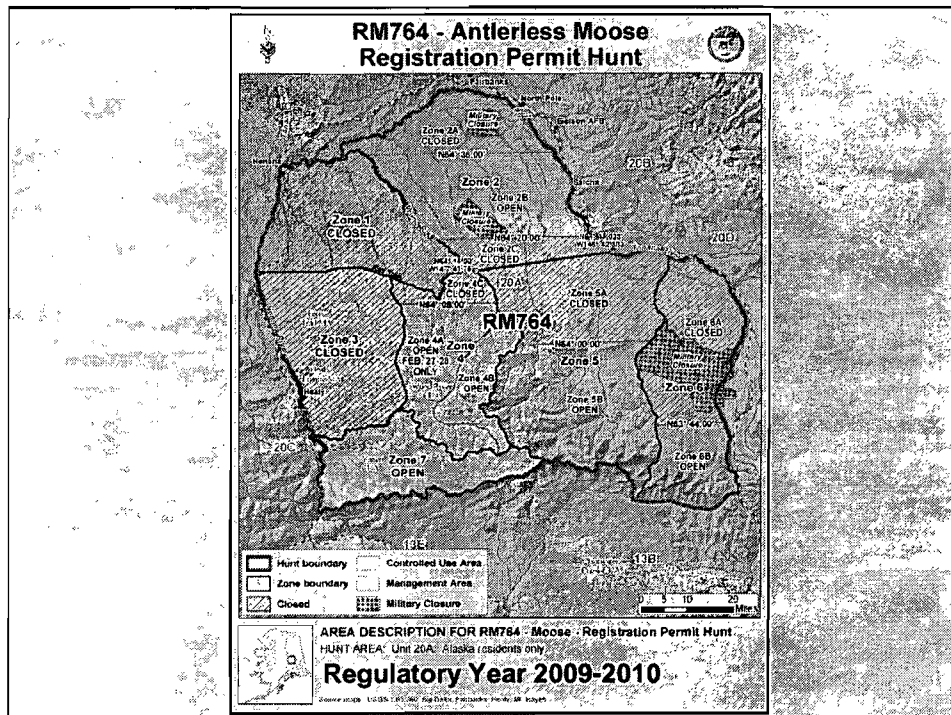
- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Location of the Wood River CUA in relation to moose hunt zones



Unit 20A Antlerless Drawing Hunts 2009-2010





Proposal 70 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Proposal 68 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

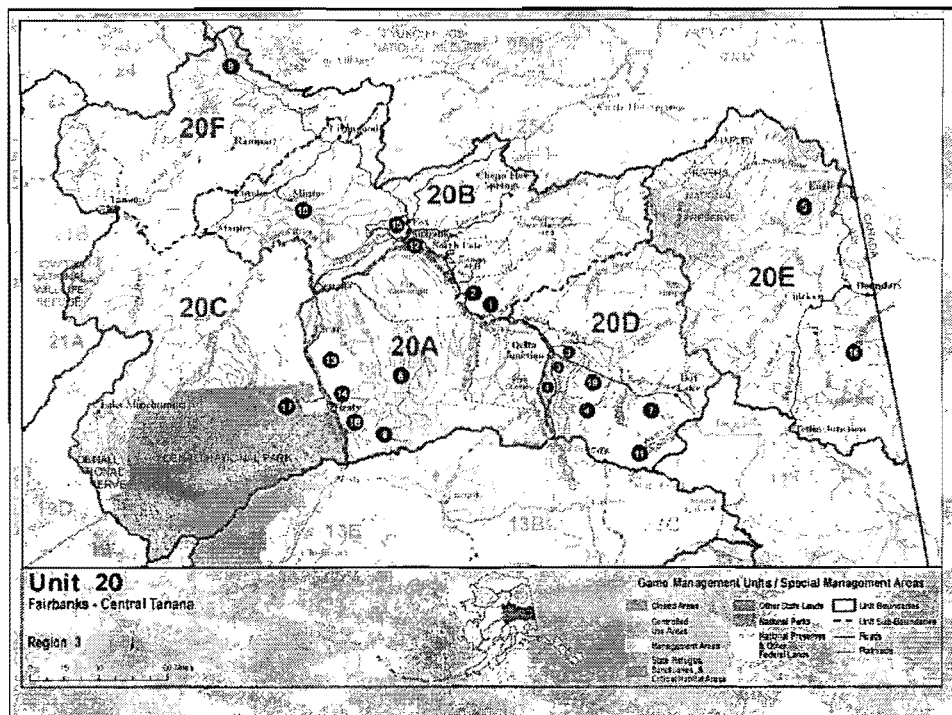
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

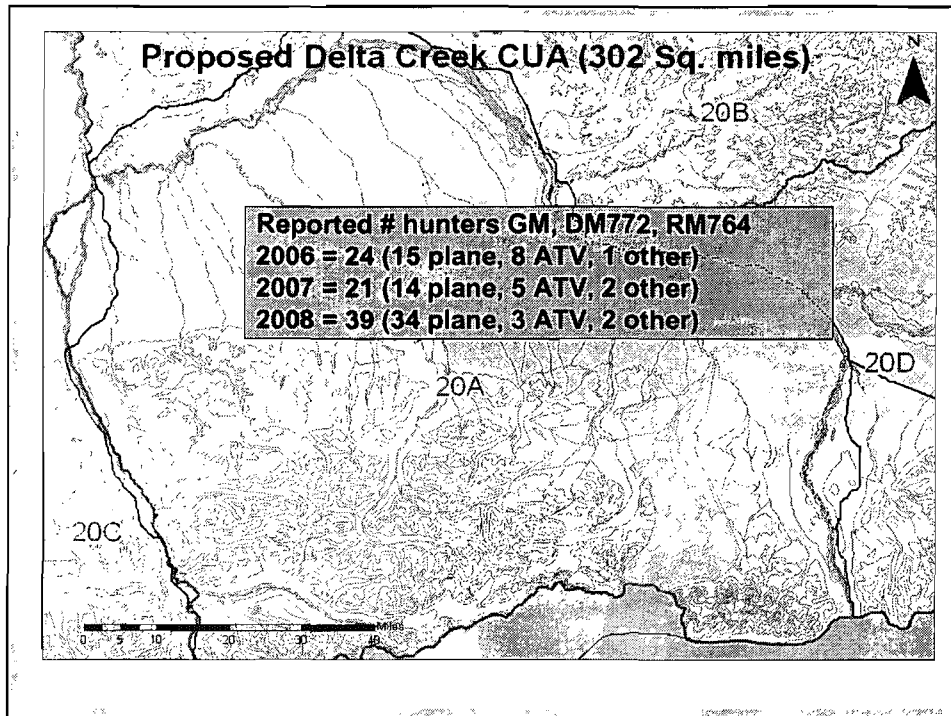
Establish a Controlled Use Area above 2500' in the eastern portion of Unit 20A

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

No Recommendation

RATIONALE: This is an allocation and land management issue





Proposal 68 – Unit 20A Moose

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Habitat and environmental degradation are land management issue under authority of DNR
- 2500' boundary difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Proposal 68 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- Habitat and environmental degradation are land management issue under authority of DNR
- 2500' boundary difficult for AWT to enforce
- Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Fairbanks MA, Minto Flats MA, and central 20B.

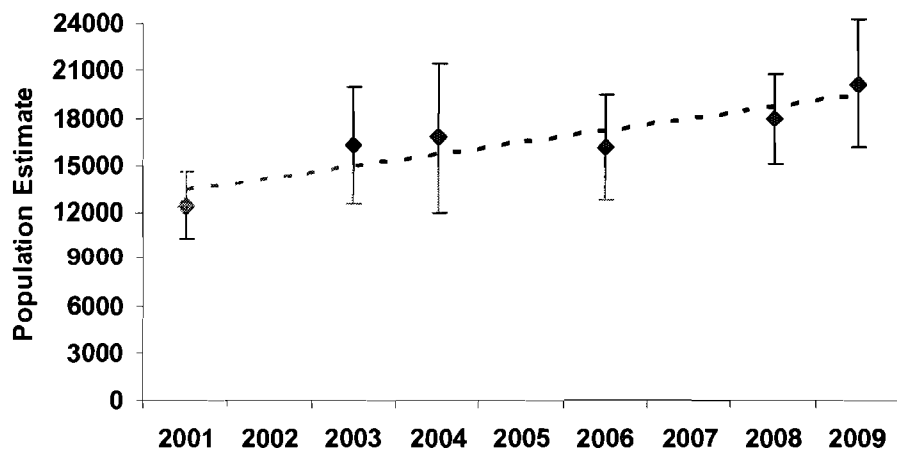
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Moose population in central GMU 20B high and increasing
- Above Population objective
- Meeting intensive management harvest objective
- Advisory committee support in Fairbanks, Minto and Nenana, but not Manley

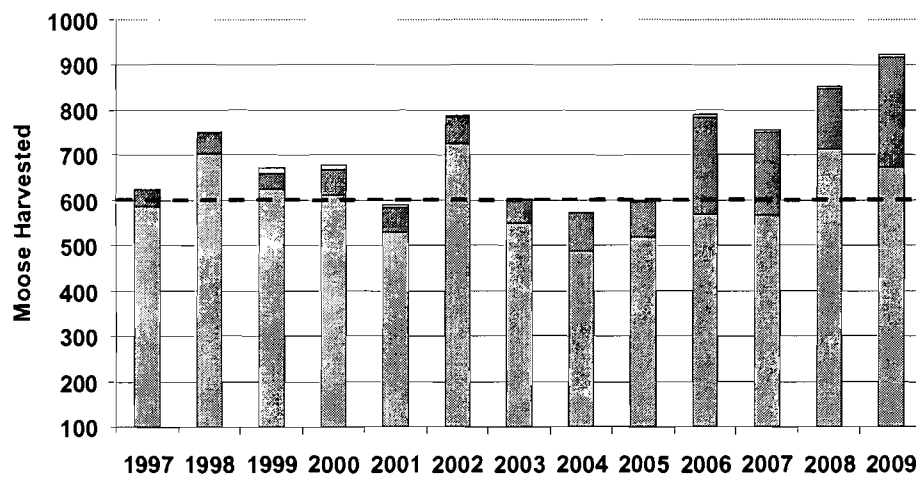
Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

GMU 20B Moose Population Estimates and Trend
2001-2009



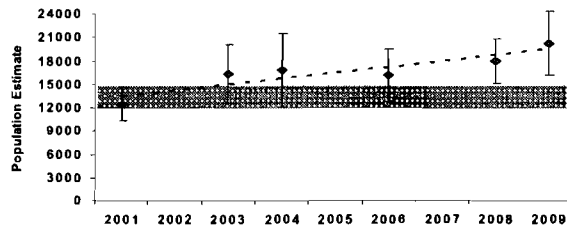
Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

Reported Harvest of Moose, GMU 20B, 1997-2009

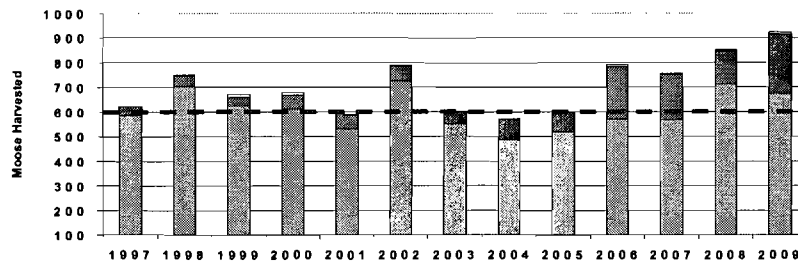


Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

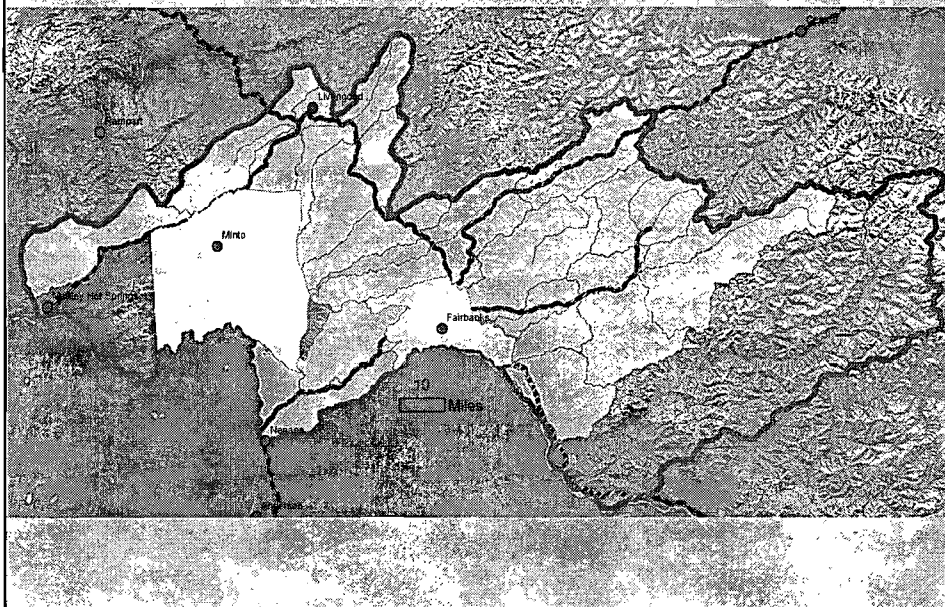
GMU 20B Moose Population Estimates and Trend
2001-2009



Reported Harvest of Moose, GMU 20B, 1997-2009



Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose



Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

•Cows harvested

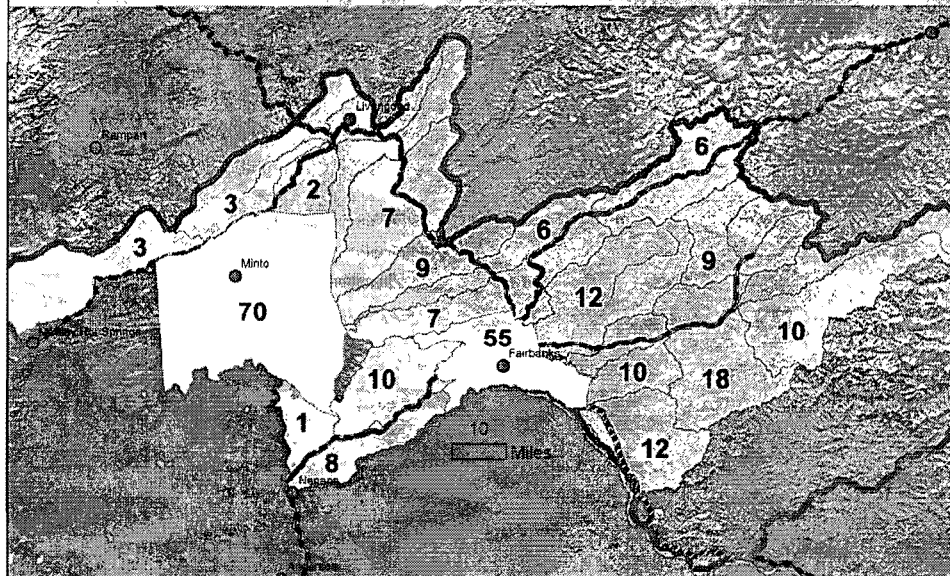
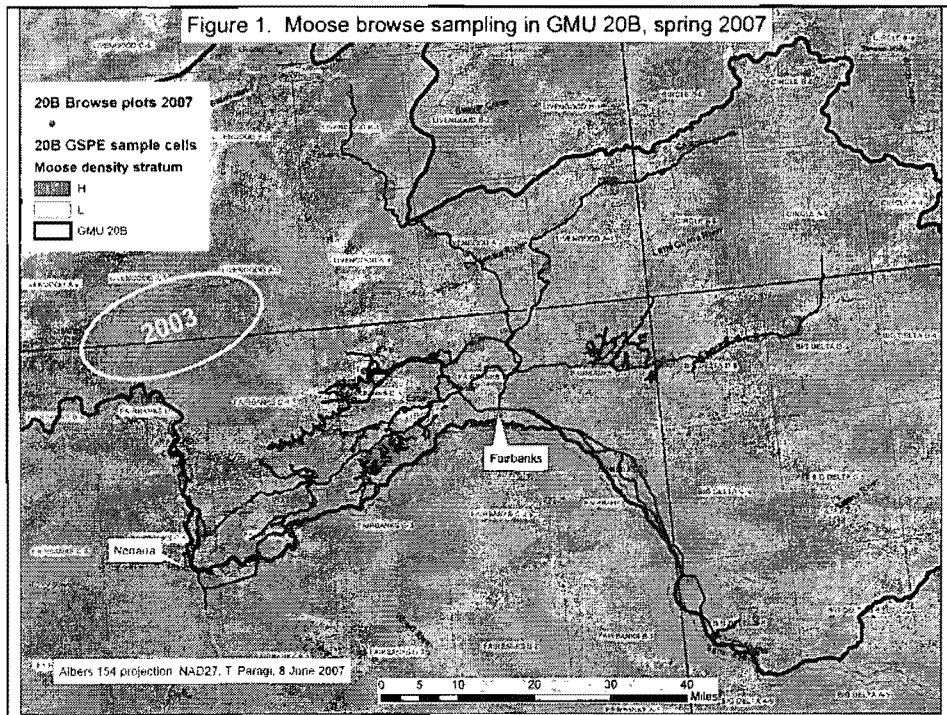
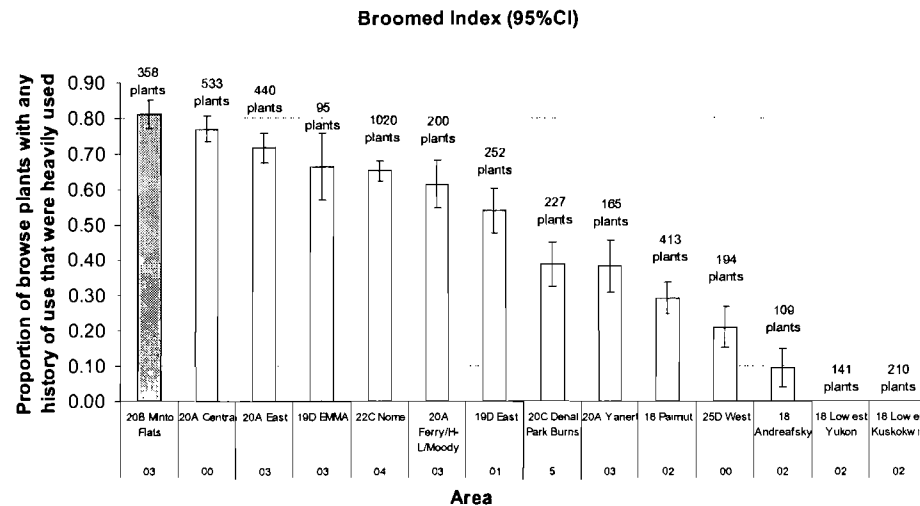


Figure 1. Moose browse sampling in GMU 20B, spring 2007



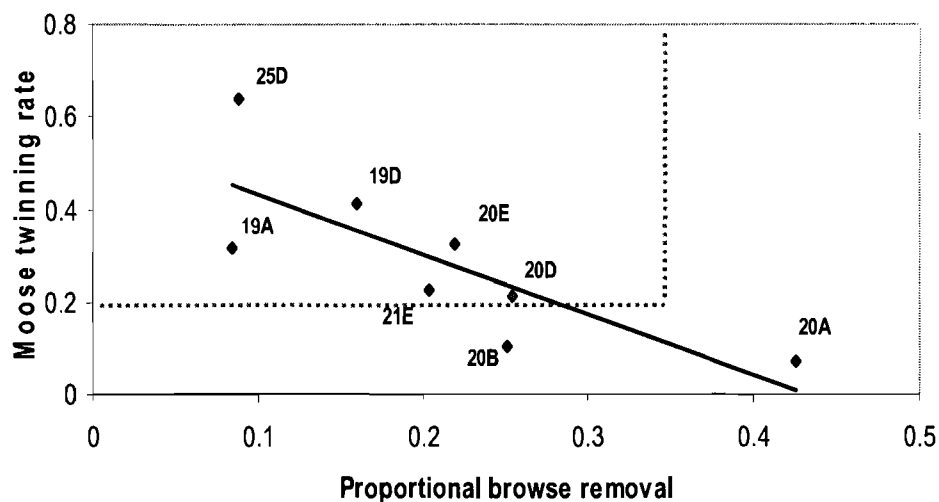
Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

•Nutrition- Range Condition



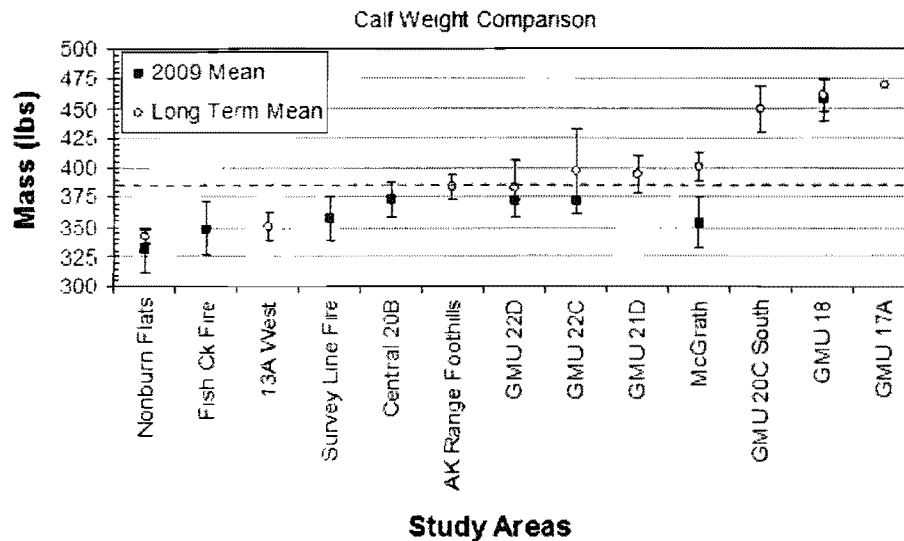
Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

