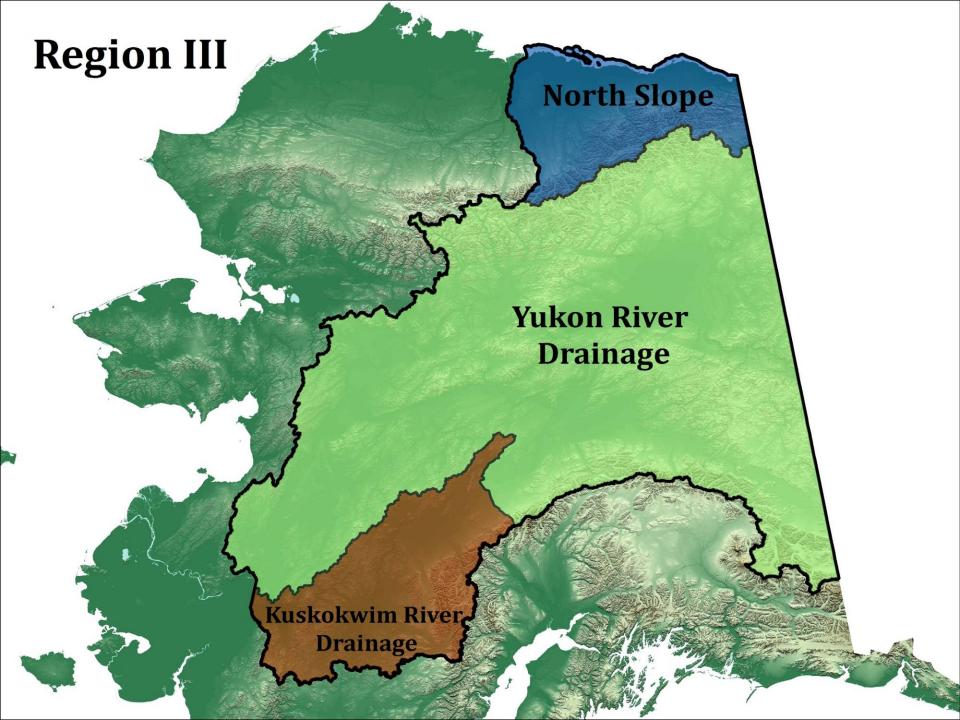
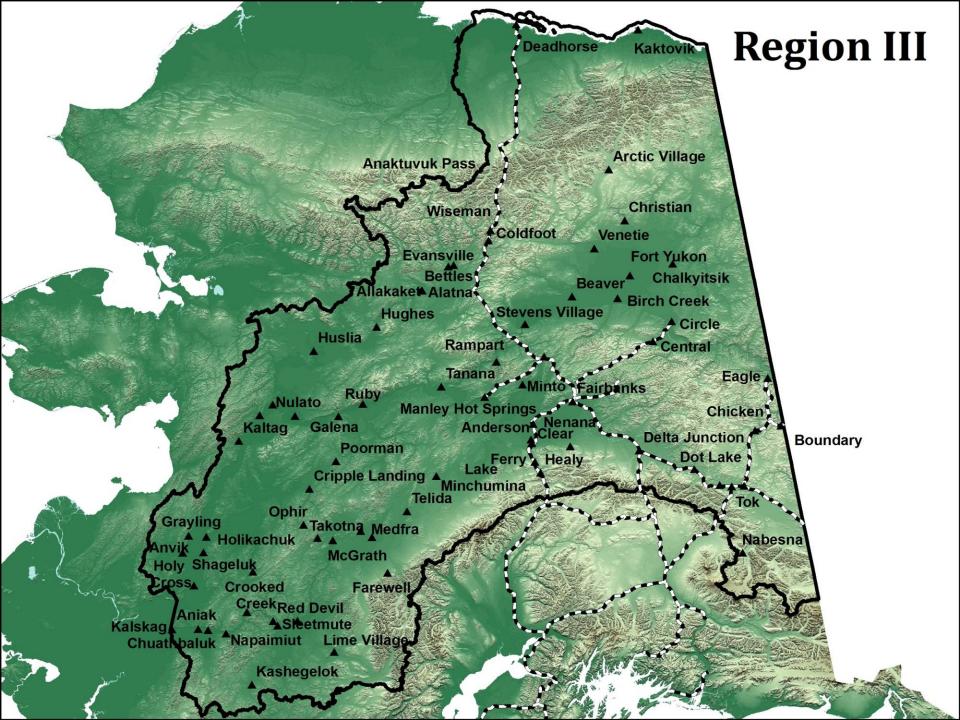
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

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





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-Holitna
- Tanana-Rampart-Manley
- Upper Tanana / Fortymile
- Yukon Flats

Region III Hunters

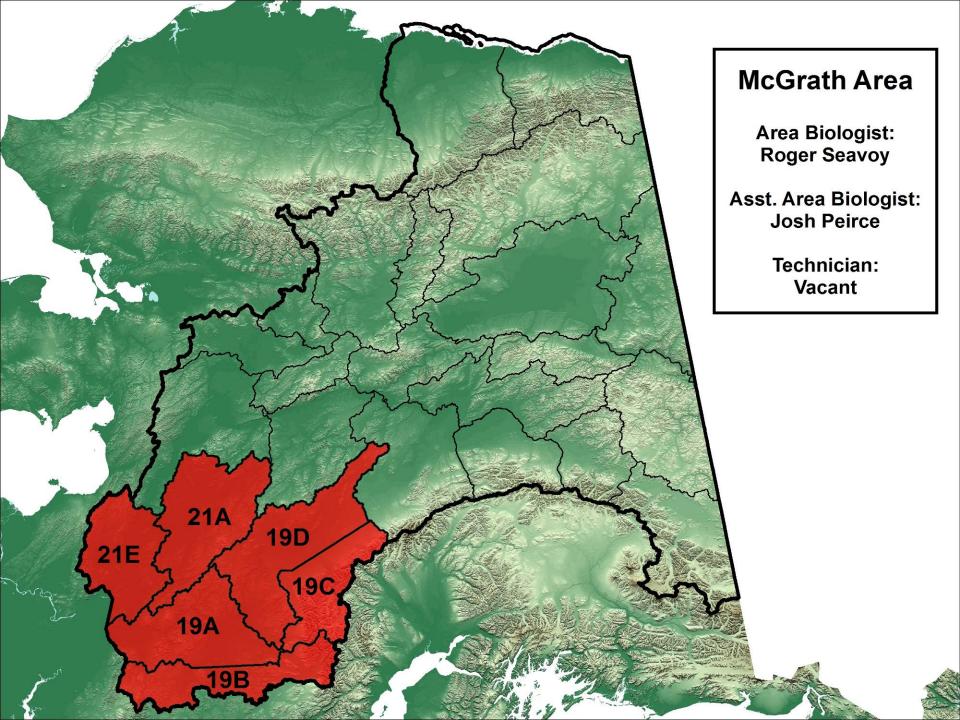
- In 2008
 - 12,611 moose hunters
 - 5,001 caribou hunters
 - 1,535 sheep hunters
 - 666 wolves harvested
 - 451 black bears harvested
 - 300 grizzly bears harvested
 - Other hunting activity
 - Many thousands of non-hunting-related activities

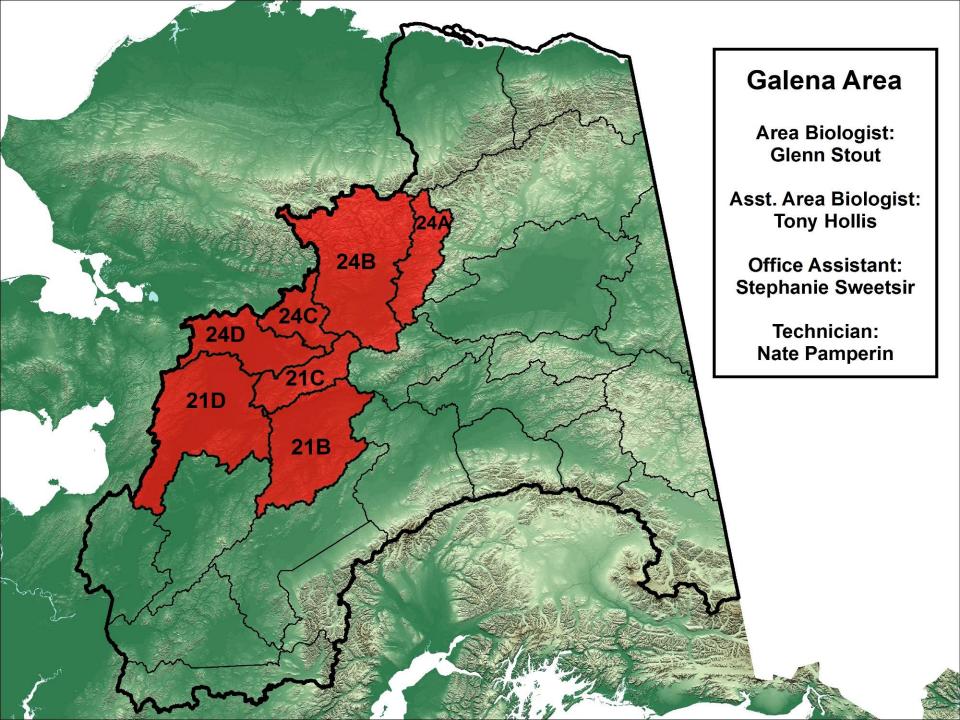
Region III Organization

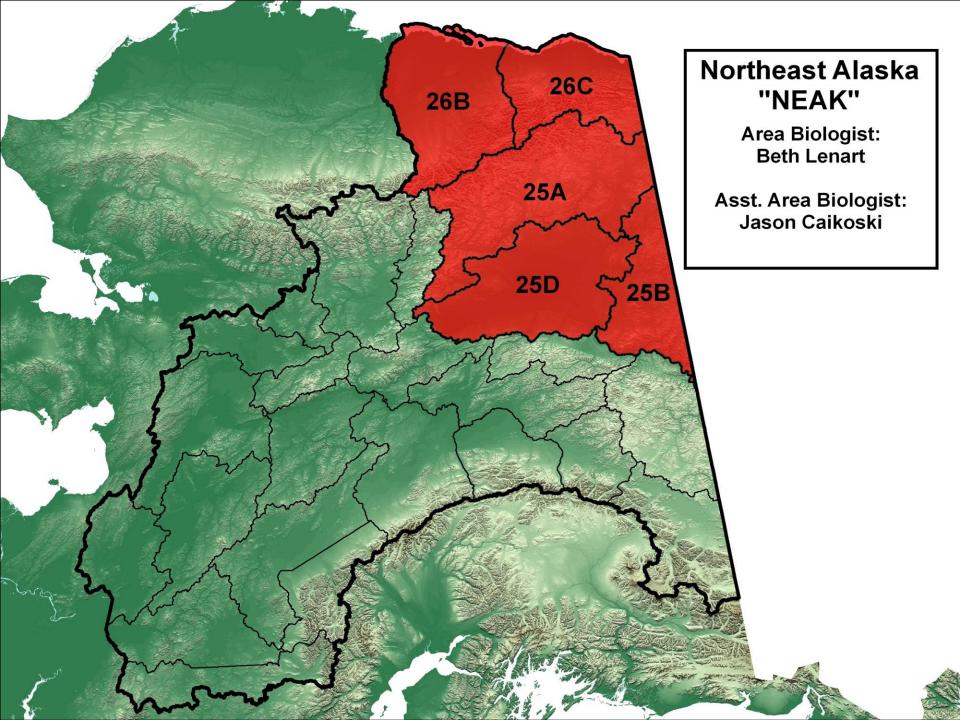
- Management
- Research
- Regional Programs
- Administration

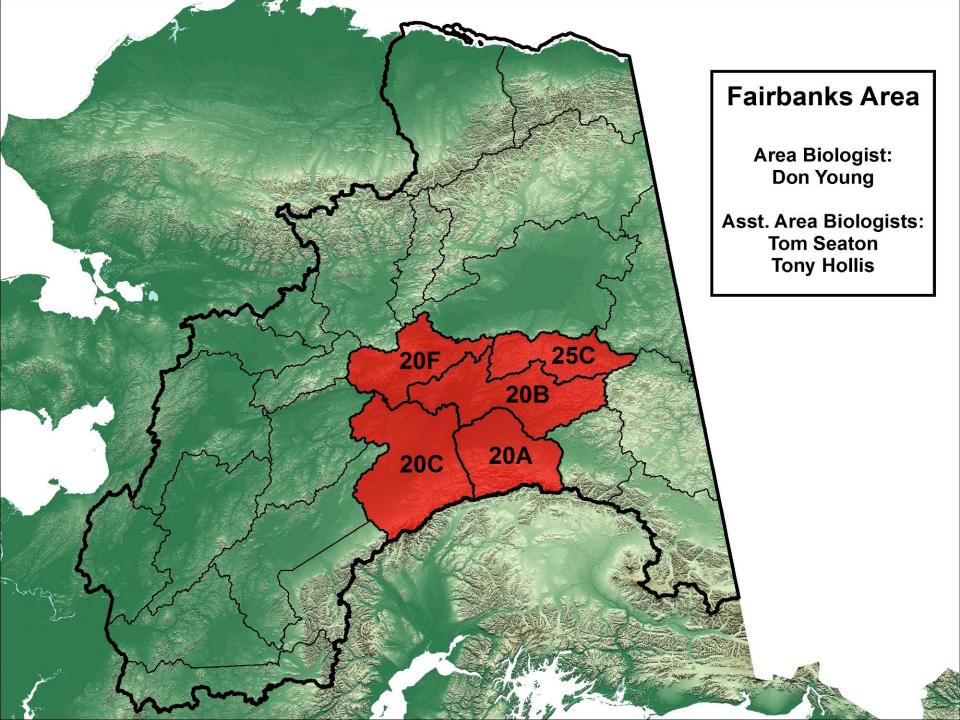
MANAGEMENT BRANCH Region III

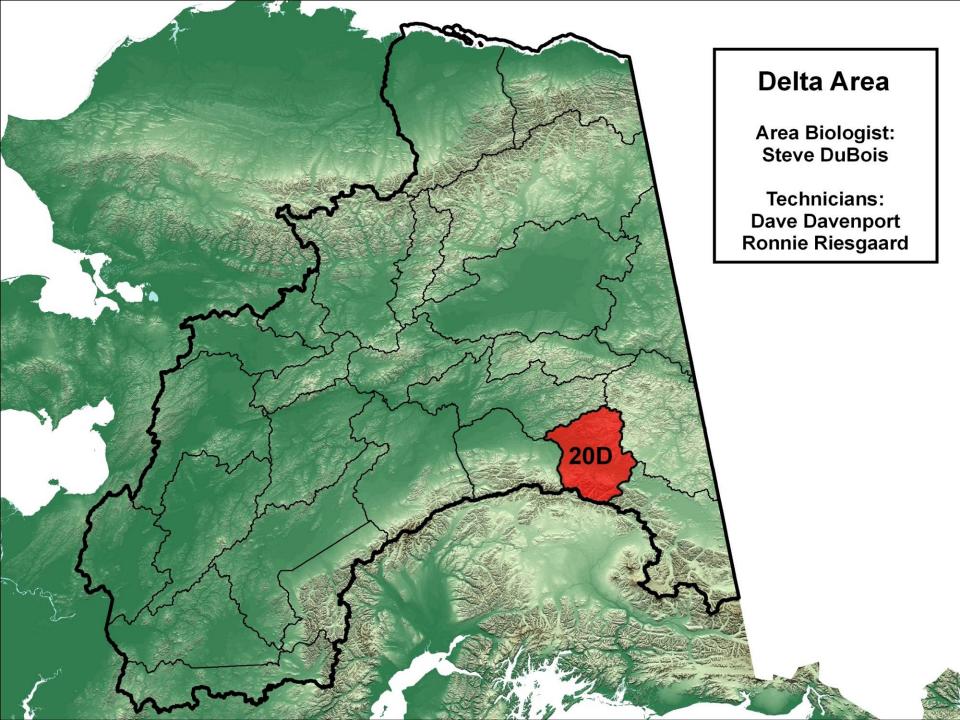
- Roy Nowlin, Management Coordinator
 - Area Offices
 - Frontline
 - Management Support

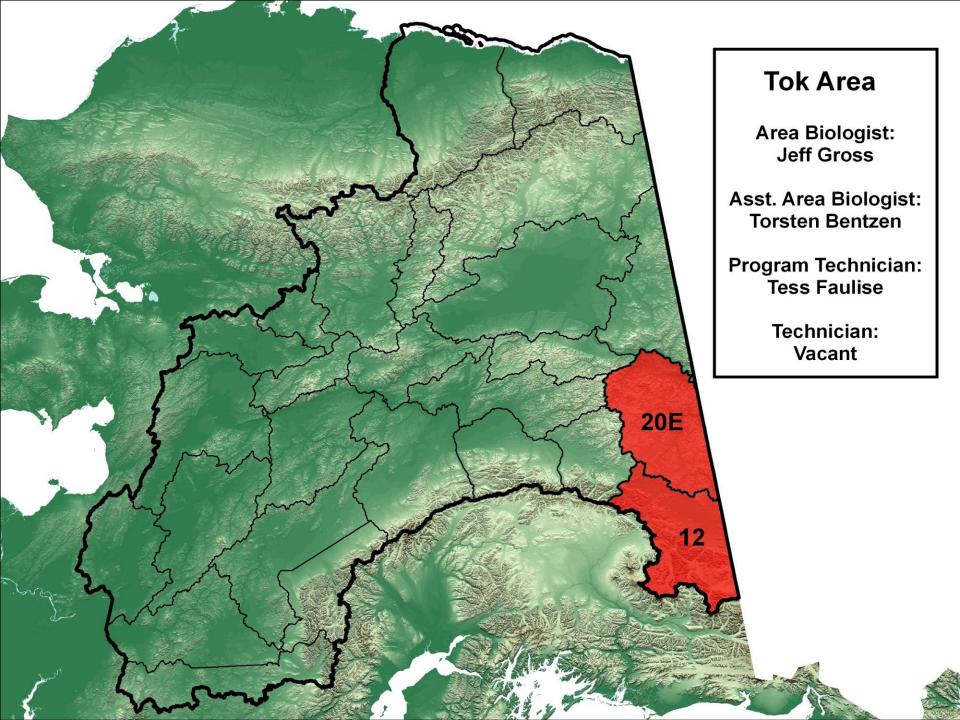












FRONTLINE

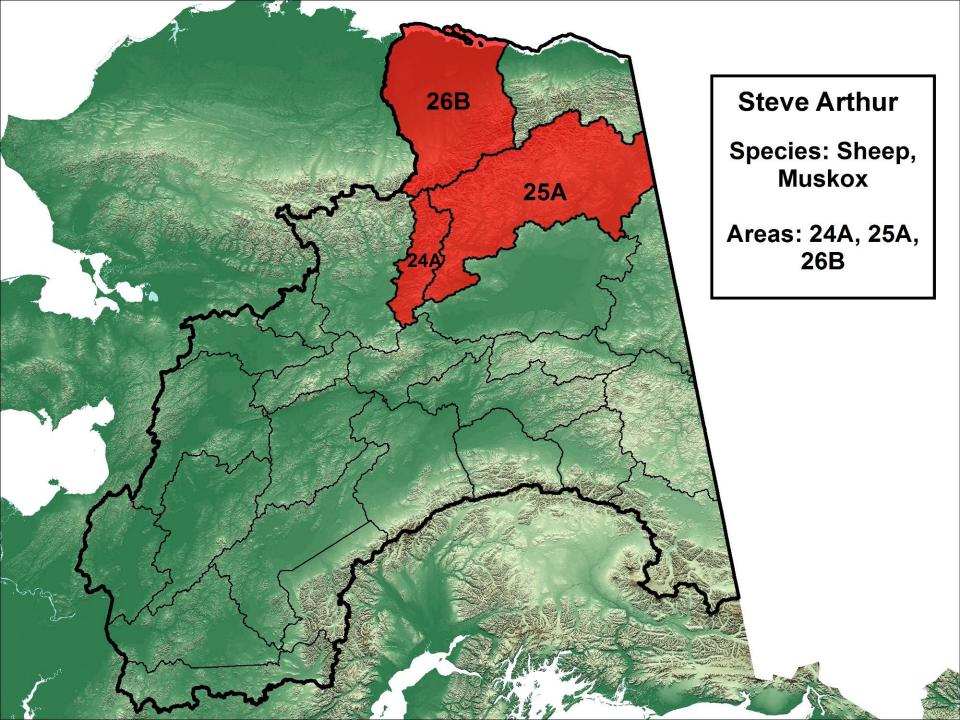
- Jackie Kephart, Supervisor
 - Brad Wendling
 - Carl Roberts
 - Nate Pamperin
 - Jeff Wells
 - Hollie Wynne
 - College intern