•Nutrition- Relationship between moose twinning and browse removal rates



Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

•Nutrition- calf weight at 10 Months old



20B Antlerless Hunt 2009

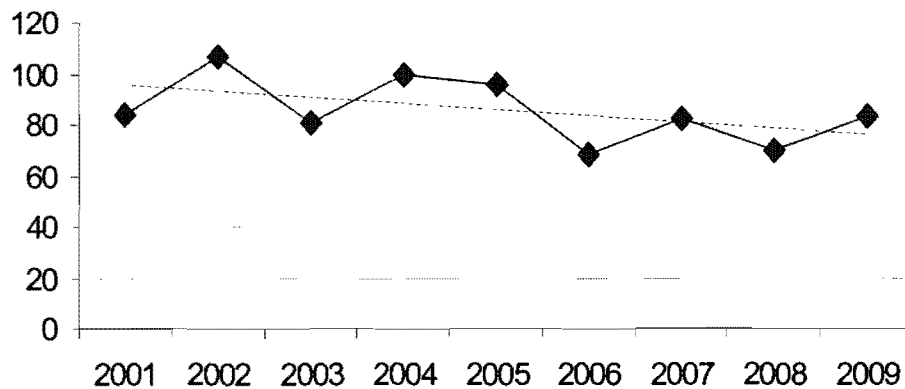
Area	Permits	Take
MFMA	210	70
FMA	160	55
Central 20B	336	133

- Total 20B reported harvest
 - 258 Cows
 - 674 Bulls
 - 932 Total

Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

•Roadkill

Annual reported moose roadkill in FMA
2001-2009



Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Fairbanks area, Minto Flats MA, and central 20B.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

RATIONALE:

- Moose population in central GMU 20B high and increasing
- Above Population objective
- Meeting intensive management harvest objective
- Advisory committee support in Fairbanks, Minto and Nenana, but not Manley

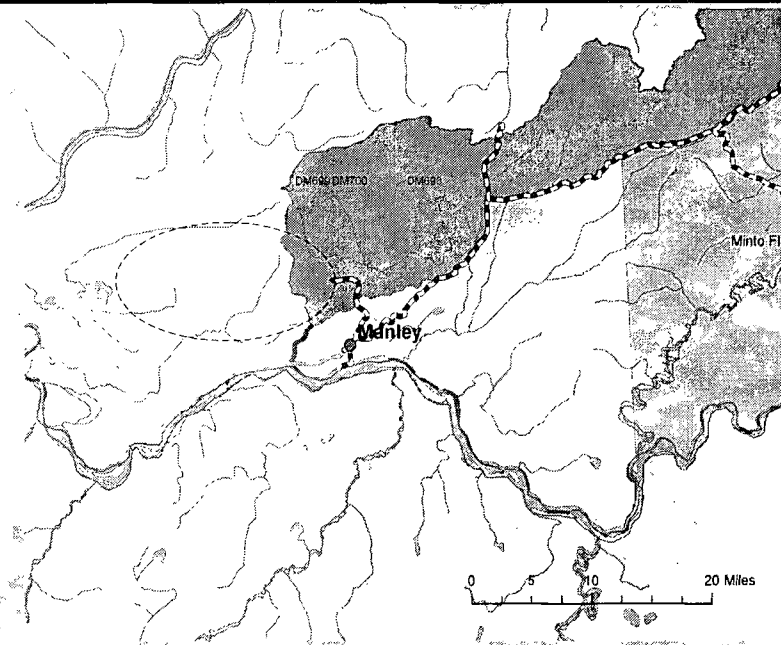
Proposal 44 – GMU 20B Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Eliminate one of the antlerless hunt areas in Unit 20B

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

Proposal 44 – GMU 20B Moose



Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Distribute one moose permit per household in Minto Village with the bag limit of any moose, up to 50 moose.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE:

- Split hunt
 - Limited registration hunt (~210 permits): “any moose”
Sept 1-25 and Jan 10-Feb 28
 - General season: SF50/4 BT Sept 11-25 season
- Distribution of limited registration permits has been controversial

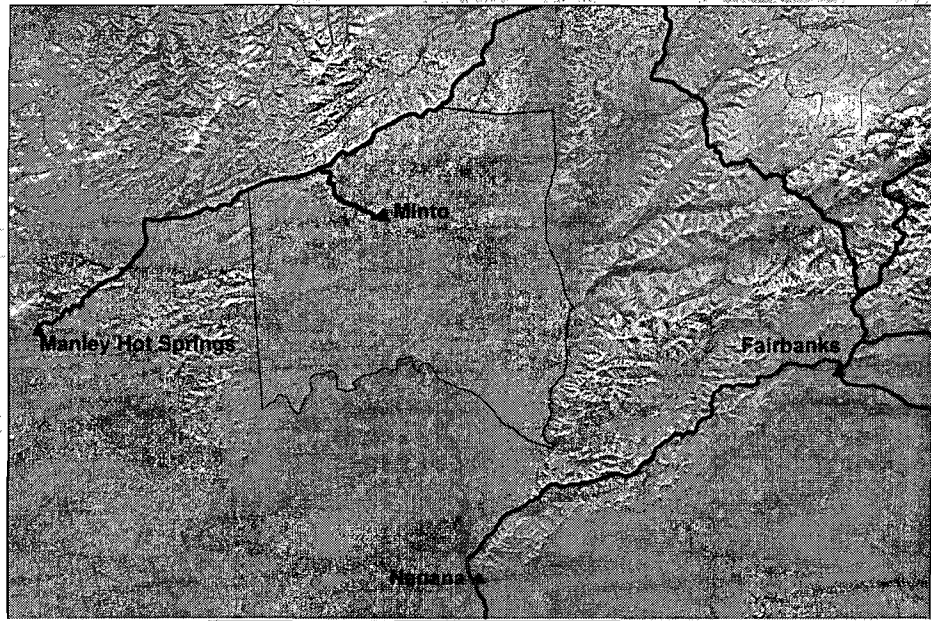
Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

- Moose population of about 3500 (3.7 moose/mi²)
- Annual harvest of ~180 moose
 - General hunt ~ 50 moose
 - Registration hunt ~ 130 moose
- Estimated annual harvestable surplus: 210 moose
 - 4% bulls ~ 140 bulls
 - 2% cows ~ 70 cows
- ANS of 20-40, created based on Minto and Nenana

ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

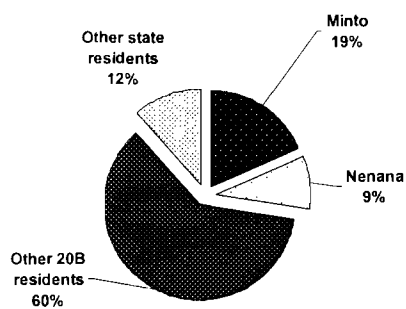
- Minto and Nenana- Support
- Fairbanks- Opposed
- Middle Nenana- Opposed
- Delta- Opposed
- Anchorage- Opposed

Proposal 46 – Location of Minto Flats MA

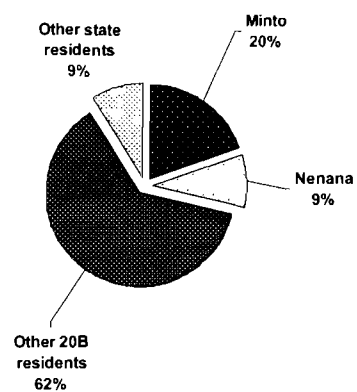


Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

1993 through 2003 MFMA
Tier II Permits

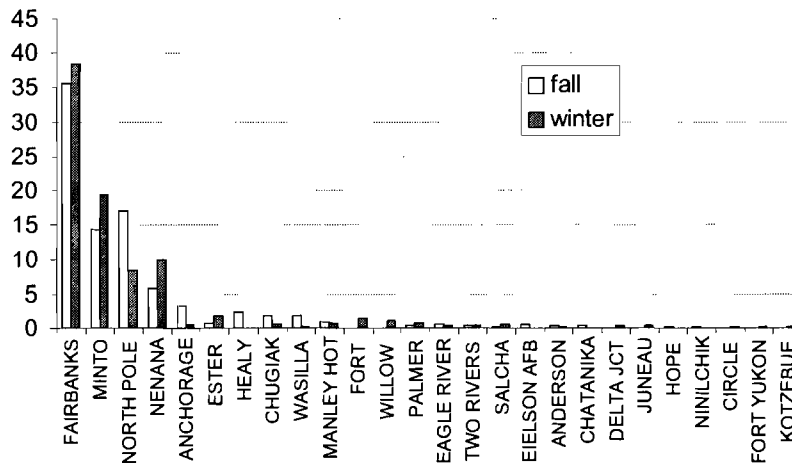


Fall 2004 through spring 2010 MFMA
Registration Permits



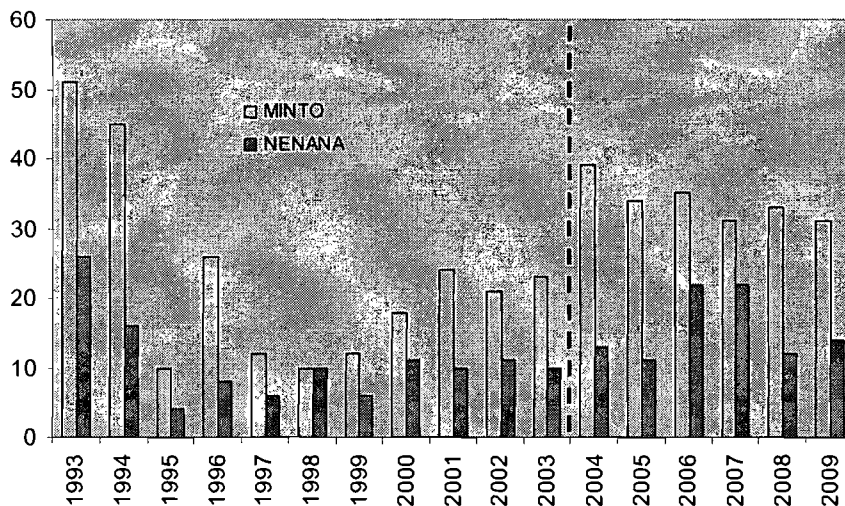
Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

Permit holders for Fall and Winter Registration moose hunts in Minto Flats fall 2004 through spring 2010

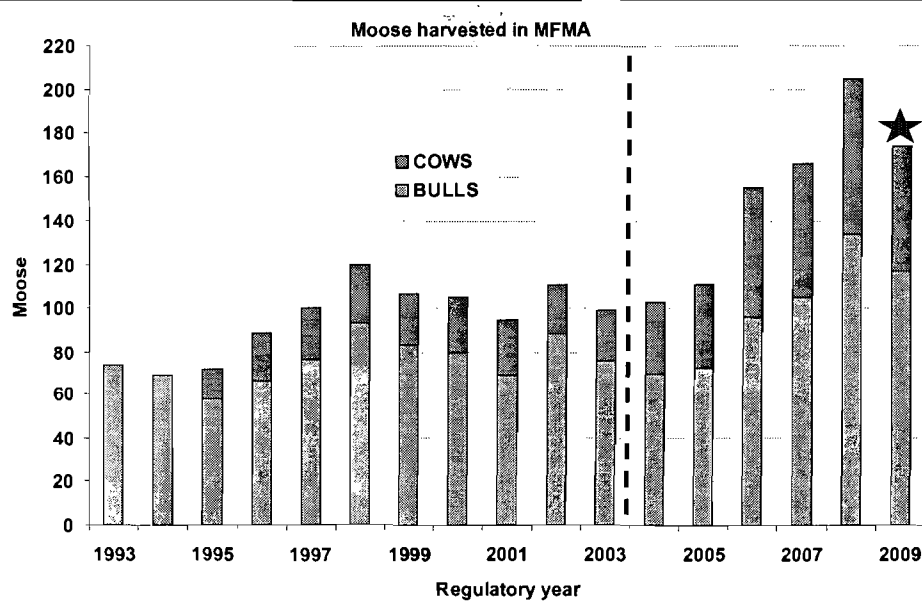


Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

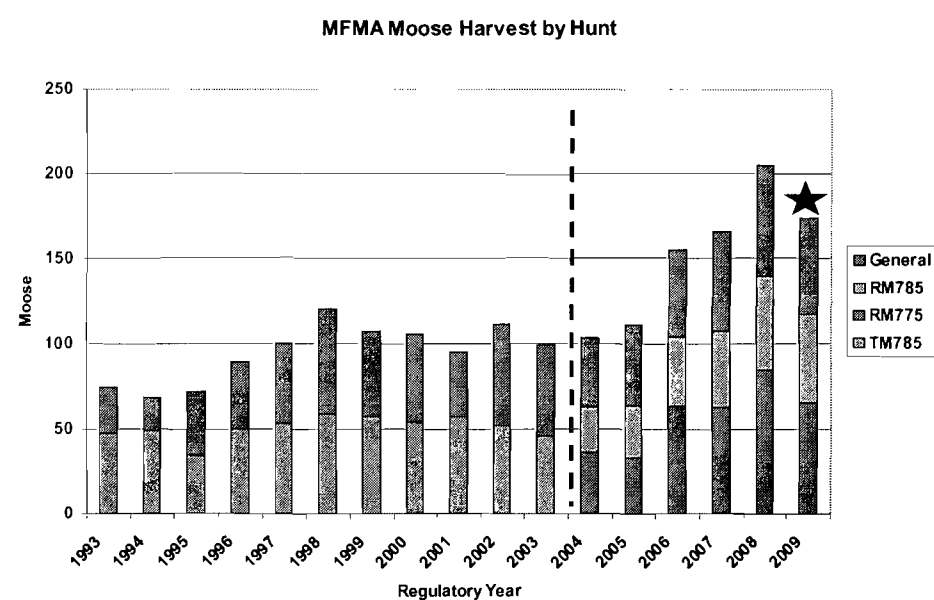
Number of permits received by Minto and Nenana by year
Tier II hunt 93-03 and Registration hunt 04-09



Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose



Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose



Proposal 46 – GMU 20B Moose

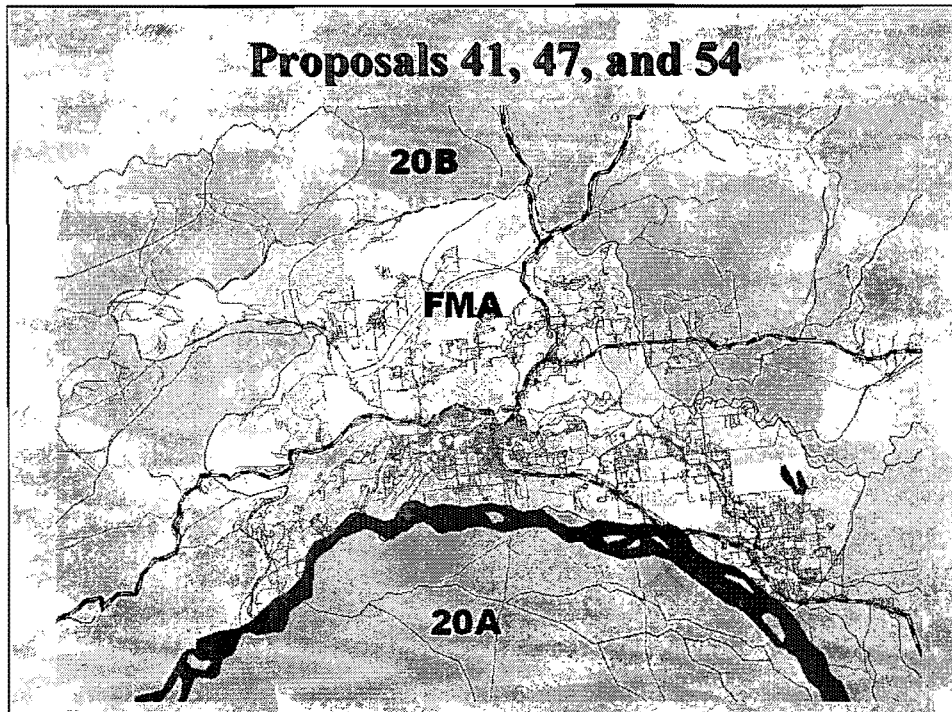
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Distribute one moose permit per household in Minto Village with the bag limit of any moose, up to 50 moose.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

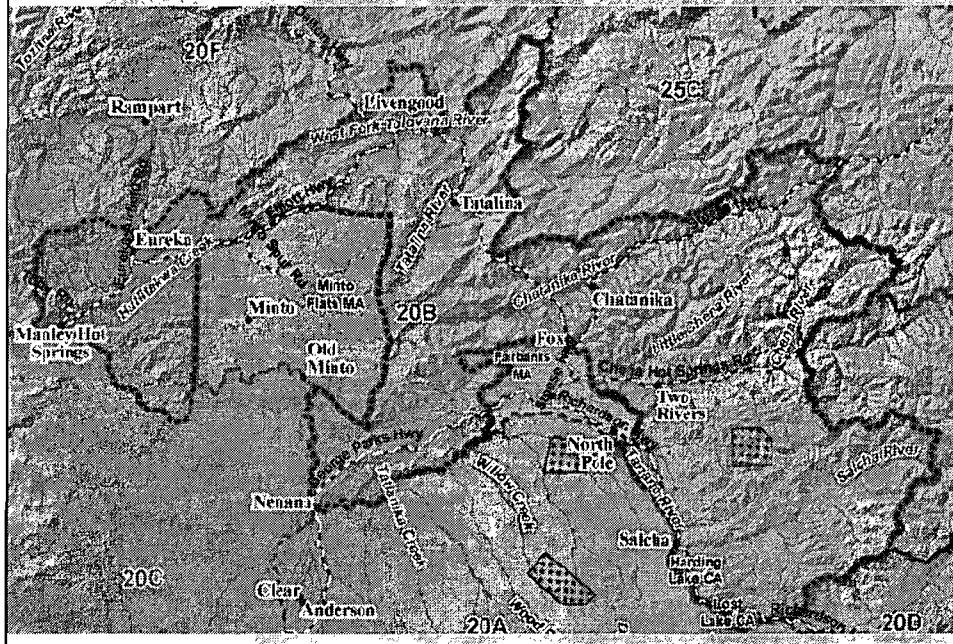
OPTIONS:

1. Keep current model
 - Has problems, mostly associated with permit distribution
2. Establish and community harvest modeled after Chalkyitsik
 - Wrong model to satisfy problems
3. Establish and community harvest modeled after Nelchina caribou
 - Still being litigated, only first year
4. Manage the Minto Flats moose population the same as the surrounding areas in 20B:
 - General season any bull hunt 10 days (Sept 5-15)
 - Drawing hunt(s) for antlerless moose (Aug 15-Feb 28)
 - Implications for provision of reasonable subsistence opportunity
5. Revisit the ANS with the potential to go back to Tier II

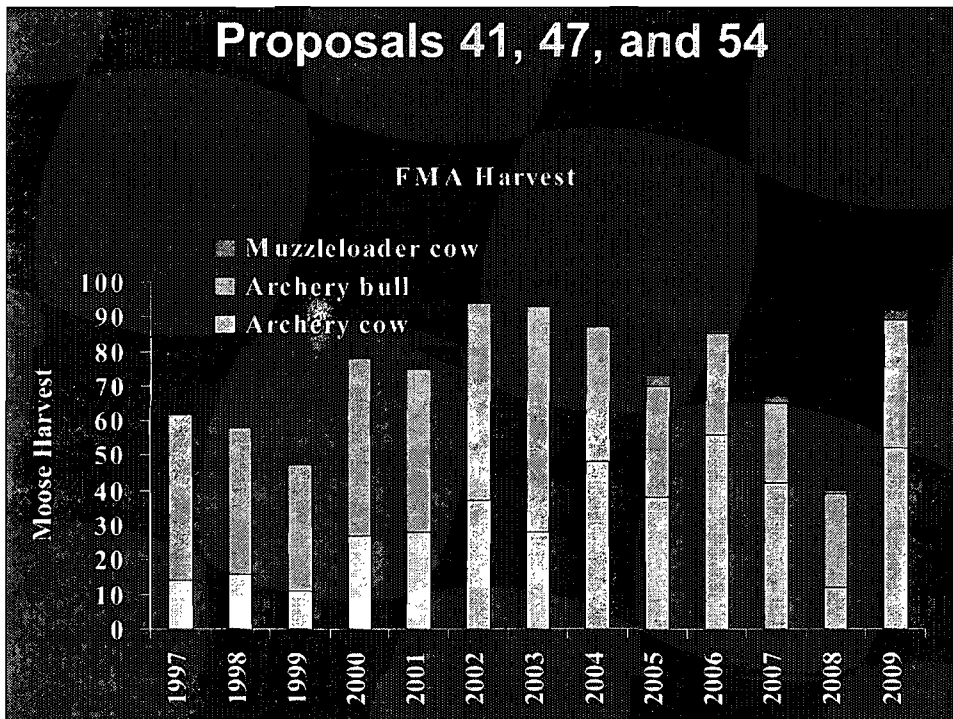
Proposals 41, 47, and 54



Proposals 41, 47, and 54



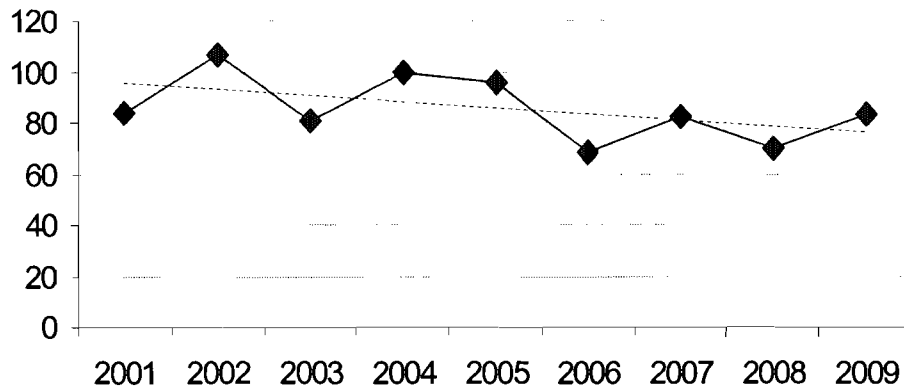
Proposals 41, 47, and 54



Proposals 41, 47, and 54

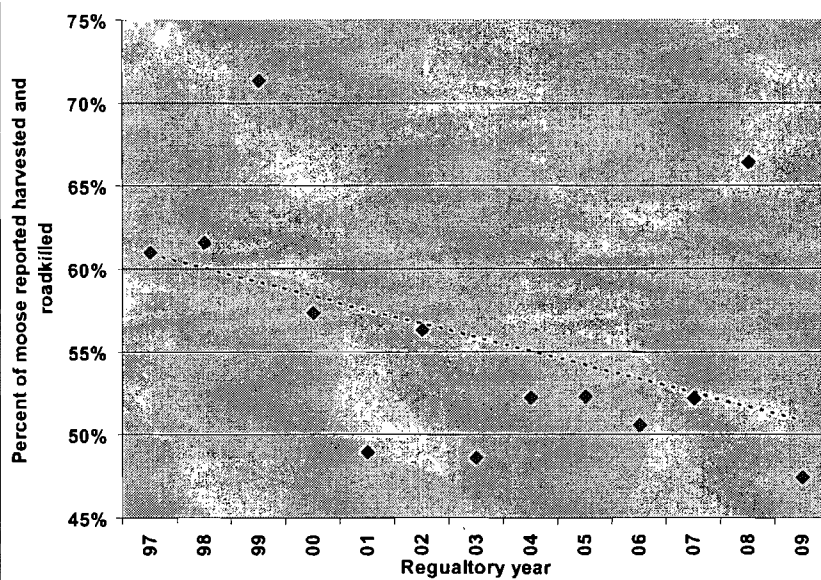
•Roadkill

Annual reported moose roadkill in FMA
2001-2009

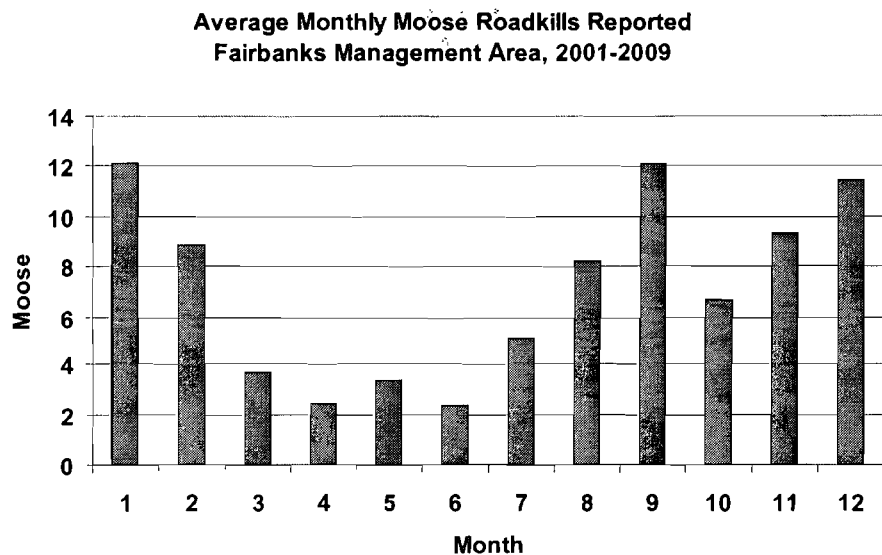


Proposals 41, 47, and 54

Proportion of moose reported killed in FMA that were roadkill



Proposal 41, 47, and 54



Proposal 41

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Lengthen the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt from 7 day to 61 days

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

•RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue with significant social issues
- FMA hunts are designed to
 - Reduce collisions with motor vehicles
 - Reduce nuisance moose problems
 - Increase hunting opportunity

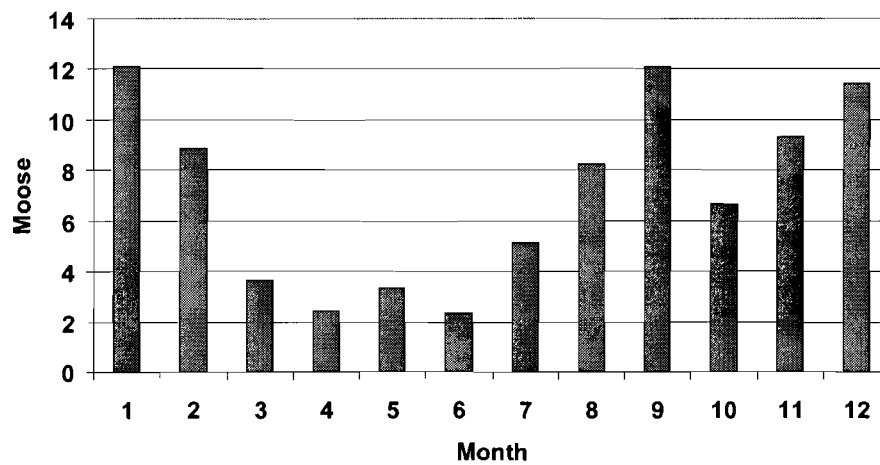
•Public acceptance is critical- this may endanger the future of FMA hunts

•Archery has proven to be publicly accepted for the last 20 years

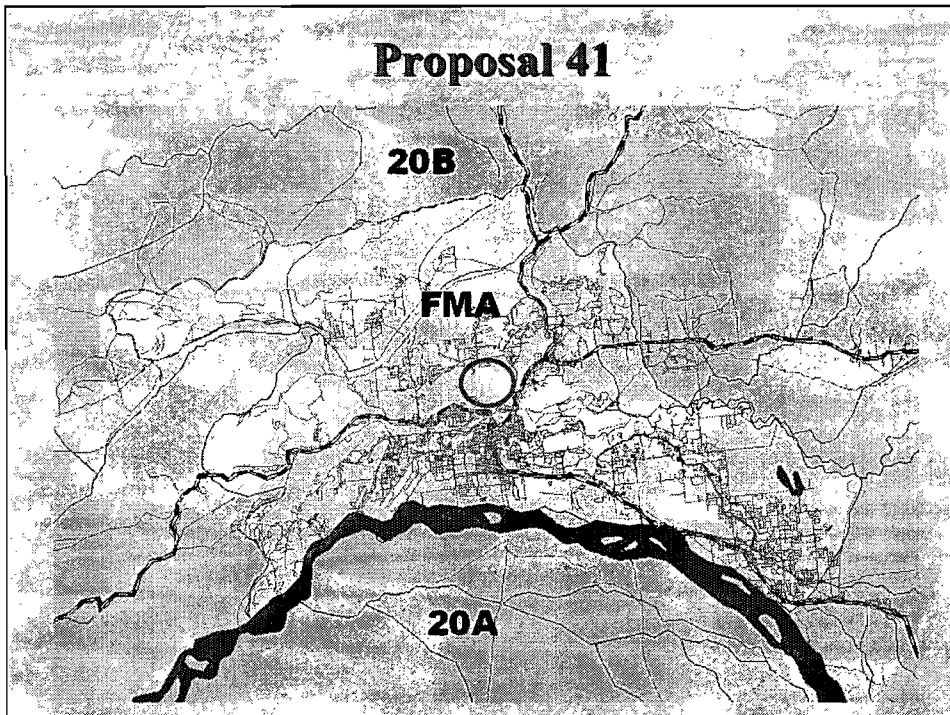
•An alternative would be December and January.

Proposal 41

Average Monthly Moose Roadkills Reported
Fairbanks Management Area, 2001-2009



Proposal 41



Proposal 41

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Lengthen the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt from 7 day to 61 days

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

•RATIONALE:

•This is an allocation issue with significant social issues

•Public acceptance is critical-

•Adopting this proposal risks public acceptance

•The Fairbanks Advisory Committee opposed this proposal because it would increase conflicts with other users of Creamer's Refuge

Proposal 47

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Lengthen the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt from 7 day to 30 days

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

•RATIONALE:

•Action on Proposal 41

Proposal 54

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Expand the area and length of the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt to the FMA and 7 to 30 days

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

•RATIONALE:

•Action on Proposal 41

Proposal 48

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a November muzzleloader hunt in 20B

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

•RATIONALE:

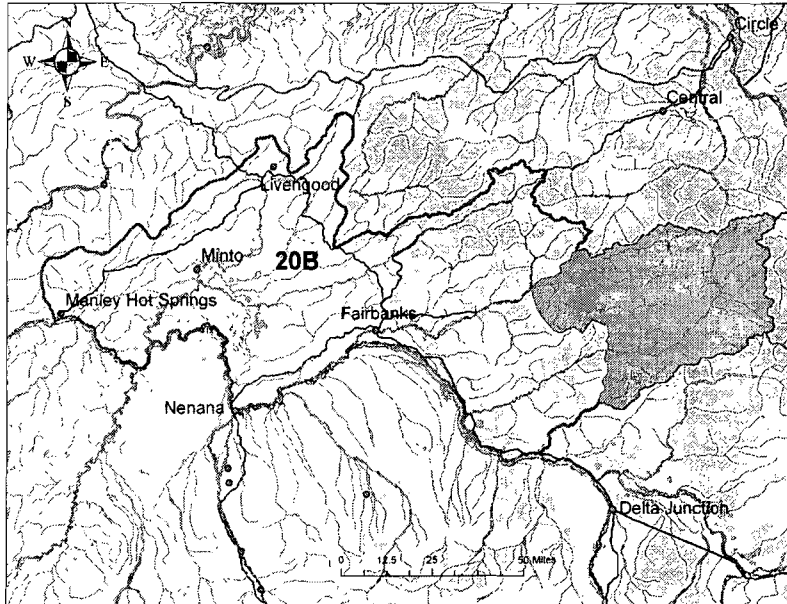
•Amend the area to the Middle Fork of the Chena and the Salcha River upstream of Goose Creek

•Up to 60 permits to be issued for bull or cow without calf

•Increasing moose population

•At this time, additional opportunity is warranted

Proposal 48



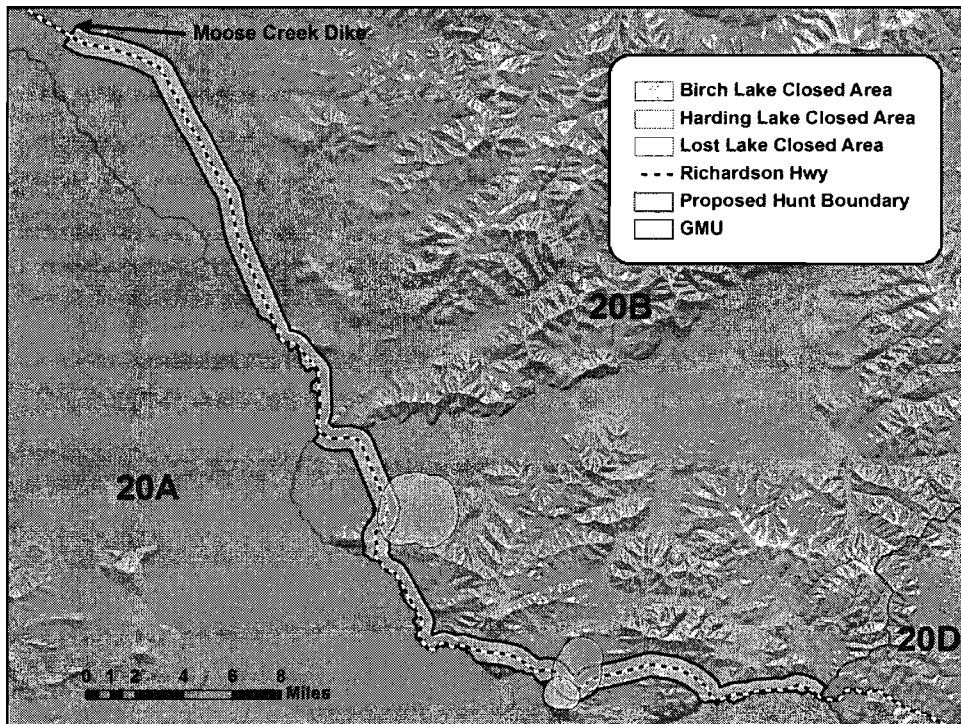
Proposal 49

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a winter archery hunt in 20B along the Richardson Highway

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

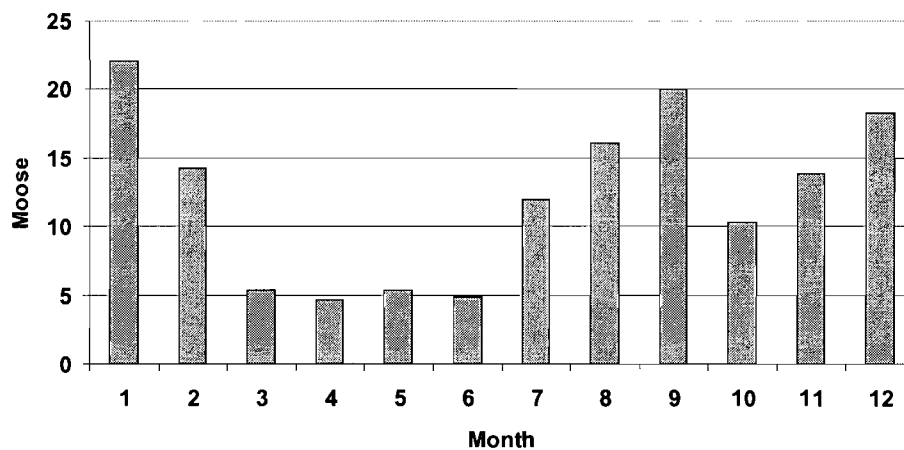
•RATIONALE:

- Amend the dates to Sept 16-Feb 28 to cover the winter peak in roadkill
- Amend the area description to "Unit 20B southeast of Moose Creek dike within ½ mile of the Richardson highway, each side."
- Up to 100 permits would be issued for any moose
- Richardson Highway has been identified as a source of relatively high numbers of moose-vehicle collisions
- Increasing moose population warrants more opportunity

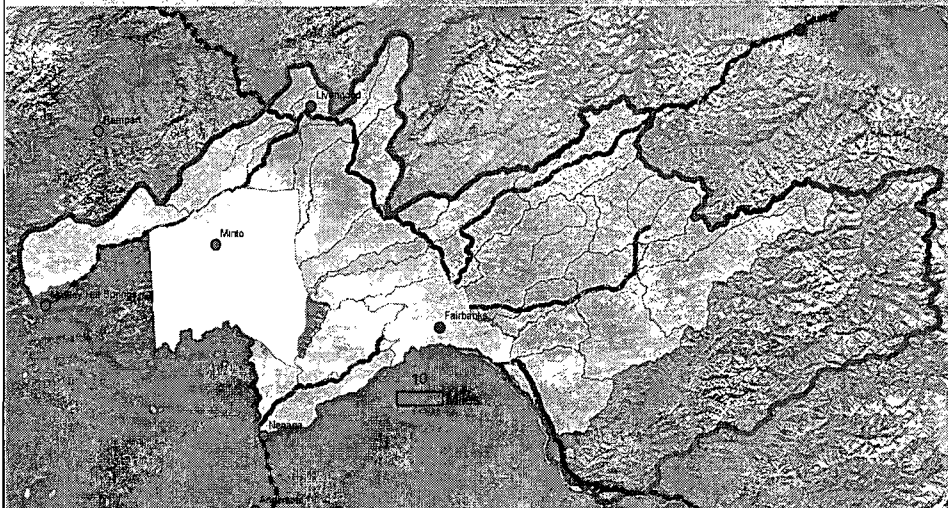


Proposal 49

Average monthly moose roadkills reported in Unit 20B, 2001-2009



Proposal 49



Proposal 43

•**EFFECT OF PROPOSAL:** Allocate a number of antlerless moose drawing permits in 20B to youth hunters

•**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:** No Recommendation

•**RATIONALE:**

- This is an allocation issue
- Hunters 10 and older can already draw permits
- Hunters 17 and under can use an adults permit

•Already 81 different drawing hunts, several registration hunts, and a long general season in 20A, 20B, and 20D.

•No age restrictions and year-round unlimited hunting and trapping for many small game species.

Proposal 45

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Restrict the use of wheeled or tracked vehicles for hunting moose in Minto Flats Management Area

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

•RATIONALE:

•Amend to east of the Tolovana Rv and Except Snowmachines

•Already illegal in the refuge

•Need public notice for enforcement

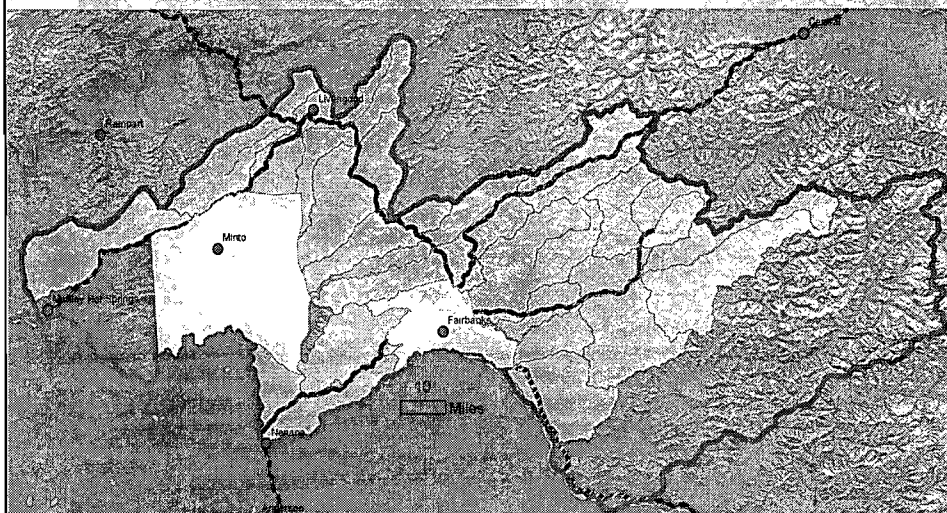
•Adopting this language would be a clean method of public notice

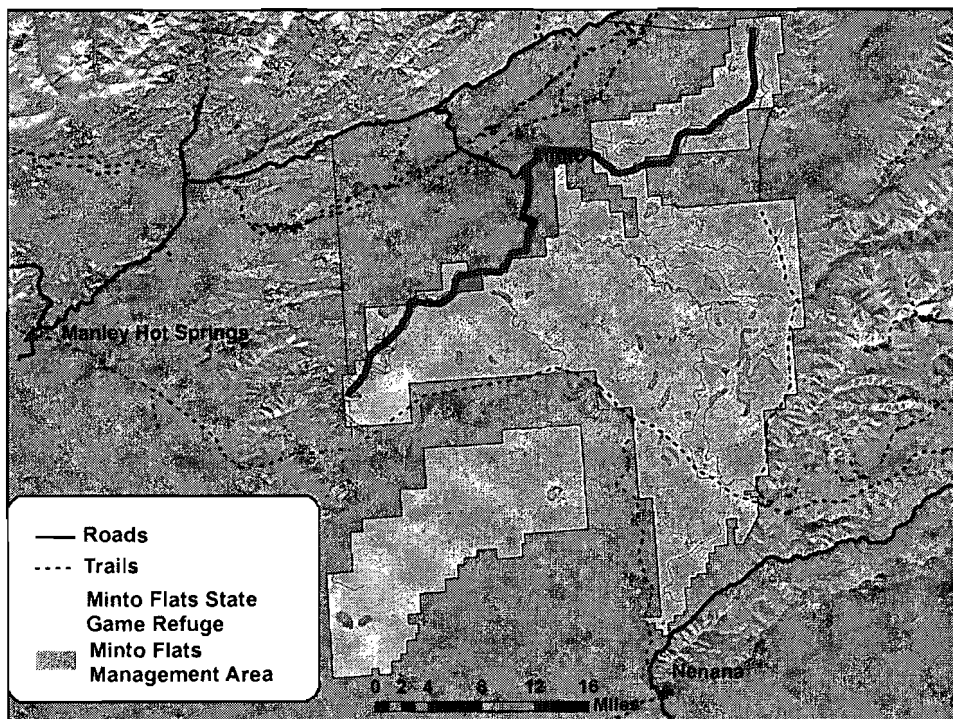
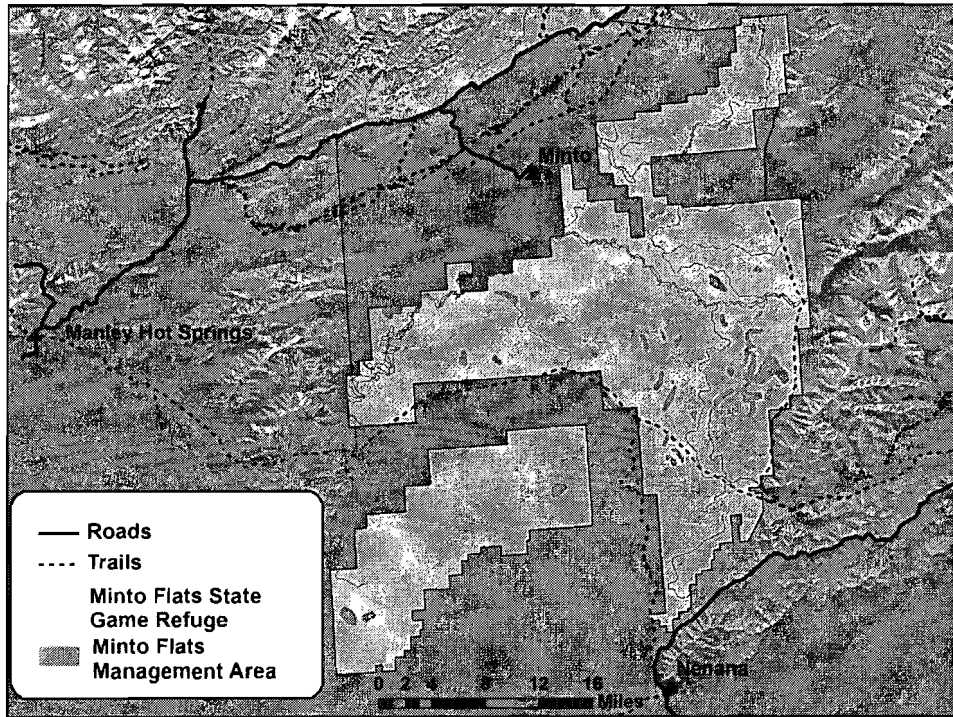
•ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT

•Minto and Nenana committee supported

•Fairbanks committee did not support

Proposal 45





Proposal 45

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Restrict the use of wheeled or tracked vehicles for hunting moose in Minto Flats Management Area

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

•RATIONALE:

•Amend to the East side of the Tolovana and except snowmachines

•Already illegal in the refuge

•Need public notice for enforcement

•Adopting this language would be a clean method of public notice

Proposal 71

•EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Designate Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge as a youth hunting and trapping area

•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

•RATIONALE:

•This is an allocation issue

•Youth can and already use Creamers Refuge

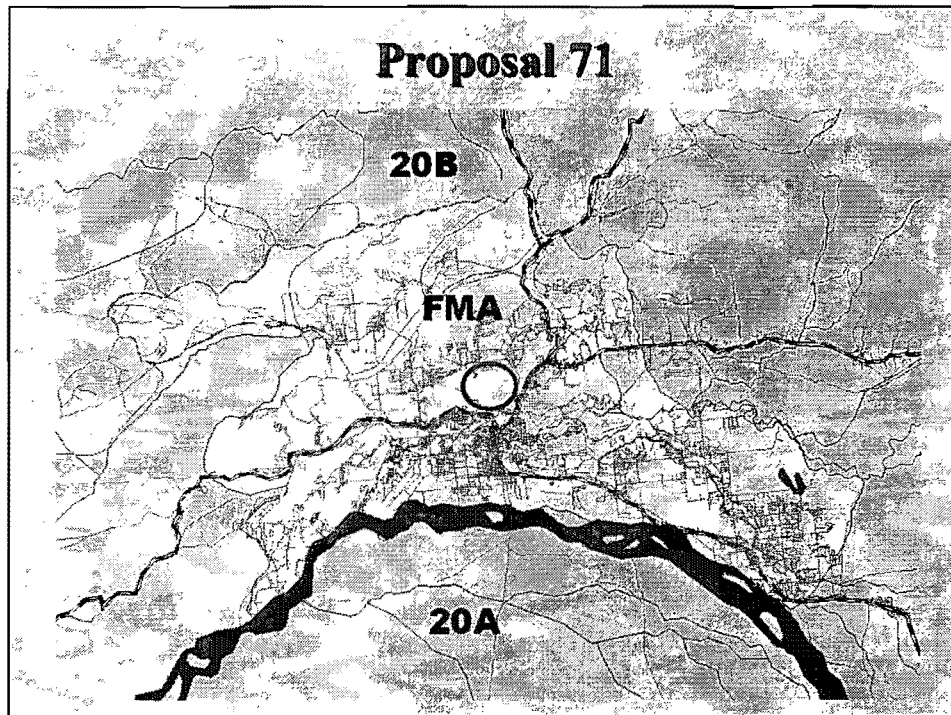
•Existing opportunities abound on and off Creamers Refuge for youth hunters and trappers

•Many small game seasons are open year-round with no limits.