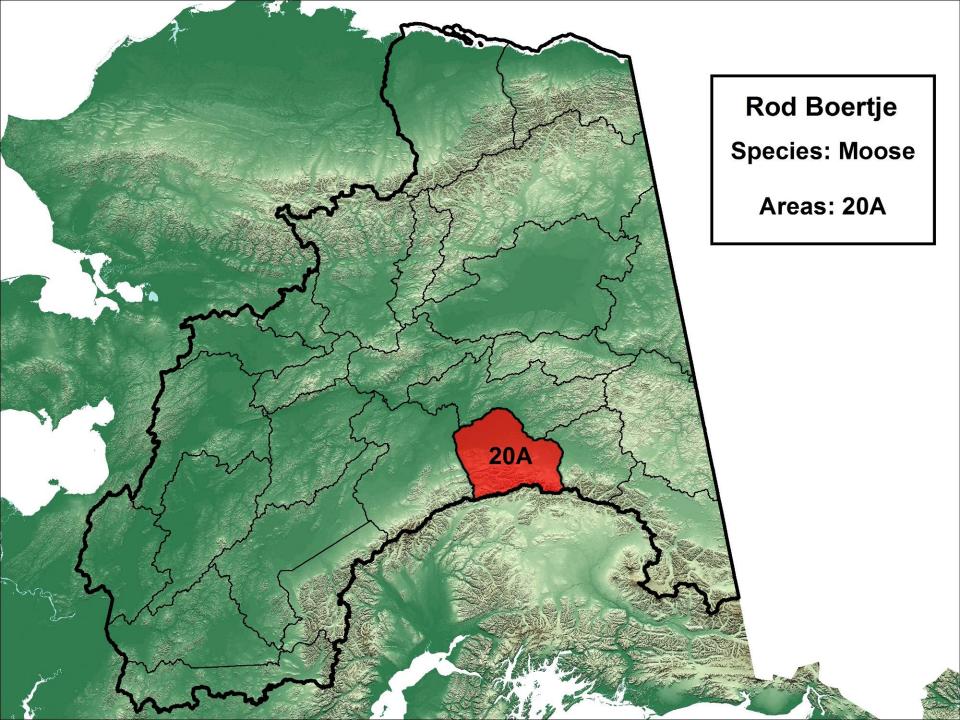
Management Support

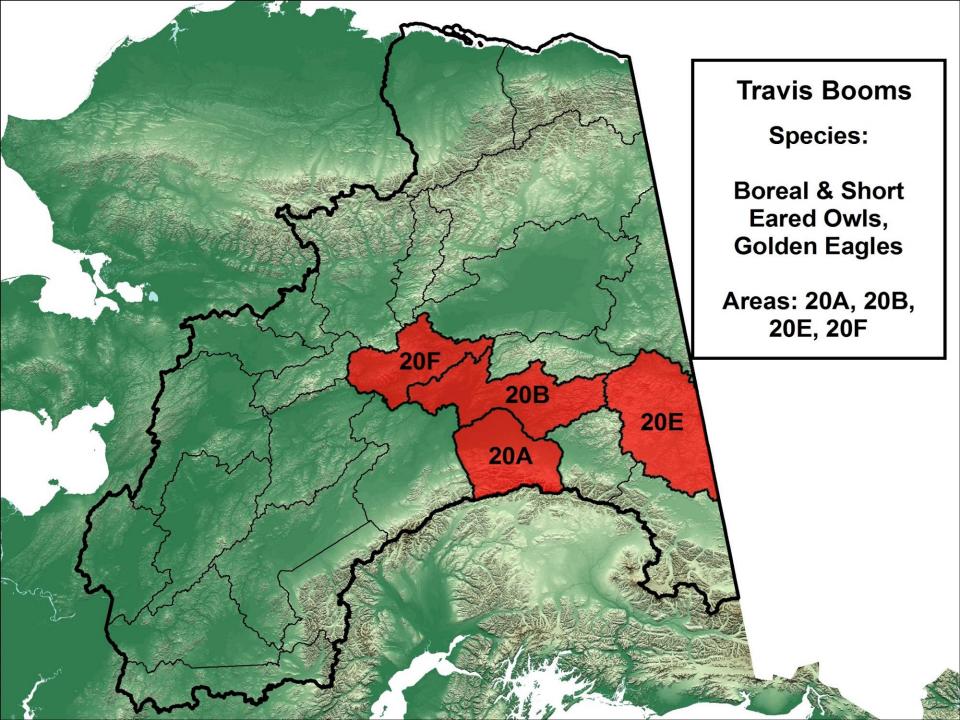
- Doreen Parker McNeill, Asst. Man. Coord.
- Dale Haggstrom, Fire & Habitat Coord.
- Randy Rogers, Wildlife Planner
- Rita St. Louis, Assistant Wildlife Planner
- Rob DeLong, Analyst Programmer
- Jessica Mitchell, Statistics Technician

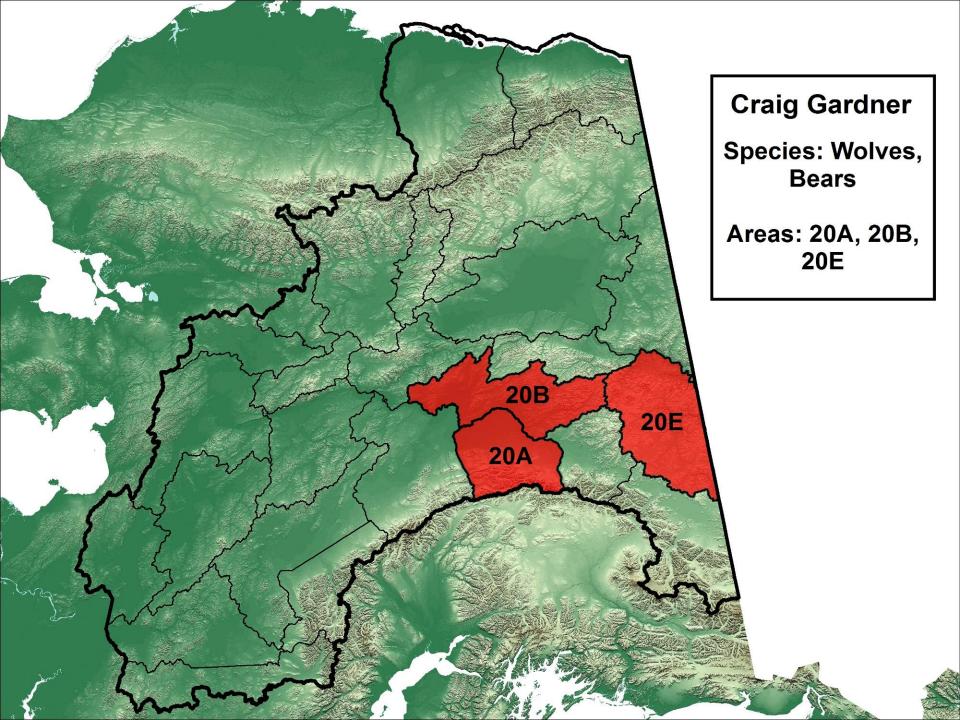
RESEARCH BRANCH Region III

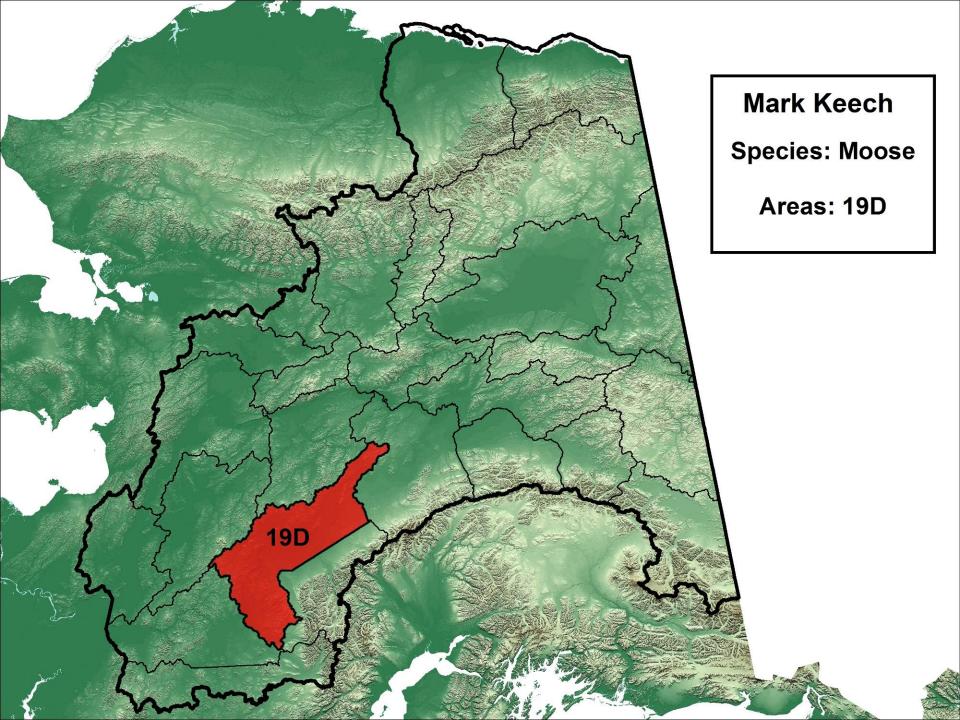
- Scott Brainerd, Research Coordinator
 - Research project leaders
 - Research support

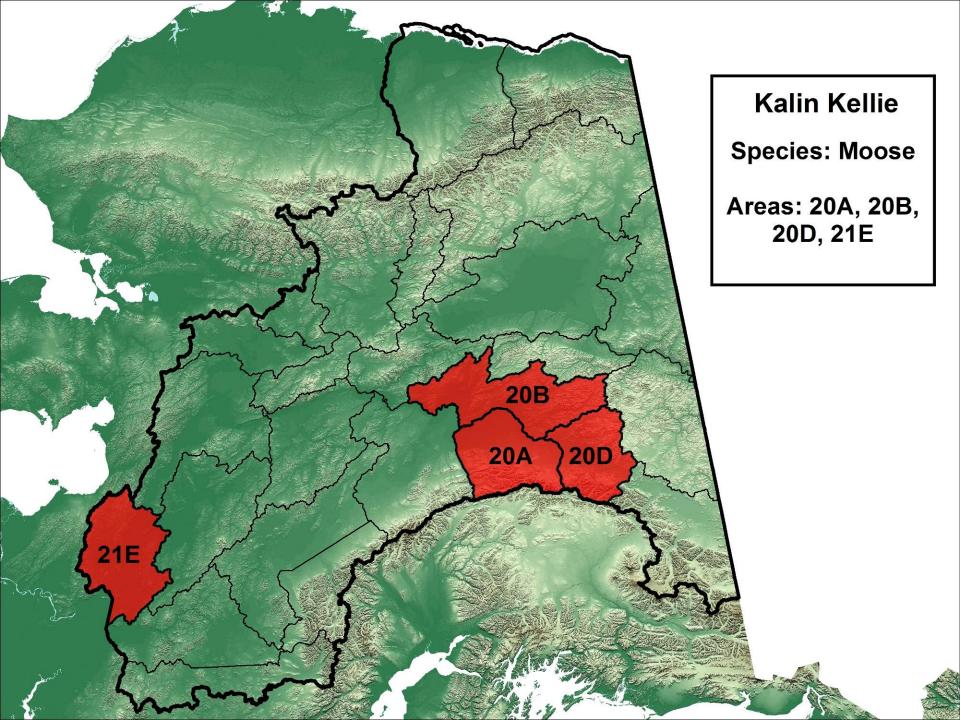


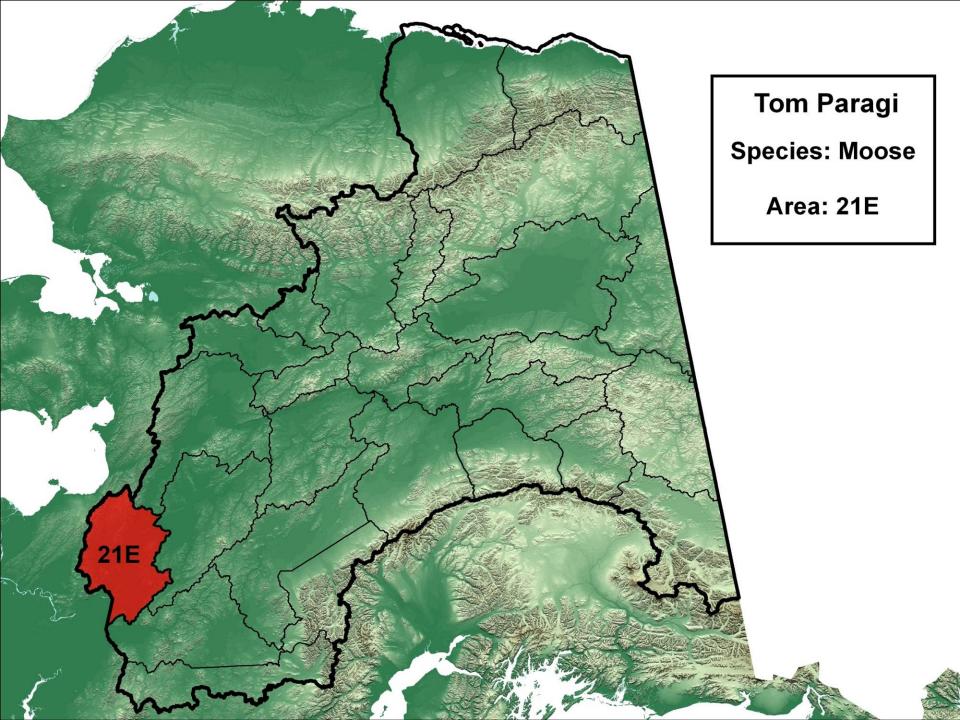


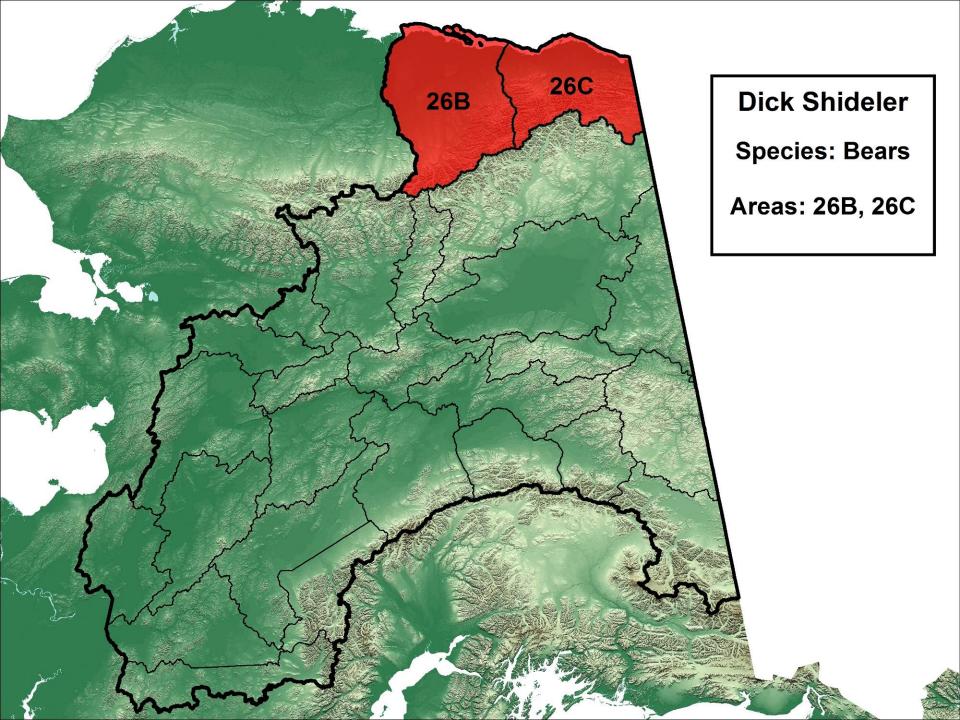












Research Support

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

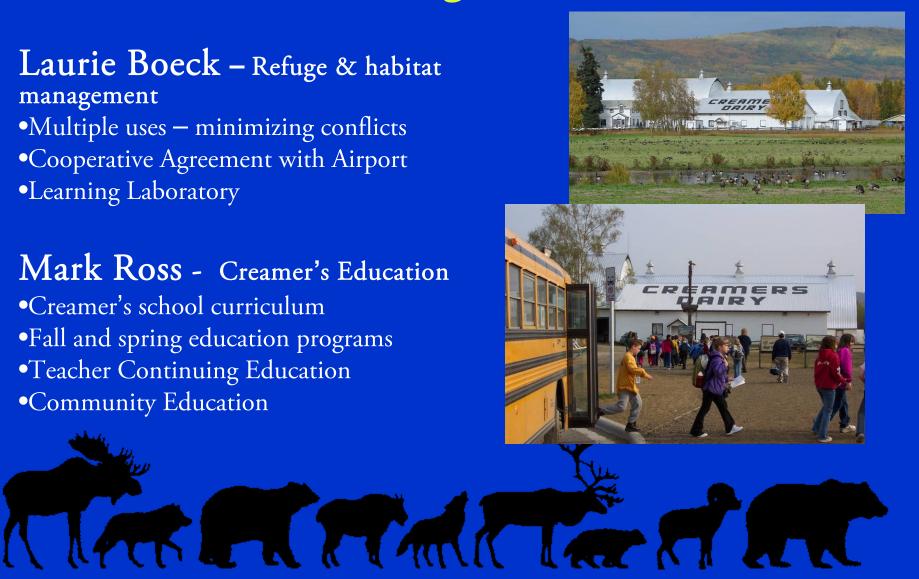
Creamer's Field Refuge

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

Market Market Control

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

Alaska 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

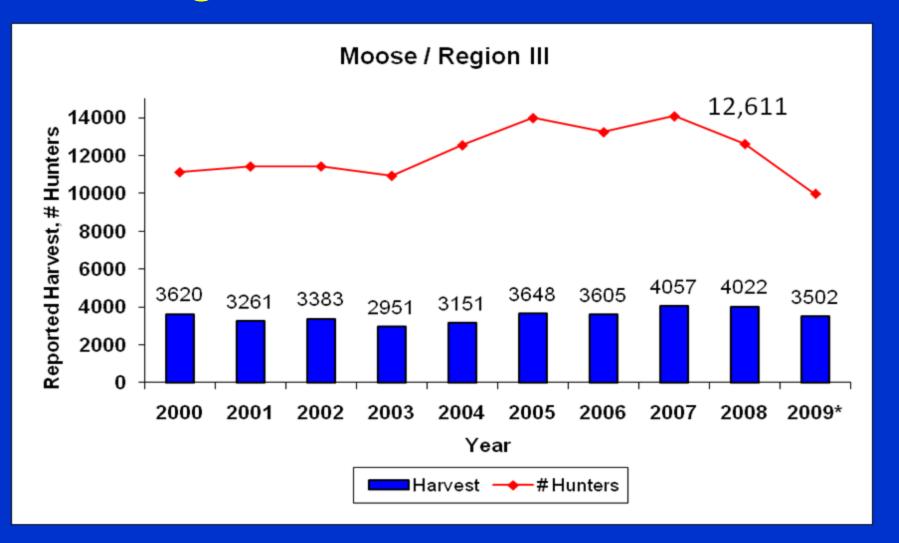
REGION III PROGRAM

Many components to the regional program

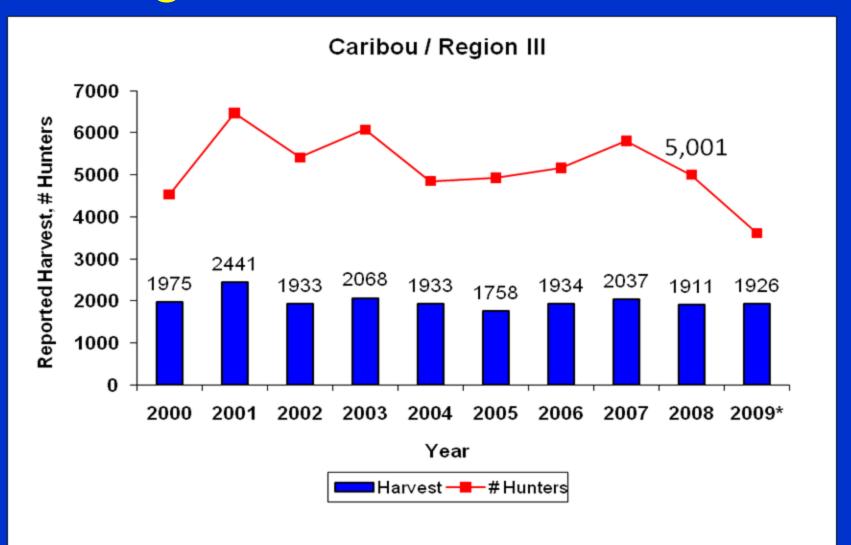
INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT in Region III