•Diversity of moose hunts in 20B is at an all-time historical high, including hunts that occur before the school year starts.

•Creamers plan promotes youngsters and education

•Popular falconry on the refuge would likely end



Proposal 50

Effects of the proposal: Modify the moose season dates for residents in Unit 20C from September 1-20 to September 5-25.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 50

Background on Unit 20C

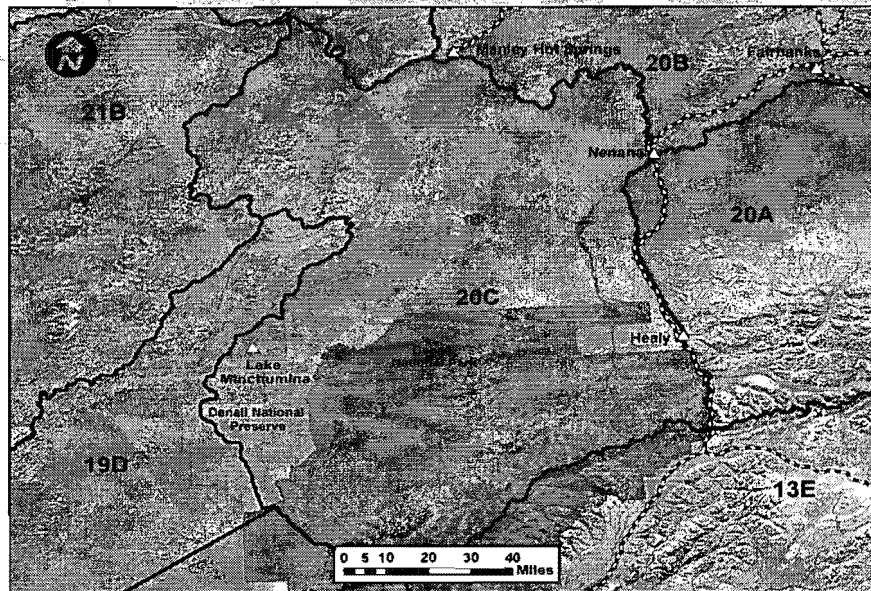
- Area = 11,902 square miles, 6,474 mi² outside of Denali National Park and Preserve
- Current moose season is Sept 1-20 for residents and Sept 5-15 for non-residents. The bag limit is any bull.
- Habitat is variable. Burns, riparian, subalpine, and black spruce forest.
- Moose hunting access is by highway vehicles, boats, atv's and airplane.

Proposal 50

Background continued

- In 2009, Over 600,000 acres burned between the Kantishna River and Teklanika River.
- Most of the moose harvested are taken East of the Kantishna River and along the Tanana River corridor.
- The Department has not conducted a population estimation survey in 20C.
- In 2006, the Department conducted a composition count in eastern 20C.

Proposal 50



Proposal 50

Rationale:

- The Department has not conducted a moose survey in GMU 20C to estimate population size.
- We conservatively estimate that there is between 1500 and 2500 moose outside Denali National Park based on densities found in the park.
- The composition count in 2006 in eastern 20C found a bull to cow ratio of 30:100.
- The calf to cow ratio was 31:100.
- Our management objective for 20C is to maintain at least 20% large bulls (50 inch or greater) in the harvest.

Proposal 50

Year	Number of Hunters	Moose Harvest	Success rate(%)	Number of large bulls in harvest (%)
2002-2003	497	131	26	61(47)
2003-2004	499	105	21	51(49)
2004-2005	452	98	22	25(26)
2005-2006	433	134	31	36(27)
2006-2007	520	143	28	34(24)
2007-2008	507	140	28	36(26)
2008-2009	475	140	29	38(27)

Proposal 50

- With the lack of survey data the department would like to be conservative managing GMU 20C. We feel like the current regulations are adequate.
- Number of hunters, harvest levels, and % of large bulls harvested have remained steady.
- Moving the season 5 days later may increase harvest as the bulls get deeper into the rut and become more susceptible to hunters.
- This may also draw more hunters to the area which would also increase harvest.
- Increased harvest may decrease our bull:cow ratio below 30:100 and may impact % of large bulls in the harvest.

Proposal 50

Department Recommendations: **Do Not Adopt**

Proposal 51

Effects of the proposal: **Modify the moose season dates for residents in Unit 20C.**

Department Recommendation: **Take No Action**

Proposal 52

Effects of the Proposal: **Expand the Non-resident moose season in Unit 20C.**

Department Recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

Proposal 52

- This proposal would expand the non-resident moose season from September 5-15 to September 1-20.
- The bag limit for non-residents is “any bull”.

Proposal 52

Unit 20C Moose harvest and harvest by non-residents

Year	Total Harvest	Non-res harvest (%)
2004	98	8 (8)
2005	134	7 (5)
2006	143	16 (11)
2007	140	16 (11)
2008	140	13 (9)

Proposal 52

- The Department has not conducted a population estimation survey in GMU 20C. We conservatively estimate that there is between 1500 and 2500 moose outside Denali National Park.
- The only data we do have other than harvest and effort is a composition count in 2006 in Eastern 20C.
 - Bull to cow ratio of 30:100.
 - Calf to cow ratio was 31:100.
- Our management objective for 20C is to maintain at least 20% large bulls (50 inch or greater) in the harvest.

Proposal 52

- With the lack of survey data the department would like to be conservative managing GMU 20C. We feel like the current regulations are adequate.
- Number of hunters, harvest levels, and % of large bulls harvested have remained steady.
- Extending the non-resident season may increase harvest in Unit 20C.

Proposal 52

- This may also draw more hunters to the area which would also increase harvest.
- Increased harvest may decrease our bull:cow ratio below 30:100 and may impact % of large bulls in the harvest.

Proposal 52

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 53

Effects of the proposal: **Remove the prohibition against shooting white moose in Unit 20C.**

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 53

- This regulations was originally created in the early 1980's to protect a few white-phased moose that were present in the Healy area.
- These moose were in a highly visible area and were sought by wildlife viewers and photographers.
- The Department has had no reports of white-phased or albino moose in that area in more than 20 years.
- The Department has documented white-phased moose in other GMU's such as 20B and 20D.

Proposal 53

- This Proposal will simplify the moose hunting regulations in Unit 20C.
 - The regulations state that you may not harvest a moose that is more than 50% white.
 - Determining what is 50% is difficult and is unenforceable.
- The current hunting season is bulls only, so white-phased and albino cow moose would still be protected.

Proposal 53

Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 65 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

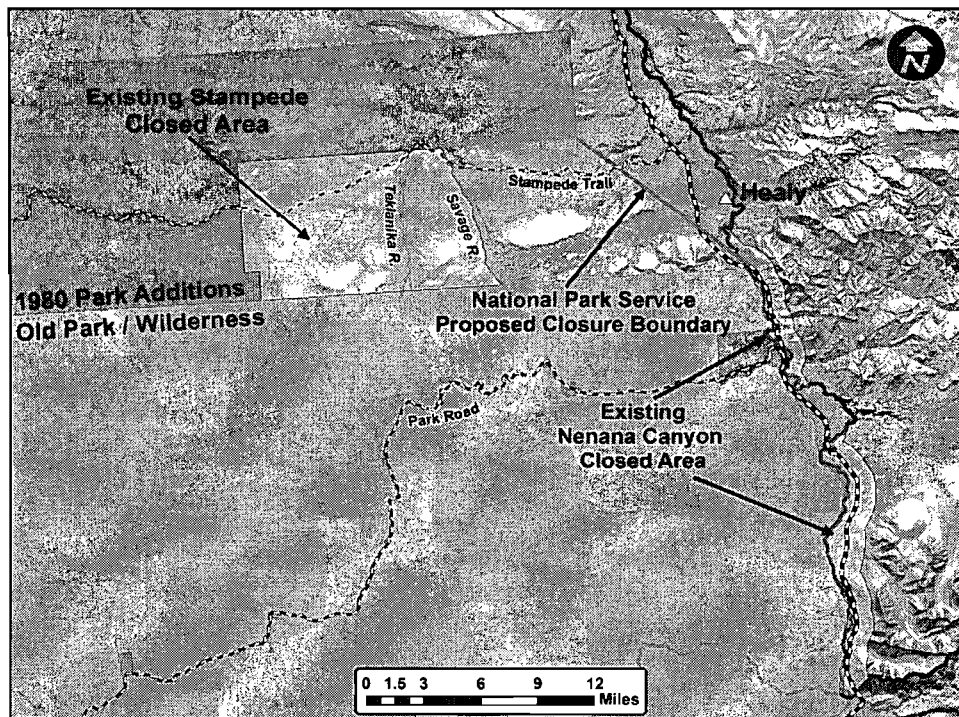
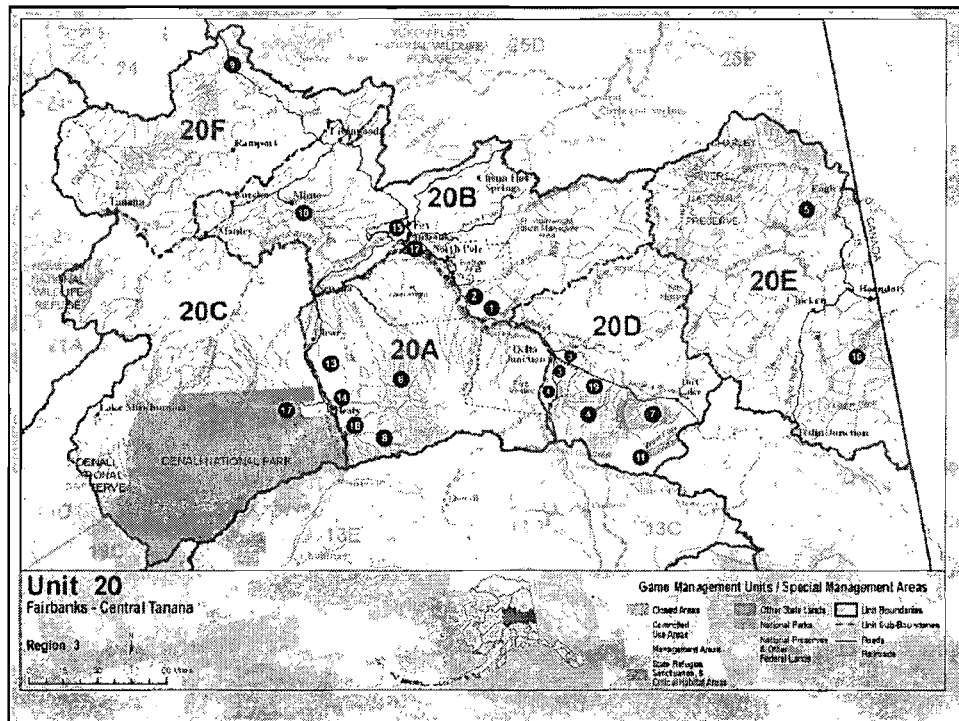
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Increase the size of the Stampede Closed Area (closed to the taking of wolves).
- Nenana Canyon Closed Area a related issue.

Submitted by: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve (DNP&P)

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

- Also addresses proposals 55-61, 63, and 64



Proposal 65 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- A detailed analysis completed in 1996 indicated wolf viewing opportunity not measurably influenced by reductions in harvest adjacent to DNP&P still applicable today
- The existing biological data show that the harvest of wolves outside the park is not a problem for sustainability of populations or packs within or outside of DNP&P
- Harvest by trappers has increased adjacent to DNP&P, but not all of the harvest occurred within the proposed buffer area and not all from packs that are available for viewing by park visitors

Proposal 65 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

RATIONALE: Continued

- The proposed closed area encompasses lands outside the ranges of packs that are primarily within DNP&P
- Viewing opportunities for the public in DNP&P depend mostly on where wolves den, where they make kills, and the predominant vegetation types along the viewing routes
- Trapping outside the park has not been documented as a factor that affects viewing opportunity inside DNP&P
- The rare incidences of wolves carrying traps or snares that were reported by the proposer could be minimized through ongoing trapper education efforts

Proposal 65 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

RATIONALE: Continued

- Harvest of wolves adjacent to DNP&P may not increase the incidence of louse infestation within the park, as feared by the proposer, because moderate levels of harvest in adjacent Unit 20A have not resulted in increases in louse infestation
- Local trappers and hunters had always used Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas prior to their closure
- The number of hunters and trappers that used these areas prior to closure not known, but likely low
- As a result, overall harvest of wolves and trapping opportunity would be little affected if areas remain closed
- Stampede area managed under the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP), which includes recreational hunting and trapping

Proposal 65 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

RATIONALE:

- This is an allocation issue
- A detailed analysis completed in 1996 indicating wolf viewing opportunity not measurably influenced by a reduction in harvest adjacent to DNP&P still applicable today
- Harvest by trappers has increased adjacent to DNP&P, but not all of the harvest occurred within the proposed buffer area and not all from packs that are available for viewing by park visitors
- The proposed closed area encompasses lands outside the ranges of packs that are primarily within DNP&P
- Viewing opportunities in DNP&P depend mostly on where wolves den, where they make kills, and the predominant vegetation types along the viewing routes
- Rare incidences of wolves carrying traps or snares could be minimized through ongoing trapper education efforts
- Harvest of wolves adjacent to DNP&P may not increase the incidence of louse infestation within the park (e.g., moderate levels of harvest in adjacent Unit 20A have not resulted in increases in louse infestation)
- Local trappers and hunters had always used Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas prior to their closure

Proposal 55 – Unit 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Expand the Stampede Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 56 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

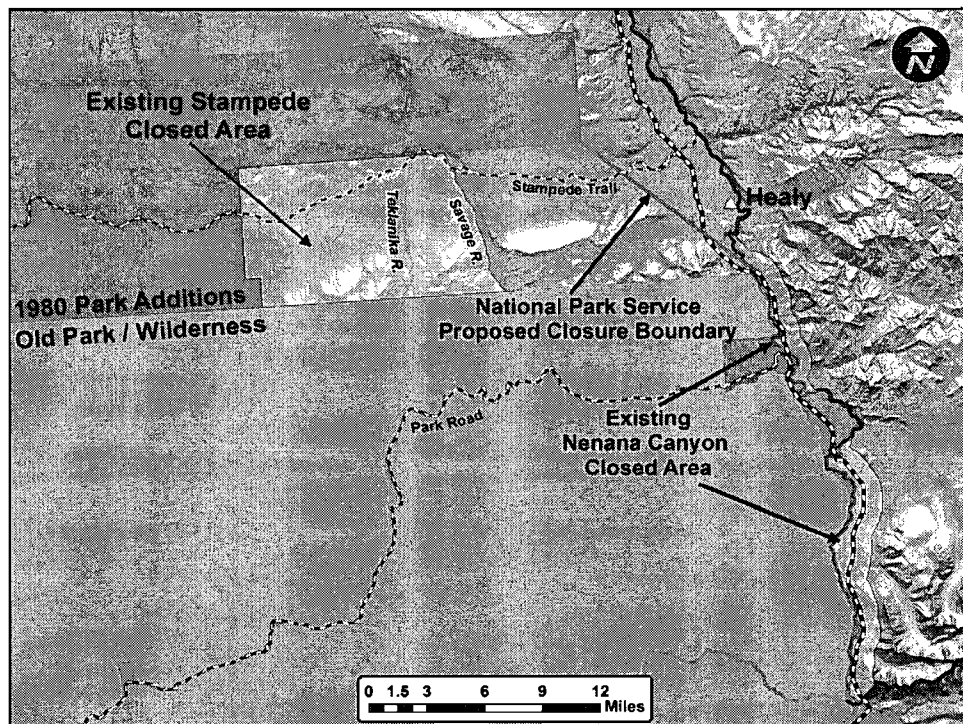
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65



Proposal 57 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Nenana Canyon Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 58 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

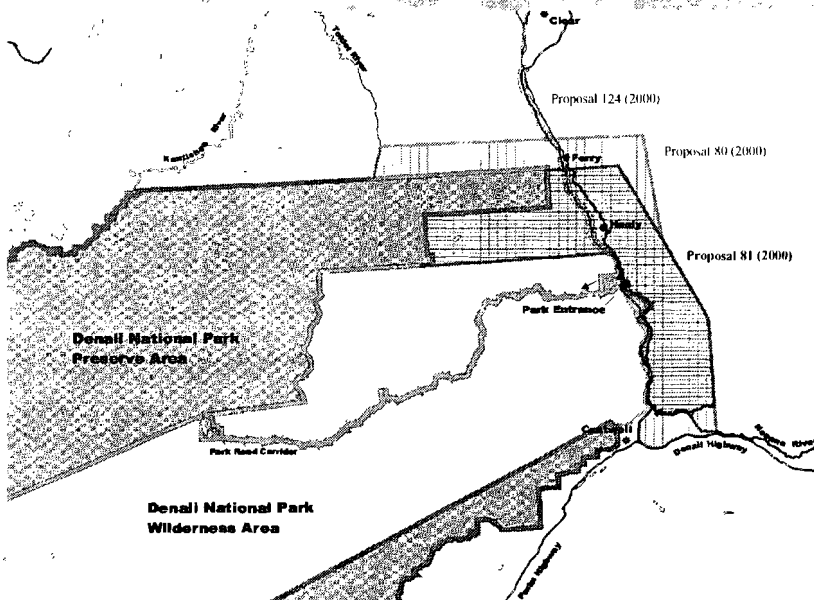
**Expand the Stampede and Nenana
Canyon Closed Areas**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

**•RATIONALE: See analysis and
recommendation for Proposal 65**

Proposals 58-59 (2010)



Proposal 59 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Expand the Nenana Canyon Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 60 – Unit 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Expand the Stampede Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 61 – Unit 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 63 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

•RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 65

Proposal 64 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

**Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana
Canyon Closed Areas**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

**•RATIONALE: See analysis and
recommendation for Proposal 65**

Proposal 31– Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

**Liberalize brown bear hunting seasons in
Unit 20A:**

From Sep 5-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30

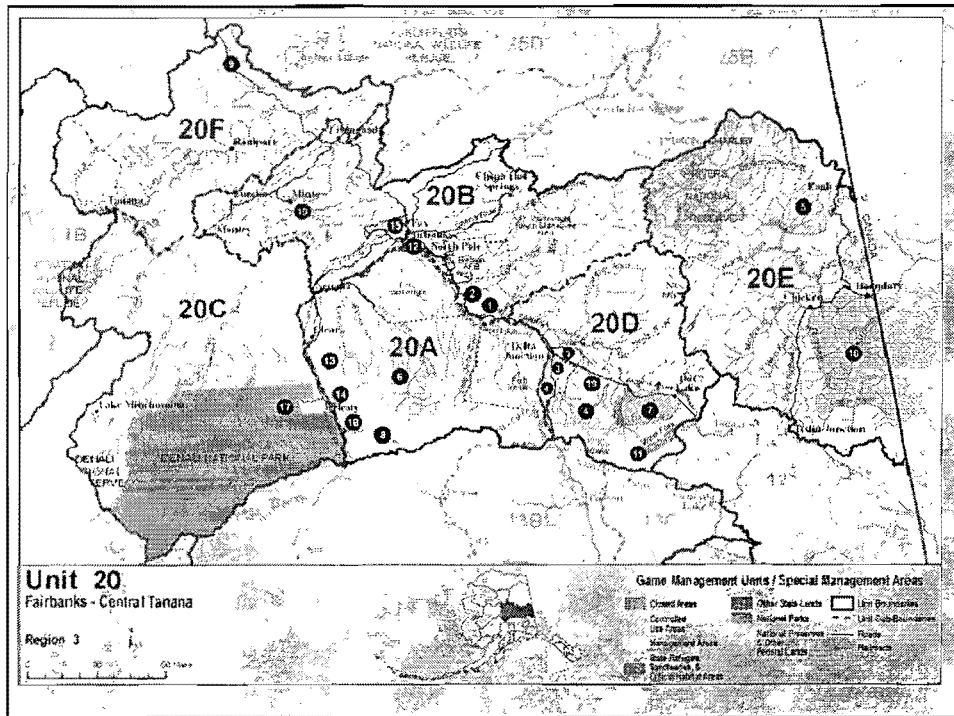
Unit 20C:

From Sep 1-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend
and Adopt:**

•Unit 20A: Sep 1-May 31

•Unit 20C: Aug 10-Jun 30

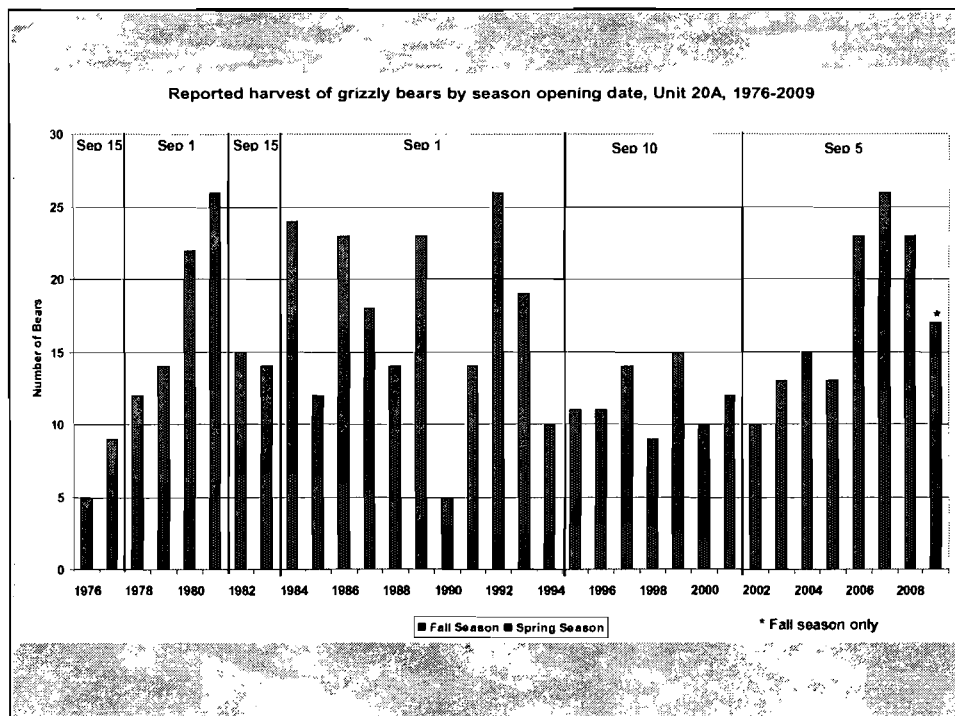
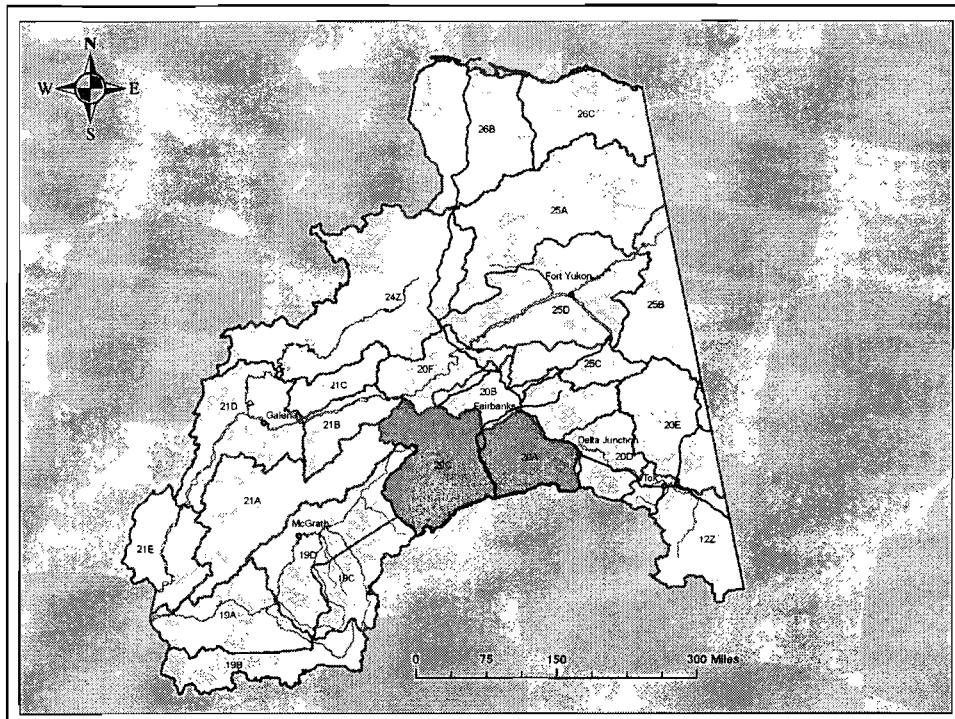


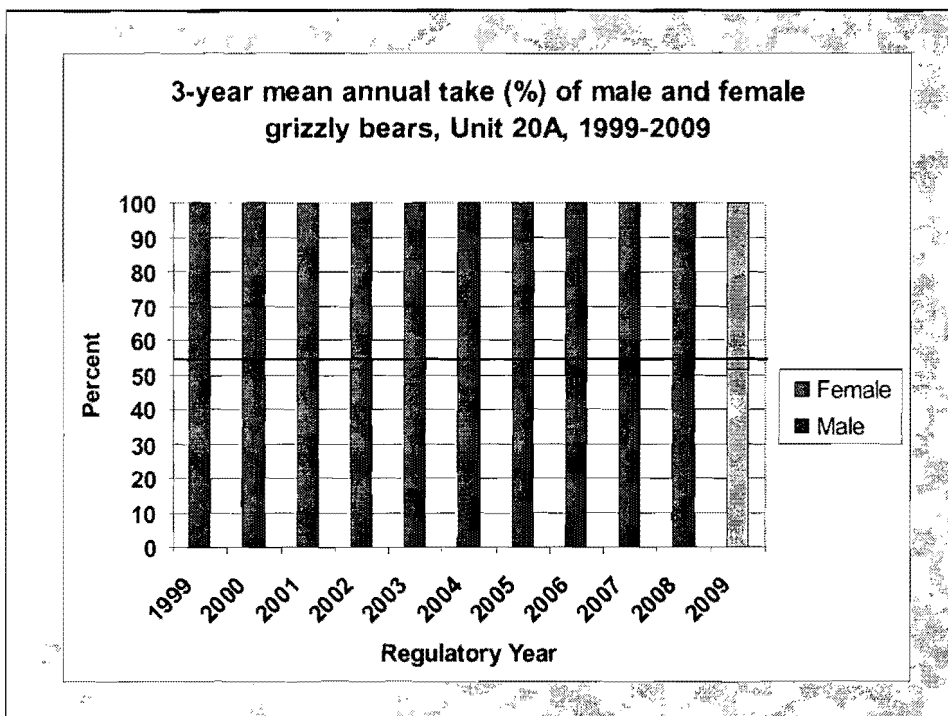
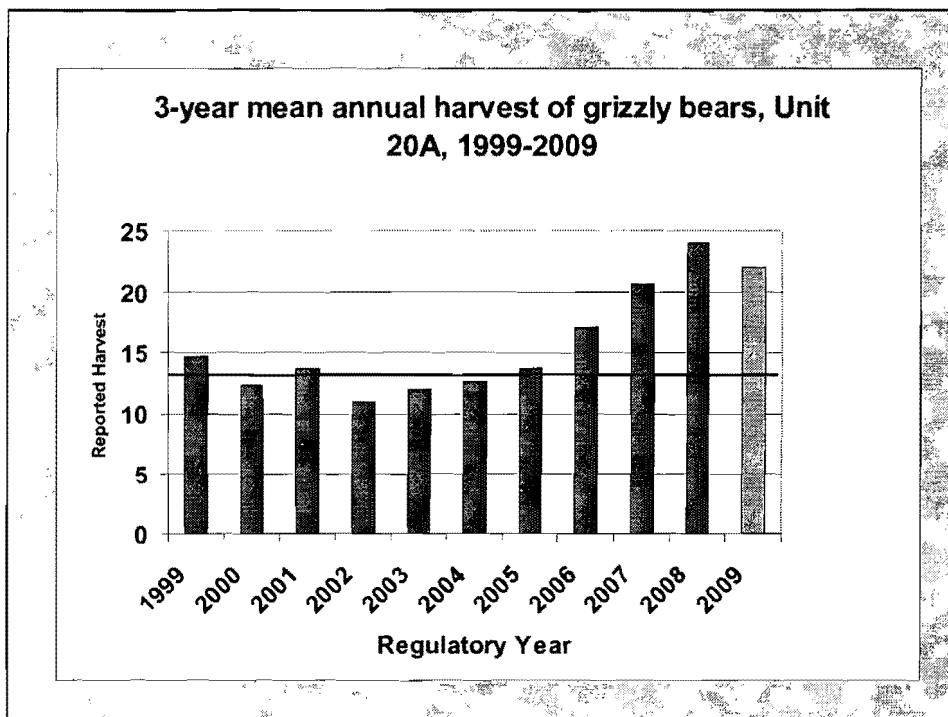
Proposal 31– Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

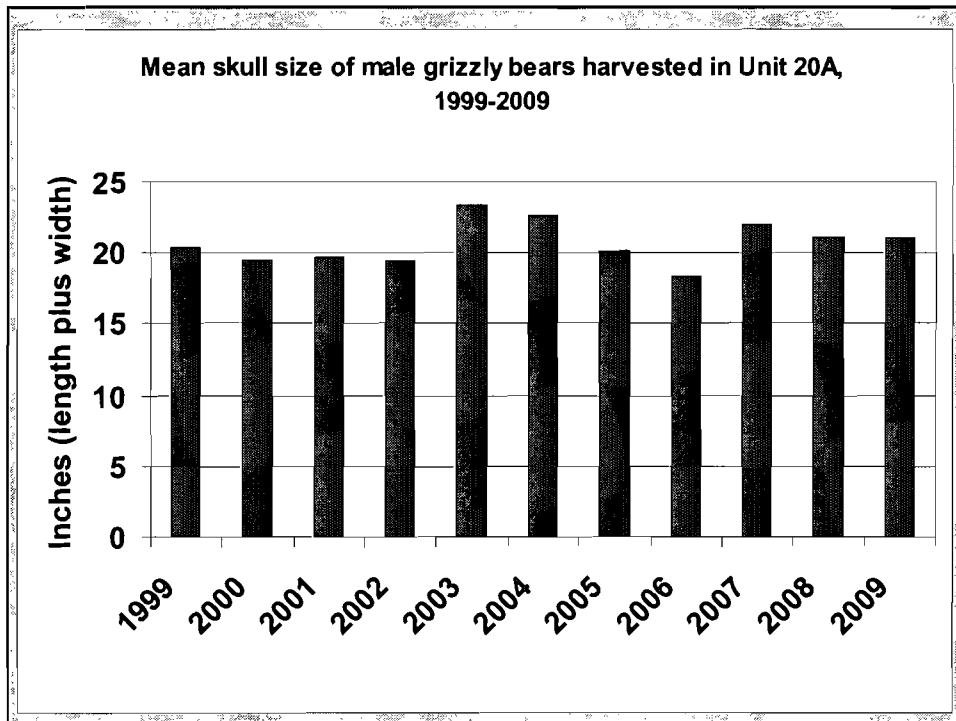
RATIONALE:

Unit 20A

- Aligns season with Unit 20B to the north
- Aligns season opener with general moose season (Sep 1-25)
- High bear harvests last 4 years
- No changes detected in sex and age composition or skull size





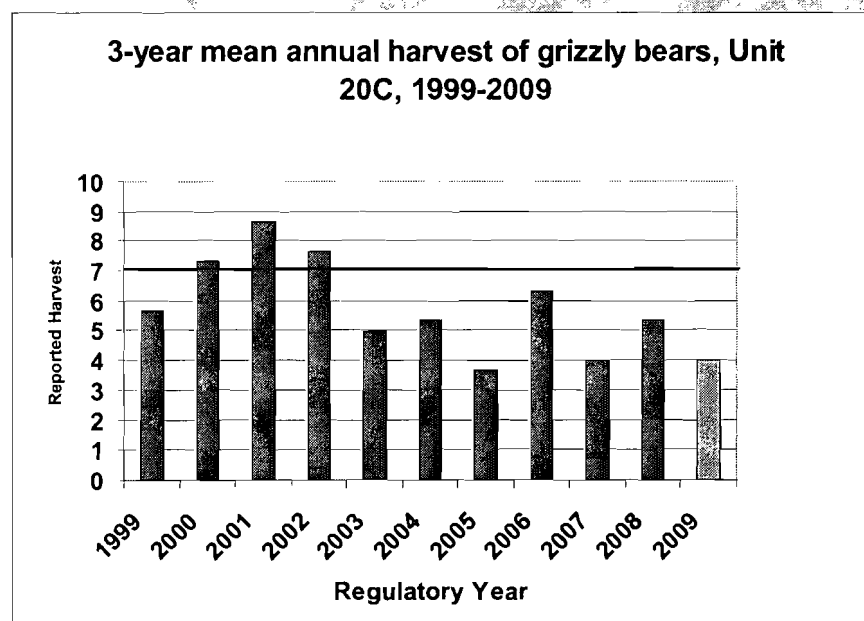
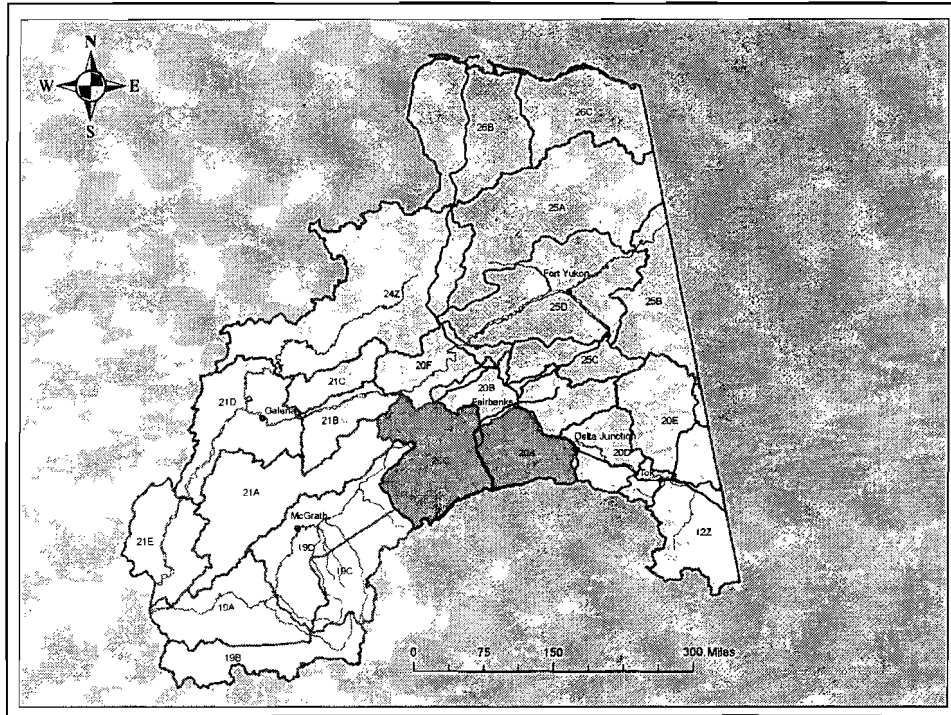


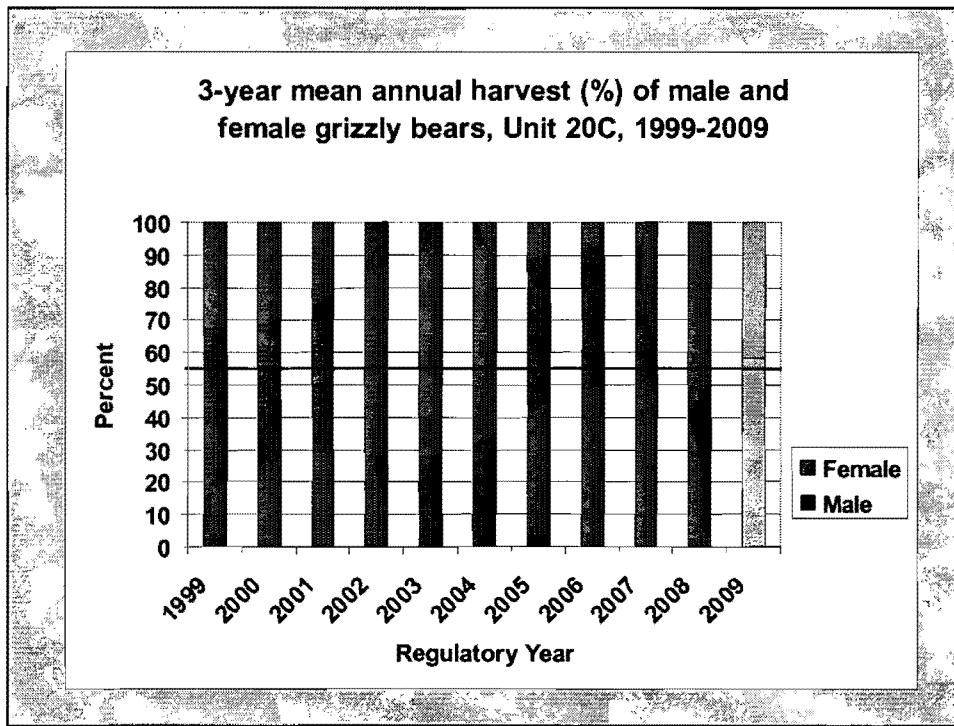
Proposal 31– Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

RATIONALE:

Unit 20C

- Aligns season with Unit 19D, 21A and 21B to the west and Unit 20F to the northwest
- Access is relatively poor
- Harvest is low





Proposal 31– Units 20C and 20A Brown Bear

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Liberalize brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 20A:

From Sep 5-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30

Unit 20C:

From Sep 1-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt:

•Unit 20A: Sep 1-May 31

•Unit 20C: Aug 10-Jun 30

Proposal 27 – Unit 20A Brown Bear

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Lengthen the brown bear hunting season in Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Take No Action

RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for Proposal 31

Proposal 26

Effects of the Proposal: Shorten the beaver trapping season in 20B.

Department recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 26

Current beaver trapping season:

September 25 – May 31; no limit.

Proposed season:

November 1 – April 15; no limit.

Proposal 26

Rationale:

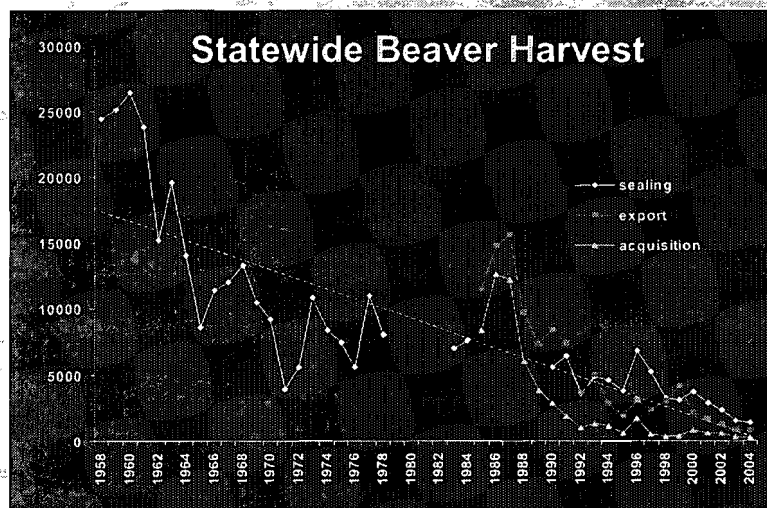
- In 2006, the BOG liberalized beaver trapping seasons in Unit 20.
- The Department believes beaver populations are high and harvest is low.
- Fur prices for beaver have been low for many years. (NAFA, 5 year average= \$22.80)
- The Department would like to maintain a high harvest along the road system and near town to reduce beaver damage to roads and property.

Proposal 26

Rationale continued:

- The Department believes that there are large areas of refugia away from accessible areas to fill in for the higher harvest in easily accessible areas.

Proposal 26



Proposal 26

The Department conducts beaver cache surveys on the lower Chena River from the mouth upstream to the confluence of the Little Chena River (25.5 miles) every fall.

- This area is open to trapping only by permit since it mainly flows through residential areas and downtown Fairbanks.
- Permits are only available for nuisance purposes or to trappers that are willing to take kids trapping.
- Permits are issued for specific beaver huts.
- Certain huts near parks or recreation areas (5 huts in 2009) are left untrapped for the purpose of viewing beaver.

Proposal 26

- The number of active caches has remained steady over the last ten years (range 20-29 active caches, mean= 25.5)
- Every section of good beaver habitat is occupied by beavers
- Huts that are trapped out one winter have been reoccupied by the next fall.
- Local trappers are reporting similar densities in other parts of the Chena River, Chatanika River and Salcha River where trapping is not limited.

Proposal 26

Recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

Proposal 72

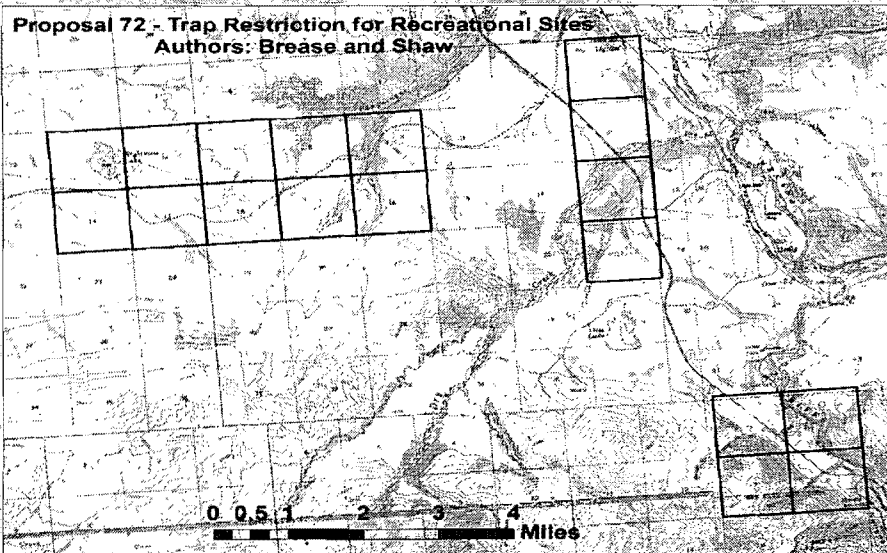
Effects of the proposal: **Restrict the use of traps near
certain recreational and residential areas in Unit 20C.**

Department Recommendation: **No Recommendation.**

Proposal 72

- This is an allocation issue.
- Boundaries in the proposed areas would be hard to identify by trappers and hard to enforce because identifiable landmarks are not used in the descriptions.
- According to the Department of Law, the board is not authorized to close areas based primarily on public safety.

Proposal 72



Proposal 72

Recommendation: No Recommendation



PROPOSAL 48A

RC **158**

Add a muzzleloader-only moose hunting season in the middle fork of the Chena River drainage and the upper Salcha River drainage Unit 20B.

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. (a) ...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf,	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 1–Sept. 20
1 bull, by bow and arrow only <u>or</u>	Sept. 21–Sept. 30	Sept. 21–Sept. 30
<u>1 moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf</u>	<u>Nov. 1–Nov. 30</u>	<u>Nov. 1–Nov. 30</u>



Unit 20(B), that
portion of the Salcha
River drainage
upstream from and

821
including Goose
Creek

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

1 bull, by bow and
arrow only, or

Sept. 21–Sept. 30

Sept. 21–Sept. 30

1 moose by muzzleloader
by drawing permit only;
up to 60 permits may be issued;
a person may not take a
calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf

Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Nov. 1–Nov. 30

...

PROPOSAL 49A

RC **159**

Establish an archery-only antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B along the Richardson Highway.

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. (a) ...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(18)		
...		
<u>Unit 20(B), that portion within ½ mile of the Richardson Highway, southeast of the moose creek dike, not including the Birch, Harding, or Lost lake closed Areas</u>		
<u>1 moose, by bow and arrow by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 16–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 15	Sept. 5–Sept. 15
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 900 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		

PROPOSAL 45A

RC 160

AAC 92.530. Management areas. The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

...

(8) the Minto Flats Management Area:

...

(B) The area is open to moose hunting except that aircraft and airboats may not be used for moose hunting or to transport moose, moose hunters, or moose hunting equipment within the Minto Flats Management Area, **and wheeled or tracked motorized vehicles (except snowmachines) may not be used for moose hunting or to transport moose, moose hunters, or moose hunting equipment east of the Tolovana River within the Minto Flats Management Area.**

...

RC

161

PROPOSAL 31 - 5AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Liberalize seasons in Unit 20A and Unit 20C as follows:

UNITS AND BAG LIMITS	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and GENERAL HUNTS)	Nonresident OPEN SEASON
(18)		
Unit 20(A)	<u>Sept. 1–May 31</u> [SEPT. 5–MAY 31] (General hunt only)	<u>Sept. 1–May 31</u> [SEPT. 5–MAY 31]
1 bear every regulatory year		
...		
<u>Unit 20(C)</u>	<u>Aug. 10–June 30</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>Aug. 10–June 30</u>
Remainder of Unit 20	Sept. 1–May 31	Sept. 1–May 31
1 bear every regulatory year		

Mataunuska Valley AC Meeting Minutes 2/24/10

RC 162

MVFGAC Meeting 2/10/10

Jr 0-2-1

Note - No other antlerless moose authorizations were considered until the potlatch moose situation is resolved along with their racist interpretations of the law.

Proposal 12

Good idea. Let's take more brown bears in this area.

Motion passes

13-0-0

Jr 2-0-1

Max BOG Meeting 160 Community harvest reports NOT closed and enforcement is unable to do anything until ADFG requests something be done. BOG opened more units to potlatch areas than we have had in the past. Only open to Natives, and are unable to manage if they have no regard to reporting. In GMU 21 potlatch take exceeds the sport take. (numbers from ADFG and tribal leadership)
Nothing good came out of it, worse Frank decision means that potlatch can hunt anywhere not subsistence.

2. Discuss Region II split. We support this idea. We should be separate from Anchorage. Voice opinion to Larson. Ach and Fairbanks ACs both support this as well. Opposition is in the finding.

☐ New Business:

1. Committee discussion on dip-netting and personal use legislation.

2 proposals have been generated by BOF 200 and 201, still not any closer to defining the subsistence way of life. We should oppose 200 and ask that it goes to a joint board. 201 needs to pass as the dip net fishery can be defined as a subsistence. Dip net fishery now has a priority. Comments due by 20th of March.

HB 227, AOC imposes restrictions on public domain.

Mel will write 3 letters to be approved by email

Page 7 of 7

MVFGAC Meeting 2/10/10

Meeting adjourned 10:01 pm

Next meeting: February 24, 7-10 PM, MTA building in Palmer.

Unapproved and unedited minutes from Feb 24 meeting below:

Mataunuska Valley AC Minutes Feb. 24, 2010 MTA Building Palmer

7:00 PM: Call meeting to order

Roll Call: eight members for quorum

Steve Bartelli Excused

Erick Beckman

Brian Campbell



Mark Chryson
Andy Couch (secretary)
Stephen Darilek (chair)
Bennett Durgeloh
Gerrit Dykstra
Ken Federico
Bill Folsom (vice chair)
Melvin Grove
Tony Jones
Dan Montgomery
Guiseppe Rossi
Max Sager
Kathy Thompson
Troy Vincent

Student Members Present- Andy Goeke, Daniel Warta, Stephen Warta

Cliff Judkins, Carl Gatto, Tony Kavalok, Rod Arno, Tory Orlek Mark Agnew Dane Crowley - SFW, Dave Rutz, Tom Vania, Jim Hasbrouk, Tim Peltier, Aaron Bloomquist- Anchorage AC

Approve Minutes: 123 Community Harvest reports not closed Board of Game added more units to potlatch than requested. Potlatch may be used in See Note From MAX. Minutes Approved Unanimously.

Calendar of events:

Monday March 8 Eagle River VFW -- Break away snaring clinic -- contact Kenny Barber.

Public Comment:

Rod Arno with AOC spoke requesting proposal 200 be deferred to a joint Board of Fisheries and Game meeting or change the definition: Subsistence way of life means a way of life that is consistent with the long term use of fish and game resources, when available, to supplement the basic necessities of life.

ON proposal 201 AOC suggests support to the Board of Fisheries of proposal 201 as written which would reinstate a subsistence fishery to the Chitna area.

Question was asked why AOC preferred deferring proposal 200? Rod's answer was that the definition of subsistence way of life should apply to both fish and game which would require a joint Board meeting to establish.

Aaron Bloomquist: Anchorage AC suggests that Board of Game defines subsistence way of life in Fairbanks before BOF statewide meeting. Asked that Mat Valley AC sign on.

Board of Fisheries: Request Howard Delo and Bruce Morgan (Anchorage AC member) be appointed to BOF and request the resignation of member Janet Woods for not participating fully in the process.

Dane Crowley: Supports effort by Rod Arno and Aaron Bloomquist on the state subsistence issue.. Don't support game proposal 16 but would like to support efforts to increase numbers of sheep. Would like to talk about Alaska Dall Sheep Initiative and Susitna State Forest as items on agenda of one of our meetings. Would like to do a project on Alexander Creek pike reduction/salmon rehabilitation and would like AC support.

Cliff Judkins Board of Game member-- concerning potlach -- Board of Game confronted with Frank court decision required providing for potlach. System requires ceremonial permit in hand. Village or Tribal Chief would issue permit. Chief would make determinations as to who would get on not get permit. Chief would have one permit at a time. Harvest must occur in traditional and customary hunting area. Tried to create principles upon which issuance of permits is based on.

Question to Cliff -- 1500 honorary people on Knik Tribal roll as testified to at Board of Game meeting -- under new potlach opportunity would all these people be eligible for permits? Cliff did not know, and said the regulation / law may need to be defined by the court.

Hunt can be restricted if there is a population concern with the resource according to Cliff.

Why would Chiefs be the ones issuing permits? Cliff said to give the tribes ownership and control and it could possible slow down potlach harvests. Cliff hopes the permits would be issued one at a time to the Chief without a second one issued until the first one was returned.

Bill Folsom spoke in favor of having ADF&G manage the resource if the potlach is to be allowed.

Is there any type limit number for potlach? Cliff said ADF&G would set number of each area.

Does anyone have to produce a death certificate -- as this is a funeral ceremony? Individual suggested he would like to see this required.

New potlach scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2010.

Rod Arno suggested there was procedural problem. In other words if there is a compelling state interest potlach could be curtailed, and AOC is pursuing that issue.

One of the reasons potlach became a big issue with Matanuska Valley AC was ADF&G was sending Anchorage residents to the Valley rather than letting them hunt 14C.

Stephen Darilek was concerned with the time between when a conservation issue could start and how long until the potlach would be curtailed. He also was concerned with possible mismanagement of the permits as has been seen. Stephen wanted to mention that it was not the AC's intention to stop all potlachs, but to control what was happening in the Matanuska Valley.

Kelly Vrem -- asked support for continued legislative funding to guide allocation process. Process has not been completed. Claims every guide in the state has been contacted at least 3 times. Positive attributes is the it would control amount of guides, minimizes disruptions of public by guides.

Question was asked if number of guides would really be limited or would the master guides who won the concession simply hire plenty of assistants who would then work under them?

Tony Kavalok ADF&G area game management biologist talked on moose and gave the committee moose population numbers.

Bill asked if the habitat could support moose? Tony hopes to monitor habitat in the future.

Chickaloon, Knik, Eklutna, and CIRI have all requested potlach permits in 14 A in the past.

\$86,000 is the approximate amount of revenue generated by the current 14A moose antlerless drawing permit hunts.

If a majority of Advisory Committees voted to close antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14A would ADF&G only issue any antlered bull permits? No, antlerless moose would still be allowed through the potlach in Unit 14A.

Bill wants AC to continue with the previously voted AC position of not authorizing antlerless moose permits in Unit 14A even if potlach continues in order to bring attention to this issue.

Kathy suggested with all the meat needed for potlach purposes, why is not road killed moose used for this purpose.

Tony replied that in some cases road kill or illegal killed meat has been used. Tony said also that in some cases that option has not been acceptable perhaps for time constraints.

What would be outcome if antlerless moose permits were not issued. Tony said perhaps additional road kill. Perhaps an increase in moose population would bring additional amount of hunters to the unit.

Troy asked Tony Kavalock if there was a possibility of someone from the AC assisting with developing the potlach permit. Tony said it would be O.K. with him, but of course he is not necessarily the person making that call for ADF&G.

Mel asked when Tony would have a conservation concern. Tony replied that 200 or more potlach animals and reduction in population numbers in 14A would constitute a conservation concern.

Guiseppe made a motion to reconsider the antlerless moose authorization vote for unit 14A. 2nd by Stephen. Motion passed 10 - 4 - 1 Student vote 3-0 motion carried.

Some committee members felt that non reauthorization of the antlerless permits would only harm people who are not participating in the potlach opportunity. Others felt a statement drawing attention to the unfairness of the potlach situation and to the many management unknowns with the new permit system made them uncomfortable with issuing any antlerless moose permits in the area. Reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts carried 8-7. Student vote 2-1.

Ken introduced his group letter from numerous groups asking for assistance in maintaining habitat, providing dumpsters, restroom facilities and future management to protect the resource and access.

Mark Chryson moved to endorse Ken's letter. Dan Montgomery 2nd. Motion carried 15-0 -0 Student vote 3-0-0.

Motion to Mel Groves representing the AC in Fairbank by Mark. 2nd by Dan. Motion passed 15-0-0 and 3-0-0. Mel took some suggestions.

Motion to approve proposal 200. 2nd. amended to match AOC amendment wording. amendment passed 15-0-0. Amended motion passed 15-0-0.

Motion to approve proposal 201. 2nd. Motion passed 15-0-0. student vote 1-0-2.

165 and 166 motion and 2nd. passed 15-0-0 (did not get student vote).

Motion to approve 190. 2nd. ADF&G opposes because of attempt to keep sport halibut limit at 2 fish. Mel said ADF&G working this under emergency order is not right -- especially if ADF&G does not allow fishing when additional fish are available. Andy asked if it would be possible for crews to catch other species besides halibut and that the emergency orders seemed to be based on reducing halibut harvest, but there were no biological concerns with many other species of fish. ADF&G's response was that the Department did not have authority to manage halibut / but the regulation that restricts charter crews from fishing or retaining fish while running a charter is clearly aimed at reducing harvest of the halibut resource. ADF&G said that a regulation restricting all fishing and harvest of all fish by the charter crew was it's only means of restricting the charter halibut harvest, and that such a restriction assisted in allowing a 2 halibut daily limit for charter clients through out the summer season in some areas. Motion carries 14 -0 -1 students 1-0-2.

Proposals 182 and 183. Motion and 2nd. 0-14-1. and 0-2-1.

Proposal 189 Motion and 2nd. Motion failed 0-15-0 and 0-2-1.

10:15 p.m. Meeting break and scheduled for continuation at 7 p.m. on March 10, 2010 at MTA building in Palmer.

Minutes taken by Andrew Couch

On Feb 28, 2010, at 10:55 AM, Pilcher, Nissa R B (DFG) wrote:

Hi Sherry and Andy,

Melvin is set to present to the Board in a little bit, and he was hoping he could get a full copy of the minutes from the January, and February meeting. If possible, could either one of you please email me the minutes and I will print them off for him-

Sorry for the short notice-
Nissa Pilcher

RC 163

PROPOSAL 62

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- Establish a wolf predation control implementation plan in Unit 20C

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

- Do not adopt (at this time)
- IM feasibility assessment to BOG in March 2012

MOOSE IM OBJECTIVES

(Outside Denali NP&P)

- Population Objective: 3,000-4,000
- Population Estimate: 1500-2500 (extrapolation)
- Harvest Objective: 150-400
- Reported Harvest: 5 year average=131 (98-140)

IM TRIGGERS

- Below population objective?
- Sustained yield is less than harvest objective?
 - Reported harvest is less than the harvest objective
- No significant reduction in human harvest
 - Long any bull season (residents Sept 1-20; nonresidents Sept 5-15)

INCREMENTAL APPROACH

1. Develop Intensive Management Feasibility Assessment
 - Predator/prey populations and harvest
 - Predator/prey relationships
 - Habitat status and capability
 - Hunter access and conflicts
 - Land status
 - Public process
 - Social issues
2. Identify funding sources
3. Develop schedule

PROPOSAL 62

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- Establish a wolf predation control implementation plan in Unit 20C

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

- Do not adopt (at this time)
- Incremental approach
- IM feasibility assessment to BOG in March 2012

South Central - Unit B WC

RC 164

5 AAC 92.072. COMMUNITY SUBSISTENCE HARVEST HUNT AREA AND PERMIT CONDITIONS. (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community - based subsistence harvest permit and harvest reports for big game species where the board has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074.

(b) The board will consider proposals to establish community harvest hunt areas during regularly scheduled meetings to consider seasons and bag limits for affected species in a hunt area. Information considered by the board in evaluating the proposed action will include:

- (1) a geographic description of the hunt area;
- (2) the sustainable harvest and current subsistence regulations and findings for the big game population to be harvested;
- (3) a custom of community - based harvest and sharing of the wildlife resources harvested in the hunt area; and
- (4) other characteristics of harvest practices in the hunt area, including characteristics of the customary and traditional pattern of use found under 5 AAC 99.010(b).

(c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, residents of the community may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) a hunt administrator representing a group of residents may apply to the department for a community harvest permit by identifying the community harvest hunt area and the species to be hunted, and by requesting community harvest reports sufficient to supply the estimated number of individuals who will subscribe to the community harvest permit; the hunt administrator:

(A) must record and maintain a record of the names of residents subscribing to the community harvest permit and the residents hunting license number, permanent hunting identification card number, customer service identification number, or birth date for residents under 16 years of age;

(B) must, unless the department elects to do so, issue harvest reports to hunters who have subscribed to the community harvest permit, but may not issue more individual harvest reports than the sum of the individual bag limits of the number of the residents who have subscribed to the permit;

(C) must request additional harvest reports for a community harvest permit from the department during a hunting season if the number of people subscribing to the hunt exceeds the original estimate.

(D) must collect validated harvest reports from hunters following the take of individual game animals, record harvest information for individual animals taken, and collect biological samples or other information as required by the department for management;

(E) must provide the department with harvest information, including federal subsistence harvest information, within a specified period of time when requested, and a final report of all game taken under the community harvest permit within 15 days of the close of the hunting season or as directed in the permit; and

(F) must make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board, if any, is observed by subscribers including meat sharing; the applicable board finding will be identified on the permit; this provision does not authorize the hunt administrator to deny subscription to any community resident;

(2) a resident who elects to subscribe to a community harvest permit:

(A) may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year, however a person may hold harvest tickets or permits for same - species hunts in areas with a larger bag limit following the close of the season for the community harvest permit;

(B) may not subscribe to more than one community harvest permit for a species during a regulatory year;

(C) must have in possession when hunting and taking game a community harvest report issued by the hunt administrator for each animal taken;

(D) must validate a community harvest report immediately upon taking an animal; and

(E) must report harvest and surrender validated harvest reports to the hunt administrator within 5 days, or sooner if required by the department, of taking an animal and transporting it to the place of final processing for preparation for human use and provide the hunt administrator with information and biological samples required under terms of the permit.

(F) must, if the community harvest hunt area is under a Tier II permit requirement for the species to be hunted, have received a Tier II permit for that area, species, and regulatory year.

(d) Seasons for community harvest permits will be the same as those established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the geographic area included in a community harvest hunt area, unless separate community harvest hunt seasons are established. The total bag limit for a community harvest permit will be equal to the sum of the individual bag limits established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the hunt area. Seasons and bag limits may vary within a hunt area according to established subsistence regulations for different game management units or other geographic delineations in a hunt area.

(e) Establishment of a community harvest hunt area will not constrain nonsubscribing residents from participating in subsistence harvest activities for a species in that hunt area using individual harvest tickets or other state permits authorized by regulation, nor will it require any resident eligible to hunt under existing subsistence regulations to subscribe to a community harvest permit.

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a hunt administrator who has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) of this subsection.

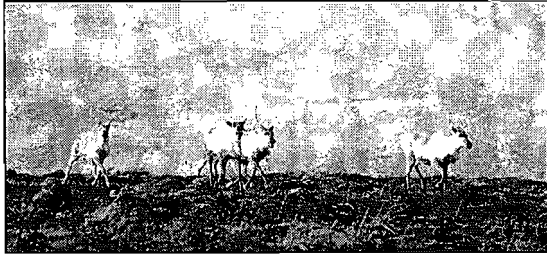
(g) A person may not give or receive a fee for the taking of game or receipt of meat pursuant to a community subsistence harvest permit.

(h) In this section, "fee"

(1) means a payment, wage, gift, or other remuneration for services provided while engaged in hunting under a community harvest permit;

(2) does not include reimbursement for actual expenses incurred during the hunting activity within the scope of the community harvest permit, or a non-cash exchange of subsistence-harvested resources

GMU 9 & 10 Predator Management Proposals 132 to 134

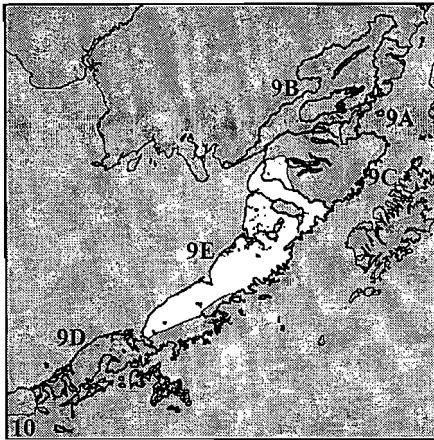


Proposal 133 Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E

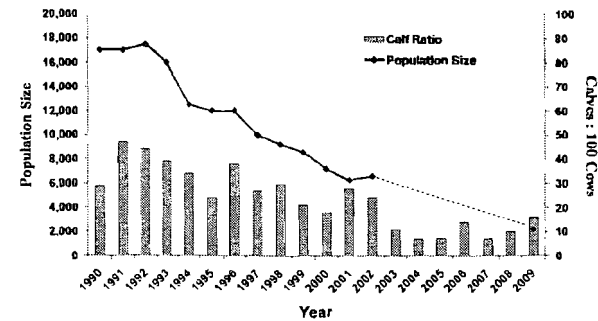
Predator Control Implementation Plan to benefit
caribou in Subunits 9C and 9E

Adopt

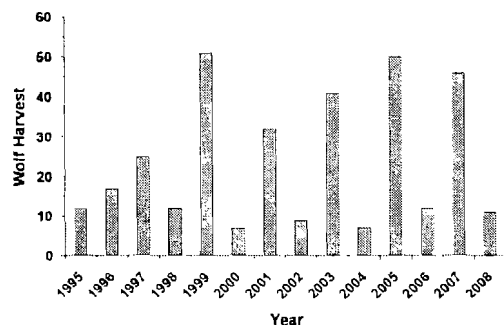
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd NAP Range



Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E NAP Population Status



Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E Wolf Harvest on NAP Range



Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E Intensive Management History

- **IM Population**
 - Population and Harvest objectives are not being met
 - Closed to all hunting since 2005
- **Intensive Management Options Evaluated by BOG at least 6 times since 1999**
- **Prior Board of Game Decisions**
 - Predator control was not considered feasible
 - Extent of Federal lands
 - Caribou - Nutrition was a key factor in the population decline

Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E NAP – Intensive Management

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Estimate</i>
Population Size	12,000 - 15,000	2,000
Harvest	800 - 1,500	0

<i>Season</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Bag Limit</i>	<i>Reduction</i>
Residents	Closed	-	Yes
Nonresidents	Closed	-	Yes

Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Statutory Considerations

- Has the big game populations been identified as important for high levels of human consumptive use (i.e. intensive management)?
 - Yes
- Has the board established population and harvest objectives?
 - Yes
- Have the population and harvest objectives been achieved?
 - No
- Has there been a significant reduction in take?
 - Yes
- Is predation an important cause of the failure to achieve population or harvest objectives?
 - **Predation is a Factor**
- Can a reduction in predation reasonably be expected to aid the reaching of the objectives?
 - Yes

Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Other Considerations

- Reduced seasons, reduced bag limits, elimination of non-resident hunting, etc.
 - Yes – Closed All Hunting Seasons
- Feasibility and cost effectiveness (i.e., what are the effects of weather, terrain, land ownership).
 - 70% Federal Lands
 - Weather Conditions
 - Poor Snow Cover
 - High Winds
 - Fuel Costs

Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E Proposed Plan

- **Implement only if Federal lands are included**
- **Implement in phases**
 - Initially implemented on primary range (80% of herd)
 - Expand to secondary range (20% of herd)
- **Primary work done by public – aerial control**
- **State “mop up”**
- **Monitor nutrition indices (k) and response**

Proposal 133 Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E

**Predator Control Implementation Plan to benefit
caribou in Subunits 9C and 9E**

Adopt

Proposal 134 NAP IM – Subunits 9C & 9E

**Adjusts the Intensive Management
Population Objective for the
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd**

Adopt

NAP IM – GMU 9C & 9E Objectives

	Current	Recommended
Population Size	12,000 – 15,000	6,000 - 15,000
Harvest Objective	800 – 1,500	800 – 1,500
ANS	1,200-1,900	???