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

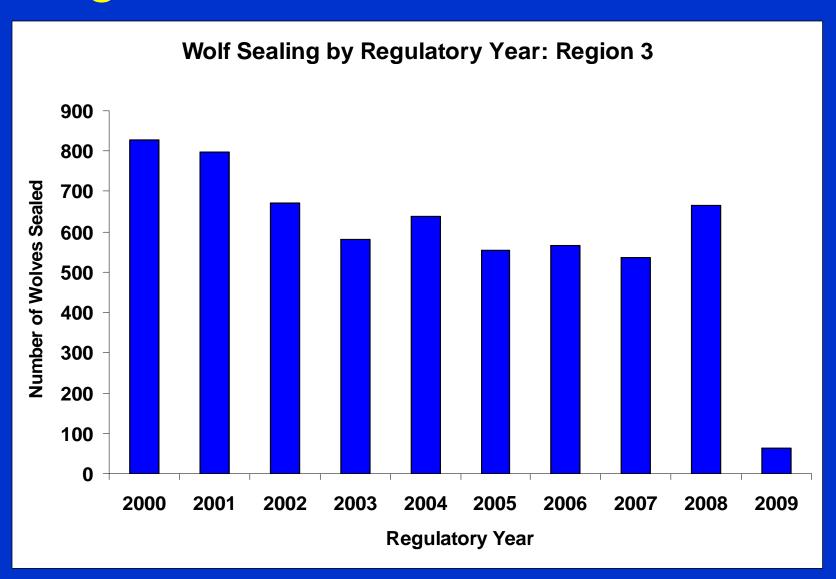
Region III Moose Harvest



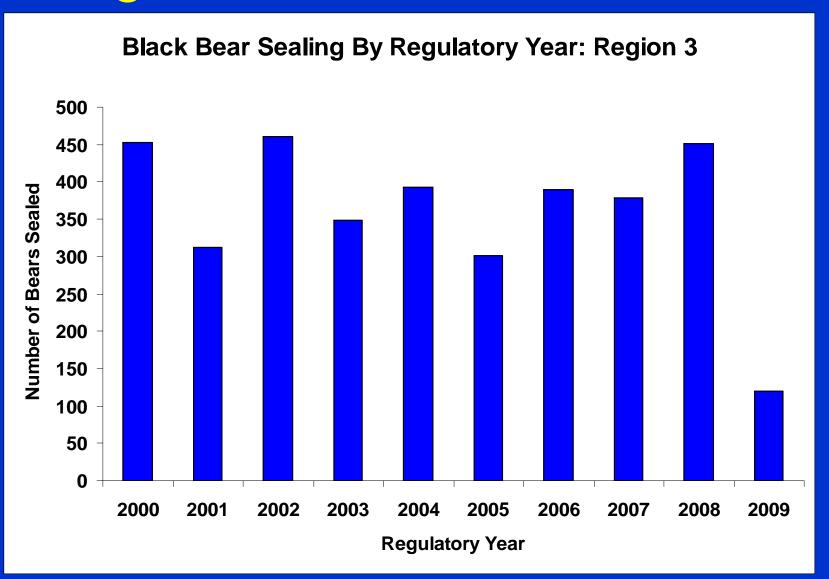
Region III Caribou Harvest



Region III Wolf Harvest & Take



Region III Black Bear Harvest



Region III Grizzly Harvest



Regional Harvest Performance

- Large: ~246,000 square miles
- Predator control: 10%
- M: 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
- What works and what doesn't and why
- IM programs compromised without Research

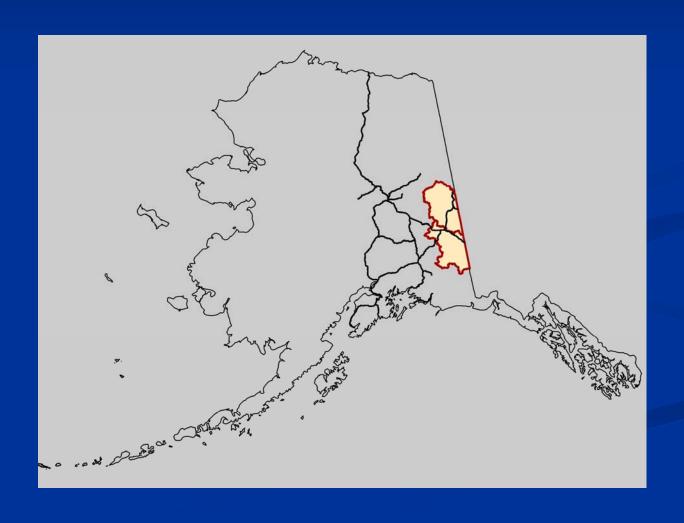
Intensive Management Policy and Guidelines

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





Tok ADF&G Wildlife Program - 2010

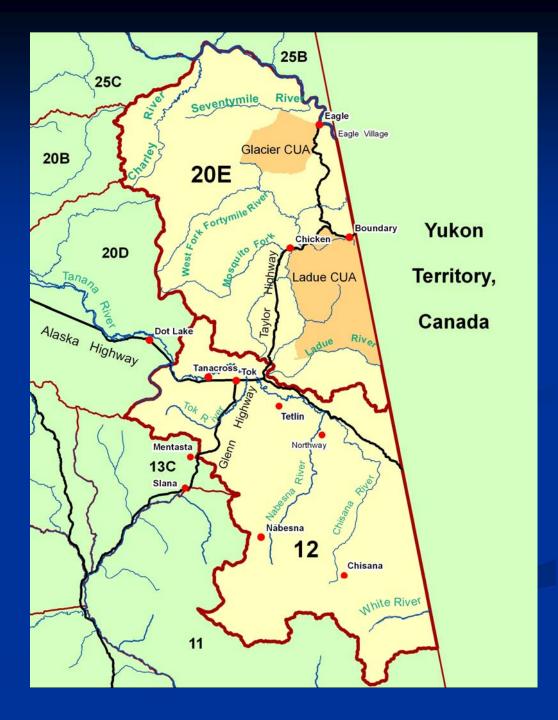


Tok ADF&G Office and Staff



Tok Area

- Diverse Habitat
- Diverse Land Ownership
- > 13 Communities
- > 3 ACs



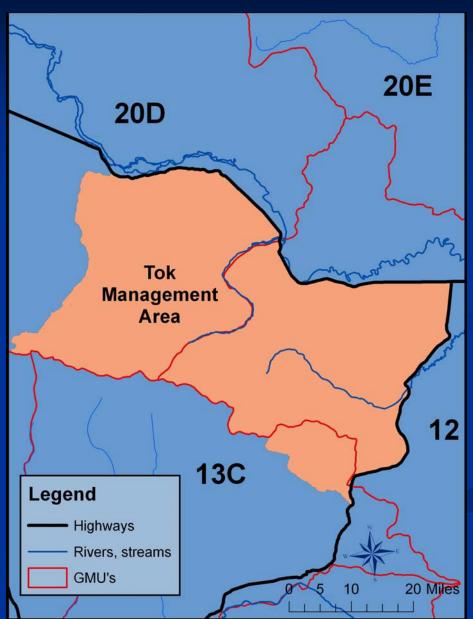
Controlled Use Areas (CUA)

- Glacier Mountain CUA (Unit 20E)
- Ladue River CUA (Unit 20E)



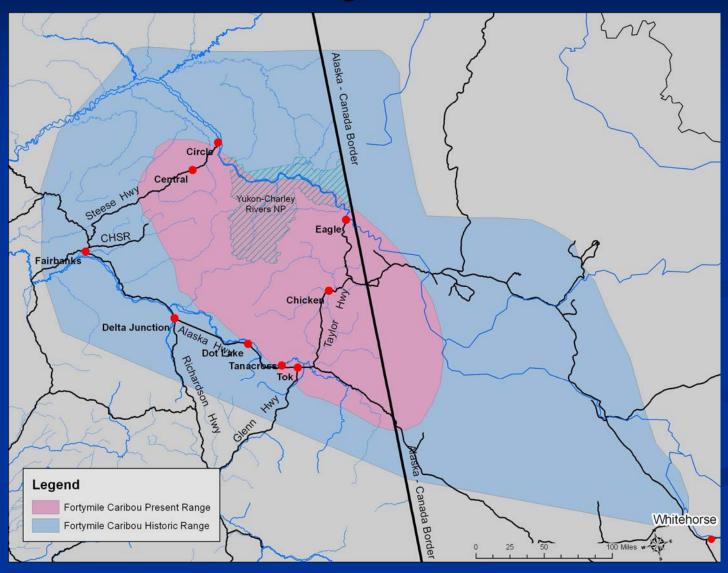
Management Areas

- Tok Management Area (Unit 12)
 - Trophy Sheep Management
 - > Uncrowded Hunting Conditions



Caribou – Chisana Herd





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

Current Population Est.

- >46,500 caribou (2009)
- >Increasing

Management Activities

- > Photo Census
- > Fall Comp
- >Spring Birthrate
- > Harvest Monitoring

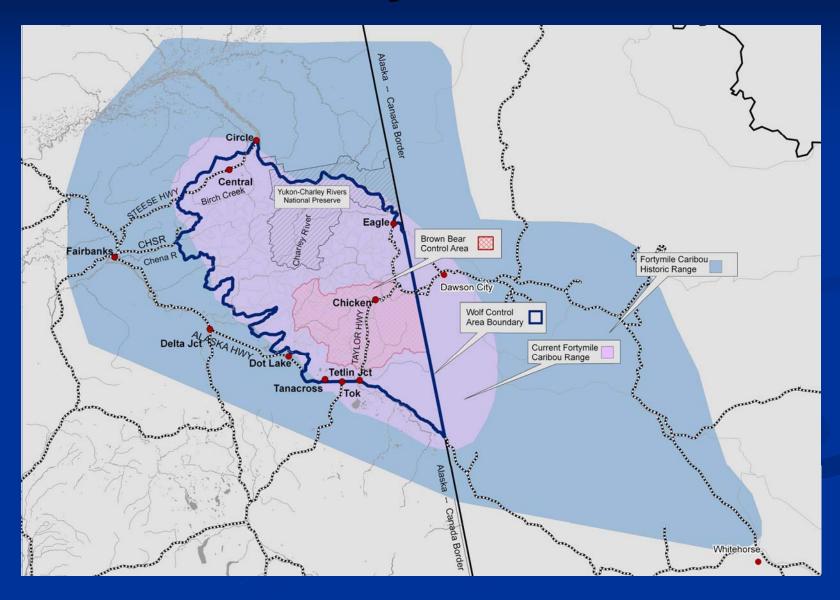




Harvest

- > 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





Moose – Unit 12

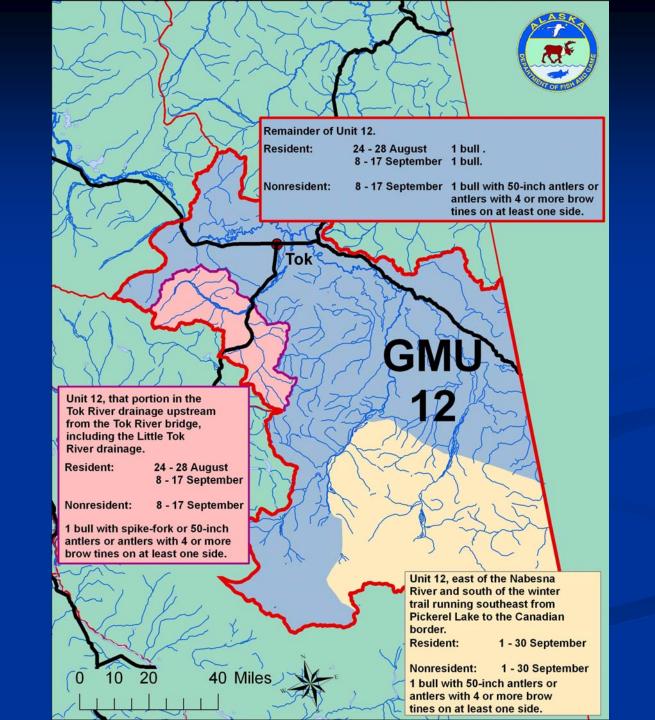
High Levels of Human Use
Intensive Management Objectives



- **➢ 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

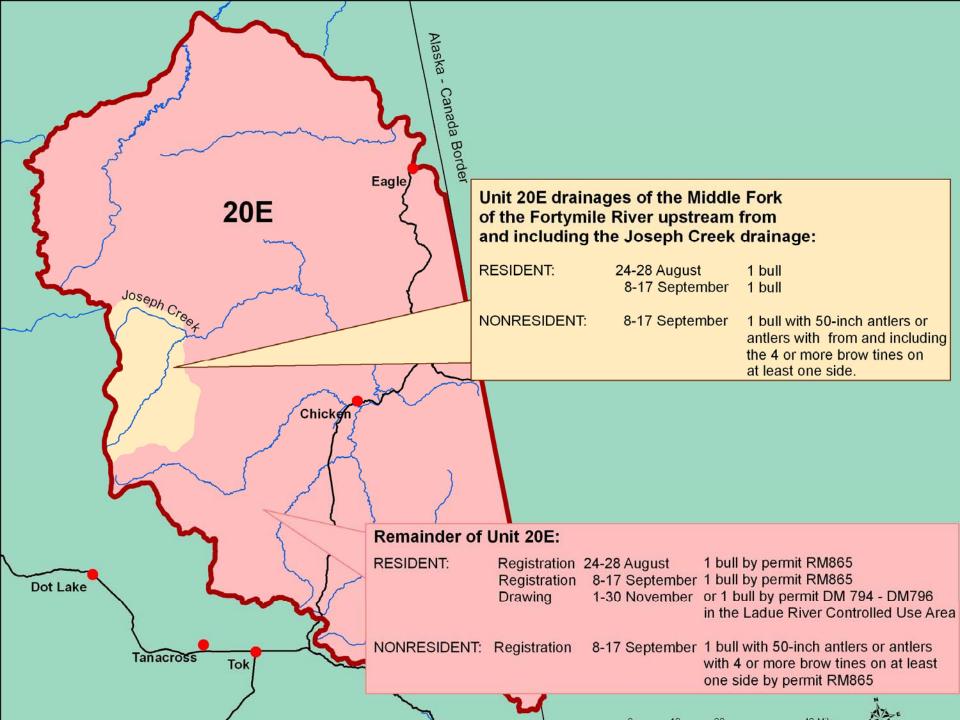
Moose – Unit 20E

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.)



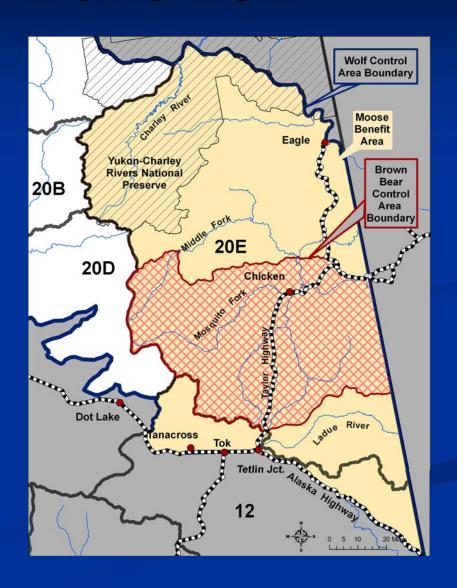
Moose – Unit 20E

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



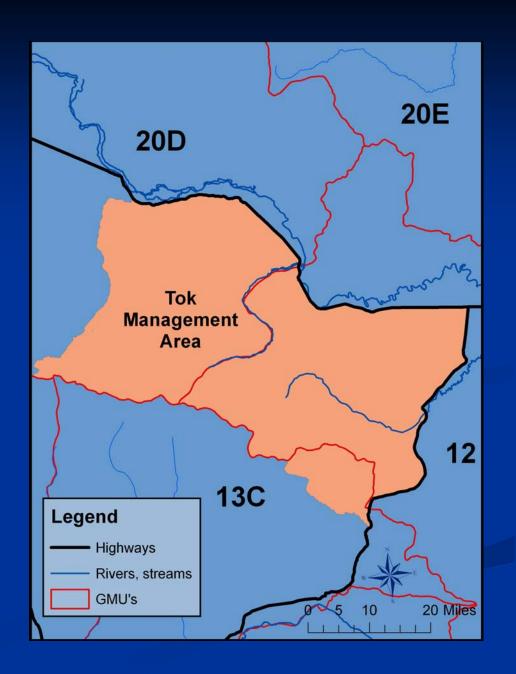
Black Bears



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



Response of Moose to Removal of Bears and Public Wolf Control Near McGrath, Alaska





Study Area 30 Miles

19D East (8,513 mi²)

*the BOG has authorized the Department to conduct predator removals within this entire area.

EMMA (528 mi²)

*75 black bears and 6 grizzly bears (>1 yr-of-age) captured and removed May 11-31, 2003 (83% by the median calving date, May 22). 34 black bears (7 recaptures) and 1 grizzly bear captured and removed May 12-22, 2004 (100% by median calving date). In total, the department removed 102 individual black bears and 7 grizzly bears from this area.

*94 black bears were captured using aerial search followed by helicopter capture, 15 black bears were captured using leg snares. Three grizzly bears were captured using aerial search, 2 with leg snares, and 2 with radio-equipped neck snares.

Original wolf control zone (3,210 mi²)

*public aerial wolf reduction was allowed between RY03 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	SDA 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.

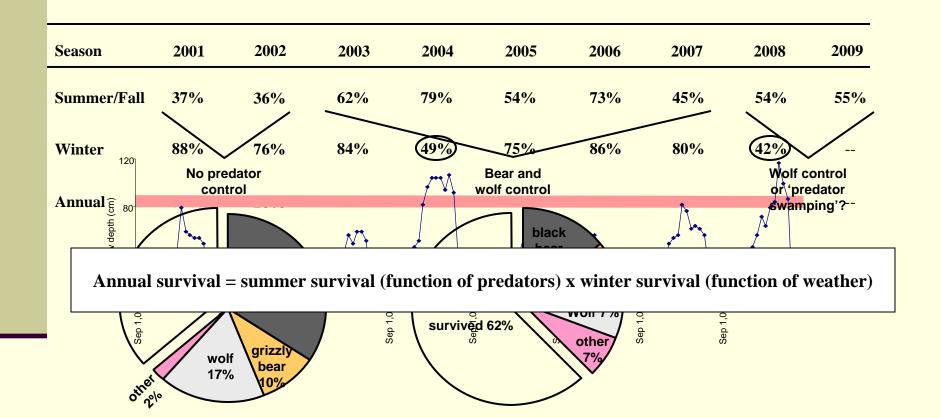
Estimates of black bears and wolves in the McGrath area pre- and post-control

	Black Bears (522mi ² EMMA)		Wolves (3,210mi ² wolf control area)	
	Population estimate		Population estimate	Density (wolves/100mi ²)
Pre-control	96	18	47	1.5
Immediate post-control	4	0.8	11	0.3
Most recent estimate	5.70	13	(16	0.5

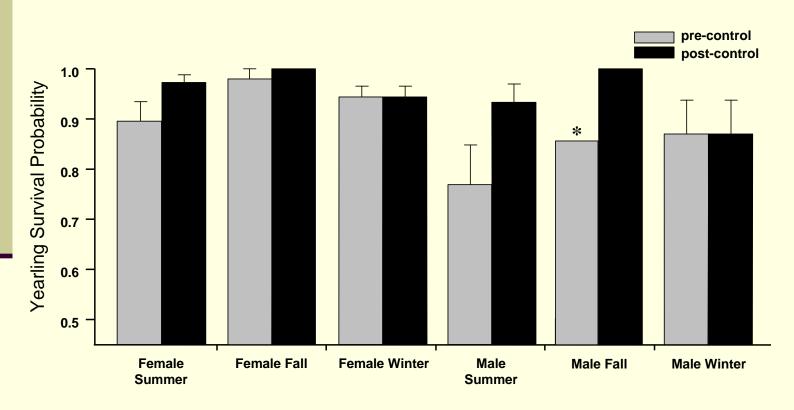
2007

2009

Survival of McGrath area moose calves

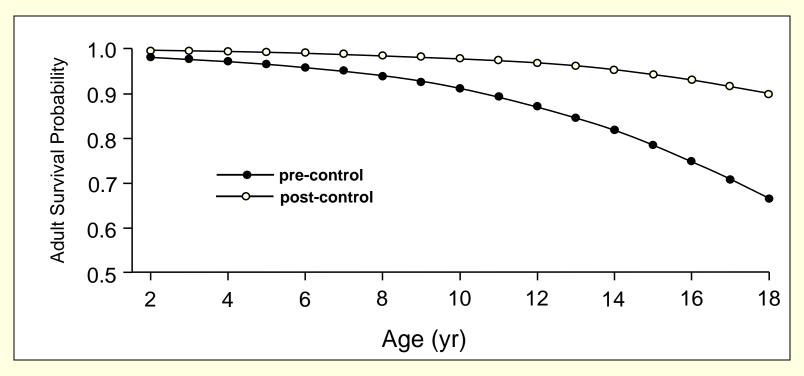


Survival of McGrath area yearling moose



Yearling survival is higher for females

Survival of McGrath area adult moose



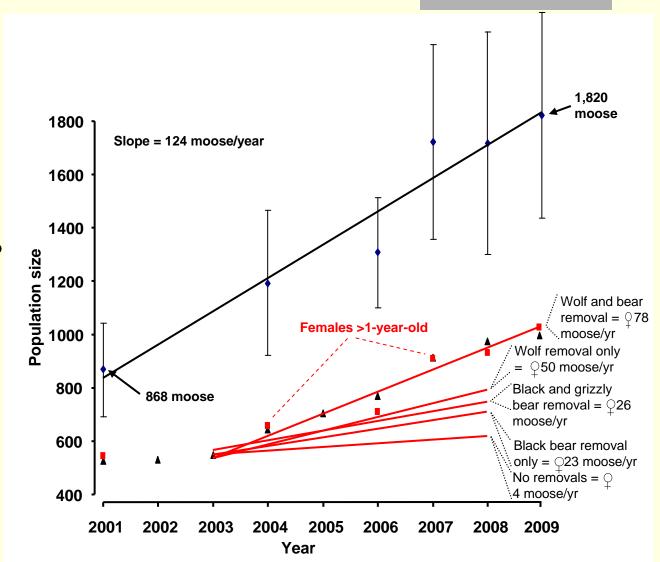
*Adult survival is heavily influenced by age

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:

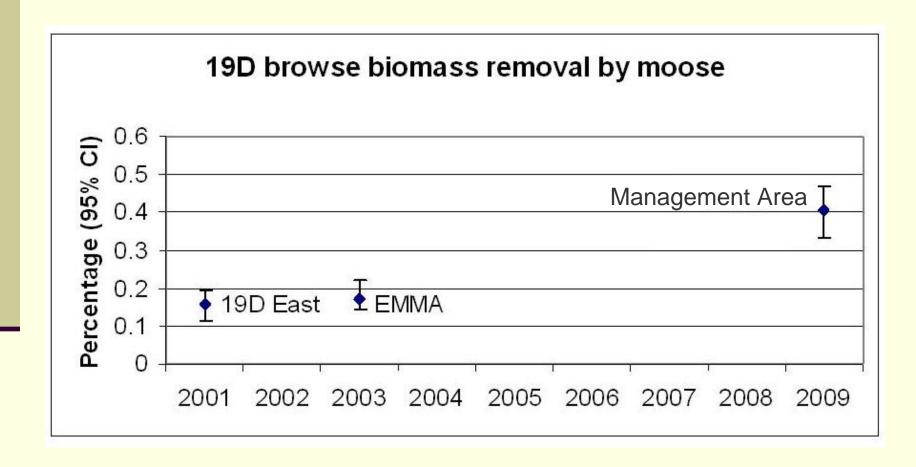
- 1) What would have happened if we had taken no action?
- 2) What would have happened if we only had wolf control?
- 3) What would have happened if we only had bear removals?
- 4) What would have happened if we only had black bear removals?



Reproduction and condition indices

	Year	Observed rate of parturition for radiocollared cows > 2 yr-ofage (n)	Observed rate of twinning for radiocollared cows > 2 yr-ofage (n)	Observed rate of twinning for uncollared cows (n)	Newborn in kg Singletons	•	10-month- old calf weights in kg (n)
١.		ugo (11)	<u> </u>			1 11115	
	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



2010 Unit 20D

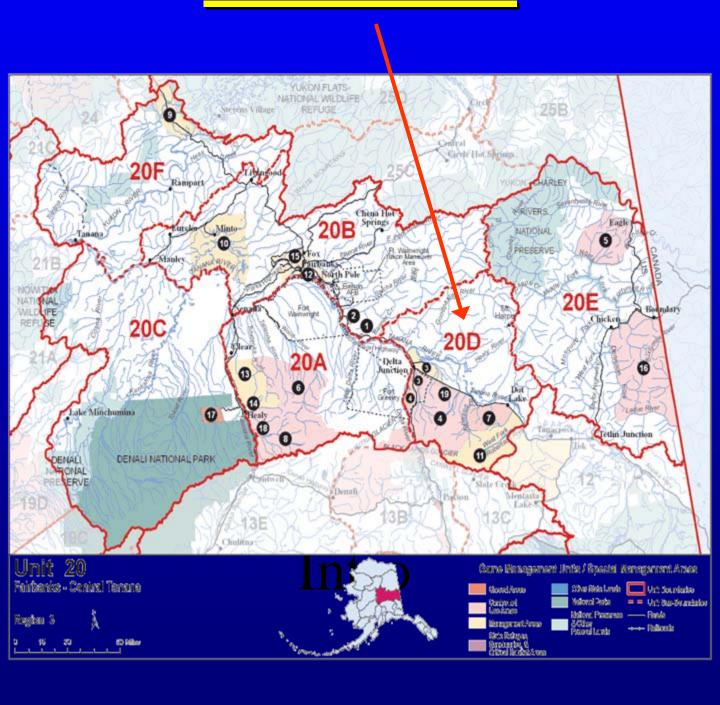






State of the Unit Address

Unit 20D Delta Junction Area Office



Unit 20D Delta Junction Area Office

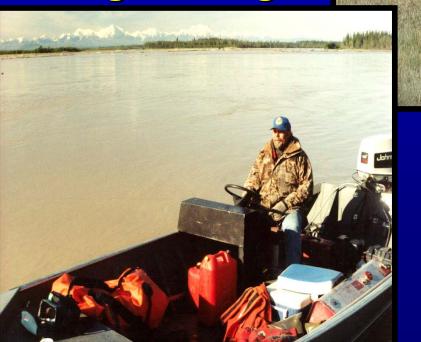


Delta Staff



Steve DuBois, Area Biologist

Ron Riesgaard, PS FWT 4, Bison Range Manager



Dave Davenport, PS FWT 3

Game Managment Unit 20D



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



<u>Delta Junction,</u> <u>Big Delta, Deltana</u>



Population ~3,200

Ft. Greely, Donnelly Training Area, National Missile Defense Site, Population ~500



Dry Creek



Population ~100

Dot Lake



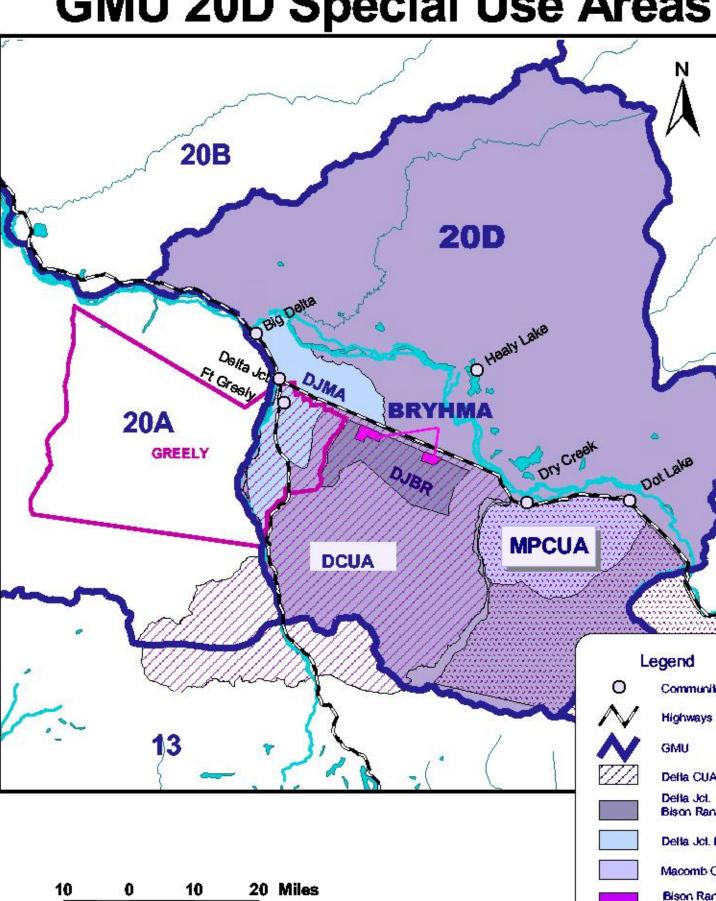
Population ~80

Healy Lake



Population ~25

GMU 20D Special Use Areas

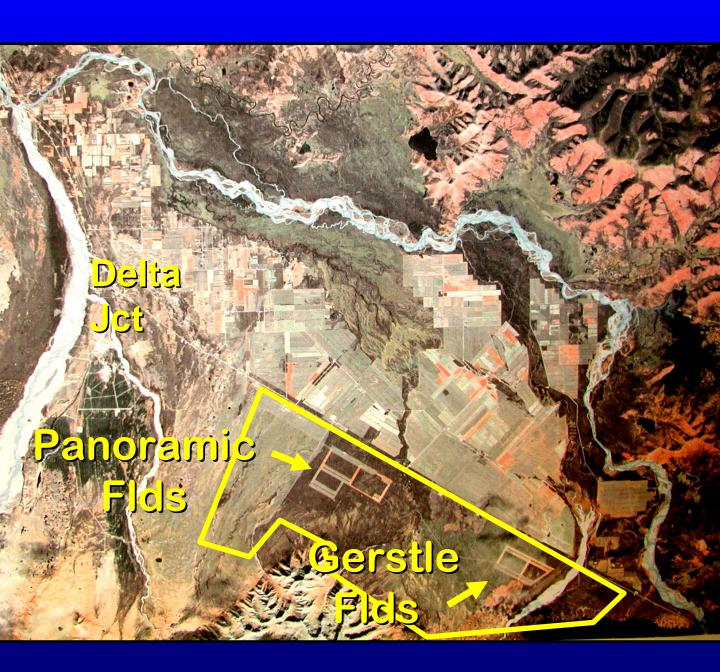


Youth Hu

<u>Delta Junction Bison</u> <u>Range</u>

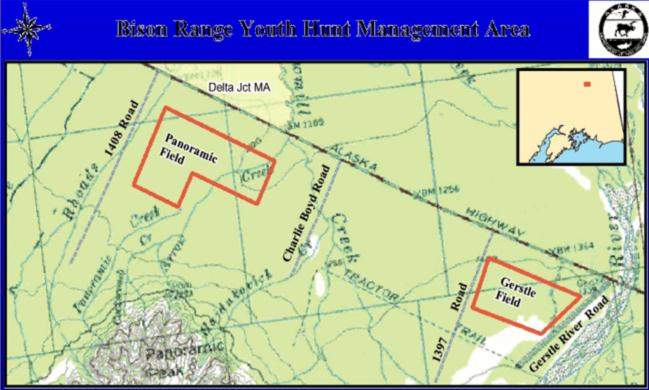
- Created 1979 by AK legislature to:
 - Perpetuate free-ranging bison
 - Diminish agricultural damage from bison
- ~90,000 acres
- ~2,700 acres bison forage

<u>Delta Junction Bison</u> <u>Range</u>



Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area

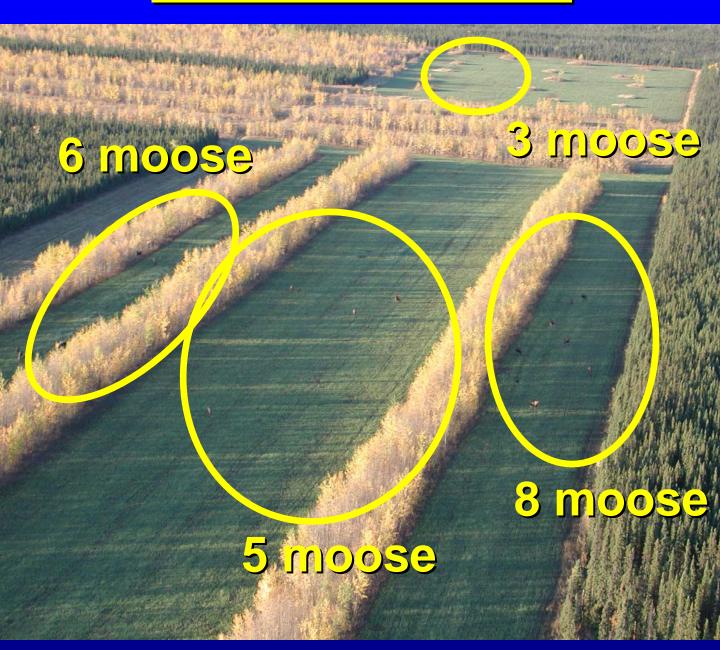
- BRYHMA estab. 2002 in DJBR fields to reduce conflicts between bison mgmt & moose hunters
- 6,380 acres in fields only



Anga Depenhation

The Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area consists of two field complexes within the Delta Junction Bison Range in Unit 20(D) as follows: the Panoramic Field hunting area is located three-quarters of a mile south of the Alaska Highway between Milepost 1404.0 and 1407.6, and bounded by a line beginning at the northeast corner (63o 53.299' N. lat., 145o 14.714' W. long), then northwest 3.5 miles to 63o 54.956' N. lat., 145o 20.767' W.long, then southwest 2.4 miles to 63o 53.206' N. lat., 145o 23.232' W. long, then southeast 1.5 miles to 63o 52.537' N. lat., 145o 20.758' W. long, then northeast 1.0 mile to 63o 53.301' N. lat., 145o 19.659' W. long, then southeast 2.0 miles to 63o 52.330' N. lat., 145o 16.075' W. long, then northeast 1.0 miles to the beginning point. The Gerstle Field hunting area is located three-quarters of a mile south of the Alaska Highway between Milepost 1394.1 and 1396.8, and bounded by a line beginning at the northeast corner (63o 48.984' N. lat., 144o 57.766' W. long), then northwest 2.9 miles to 63o 50.242' N. lat., 145o 02.874' W. long, then southwest 1.1 miles to 63o 49.102' N. lat., 145o 04.197' W. long, then southeast 2.3 miles to 63o 48.239' N. lat., 145o 00.339' W. long, then northeast 1.6 miles to the beginning point. The area is open to moose hunting by permit only. Further Information on how the department may issue a permit to a child is available in the current drawing permit hunt supplement.

DBH; BRYHMA



With bison forage management, more moose & hunters were attracted to the fields

- 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

- Objectives (cont.)
 - -3) Reduce damage to bison forage crops from moose hunters

–4) Provide safer work environment for ADFG staff

- Objectives (cont.)
 - -5) Provide opportunity for youth hunters to be introduced to moose hunting with high opportunity for success

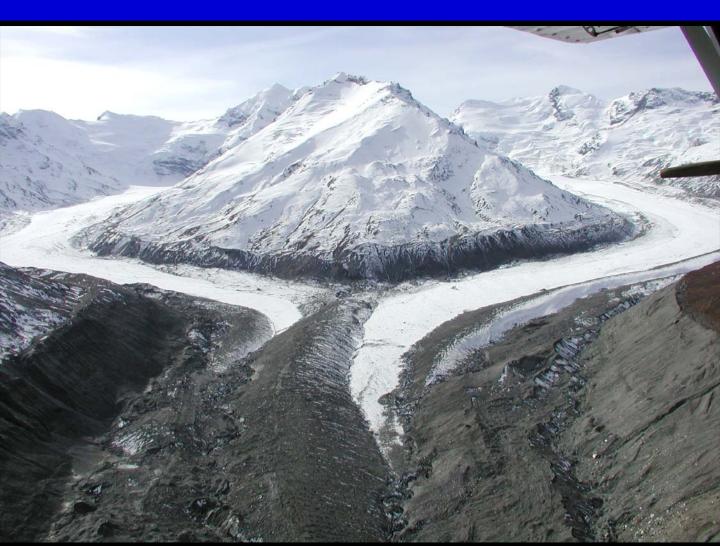


- 10 draw permits for SF50 bull moose or cow w/o calf
- Hunting season = Sept 1-30
- Hunt Friday-Monday 1st
 three weekends in Sept.
 - -Each hunter has 4 days
- Hunters assigned weekend
- No motorized vehicles

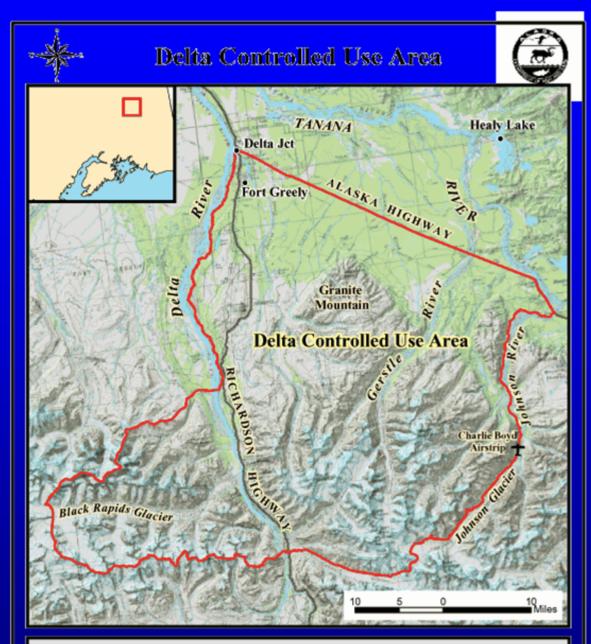
- BRYHMA hunt is meeting objectives:
 - Reduction in bison forage damage
 - Improved workplace safety resulting in more field work
 - Bison increased use of fields
 & less time on farms during
 moose hunting season
 - -Youth hunt successful
 - 2009 = 80% success

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



Area Description

The Delta Controlled Use Area consists of those portions of Units 13(B), 20(A), and 20(D) beginning at the confluence of Miller Creek and the Delta River then west to VABM Miller, then west to include all drainages of Augustana Creek and Black Rapids Glacier, then north and east to include all drainages of McGinnis Creek to its confluence with the Delta River, then east in a straight line across the Delta River to the east bank of the Delta River, then north along the east bank to a point opposite the intersection of the Alaska and Richardson Highways, then east in a straight line to the intersection of the Alaska and Richardson Highways, then east along the Alaska Highway to the west bank of the Johnson River, then south along the west bank of the Johnson River and Johnson Glacier to the head of the Canwell Glacier, then west along the north bank of the Canwell Glacier and Miller Creek to the Delta River.

Delta CUA

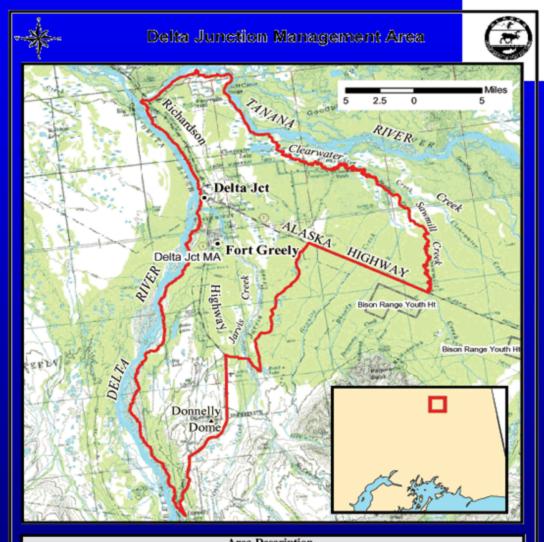
- Management goal:
 - -Provide:
 - Uncrowded hunting
 - Walk-in hunting
 - By managing hunter numbers, access, & transportation
 - Harvest objective:
 - Harvest 35 full-curl rams/yr with mean horn length 36 in. & 8+ yrs old

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



Area Description

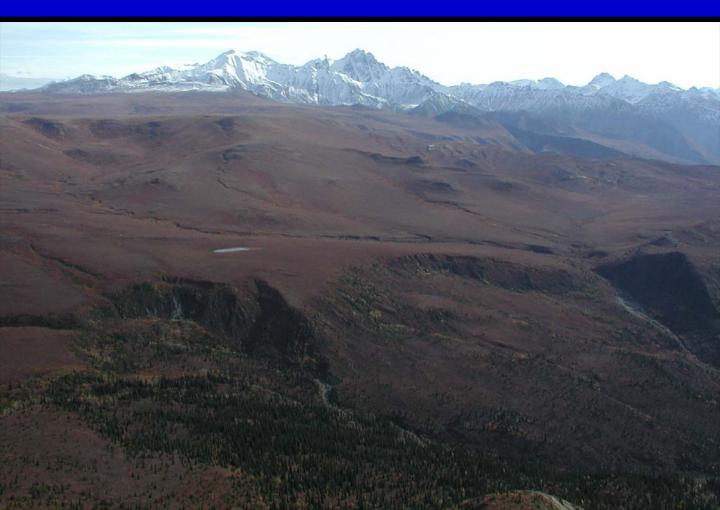
The Delta Junction Management Area consists of that portion of Unit 20(D) bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of Donnelly Creek and the Delta River, then up Donnelly Creek to the Richardson Highway (Mile 238), then north along the east side of the highway to the "12 Mile Crossing Trail" (Mile 252.4), then east along the south side of the "12 Mile Crossing Trail" and across Jarvis Creek to the 33-Mile Loop Road, then northeast along the 33-Mile Loop Road to the intersection with the Alaska Highway (Mile 1414), then southeast along the north side of the Alaska Highway to the bridge at Sawmill Creek (Mile 1403.9), then down the west bank of Sawmill Creek to its confluence with Clearwater Creek and down the south bank of Clearwater Creek to its confluence with the Tanana River, then down the Tanana River to its confluence with the Delta River, and upstream along the east bank of the Delta River to the point of beginning at Donnelly Creek. The area is open to moose hunting by drawing permit only.