Proposal 134 NAP IM – Subunits 9C & 9E

**Adjusts the Intensive Management
Population Objective for the
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd**

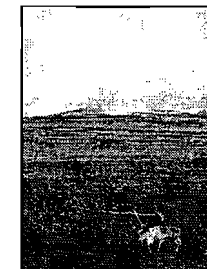
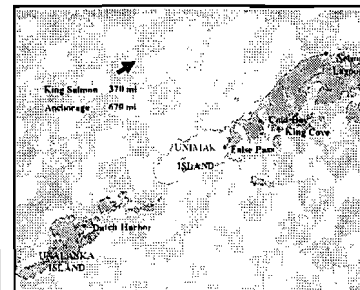
Adopt

Proposal 131 UCH – GMU 10

**Predator Management Implementation Plan for
the Unimak Caribou Herd**

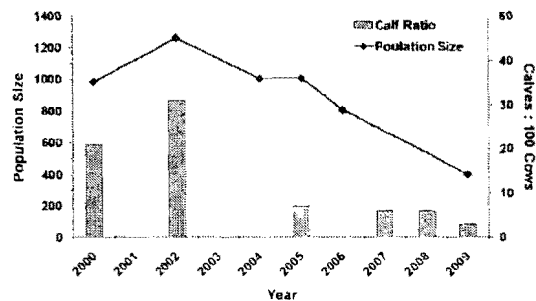
Adopt

Unimak Caribou Herd (UCH)

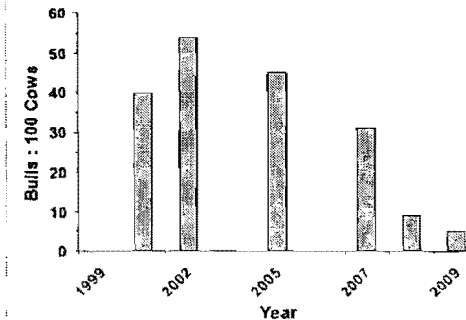


**Population Size: 400+
Status: Critical
No hunting**

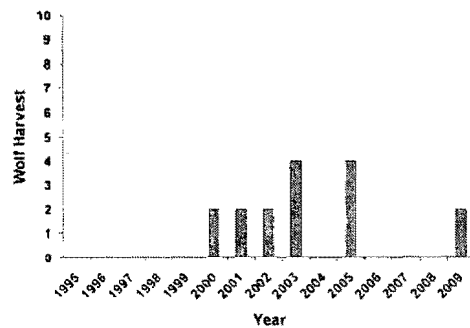
UCH – GMU 10 Population Status



UCH – GMU 10 Bull Ratio



UCH – GMU 10 Wolf Harvest



Proposal 131 UCH – GMU 10

- Not an IM Population
 - Possibly a consequence of our short historical perspective
- Important for Human Use (Subsistence and other)
 - Reduced population size since 1975
 - Valued by local residents
 - Provides additional opportunity for non-locals
- Possible Loss of Resource
- Federal Lands

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Staff Regulation Proposal Form

PROPOSAL - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans

5 AAC 92.125 (k) is amended to read:

(k) **Unit 9 Predation Control Areas.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation on the Alaska Peninsula in Units 9(C), 9(D), and 9(E):

(1) The Southern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area

5AAC 92.125 (k)(1-7) renumbered as 5AAC 92.125 (k)(1)(A-G)

(2) The Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area

(A) The Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area is established to facilitate growth in the Northern Alaska Peninsula (NAP) caribou herd on the mainland portions of Units 9(C) and 9(E) to aid in achieving intensive management objectives encompassing approximately 19,461 square miles (50,403 square kilometers); the wolf reduction areas includes all Alaska Peninsula drainages south of the south bank of the Naknek River and the southern boundary of Katmai National Park to a line from the southernmost head of Port Moller Bay to the head of American Bay, encompassing approximately 12,825 square miles (33,217 square kilometers);

(B) the discussion of wildlife populations and human use information is as follows:

(i) the NAP population information is as follows:

(a) the NAP was estimated at 20,000 caribou in the 1940s and again in the 1980s, but has declined to fewer than 3,000 caribou since the last peak population size; the most recent estimate of herd size was 2,000 to 2,500 caribou based on surveys conducted in October 2009;

(b) the initial decline in population size was attributed to nutritional limitations imposed by a depleted range following the peak in the 1980s; parasites and disease were also suspected to have had a negative influence on the herd's status;

(c) predator management was considered previously, but was not implemented because nutritional indices indicated that individuals of this herd were experiencing nutritional limitations that might be further aggravated by any attempts to increase herd size; indications of improved condition at this time include increased pregnancy rates, increased neonate weights, and increased calf weights; these changes alone have been insufficient to alter herd status;

(d) pregnancy rates of cows that were 24 months of age or older increased from 57% in 2005 (n=315) to 84% in 2009 (n=104);

(e) birthmass of calves increased during the period of 2005 to 2007; birthmass of male calves increased from 7.7kg in 2005 (n=26) to 8.0kg

in 2006 (n=19) and 8.6kg in 2007 (n=28); female calves born in 2005 weighed 7.8kg (n=15), 7.3kg in 2006 (n=30), and 8.0kg in 2007 (n=22);

(f) female calves captured at 10 months of age weighed 49.9kg in 2005 and 56.7kg in 2007; however the small sample size precludes statistical comparison;

(g) research into calf mortality documented survival rates during the first two months of life that averaged 14% during the period of 2005 through 2007 (n=143), which was significantly lower than survival rates observed in several other herds studied in the state; survival during the first two weeks of life has averaged 40% and survival from two weeks to two months averaged 34%; cause of death during the first two weeks of life was primarily attributed to wolves (43%) and brown bears (31%); cause of death could not be assessed after calves reached two weeks of life due to logistic limitations;

(h) calf:cow ratios in October averaged 10.3 calves per 100 cows during the period of 2003 to 2009 (range 7 to 16);

(i) bull:cow ratios declined to 19 bulls per 100 cows during the period of 2004 to 2009 despite hunting closures in 2005;

(j) harvestable surplus is estimated to be 0 caribou based on chronic poor calf recruitment and reduced bull:cow ratio;

(k) high levels of consumptive use have been a priority for the NAP; from 1990 to 1998 an average of 724 people reported hunting caribou, harvesting an average of 716 caribou annually; harvest has been regulated under the Tier II permit system since 1999;

(l) state and federal caribou hunts were closed in 2005 due to the continued population decline and low calf recruitment; the closure remains in place as of 2010;

(ii) the predator population and human use information is as follows

(a) wolves are a major predator of caribou on the Alaska Peninsula;

(b) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that wolves are typically responsible for 43% of the calf deaths during the first 2 weeks of a life;

(c) wolf density in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area is estimated at 7 wolves per 1000 square kilometers; anecdotal evidence obtained from biologists, pilots, trappers, and local residents indicates that wolves are abundant throughout the area;

(d) in 2008 the wolf population in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area was thought to include 200 to 300 wolves and composed of 30 to 50 packs based on habitat type and prey base;

(e) an average of 24 wolves (range of 7 to 50 wolves) have been harvested annually in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area;

(f) brown bears are considered to be an important predator of caribou on the Alaska Peninsula; while brown bears have been known

to kill adult caribou opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 10 days of life;

(g) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that brown bears are typically responsible for 31% of the calf deaths during the first 2 weeks of a life;

(h) brown bears are considered abundant throughout the Alaska Peninsula; densities range from 100 to 150 bears per 1000 square kilometers in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area;

(i) brown bear harvests in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area have averaged 179 brown bear annually from 2000 to 2007;

(C) predator and prey population levels and objectives and the basis for those objectives are as follows:

(i) intensive management population objectives established by the Board of Game for the NAP is 6,000 - 15,000 caribou; the intensive management harvest objective is 800 - 1,500 caribou annually; population and harvest objectives have not been met for 15 years;

(a) intensive management objectives were established by the Board of Game based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;

(b) the estimated NAP population in October 2009 was 2,000 to 2,500 caribou;

(c) hunting seasons for the NAP were closed in July 2005; No legal harvest of caribou has occurred for the NAP since the 2004 regulatory year;

(ii) wolf population objectives for Unit 9 is to maintain a wolf population that can sustain a 3-year-annual harvest of 50 wolves; the wolf population objective for Unit 9 is currently being met;

(iii) brown bear population objectives for Unit 9 are to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60% males, with 50 males 8 years of age or older during combined fall and spring seasons; the brown bear population objective for Unit 9 is currently being met;

(D) justification, objectives, and thresholds for the predator management implementation plan are as follows:

(i) justification for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predator Management Area is based on the Board of Game decision to designate the NAP important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the Board of Game established objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of caribou in Units 9C and 9E consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;

(ii) the objectives of the program are to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for human harvest, and allow for population growth toward objectives; the goal of this program is to reduce the number of wolves in specified wolf reduction areas that demonstrate a history of repeated use by caribou; the two wolf reduction areas are as follows:

- (a) the northern wolf reduction area is defined as all lands that drain into the Bering Sea between the southern bank of the Naknek River in Unit 9(C) and the northern bank Meshik River in Unit 9(E) and all lands in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Pacific Ocean between and including Alinchak Bay and Kujulik Bay, encompassing 9,047 square miles (23,432 square kilometers);**
- (b) the southern wolf reduction area is defined as all lands in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Bering Sea between the southern bank of Fracture Creek and Port Moller Bay, encompassing 1,300 square miles (3,367 square kilometers);**

(iii) The commissioner may initiate the reduction of wolf numbers in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predator Management Area according to the following thresholds:

- (a) the caribou population is below intensive management objectives established by the Board of Game and caribou harvest objectives are not being met;**
- (b) nutrition is not considered to be the primary factor limiting caribou population growth;**
- (c) calf recruitment is an important factor limiting population growth and calf survival during the first four weeks of life is less than 50%;**

(iv) the commissioner may continue to reduce wolf numbers in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management area until the following thresholds can be met without the benefit of wolf reduction:

- (a) the bull:cow ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf:cow ratio can be sustained above 25 calves per hundred cows; or**
- (b) the population can grow at a sustained rate of 5% annually; or**
- (c) harvest objectives can be met;**

(v) the commissioner will suspend the wolf reduction program if the following conditions are observed pending further review by the Alaska Board of Game to determine if the program can be modified to achieve the objectives of this program before reinstating the program; hunting and trapping by the public specified in other sections of this title may continue and are not subject to this clause;

- (a) caribou nutritional indices as evidenced by pregnancy rates, calf or adult body mass, or other condition indices exhibit a declining trend from current values; or**

(b) fall calf:cow ratios remain below 20 calves per hundred cows for 3 consecutive years following the initiation of the wolf reduction program; or

(c) the bull:cow ratio remains below the caribou population objectives and does not increase for 3 consecutive years following the initiation of the wolf reduction program;

(vi) the wolf population objective for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area is to reduce wolf numbers in wolf reduction areas within Units 9(C) and 9(E); Because wolves will not be removed from all lands within the management area and because logistic limitations prohibit public access to the majority of lands within the management area, the majority of wolves in Unit 9(C) and 9(E) will not be affected by the management activities authorized by this plan;

(vii) reduction of predators by humans is necessary to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the herd, provide for human harvest, and allow for population growth toward objectives;

(viii) reduction of wolf numbers in prescribed wolf reduction areas is expected to increase caribou calf survival and recruitment and increase the bull:cow ratio to management objectives;

(ix) reduction of bear numbers remains problematic due to the high density of brown bears in Units 9(C) and 9(E), logistical limitations, and competing management priorities;

(E) the authorized methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:

(i) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in treatment areas during the term of the management program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080;

(ii) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, allow agents of the State to conduct aerial shooting, or allow Department employees to conduct aerial shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;

(iii) the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or state owned, privately owned, or charter equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(F) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(i) for up to 10 years beginning July 1, 2010, the commissioner may reduce the wolf populations in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area;

(ii) annually the Department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the Board of Game a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of

caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(G) other specifications that the Board of Game considers necessary:

(i) the commissioner shall suspend wolf reduction activities

(a) when prey population management objectives are obtained;

(b) predation management objectives are met;

(c) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce wolf numbers in the wolf reduction areas;

(ii) the commissioner shall annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objectives are met.

5 AAC 92.125 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Unit 10 Predation Control Area. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation on the Unimak Island in Unit 10:

(1) The Unimak Wolf Management Area is established to reverse the population decline and facilitate population growth in the Unimak caribou herd (UCH) on Unimak Island in Unit 10; the UCH has been identified an important resource for subsistence and other uses; the Unimak Wolf Management Area includes all of Unimak Island, encompassing approximately 1,571 square miles; the control area is approximately 900 square miles and includes 57 percent of the lands within the management area;

(2) the discussion of wildlife populations and human use information is as follows:

(A) the UCH population information is as follows:

(i) the UCH has occupied Unimak Island throughout recorded history and was estimated at 5,000 caribou in 1975; the UCH population size was estimated to include 1,200 caribou in 2002 before entering a population decline; the most recent estimate of herd size was 400 caribou based on surveys conducted by Izembek National Wildlife Refuge staff in February 2010;

(ii) the cause of the UCH population decline was not investigated initially, however low caribou calf survival is the primary cause of the decline currently;

(iii) calf ratios in October averaged 5.5 calves per 100 cows during the period of 2005 to 2009 (range 3 to 7);

(iv) bull ratios declined from 45 to 5 bulls per 100 cows during the period of 2005 to 2009; the decreased bull ratio is attributed to the lack of calf recruitment and cannot be explained by caribou harvests;

(v) pregnancy rates of cows that were 24 months of age or older decreased from 85% in 2008 (n=113) to 68% in 2009 (n=40); the decreased pregnancy rate is attributed to the inability of some reproductive females to find mates for breeding, which is caused by the low bull ratio;

(vi) adult female caribou in the UCH have excellent body condition based on a study conducted in 2009; nutrition and range conditions are not limiting reproduction or caribou survival;

(vii) harvestable surplus is estimated to be 0 caribou based on chronic poor calf recruitment and reduced bull ratio;

(viii) state and federal caribou hunts were closed in 2009 due to the continued population decline and low calf recruitment; the closure remains in place as of 2010;

(B) the predator population and human use information is as follows

(i) wolves are a major predator of caribou on Unimak Island;

(ii) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that wolf predation is a major cause of caribou calf deaths during the first

2 weeks of a life and continue to be a major predator throughout the year; wolf predation was the primary cause of calf deaths in the adjacent Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9D; the removal of 20 adult wolves from caribou calving grounds in Unit 9D during 2 years of a wolf predation management program increased caribou calf survival from 1 percent to 71 percent;

(iii) wolf density on the Alaska Peninsula is estimated at 7 wolves per 1000 square kilometers; wolf densities in the Unimak Wolf Management Area was thought to be similar based on observations made by biologists during caribou surveys; anecdotal evidence obtained from pilots, hunters, and local residents indicates that wolves are abundant throughout the area;

(iv) no wolf surveys have been conducted in the Unimak Wolf Management Area; wolves are frequently observed in the UCH calving ground; the Unimak Wolf Management Area was thought to include 20 to 30 wolves and composed of 3 to 5 packs based on habitat type and prey base;

(v) an average of 2 wolves (range of 0 to 4 wolves) have been harvested annually in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(vi) brown bears are considered to be an important predator of caribou on the Alaska Peninsula and on Unimak Island; while brown bears have been known to kill adult caribou opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 10 days of life;

(vii) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that brown bears can be an important predator of caribou calves during the first 2 weeks of life; brown bear predation was a less important cause of caribou calf mortality than wolf predation in adjacent herds, Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9C & 9E and Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9D, which have similar ecosystems;

(viii) brown bears are considered abundant on Unimak Island; the brown bear density is 100 bears per 1000 square kilometers in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(ix) brown bear harvests in the Unimak Wolf Management Area have averaged 10 brown bear annually from 2000 to 2008;

(3) predator and prey population levels and objectives and the basis for those objectives are as follows:

(A) management population objectives for the UCH is to maintain a population of 1,000 caribou with a bull ratio of at least 35 bulls:100 cows; the amount necessary for subsistence is 100 - 150 caribou annually and includes caribou harvested from the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9D; the caribou harvest objective required to meet the amount necessary for subsistence has not been met for 18 years;

- (i) management objectives were established based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;**
- (ii) hunting seasons for the UCH were closed in March 2009;**
- (iii) the UCH population contained a minimum of 400 caribou in February 2010;**

(B) wolf population objectives for Unimak Island have not been established;

(C) brown bear population objectives for Unit 10 are to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of at least 60% males; the brown bear population objective for Unit 10 is currently being met;

(4) justification, objectives, and thresholds for the predator management implementation plan are as follows:

(A) justification for the Unimak Predator Management Area is based on the board decision to designate the UCH as being important for providing caribou for human consumptive use including subsistence; the Board established objectives for population size and composition in Unit 10 consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;

(B) the objectives of the program are to halt the decline of the UCH and to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population; the goal of this program is to reduce the number of wolves in a specified control area that demonstrates a history of repeated use by caribou; the control area includes all lands on Unimak Island that are west of the 164 degree West line of longitude; the control area includes 900 square miles and includes approximately 57% of the lands within the Unimak Wolf Management Area.

(C) The commissioner may initiate the reduction of wolf numbers in the Unimak Predator Management Area according to the following thresholds:

- (i) the caribou population is below management objectives established by the board;**
- (ii) nutrition is not considered to be the primary factor limiting caribou population growth;**
- (iii) calf recruitment is an important factor limiting population growth and calf survival during the first four weeks of life is less than 50%;**

(D) the commissioner may continue to reduce wolf numbers in the Unimak Predation Management area until the following thresholds can be met without the benefit of wolf reduction:

- (i) the bull ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf ratio can be sustained above 25 calves per hundred cows;**
- or**
- (ii) the population can grow at a sustained rate of 5% annually; or**
- (iii) harvest objectives can be met;**

(E) the commissioner will suspend the wolf reduction program if the following conditions are observed pending further review by the Alaska Board of Game to determine if the program can be modified to achieve the objectives of this program before reinstating the program; hunting and trapping by the public specified in other sections of this title may continue and are not subject to this clause;

(i) caribou nutritional indices such as pregnancy rates, calf and adult body mass, or other condition indices exhibit a declining trend from current values and the bull ratio is greater than 20 bulls:100 cows; or

(ii) fall caribou calf ratios remain below 20 calves per hundred cows for 3 consecutive years of wolf removal from the Unimak Wolf Management Area; or

(iii) the bull ratio remains below the caribou population objectives and does not increase for 3 consecutive years of wolf removal from the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(F) the wolf population objective for the Unimak Wolf Management Area is to reduce wolf numbers in the control area on Unimak Island in Unit 10; wolves will not be removed from 43% of the lands within the management area that are outside the boundaries of the control area; because wolves will not be removed from all lands within the management area, logistic limitations prohibit public access to the majority of lands within the management area, and wolf harvest by the public is low, only a portion of the wolf population on Unimak Island will be affected by the management activities authorized by this plan;

(G) reduction of predators by humans is necessary to stop the caribou population decline and to promote population recovery;

(H) reduction of wolf numbers in the prescribed control area is expected to increase caribou calf survival and recruitment and increase the caribou bull ratio to management objectives;

(I) reduction of bear numbers remains problematic due to the high density of brown bears in Unit 10, logistical limitations, and competing management priorities;

(5) the authorized methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in treatment areas during the term of the management program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title;

(B) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, allow agents of the State to conduct aerial shooting, or allow Department employees to conduct aerial shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;

(C) the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or state owned or charter equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(6) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(A) for up to 10 years beginning April 1, 2010, the commissioner may reduce the wolf populations in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(B) annually the Department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(7) other specifications that the board considers necessary:

(A) the commissioner shall suspend wolf control activities

(i) when prey population management objectives are obtained;

(ii) predation management objectives are met;

(iii) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predator control plan area;

(B) the commissioner shall annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objectives are met.

AC 168

**Summary of Advisory Committee Comment
on Antlerless Moose Proposals
Board of Game Southcentral/Southwest Region Meeting
February 26 – March 7, 2010**

Prepared by Boards Support Section

Proposal number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee location	Committee action (comment number)
109	1C (Gustavus)	Juneau-Douglas Icy Straits	Subunit outside unit	Support (minutes not available)
108	1C (Berner's Bay)	Juneau-Douglas	Subunit	Support (minutes not available)
110	5A (Nunatak Bench)	Yakutat	Subunit	
111	6A	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support, AC 18
113	6C	Copper River/PWS	Subunit	Support, AC 18
112	6B	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support, AC 18
115	7, 14C	Seward Cooper Landing Anchorage Matanuska Valley Kenai/Soldotna Seldovia	Unit Unit Unit outside unit outside unit	Support, RC 116 Support, AC 10 Support, RC 151
116	14C (Ft. Rich.)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, RC 162
118	14C (Birchwood MA)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 10 Support, RC 162
119	14C (EAFB)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 10 Support, RC 162
117	14C (Anch MA)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 10 Support, RC 162
120	14C (Ship Creek)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 10 Support, RC 162
114	14A	Matanuska Valley Anchorage	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 162 Support, AC 10
122	15C (Homer)	Central Peninsula Homer Seldovia Kenai/Soldotna Anchorage Cooper Landing Seward	Subunit Subunit Subunit Unit outside unit outside unit outside unit	Oppose, RC 71 Support (phone poll; no minutes available) Support, RC 151 Support, RC 116

Summary of AC Comment on Antlerless Moose Proposals (continued)

Proposal number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee location	Committee action (comment number)
121	15A (Skilak Loop)	Kenai/Soldotna Central Peninsula Seldovia Anchorage Cooper Landing Seward	Subunit Unit Unit outside unit outside unit outside unit	Support, RC 151 Support, RC 71 Support, AC 10
123	16B (Kalgan)	Tyonek Mt. Yenlo Matanuska Valley Central Peninsula Seldovia Anchorage Cooper Landing	Subunit Unit outside unit outside unit outside unit outside unit outside unit	 Support, RC 71 Support, AC 10 Support, RC 116
42	20B (FMA/Minto Flats)	Fairbanks Minto-Nenana Delta	Subunit Subunit Subunit	Support w/am AC 5 Delta, AC1
42	20B (F.M.A.)	Fairbanks Delta	Subunit Subunit	Support, AC 5 Support, AC 1
42	20B (Creamers)	Fairbanks Delta	Subunit Subunit	Support, AC 5 Support, AC 1
42	20B (east of FMA)	Fairbanks Minto-Nenana Delta	Subunit Subunit Subunit	Support, AC 5 Delta, AC1
**	18 (Proposal passed at Fall Mtg)	Lower Kuskokwim Lower Yukon Central Bering		
40	20A	Middle Nenana Riv. Minto/Nenana Fairbanks Delta Denali	Subunit Subunit Unit Unit	Support, AC 4 Support, AC 5 Support, AC 1 Support, RC 46
73	20D	Delta Fairbanks	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 1 Support, AC 5
127	22C & D	N. Norton Sound	Subunit	Support, AC 5
125	23	Kotzebue Noatak/Kivalina Lower Kobuk Upper Kobuk North. Seward Pen.	Unit Unit Unit Unit Unit	Support AC 14 Support, AC 17 Support, AC 17
126	26A Colville River	North Slope/Arctic	Unit	Support, RC 71

HOUSE BILL NO. 267

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KELLY AND NEUMAN, Tammie Wilson

Introduced: 1/19/10

Referred: Transportation, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to travel by snow machine within five miles of the right-of-way of the
2 James Dalton Highway."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 19.40.210 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.** Off-road vehicles are
6 prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway. However, this
7 prohibition does not apply to

8 (1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration,
9 development, production, or transportation;

10 (2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway
11 and who must use land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway to gain
12 access to the mining claim; or

13 (3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway between
14 October 1 and April 30 [CORRIDOR FROM LAND OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR

1 TO ACCESS LAND OUTSIDE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR; THIS
2 PARAGRAPH DOES NOT PERMIT THE USE OF A SNOW MACHINE FOR ANY
3 PURPOSE WITHIN THE CORRIDOR IF THE USE BEGINS OR ENDS WITHIN
4 THE CORRIDOR OR WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY OR IF
5 THE USE IS FOR TRAVEL WITHIN THE CORRIDOR THAT IS PARALLEL TO
6 THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY; IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "HIGHWAY
7 CORRIDOR" MEANS LAND WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY
8 OF THE HIGHWAY].