<u>Delta Junction</u> <u>Management Area</u>

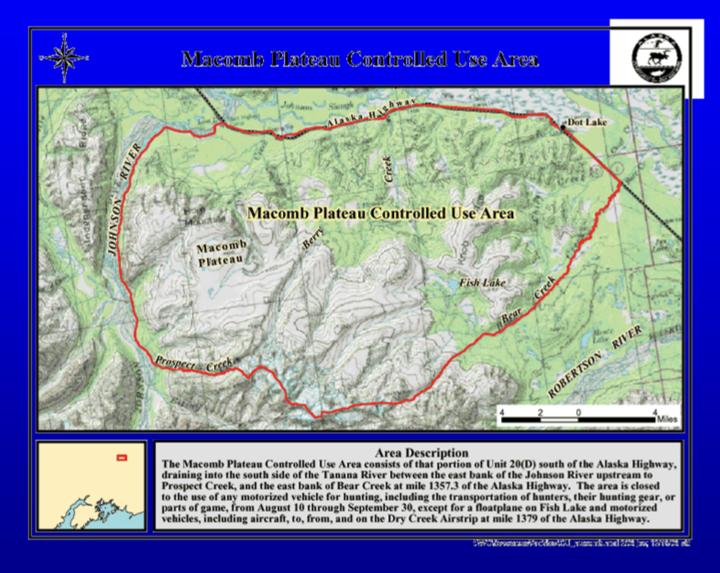
- Estab. 1974 at request of Delta AC to close hunting around Delta Jct. when moose low
 - Delta Junction Closed Area
- Reduced in size in 1991
- Renamed DJMA in 1996
 - First issued drawing permits
 - 25 permits for SF50 bull moose
- 2009 harvest = 13

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

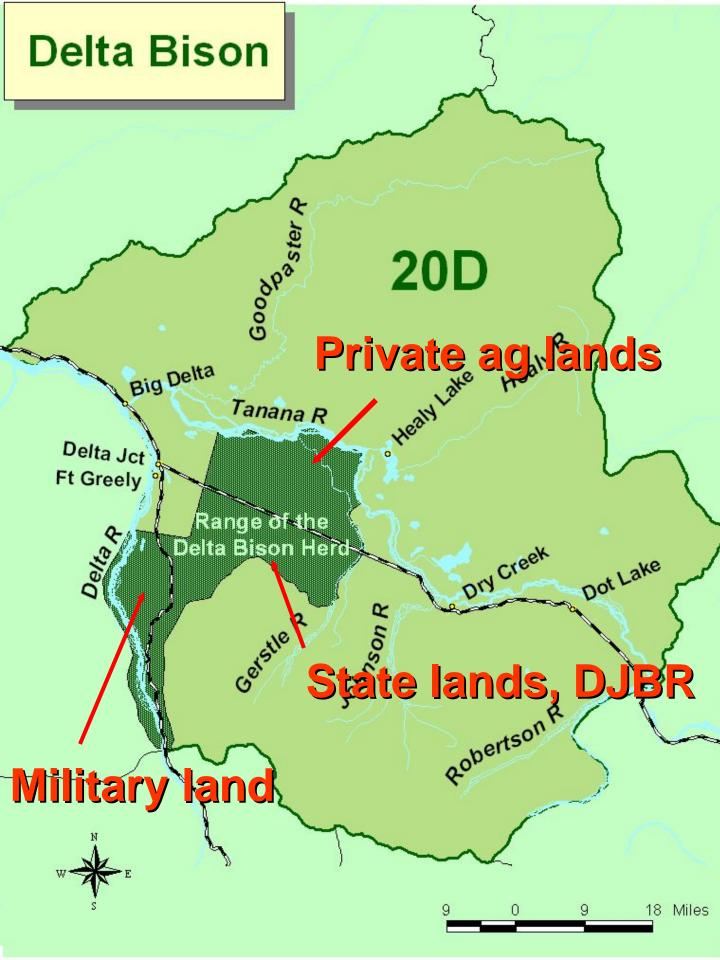
Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

- Delta AC serves Delta Jct.
 & Dry Ck.
- Dot Lk. & Healy Lk. served by Upper Tanana Fortymile AC





Herd ranges in SW 20D



- Mgmt based on plan developed with Delta Bison Working Group
- Plans since 1980
 - -Approved by Board



- 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 = 66% permits
 successful
- 2008 = 71% hunter success

- Management Activities
 - Aerial population estimate
 - -Ground based sexage composition counts
 - -Radio collars
 - Serologic survey
 - Manage bison forage on DJBR
 - –Administer drawing permit hunt

<u>Delta Bison Herd</u>

- 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

- 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

- <u>Issues</u>
- 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

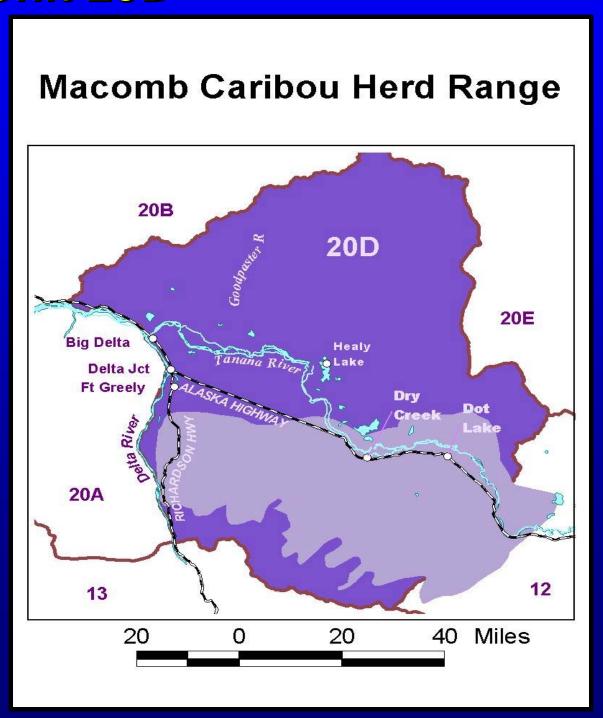
- Extrapolated population
- = 181-210 bears
- Harvest obj = 5-15/yr
- Current Regulations:
 - No resident tag fees
 - Season = Aug 10-Jun30
 - •Bag limit = 1/yr
- Ave. mortality = 12/yr &
 55% males w/current regs

Brown Bear

- Management Activities
 - Seal bears
 - Nuisance bears

- Issues
 - Role in IntensiveManagement

 MCH small herd in southern Unit 20D



- 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

- 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 Aug26
- 2009 harvest quota = 50
 - -2009 harvest = 52

- Management Activities
 - –Annual aerialpopulation estimate &composition survey
 - Hunting seasondistribution survey
 - -Radio collars
 - -Registration permits

- Issue
 - Avoiding overharvest of small, road accessible herd

Furbearers

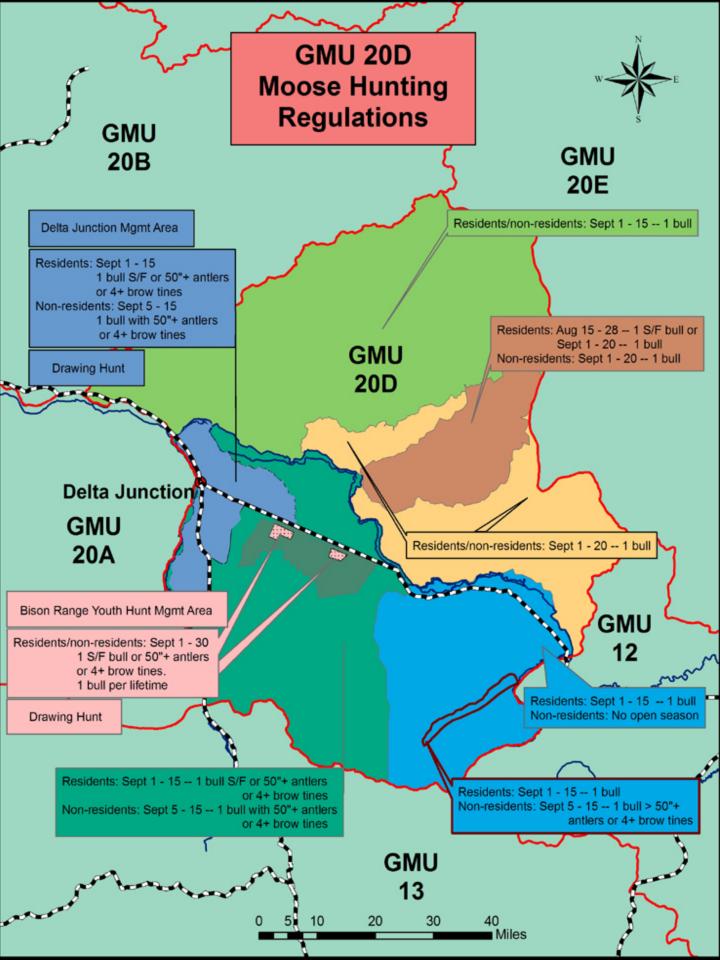
- Species of importance include:
 - -Beaver
 - -Coyote
 - -Lynx
 - -Marten
 - -Red fox
 - -Wolverine

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

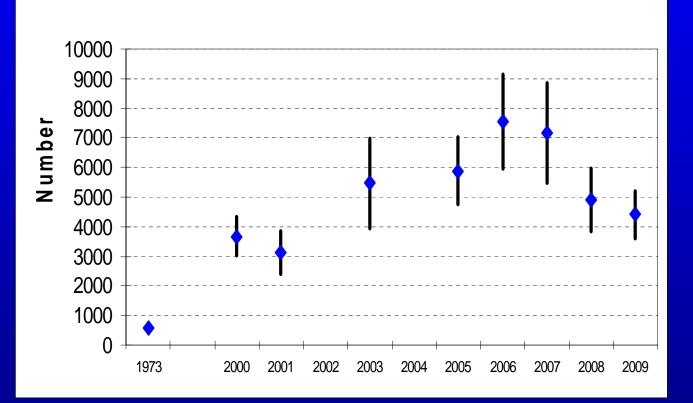


History Of Unit 20D Antlerless Moose Hunts

- 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

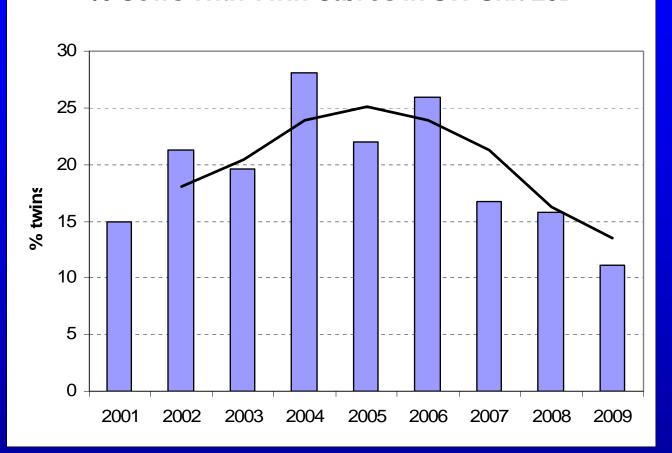




2009 density = 3.5 moose/mi^2

Southwest Unit 20D Twinning Surveys

% Cows With Twin Calves in SW Unit 20D



- 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

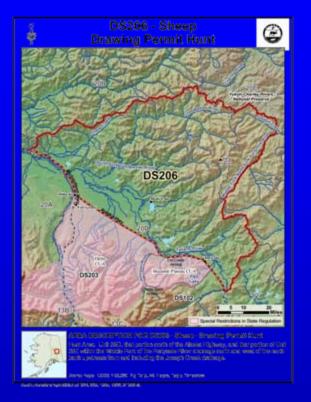
Moose

- Issues
 - -High density in SW Unit 20D & antlerless hunt
 - Antler restrictions unpopular
 - -High incidence of vehicle collisions with moose

<u>Dall Sheep in</u> <u>Delta CUA</u>

- 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.

<u>Dall Sheep</u> 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

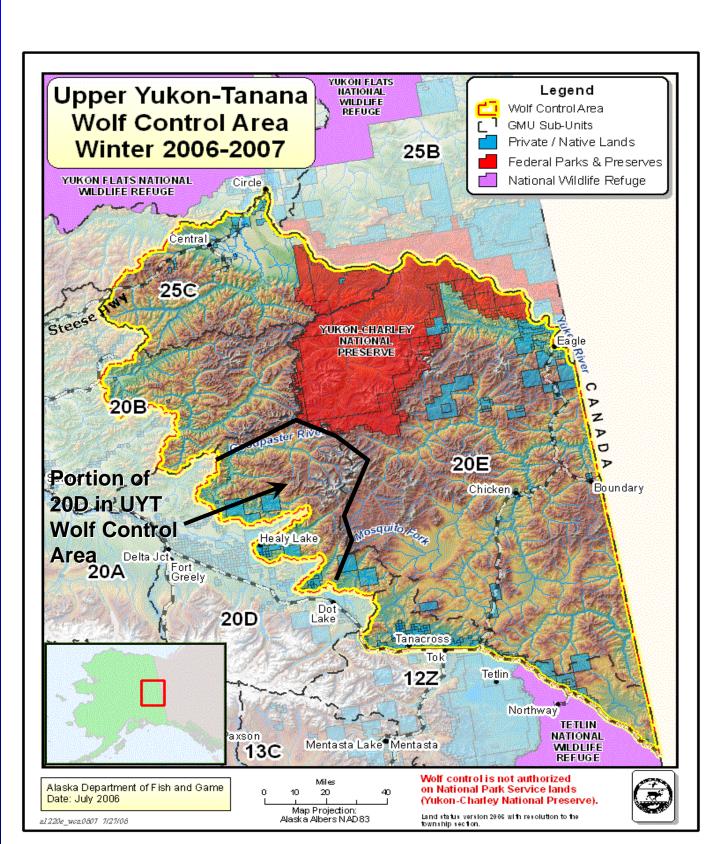
Small Game

- 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

- 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



- Management Activities
 - -Seal pelts
 - -Annual aerial surveys
 & trapper interviews to
 estimate population
 size
- Issues
 - Role of wolves in Unit20D 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

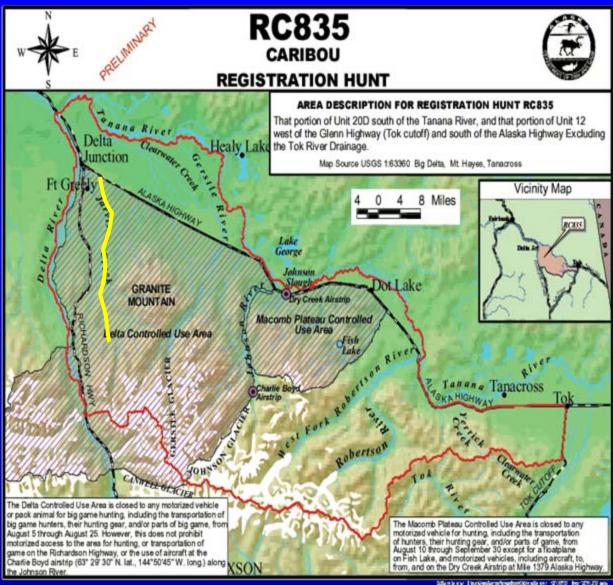
The End



Questions?

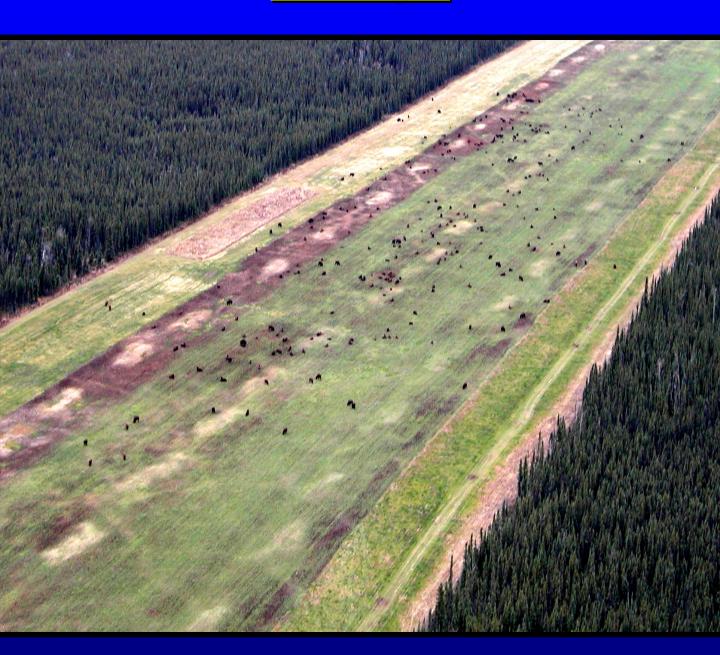


Macomb Caribou Herd



 Hunting east of Jarvis Ck (yellow line) by nonmotorized access via **DCUA**

Delta Junction Bison Range



322 bison

in Panoramic Fields

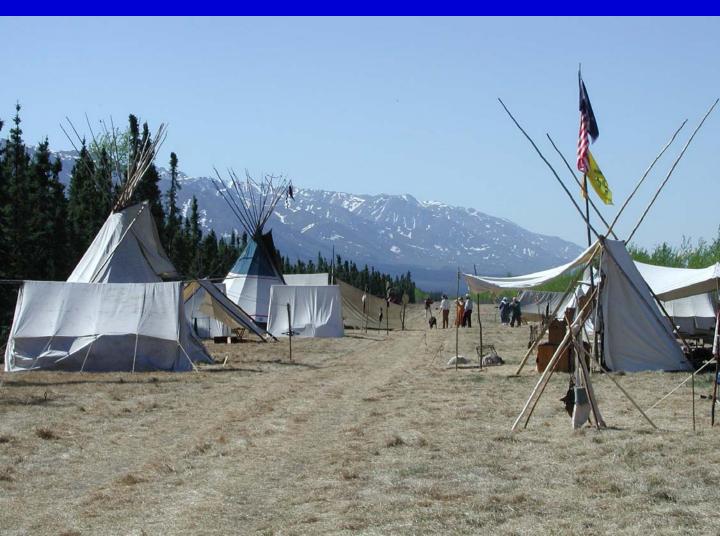
Delta Junction Bison Range

Ruffed Grouse Habitat Management Area



Delta Junction Bison Range

- Multiple use when compatible: hunting, fishing, camping, trapping, logging
 - Muzzleloader Rendezvous



- Unit 20D wolf control implementation plan adopted in 1997
 - -Plan expired July 1, 2009
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon
 - Tanana wolf control area

Unit 20D 2010 BOG Regulation Proposals



- <u>Proposal</u>: Modify the Delta bison hunting season dates
- Submitted by: Delta Bison Working Group
- <u>Issue</u>: 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

- <u>Background:</u>
- 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



- 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

- Background:
- Current bison hunting season in 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



- 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

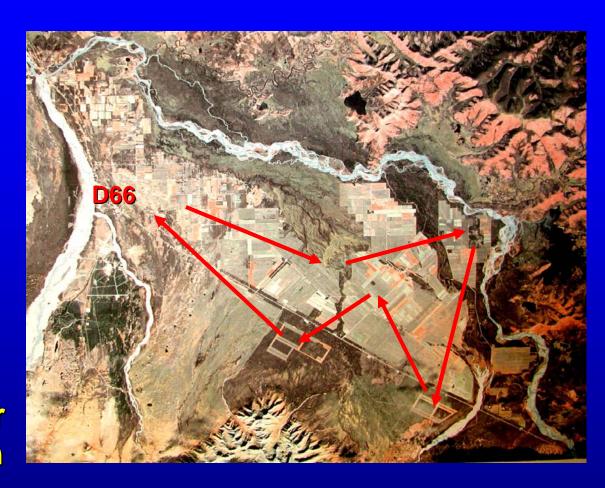
- Summary:
- Extending the Delta bison hunting season to July 1 – June 30 will not result in changes to the permit hunt dates of October 1 – March 31.
- It will give ADF&G the greatest flexibility to use hunting as a tool to manage bison/agriculture conflicts.

Questions?

- <u>Proposal</u>: Allow the taking of Delta bison the same day airborne (SDA)
- Submitted by: Delta AC
- <u>Issue</u>: 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

- 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

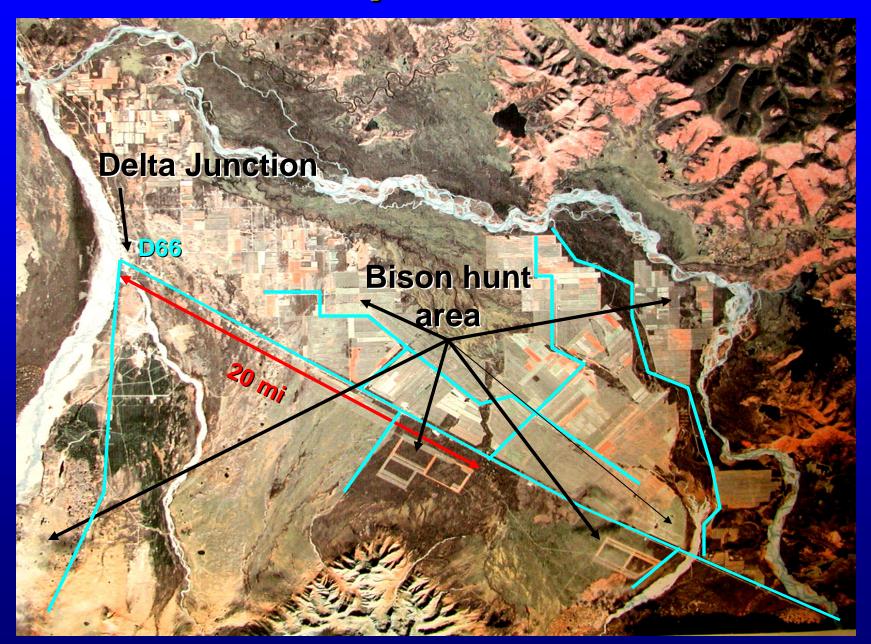
Amended Proposal 75 would allow hunters to take off from the "downtown Delta" airstrip i.e. **D66**, fly approximately 20 miles east of **Delta & search for** bison, then return to D66 and begin hunting the same day.



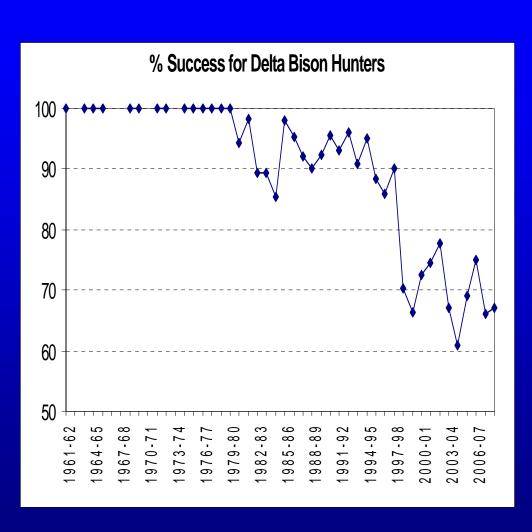
- Background:
- Current DBH population objective = 360 bison precalving (~475 postcalving)
- DBH is managed at this size to reduce damage to agricultural crops
- Herd size is managed through hunting
 - Two drawing permits
 - DI403 = bull or either-sex occasionally
 - DI404 = cow
 - Bison hunters have a staggered start with a new group of hunters starting about every 5 days

- 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.

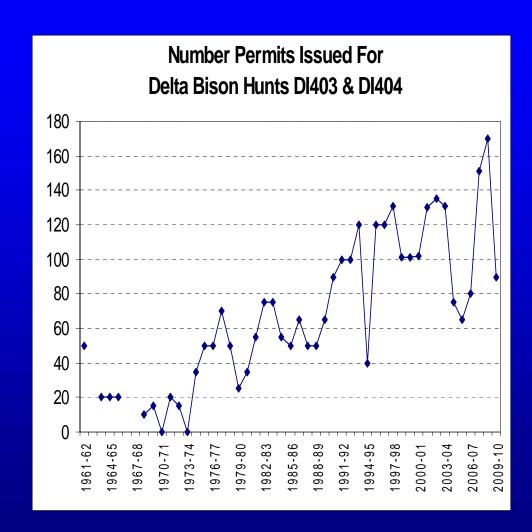
- Hunters commonly drive hundreds of miles/day for numerous days without seeing bison
- Bison commonly stay in spruce forest or away from roads
- Roads, particularly in winter, access only a very small proportion of bison range



- 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



- 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



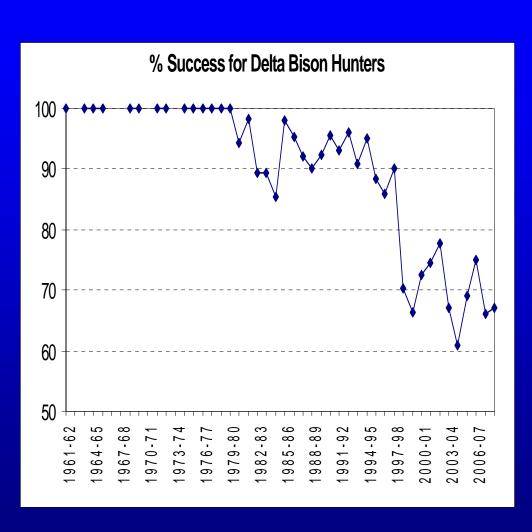
- Summary:
- Delta bison hunter success is declining
- It is necessary to issue too many permits to meet harvest objectives
 & population objectives
- SDA would be allowed with hunters returning to D66 before hunting

Questions?

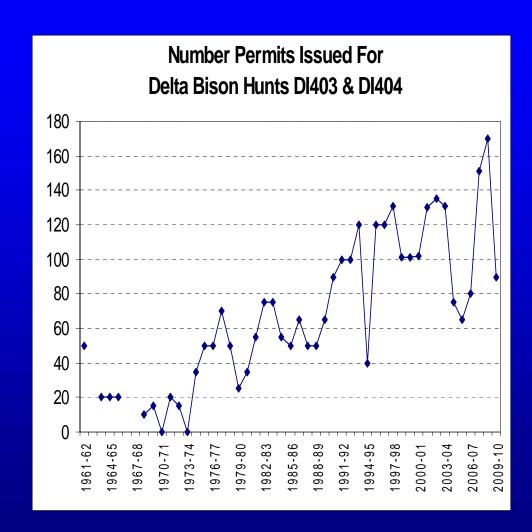
- Proposal: Allow the use of radio communication while hunting Delta bison
- Submitted by: Public
- <u>Issue</u>: Allowing the use of radio communication to increase hunter success
- ADF&G Recommendation: Do not adopt
- Delta AC Recommendation: ?
- Rationale: Bison hunter success is declining, making it necessary to issue too many permits to meet the population objective. Combining SDA with radio communication for hunting Delta bison is not advisable

- 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

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 - Bison go to crops & less acreage in crops



- 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



- 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

- 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

- 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

Questions?

- Proposal: Make specific bison (i.e. radio collared) illegal to shoot
- Submitted by: ADF&G
- <u>Issue</u>: 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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 midsummer 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

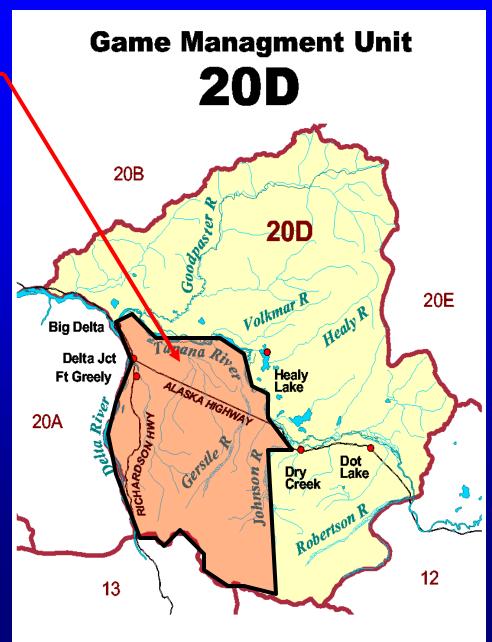
- This regulation would make it illegal to shoot Delta bison wearing brightly collared, numbered visual collars
- The brightly collared, numbered visual collars detract from the aesthetics of viewing bison
- When specific collars become inoperable, we will notify hunters that they can shoot those specific bison
- This regulation will assist ADF&G keeping enough Delta bison radio collared for the best management possible

Questions?

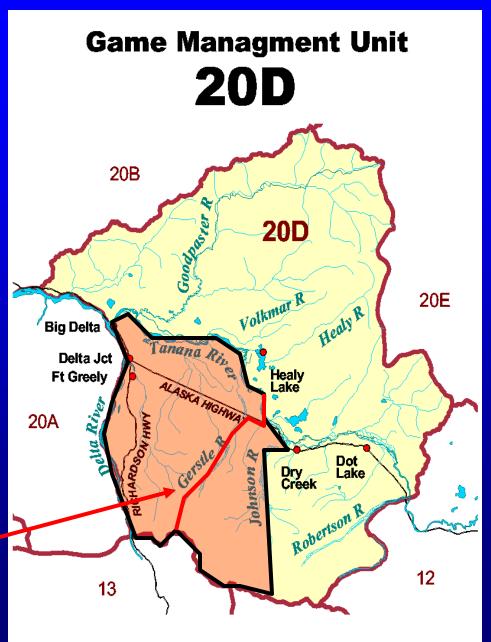
- Proposal: Reauthorize the antierless moose hunting season in Unit 20D
- Submitted by: ADF&G
- <u>Issue</u>: The Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually
- ADF&G Recommendation: Adopt
- Delta AC Recommendation: Adopt
- Rationale: Although current plans are to issue no antierless permits for RY10, reauthorization is requested in the event that new data indicates a hunt is preferable.

- 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

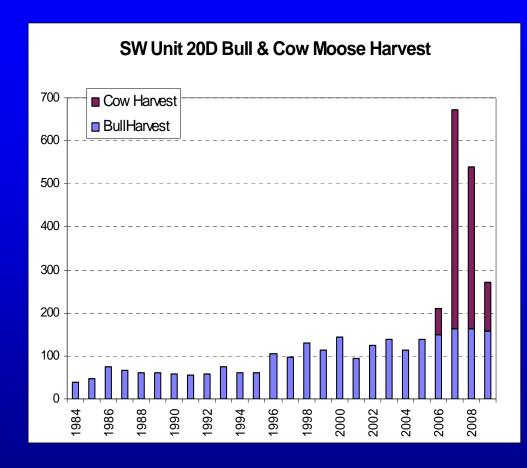
- Southwest Unit 20D
 - South of Tanana Rv
 - West of Johnson Rv
- Location of highest moose density & population growth
- Extensive agricultural land clearing & wild fires last 30 years
- Created abundance of high quality moose habitat
- High bear & wolf harvest



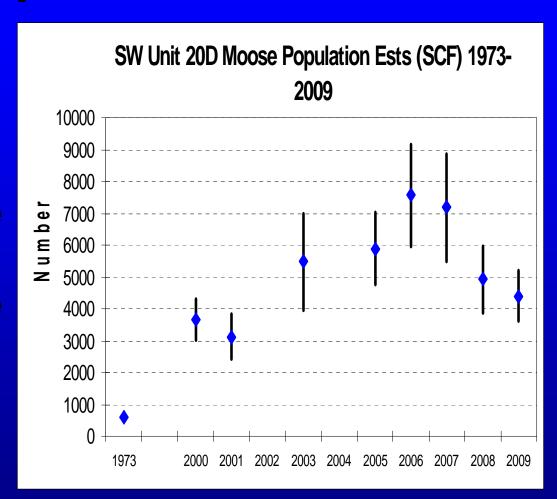
- Proposal is to reauthorize antlerless hunts in southwest Unit 20D
 - for a cow not accompanied by a calf,
 - from Oct 10 Nov 25
- Southwest Unit 20D hunt area is:
 - South of Tanana Rv
 - West of Gerstle Rv



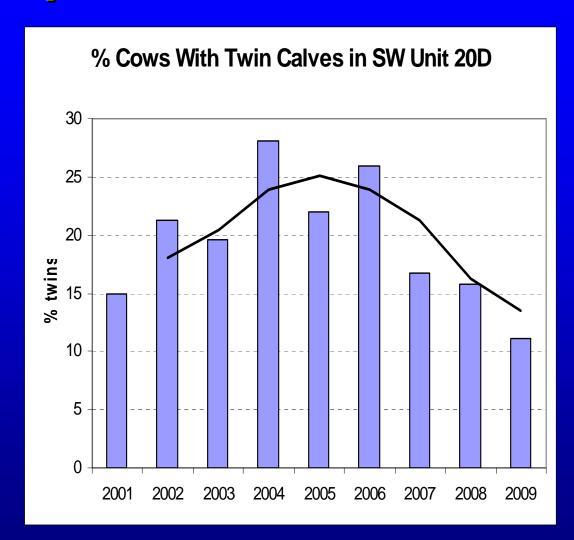
- Unit 20D antlerless moose harvest (cow not accompanied by a calf) + BRYHMA
- 2006 (token hunt) = 75 permits
 - 52 cows taken
 - 2007 = 901 drawing permits
 - 507 cows taken
- 2008 = 748 drawing & registration permits
 - 382 cows taken
- 2009 = 200 drawing permits
 - 113 cows taken
- 2006 2009 cows taken = 1,054
- Harvest achieved even with restrictive bag limit = cow not accompanied by a calf
- Harvest due to good access with many roads & trials



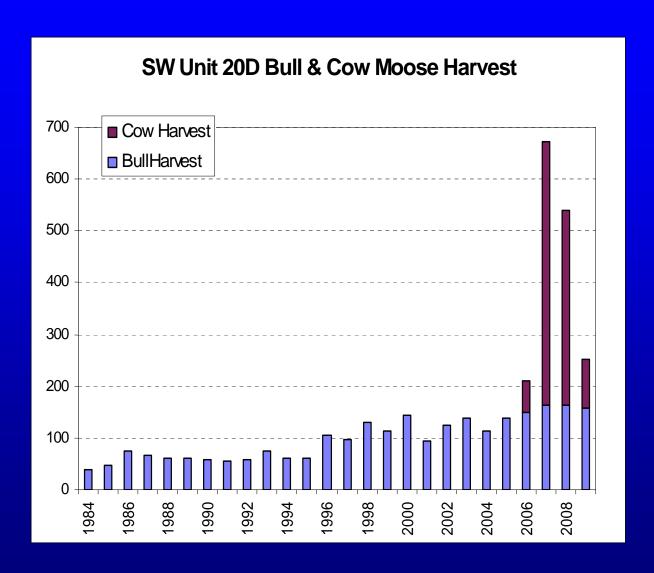
- SW Unit 20D cow hunt has reduced moose population density:
- 2006 = 7,559 moose
 5.6 moose/mi²
- 2009 = 4,401 moose
 - 3.1 moose/mi²
 - Reduced to ~2002 –
 2003 population levels



- SW Unit 20D twinning rates continuing decline to 11.1% despite reduction in population
- Do not know time lag between population reduction & twinning response



- SW Unit 20D bull harvest is remaining steady & high
- Harv = 147/yr2007-2009
- 2009 bull:cow ratio = 30:100
- 2009 calf:cow ratio = 33:100



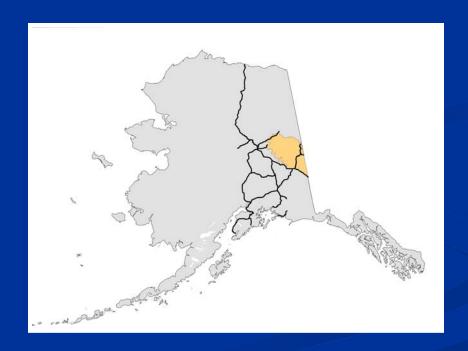
- SW Unit 20D moose research project begun fall 2009 due to availability of Army funds
- Radio-collared 42 bull moose
- Radio-collared 15 cow moose
- Weigh 30 short yrlgs
- Data to be collected:
 - Movement & population identity
 - Aerial survey sightability
 - Short yearling spring weights
 - Overwinter 2009 2010 browse utilization



- 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

Questions?

RC 140 Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Program BOG Report 2004-2010



(Unit 20E and portions of 12, 20B, 20D & 25C)

Background

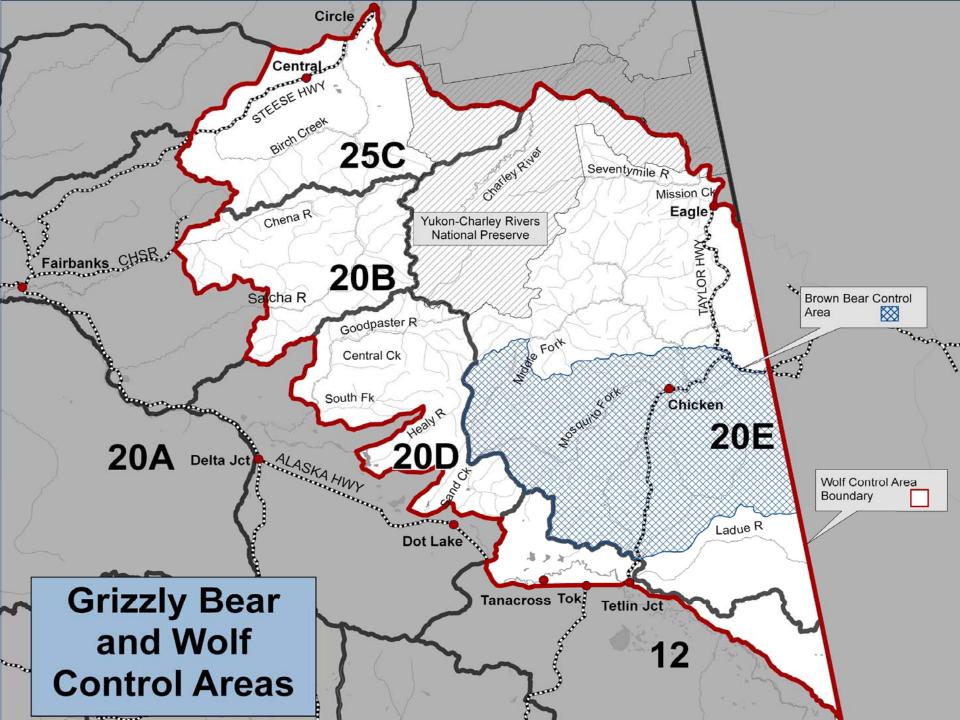
- Adopted November 2004
 - > Reduce Predation wolves and brown bears
 - Increase moose –portions of Units 12 and 20E
- Implemented January 2005
 - > Up to 5-Years
- > Expanded May 2006
 - > Wolf Control Area
 - > Fortymile Caribou Range
 - Larger portion of Units 12 and 20E Moose
 - > Bear Control Area
 - 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

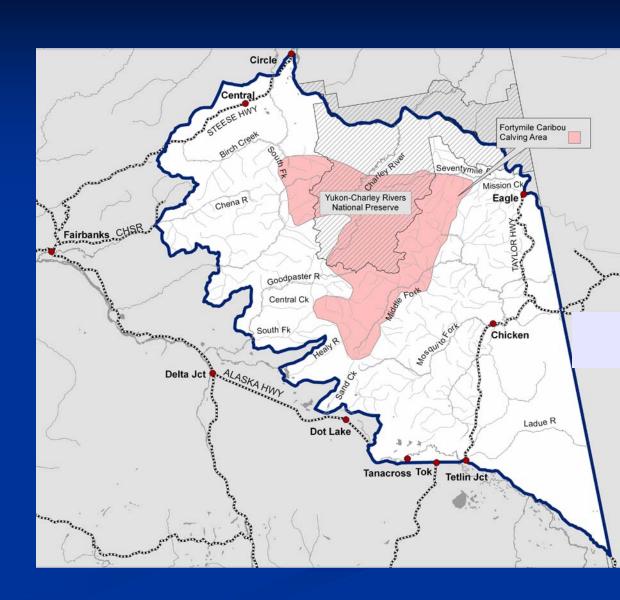
- ➤60% reduction in the pre-control brown bear population
- ➤ Minimum population = 68 brown bears

Wolf Control

2008-2009

Oct. 6 - April 30

- 53 Permits Issued
 - > 25 pilots
 - > 28 gunners
- > 220 wolves taken
 - > 49 control
 - > 84 by ADF&G
 - 87 hunters and trappers
- Control Objective not met



Wolf Control

<u>2009 - 2010</u>

Oct. 27, 2009 – April 30, 2010

- > 57 Permits Issued
 - > 25 pilots
 - > 32 gunners
- > 8 wolves taken (to date)
- 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

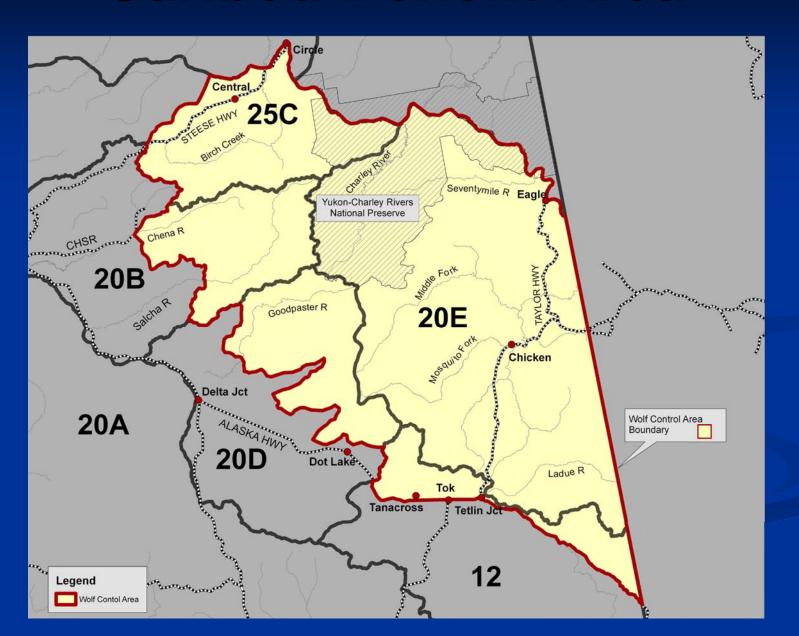
- > 31% of Brown Bear Control Area burned
- Redistribution of bears following burn
- Likely effected success of bear control program
- Likely resulted in a decline in moose calf predation within the burned area.