RC 170

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2006-164-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY
MAY 14, 2006**

GENERAL BEAR MANAGEMENT

Purposes of Policy

1. To assure all management actions provide for the conservation of Alaska's bear species, their habitat and food sources, and are consistent with the Alaska Constitution, and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review and comment and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the long-term conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To increase public awareness and understanding of the uses, conservation, and management of bears and their habitat in Alaska.

Background

Brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) are large omnivores found throughout most of Alaska. Although they are considered the same species, brown and grizzly bears occupy different habitats and have somewhat different lifestyles and body configurations. Grizzlies are typically found in interior and northern areas. They are generally smaller than brown bears and more predatory. Brown bears live in coastal areas of southern Alaska where they have access to productive salmon streams.

Brown/grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska, and unlike populations in the contiguous 48 states, they are not considered a threatened or endangered species. Estimating precise population numbers is difficult because of the bears' secretive habits and often densely vegetated habitat, but in most places in the state, populations are considered stable or increasing. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, bear densities typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²).

Densities as low as 7 bears/1,000 km² (20 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded an estimate

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of 31,700 brown bears in 1993. All indications are that the population has increased in the past decade.

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Black bears also occupy their historic range in Alaska, often overlapping distribution with brown/grizzly bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is very difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²). A statewide black bear population estimate is not available because, unlike the many brown/grizzly bear and wolf estimates that are available across the state, very few black bear population estimates have been conducted.

Brown/grizzly bears have relatively low reproductive rates and require abundant resources. Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown/grizzly bears; however, rates are still lower than for other big game animals with the exception of brown/grizzly bears. Population stability can be threatened by human-caused mortality and from fragmentation or destruction of habitat. This combination is present to a sufficient extent on the Kenai Peninsula that brown/grizzly bears there have been designated by the State as a "population of special concern". To address situations where bear populations have declined because of human activities, the Department has implemented remedial management actions. In the Kenai situation, a conservation strategy has been developed through a public stakeholder process.

In most areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, in some areas such as Unit 20B and 20D in the interior, the Kenai Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska, hunter demand for black bears is high, harvest is high, and these populations require closer monitoring. Bears are intelligent animals that learn to adapt to new situations. This ability, coupled with their enduring drive to rebuild fat reserves prior to denning, makes bears experts in finding ways to get a meal. Garbage is often a source of food from people. If this happens, bears learn to exploit human-related food resources and lose their natural tendencies to avoid people. Frequently, such bears become classified as "nuisance" bears and often are killed in defense of life or property (DLP).

Respected by most, and feared by many, bears can pose a threat in certain situations. Statewide, there are an average of about six encounters a year in which a human is injured. About half of those involve hunters in search of other quarry. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality.

Whenever bears and people interact with each other there are potential benefits and dangers. Displacing bears from feeding sites has serious consequences for them. Human behavior around bears not only impacts their own personal safety and viewing experience,

it also impacts the health and safety of the bears and the people who come to the area later. When bears and people meet, it is important that bears never get food from them and that people are trained how to react to bear encounters. Comprehensive education is recognized as a vital component in all aspects of any bear viewing program.

Public interest in bears has increased dramatically in Alaska during the past decade. Some of this interest is incidental to other pursuits such as sport fishing, hiking, flight seeing, eco-tours, or marine water cruises but some of it is specifically targeted at bear viewing. Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. As a result, private entrepreneur businesses are providing viewing opportunities in some high-density bear areas. Many of these sites and programs involve highly habituated bears that most frequently result in mutually exclusive conflicts with other uses of bears. Habituation of bears should be discouraged and maximum public benefits pursued by providing management programs designed to provide for public viewing opportunities in areas where other uses are already excluded or to carefully integrate uses on a time and area basis.

Alaska is world-renowned as a brown/grizzly bear hunting area. Alaska is the only place in the United States where they are hunted in large numbers, and the vast majority of record book bears come from the state. An average of about 1,500 brown/grizzly bears are harvested each year. The trend has been increasing. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. In areas where a population of large ungulates has been reduced to low levels, bears may have a significant influence on the decline of species such as moose, caribou and deer. This is especially true when bears are found in combination with thriving wolf populations. Alaskan studies of bear interactions with moose, for instance, indicate that bears may contribute significantly to calf mortality. Coupled with wolf predation, the combined mortality rates can far exceed human induced mortality and contribute to major moose population declines, depressed populations and delayed recoveries. The role of bears in these situations greatly exacerbates the debate over predator control and complicates evaluation of potential and initiated management actions.

Guiding Principles

1. Manage bear populations to allow a wide range of human uses, while providing for long-term bear population sustainability.
2. Establish minimum population goals that ensure the long-term viability of bears recognizing the reproductive capacity of each bear species.
3. Manage bears at the scale of subunits or units to achieve appropriate overall predator-prey relationships rather than pursue single species management.
4. Protect the genetic diversity of bears.
5. Continue and, if appropriate, accelerate research for the management of bears.

6. Consider short-term and long-term effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on bear populations.
7. Provide for consumptive and non-consumptive uses of bears in management plans and encourage economic benefit to the state and its citizens while maintaining sustainable bear populations.
8. Do not allow identified prey populations to decline to a point where predation keeps them at low levels.
9. Avoid, where possible, activities that encourage the habituation of bears and manage bear viewing opportunities that are not mutually exclusive of other uses.
10. Encourage wildlife viewing of bears and other species in their natural settings as part of a broader outdoor experience.
11. Implement this policy in such a manner that the Department and the Board can respond promptly to unforeseen situations.
12. Pursue informational and educational efforts to help the public understand more about bears and their management.
13. Work with enforcement agencies to identify priorities and to assist with and encourage adequate enforcement activities.
14. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management

A. Management Strategies

The Department will manage both bear species differently according to their population and human use characteristics in different parts of the state. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, bears are managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In many other areas of the state, bear populations are largely unaffected by human harvest. Bears are an important big game species sought by resident and nonresident hunters and are managed for a variety of objectives.

Generally, bear hunting will be conducted on a sustained yield basis, except in areas where a bear predation control program is authorized. Harvests will not be allowed to threaten the long-term population survival of bears. In most areas of the state, sustained brown/grizzly bear harvests will generally be 4-8 percent of the estimated total population and up to 12 percent for black bears. Some bear populations may be able to sustain a harvest above these guidelines and these will be evaluated for more liberal harvest programs. Lacking precise population data, managers will continue applying indirect parameter to assess the status of bear populations.

All brown/grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Black bears must be sealed in some units but not all. Non-resident hunters of brown/grizzly bears must be accompanied in the field by a registered big game guide or a resident relative. For both species, sows accompanied by cubs, and the cubs, are protected, but cubs are defined as bears in their first year of life for

black bears and for the first two years of life for brown/grizzly bears. The Department will continue to maintain these strategies and regulations for most of the state, unless it is necessary to consider methods to increase bear harvests as part of a bear predator control program.

The effect of management actions on the economic contribution of bears to Alaska's users of bears should be considered. Maintaining a regulatory structure that assures reasonable standards of data integrity with responsible management strategies and population sustainability will help avoid threats of international sanctions. Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs and will consider the impacts on subsistence activities.

Bear viewing and bear/human interactions are also important aspects of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety or bears or other legitimate uses of bears. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in many situations. However, there are areas where the two uses are potentially mutually exclusive. Land and wildlife managers are faced with tough decisions that could either minimize those conflicts or promote single use regulations at the expense of other uses. For instance, federal withdrawals totaling over 40 million acres are managed to protect large segments of Alaska's big game resources habitat and major portions of these areas provide park-like observation opportunities. Logically these areas could first be utilized for habituated wildlife viewing opportunities before traditional uses of bears and other wildlife are unnecessarily impacted in other areas. Bear management programs on state and private lands should be designed to achieve maximum benefits to Alaskans. Specifically, state management programs should avoid habituating bears wherever possible. Conflicts between user groups can frequently be reduced if viewing programs adopt "best viewing practices."

In areas where bear management plans have been developed, the Department will adhere to the recommendations included in those plans as long as they are consistent with the newest policies and regulations adopted by the Board.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

B. Research Strategies

Developing and implementing precise, cost-effective methods for determining bear populations will continue to be a research priority for the Department. Work to date suggests that no single population estimation method will work across the state given the vast areas, varied topography, differing vegetation communities and great differences in bear density. Some methods work well in one area but not in another. Aerial stream

surveys, line-transect surveys, capture-mark-recapture, intensive aerial surveys, and DNA analysis are some of the tools that can be utilized to provide population estimates.

Predator-prey relationships between bears and large ungulates have not been thoroughly examined in most of the state. Bears use a wide variety of foods seasonally including vegetation, fish, mammals, birds, and carrion and they are exceptionally adaptable in their ability to capitalize on available food resources. Consequently, the impact of ungulate prey abundance on bears is difficult to ascertain. Similarly, the impact of bears on prey populations is multifaceted and can be further compounded by the presence of other predators such as wolves.

Where appropriate, the Department will cooperate in research efforts with other agencies. Research findings will be reported in a timely fashion and presented in a form that is easily understood by the public.

C. Information and Education Strategies

Public education is critical in any bear management program. Perhaps as much as any species in Alaska, bears elicit a wide variety of emotions, have myriad uses, and directly impact peoples' lives both in the field and near settlements. Clear, objective information is necessary for citizens and managers alike to make wise decisions when dealing with bears. As the agency primarily responsible for bear management, the Department must take a lead role in producing and disseminating this information.

Bear information will be developed for a wide range of audiences and be delivered in a variety of media. A principal focus of bear education will be to promote a better understanding of life history, behavior, and habitat associations. Specific messages will include discussions of bear/human interactions, bear hunting, bear viewing, and bear predation on moose, caribou, and sheep. To assure consistent and accurate presentation of bear information, the Department will continue to work with the Alaska Interagency Bear Safety Education Committee.

The Department will strive to include the public in all bear management decisions. The primary method of public involvement will be through existing local Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Board processes. Citizen-driven bear management plans will be sponsored and supported by the Department. To date, such plans have been developed for Game Management Unit 4, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Kodiak Archipelago. The Department is committed to implementing as many of the recommendations from bear management plans as possible.

Because of the economic importance of guiding and other commercial enterprises associated with the varied uses of bear, it is recommended that extra efforts are made to notify all concerned parties that area specific predator control activities are being considered.

BEAR PREDATION MANAGEMENT

Purpose of Policy

1. To guide the Board of Game (Board) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) in implementing any bear predation management actions pursuant to AS 16.05.255(e) and 5 AAC 92.106, when the Board determines ungulate populations important for human consumption are being kept at low levels because of bear predation.

Goals

1. To provide guidelines for developing, implementing, and evaluating bear management actions designed to reduce bear specific predation in precise areas for specific time periods required by predator control implementation plans.

Background

In areas where the Board has authorized for intensive management (IM) activities, set IM population and harvest objectives and those objectives are not being met and bear predation has been found to be a major factor in the decline in prey populations or in keeping prey populations from recovering, the Board can authorize bears to be included in predator control planning. Whenever bears are considered and authorized for predator control activities, the implementation control plan must specify whether one or both bear species are to be considered in the control plan.

Based on careful consideration of scientific information and public comment, the Department and the Board believe that in some limited circumstances it may be beneficial and appropriate to control predation by bears to achieve population and human use objectives.

Guiding Principles

1. Where bear reductions are authorized, the first step should be to reduce bear numbers through general hunting provisions such as liberalized seasons, bag limits, hunting methods and means and tag wavers.
2. Where predation regulates prey populations, identify to the extent possible, the relative contribution by each primary predator species so that management response can be focused and effective.
3. Implement measures to reduce black and/or brown bear numbers to allow prey species to increase population management objectives in areas managed for high consumptive use where predation by bears itself or in combination with other predators is keeping prey at low levels.
4. Manage bears at the appropriate scale that may vary from an entire Game Management Unit to a specifically defined area (e.g. key calving sites).
5. If liberalization of general hunting provisions does not adequately reduce the target bear population, an additional control program may be authorized. This program should be conducted for the minimum time necessary to achieve the stated

management objectives and may utilize methods and means not approved for general hunting.

6. Consider the management goals and objectives of state, federal, and private land owners and work cooperatively with them to design, implement, and evaluate bear control activities.
7. Encourage federal and private land owners, where possible, to work cooperatively in any management and/or species control programs.
8. If reduction in bear numbers fail to result in reasonable increases in availability of prey populations for human use, management practices intended to reduce bear populations should be reconsidered.

Management Strategies

In areas where bears have been identified as an important component in reducing and/or holding prey populations well below objectives, higher harvest levels than those listed under general management strategies will be allowed. In these areas, specific harvest reporting conditions will be imposed which may include additional requirements for permits, sealing, and/or reporting. In addition, the Department will closely monitor the effects of higher harvest on the bear and prey populations.

Research Strategies

In areas where bear predation control programs are considered, the Department may conduct research to quantify the contributions of each bear species and of wolves to the causes of decline in the ungulate population important for human use. Alternatively, the Department may use standard survey and inventory data and interpretation of other research results to guide the decision-making process. Monitoring activities designed to determine the effects of high levels of bear harvest on recovery of depressed ungulate populations would help focus management efforts in the most cost-effective manner.

Information and Education Strategies

In any situation where the Board or Department believes bear predation control may become necessary, the public will be informed as soon as possible. Detailed information on the specific location, the predator, prey and habitat concerns, and the proposed management action and its anticipated costs and duration will be widely disseminated. Public meetings may be held in the affected area and in major Alaska communities, in addition to regularly scheduled Board and Advisory Committee meetings. Once implemented, the Department will provide the Board and the public with an annual report and evaluation of the management action.

Board Consideration

The Board may consider bear control on a bear species when:

1. Bear predation has been determined to be an important factor in the decline of a prey population or is preventing recovery of a low density prey population.

2. Bear predation is an important factor preventing attainment of approved prey population of human-use objectives.
3. Efforts to control bear predation can be reasonably expected to achieve improvement in sustainable human use of ungulates.

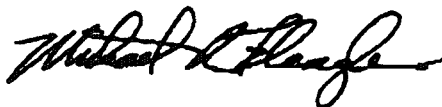
If the Department or the Board determines that one or more of these conditions exist in a given IM area, at the Board's direction, an implementation plan will be prepared for public review.

It is the intent of the Board of Game that bear control programs authorized under this policy shall be directed at only specified target areas and is not intended for implementation under general hunting regulations.

Under methods and means the Board may selectively consider:

- Relocation
- Sterilization
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentive
- Use of bears for handicraft items for sale
- Trapping
- Bear baiting
- Changing the definition of a legal bear
- Same day airborne taking, except aerial shooting
- Diversionary feeding

Vote: 7/0
May 14, 2006
Anchorage, Alaska



Mike Fleagle, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

RL71

5 AAC 99.0XX In the identification by the Board of Game of game populations or portions of game populations that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses under 5 AAC 99.010(b), "subsistence way of life" means a way of life that is based on consistent, long term reliance, when available, upon the fish and game resources to supplement the basic necessities of life.

To : Alaska Board of Game
From : Steve Flory
Topic : Moratorium Set on Discussion or Regulations.

RC 172

It would be my desire and recommendation that the Board of game reconsider making a moratorium on the Buffer Zone regulation or any regulation that it passes.

My reasoning for this is this follows :

- 1) The legislature created the Board and Advisory Committee system in order that the people of the State would have the ability to address Fish and Game's regulation quickly. The fear was that the legislature itself would not be able to respond quick enough nor have the time to listen to the complete concern of the people.
- 2) The courts have determine that one legislature cannot bind the next legislature.
- 3) Since the Board's power comes from the legislatures, it's stand to reason that it would have the same limitation.
- 4) The board's moratorium on any regulation or subject takes away the public's right of re-address of any perceived injustice whether right or wrong. The people's right to petition the government in the United State must not be abridge.
- 5) While I can understand the Board's desire not to take up the same subject every 2 years and listen to the same 2 sides battle it out over and over, I submit that it's exactly the Board's responsibility, it might not be fun, it maybe tedious and aggravating, but public service often calls for this type of sacrifices.

I wish the board to know that the side I supported won the vote in this debate and I am grateful that that was the decision of the day, however the founding fathers of this country and this state fought, that all sides would be heard and even though I disagree with those who would argue the other side of this debate, I stand ready to defend there right to re-address. Whenever you have done a moratorium, board support staff will not except proposals to either take up that subject or the subject of the moratorium itself. This robs the public of the ability to debate the merits and as you know it only take one member of the board to make the motion, to bring a proposal to the table and a second, so only 2 are required to begin debate. As long as board members are coming with an open mind, these 2 could present an argument of persuasion to the rest of the board and could end up with a majority vote. My disagreement with a single member of this board over the improper use of moratorium should not enter in to the debate. Board members must set their ego aside to do the public work.

Sincerely,

Steve Flory.

RC 173

26-LS0443\E

HOUSE BILL NO. 249

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOULE

Introduced: 1/19/10

Referred: Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to regulations adopted by the Big Game Commercial Services Board
2 and to the definition of 'transportation services' in relation to big game hunting."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 08.54.600(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The board may adopt regulations as the board considers appropriate to

6 (1) establish a code of ethics for professions regulated by the board;

7 (2) establish requirements for the contents of written contracts to
8 provide big game hunting services and transportation services to clients;

9 (3) authorize the department to request a copy of a big game hunting
10 services or transportation services contract entered into by a person licensed under this
11 chapter;

12 **(4) regulate**

13 **(A) registered guide-outfitters allowed in a guide use area;**

14 **(B) licensed transporters allowed in a transporter use area;**

1 **and**

2 **(C) clients of big game hunting services allowed in a guide**

3 **use area.**

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 08.54.750(g) is amended to read:

5 (g) At least 60 days before providing transportation services to, from, or in an
6 area as may be determined by the board, a transporter shall inform the department, in
7 person or by registered mail on a registration form provided by the department, that
8 the transporter will be providing transportation services to, from, or in the use area.
9 The board **shall** [MAY] establish transporter use areas **that match the geographic**
10 **boundaries of guide use areas** and **may** adopt regulations to implement this
11 subsection as the board considers necessary.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.54.790(10) is amended to read:

13 (10) "transportation services" means the carriage for compensation of
14 big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters to, from,
15 or in the field; "transportation services" does not include the carriage by aircraft of big
16 game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters

17 [(A)] on nonstop flights between airports listed in the Alaska
18 supplement to the Airmen's Guide published by the Federal Aviation
19 Administration [; OR

20 (B) BY AN AIR TAXI OPERATOR OR AIR CARRIER FOR
21 WHICH THE CARRIAGE OF BIG GAME HUNTERS, THEIR
22 EQUIPMENT, OR BIG GAME ANIMALS HARVESTED BY HUNTERS IS
23 ONLY AN INCIDENTAL PORTION OF ITS BUSINESS; IN THIS
24 SUBPARAGRAPH, "INCIDENTAL" MEANS TRANSPORTATION
25 PROVIDED TO A BIG GAME HUNTER BY AN AIR TAXI OPERATOR
26 OR AIR CARRIER WHO DOES NOT

27 (i) CHARGE MORE THAN THE USUAL TARIFF
28 OR CHARTER RATE FOR THE CARRIAGE OF BIG GAME
29 HUNTERS, THEIR EQUIPMENT, OR BIG GAME ANIMALS
30 HARVESTED BY HUNTERS; OR

31 (ii) ADVERTISE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

1 OR BIG GAME HUNTING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC; IN THIS
2 SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH, "ADVERTISE" MEANS SOLICITING BIG
3 GAME HUNTERS TO BE CUSTOMERS OF AN AIR TAXI
4 OPERATOR OR AIR CARRIER FOR THE PURPOSE OF
5 PROVIDING AIR TRANSPORTATION TO, FROM, OR IN THE
6 FIELD THROUGH THE USE OF PRINT OR ELECTRONIC
7 MEDIA, INCLUDING ADVERTISING AT TRADE SHOWS, OR
8 THE USE OF HUNT BROKER SERVICES OR OTHER
9 PROMOTIONAL SERVICES].

RC

174
170

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Interior Region Meeting
February 26 – March 7, 2010
Fairbanks, Alaska**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AGENDA

ACR by ADF&G regarding bear trapping

House Bill 267 – An act relating to travel by snow machines within five miles of the right-of-way of the James Dalton Highway Corridor

House Bill 249 - Act relating to regulations adopted by the Big Game Commercial Services Board and to the definition of 'transportation services' in relation to big game hunting

Board of Game Bear Conservation and Management Policy

Taking Moose for Ceremonial Harvest

Discretionary Authorities on Permit Hunts

Point Accumulation for Unit 13

Wildlife & Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Wood Bison Project

Definition of Subsistence Way of Life

Spring 2011 Meeting Dates