Caribou Benefit Area



Fortymile Caribou Population Status

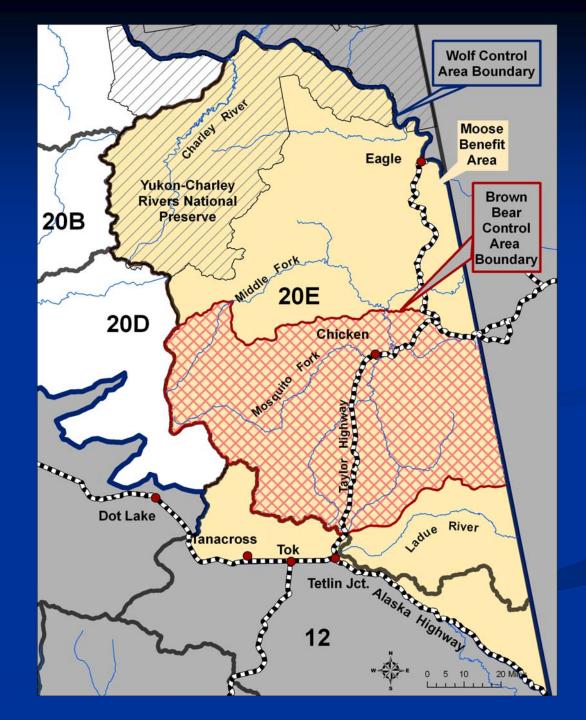
Population Estimate = 46,510 (July 2009)

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

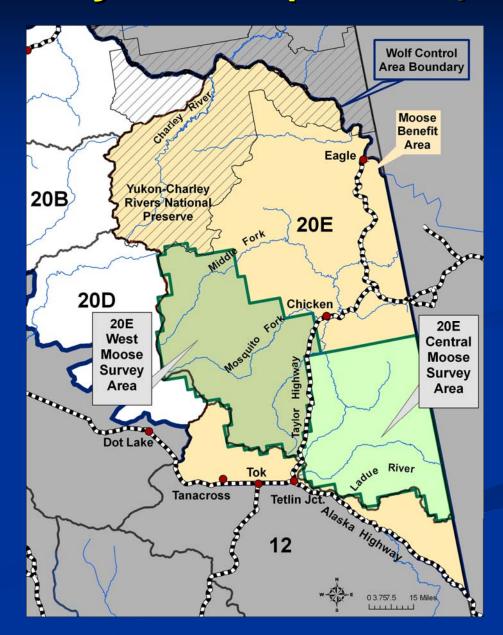
2009 (Fall) Population Estimate (Moose Benefit Area)

>4,700-6,600

Unit 20E Moose Survey Areas (4,630 mi²)

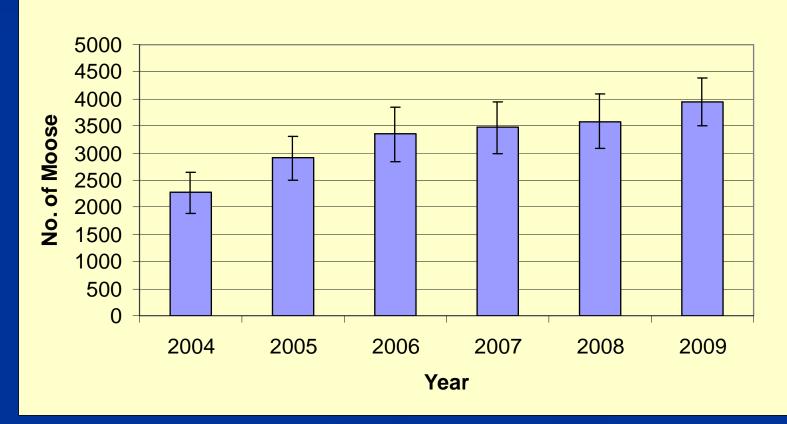
Fall Moose Surveys

> **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

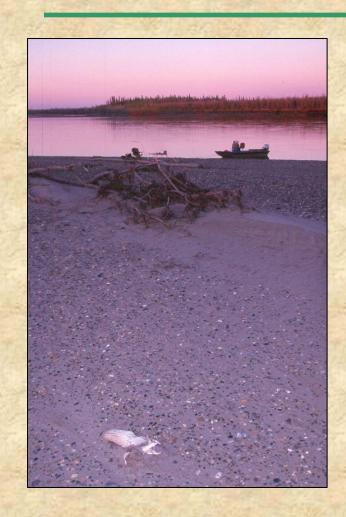
Wood Bison Project Update



Alaska Board of Game February-March 2010



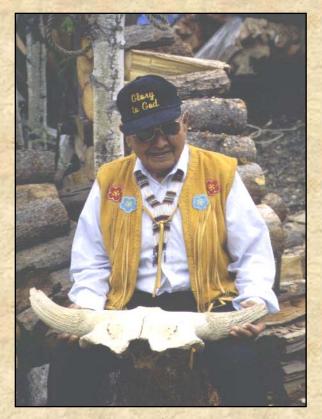
Wood bison bones have been found on Yukon Flats and other parts of Alaska





Bison horn core found on the Porcupine River

Native elders provided historic accounts of wood bison

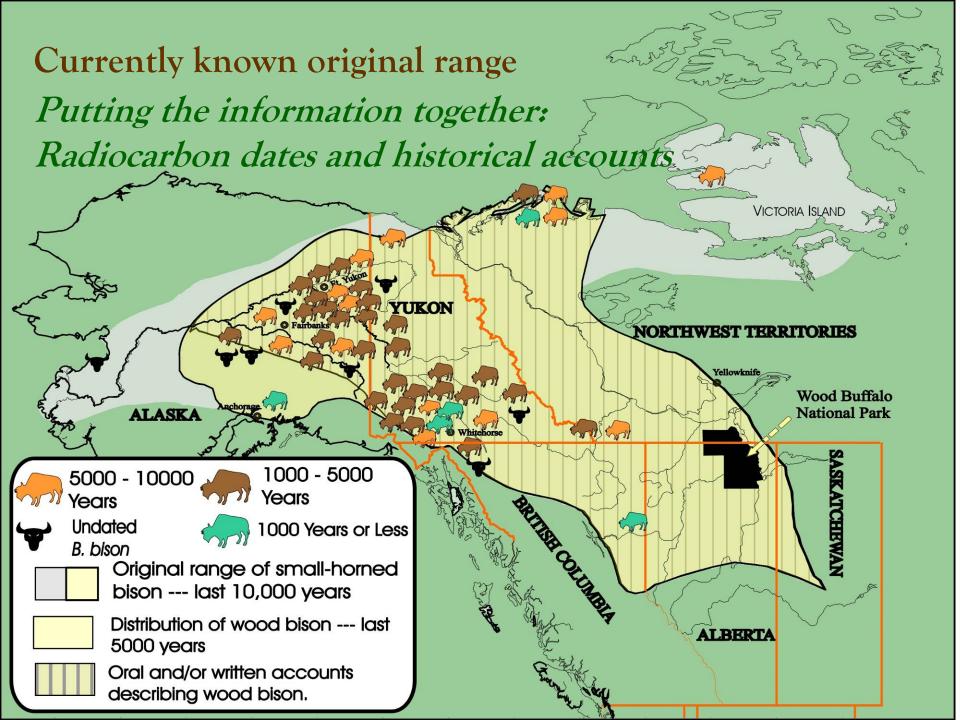


Reverend David Salmon, Chalkyitsik, AK

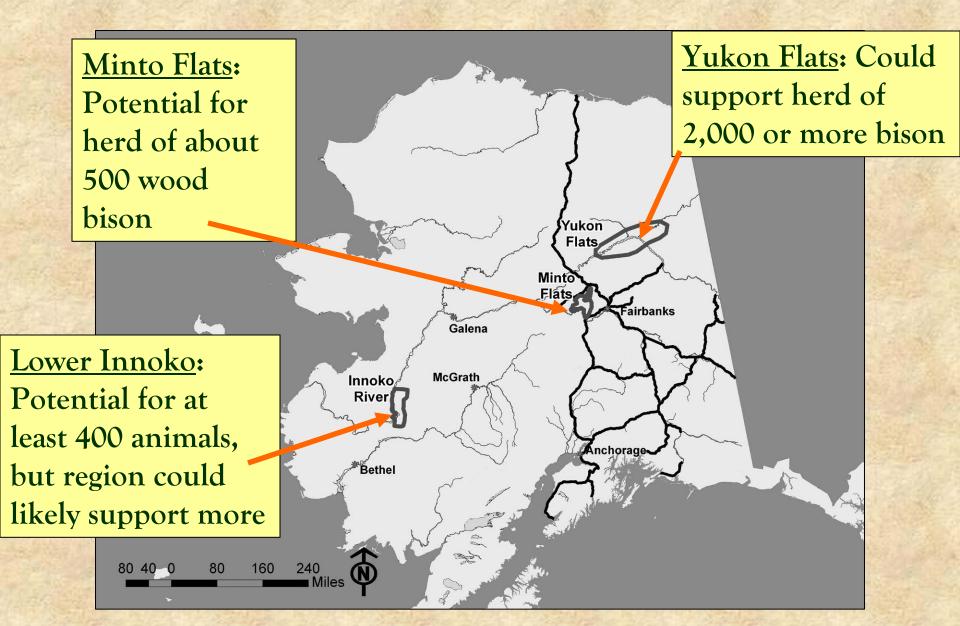
- Bison were hunted extensively and used as a source of food and materials.
- Bison
 disappeared
 within last few
 centuries.



Mary Sam Beaver, AK



The sites now being considered include:



2005 Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group

Representatives of:

- local villages and fish and game advisory committees
- Sportsman's organizations
- Environmental groups
- Native organizations
- Animal welfare interests



The Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group unanimously supported moving forward with wood bison restoration and continuing to consider all three potential release sites.

April 2007 – Wood Bison Environmental Review

Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska:

A Review of Environmental and Regulatory Issues and Proposed Decisions for Project Implementation



Painting by Randall Compton

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation



April 2007

- Over 90% of the comments favored wood bison restoration in Alaska
- Many comments supported restoring wood bison in the Minto Flats area first because it is primarily state land in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

Strong Public Support









Decision after Environmental Review, December 2007

- Minto Flats would be first site for wood bison restoration.
- Follow with restoration on Yukon Flats and/or the lower Innoko/Yukon River area as soon as possible.

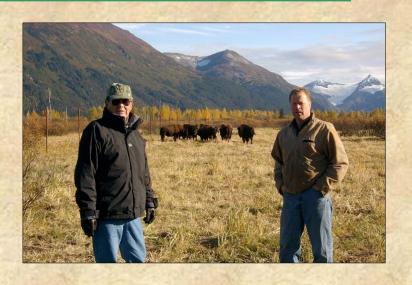






Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center: an essential partner

- Located at Portage about
 45 miles southeast of
 Anchorage.
- Temporary handling facility to maintain bison and complete disease testing until wood bison can be released in the wild.





June 2008 - 53 Bison Moved from EINP to AWCC











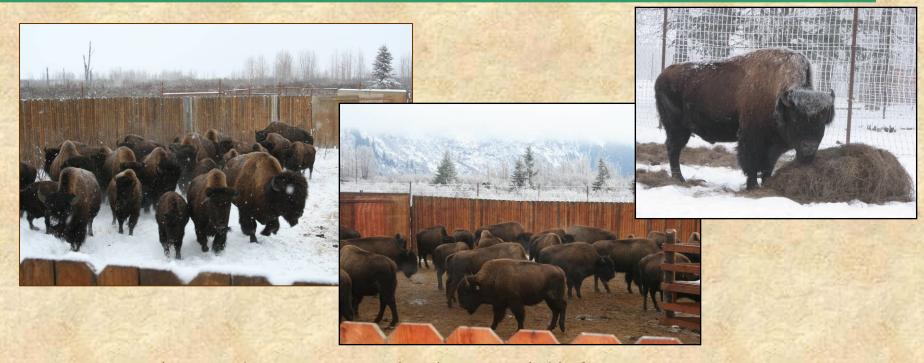








Wood Bison Health Certification Program



- Currently 82 bison at Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- ADF&G and DEC are completing a comprehensive disease testing and health certification program, in addition to extensive testing done in Canada.



- Wood bison handled and tested in November 2008, March 2009, and February 2010
- All test results so far indicate herd is healthy and that bison will be suitable for release

ESA Issue

- In 2004 FWS indicated that wood bison in Alaska would <u>not</u> be treated as an endangered species.
- In 2007-2008 FWS reevaluated the status of wood bison under the ESA and determined that wood bison have status as an endangered species "wherever they occur," including Alaska.





ESA Issue (continued)

- Change in legal interpretation provides:
 - legal clarity (removes
 the threat of a petition
 for listing or legal
 challenge over
 endangered status)
 - an opportunity to develop a special rule reduce the regulatory requirements



ESA Issue (continued)

- In 1982 Congress added section 10(j) to the ESA specifically to reduce regulatory requirements for reintroduced populations
- Reduce opposition among land owners and other development interests





ESA Issue (continued)

• ADF&G is working with Department of Law (ADOL), DNR and FWS to develop a 10(j) rule designating wood bison in Alaska as a "nonessential experimental population" or NEP

Wood bison in Alaska meet legal requirements for

NEP status





A section 10(j) rule will:

• Virtually eliminate requirements to consult with the FWS about other resource development activities that might affect wood bison or their habitat



Carlile Transportation delivering hay to AWCC

10(j) rule (continued)

• ESA prohibits designation of "critical habitat" for NEP's, which could otherwise restrict land use activities that might adversely affect an endangered species.

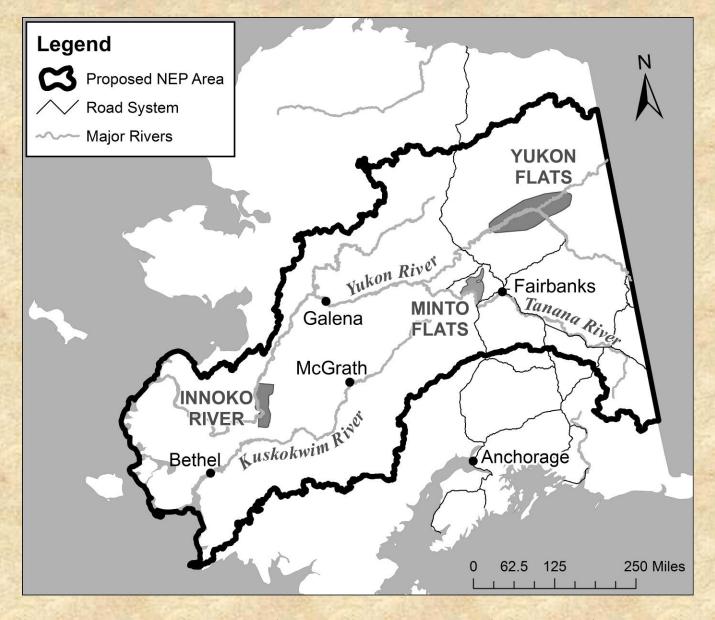


10(j) rule (continued)

• Draft rule includes provisions to allow "incidental take," provide for state management, regulated harvest in the future, allow hazing bison, taking in defense of life, etc.

 No legal action if wood bison are "incidentally taken" (for example, disturbed, injured or killed in connection with other

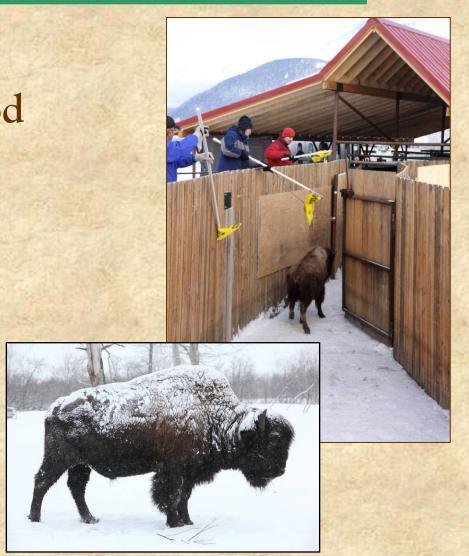
resource development)



Proposed Non-essential Experimental Population Area

Petition to Downlist Wood Bison to "Threatened"

- Petition submitted in 2007 by Canada's Wood Bison Recovery Team
- FWS may propose
 delisting rather than
 downlisting—status in
 Canada improved



Concerns About the ESA

- In January 2009 Doyon, Ltd recommended that the Governor and legislature "halt and reverse" the wood bison project
- Senate resolution (SCR 2) opposing wood bison release proposed
- ADF&G and ADOL distributed paper responding to concerns about the ESA and explaining how the state will address them



Efforts to Inform Public about Wood Bison and the ESA

- Meetings with DNR to develop understanding of 10(j) rules
- Dept. of Law analysis of litigation on previous
 10(j) rules none overturned
- Presentations to the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Miners' Association and others



State Actions

- No action taken on SCR 2 last year
- ADF&G, ADOL, ADNR and Governor's Office evaluated the situation and agreed to pursue a suitable 10(j) rule and then decide whether to proceed
- ADOL, DNR and ADF&G see NEP designation as legally sound and appropriate solution.
- Wood bison cannot be released until final rule or delisting in place

10(j) Process Moving Forward

- FWS, ADF&G, ADOL and ADNR developed draft 10(j) rule
- In August 2009 Governor's Office approved going ahead with 10(j) process
- FWS now working to publish proposed rule in Federal Register







Possible Release Timeline

- Proposed rule and EA
 to be published soon –
 public comment
- Final federal regulations or delisting action possible by late 2010
- First release could occur in 2011 - a delay is possible





Potential Development Near Release Sites

- Petroleum exploration in Minto and Yukon Flats
- Natural gas pipeline along eastern edge of Minto Flats
- Proposed agricultural development south of Minto Flats, west of Nenana
- Donlin Creek mine about 40 miles from lower Yukon/Innoko site
- Current sensitivity to ESA issue greatest for Minto and Yukon Flats





Additional Considerations

- Yukon Flats has best habitat and could support the largest wood bison herd.
 FWS no longer in opposition
- Concerns remain about flooding and snow depth in the lower Yukon/Innoko area.

Spring 2009 flooding on the Innoko River



Yukon Flats meadows



Future Harvest Management

- Must address state subsistence law at all sites
- Yukon Flats and the lower Yukon/Innoko areas involve federal lands and subsistence issues
- ADF&G is committed to ensuring that the benefits of wood bison restoration are shared among local and non-local residents of Alaska and others.
- Future harvest management and access will be addressed in site-specific planning efforts.





Recent Public Comment

- Yukon Flats AC resolution of support Oct, 2008
- Nenana, Minto and Birch Creek village councils passed resolutions opposing wood bison restoration in spring 2009.
- Letter of <u>support</u> from Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council in September 2009.
- Lower Yukon Sub Region (encompassing the GASH villages) passed a resolution of <u>support</u> in December 2009



Residents of the lower Yukon/Innoko area toured AWCC in October 2009

Conclusions

- Continued political support necessary to move forward and release bison – wood bison supporters need to stay involved
- Final ESA actions should provide assurances needed for wood bison to be restored at all three sites
- The lower/Innoko Yukon may be best site for initial planning
- Allow time for NEP status or downlisting before initiating planning efforts on Yukon Flats or Minto Flats
- Hope to complete bison restoration projects over period of about 5-6 years

Widely Supported----Major Contributors

ADF&G greatly appreciates the partnership with the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center and contributions and support provided by:

- The Turner Foundation
- <u>Safari Club International</u> Foundation and the Alaska and Kenai Chapters
- Carlile Transportation Systems



Contributions from these organizations have been used to obtain matching federal funds under the State Wildlife Grant program

Other Wood Bison Project contributors include:

- University of Alaska-Fairbanks
- Teck Cominco Alaska
- Home Depot
- Camai Printing Company
- Chugach National Forest
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District

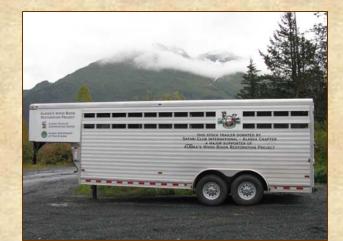












Additional Wood Bison Project supporters and contributors include:

- Canada's Wood Bison Recovery Team
- Elk Island National Park
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- World Conservation Union
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Alaska State Veterinarian
- Alaska Board of Game
- Alaska Outdoor Council
- Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
- Many state fish and game advisory committees, local communities and village councils



Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska



Celebrating the Return of a Native Species

Herd Health Review

- No positive test results for any of the diseases of concern primary (TB, brucellosis)
- 10 mortalities (2 euthanized, hernias and other injuries from competition around hay piles)
- Stomach worm problem; common in confined herds
- Herd is being intensely treated with Ivomec Plus and fenbendazole de-wormer
- No other health status issues



The Final Word

- When the ESA regulations are complete the administration will determine if they will provide adequate protection for resource development and if ADF&G will be authorized to release wood bison into the wild.
- We hope the first release will occur in spring 2011.







Doyon Concerns About the ESA

- In January 2009 Doyon recommended the state "halt and reverse" the wood bison project due concerns about possible restrictions on oil and gas development due to the ESA or lawsuits.
- A resolution was introduced in the Alaska Legislature mirroring the Doyon reports and recommending the administration stop the project.



ADOL Section 10(j) Legal Review

- More than 20 rules in place; California condors in all of NM and AZ, ferrets in several states.
 Have worked well where human activity and development is extensive.
- Legal challenges to some provisions in wolf 10(j) rules; most provisions upheld in court and no NEP designations have been overturned.
- ADOL, DNR and ADF&G see NEP designation as legally sound sound and appropriate solution.



ESA Section 10(j) Rule and Listing Status Review

- Notice of Intent to prepare an EA and request for scoping comments in FR– 30-day comment period (starting soon)
- Notice of proposed 10(j) rule and availability of EA – 60-day comment period
- Publish final 10(j) rule or delist
- Similar process for downlisting or delisting action

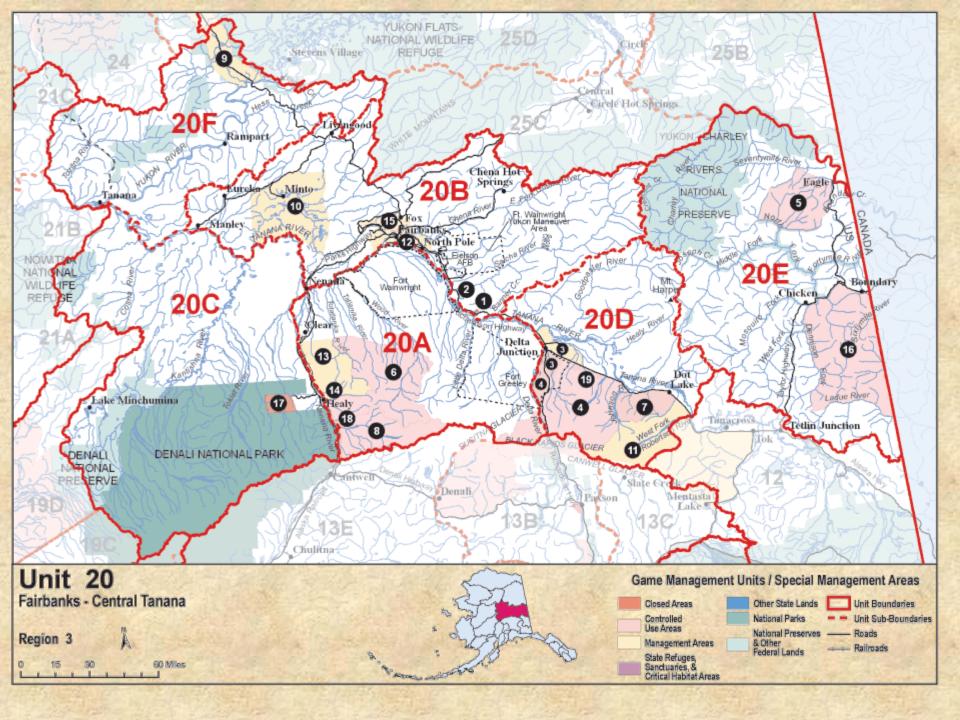
Proposal 40 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Reauthorize antlerless hunt
- Increase "up to" language for "antlerless" drawing permits from 500 to 1000

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

Reauthorization and increase in number of permits supported by all 4 affected ACs



Proposal 40 - GMU 20A Moose

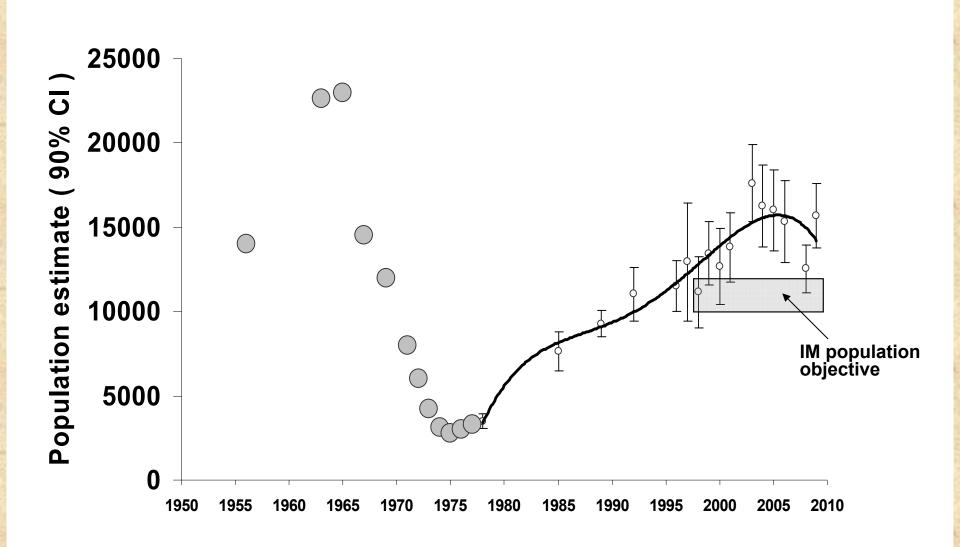
RATIONALE:

- 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

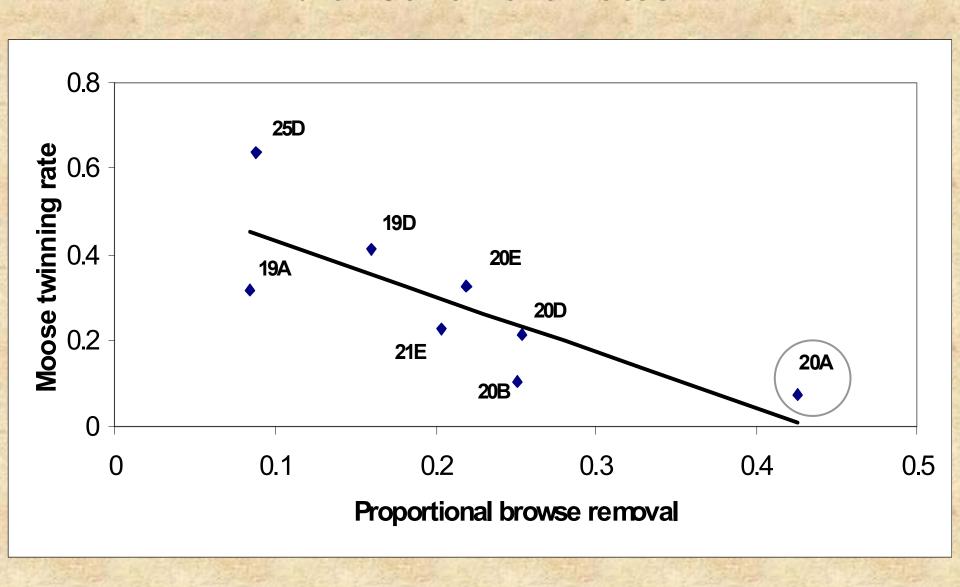
Primary Goals

- 1) Protect the moose population's health and habitat
- 2) Fulfill Intensive Management mandate for elevated yield

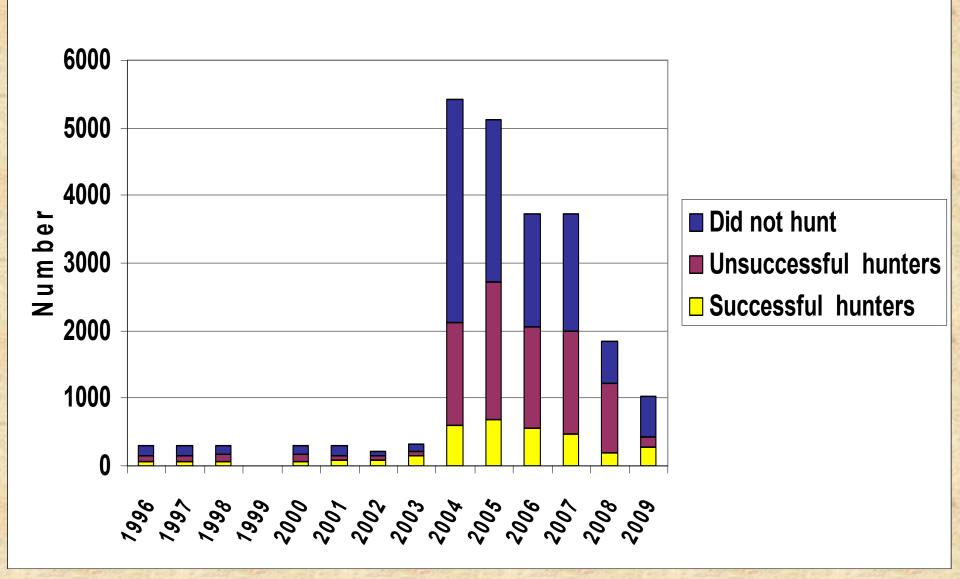
Unit 20A moose population trend, 1956-2009



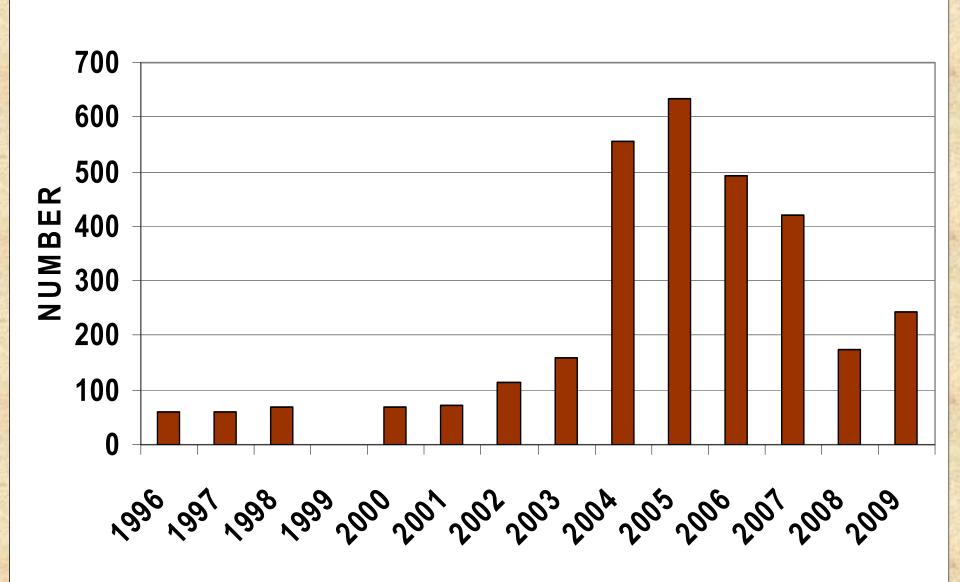
Relationship between moose twinning and browse removal rates



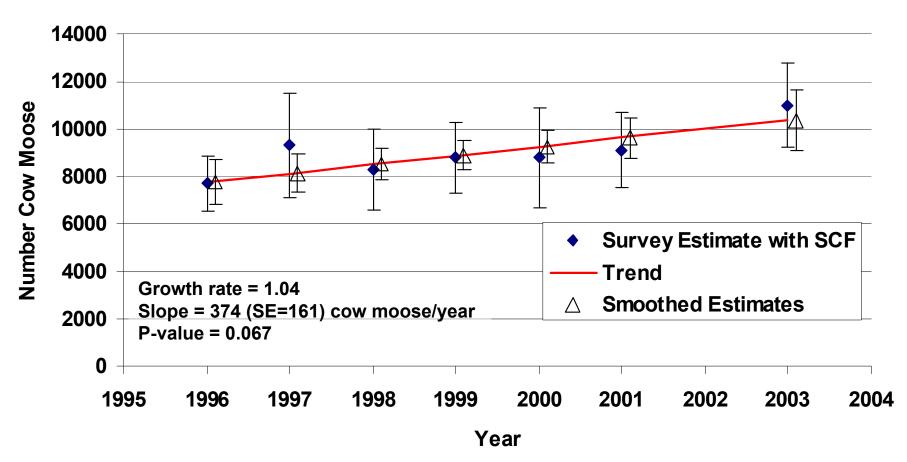
Unit 20A antlerless moose hunts, regulatory years 1996-2009



Reported harvest of female moose, Unit 20A, 1996-2009



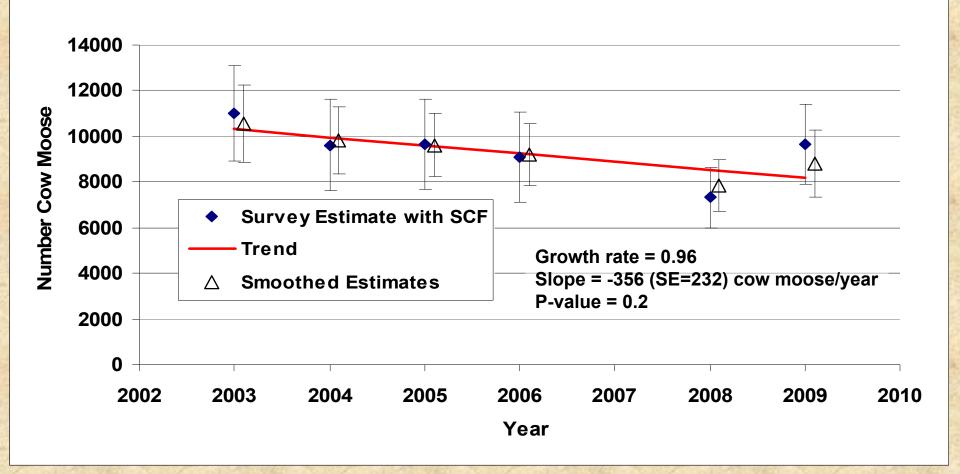




Annual Means 1996-2003:

permits issued = 253; hunted = 147; reported harvest females = 76 (0-159); harvest rate females = 0.6% (0%-1.1%)



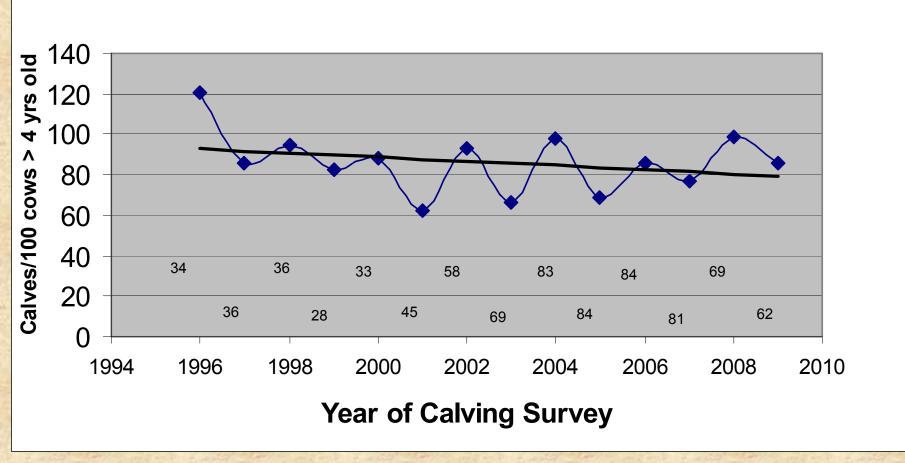


Annual Means 2004-2008:

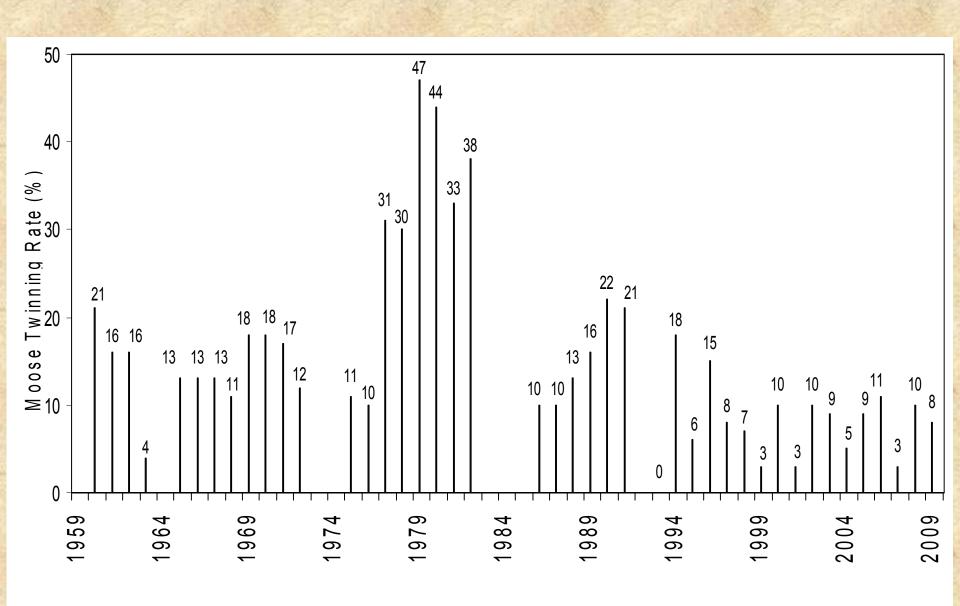
permits issued = 3970; hunted = 2025; reported harvest females= 460 (194-634); harvest rate females = 3.2% (1.7%-4.2%)

No recent improvement in reproduction since 2004

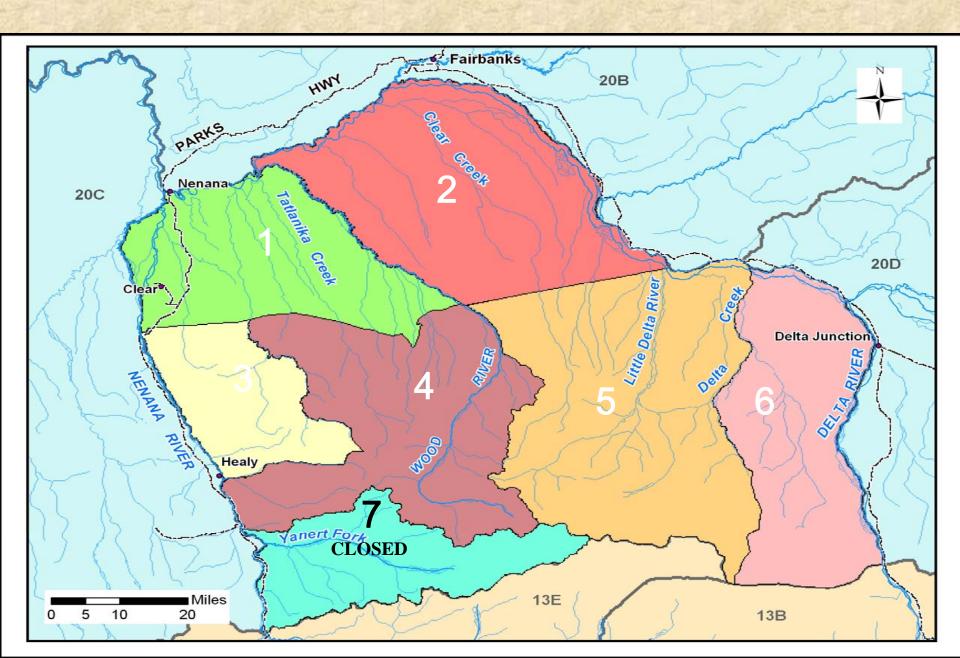
Calves/100 radioed cows >4 years old



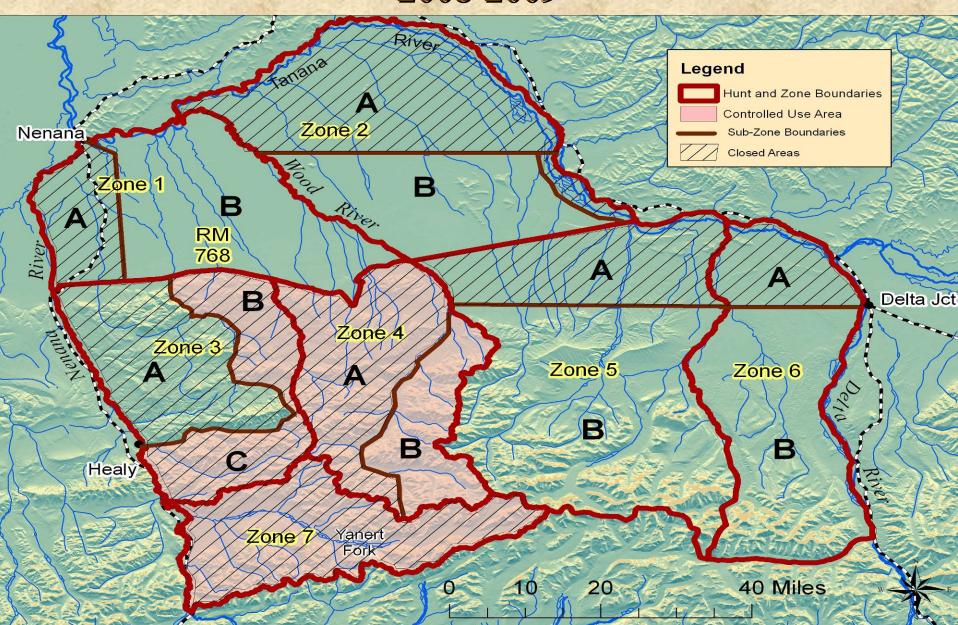
Moose twinning rates, Unit 20A, 1960-2009



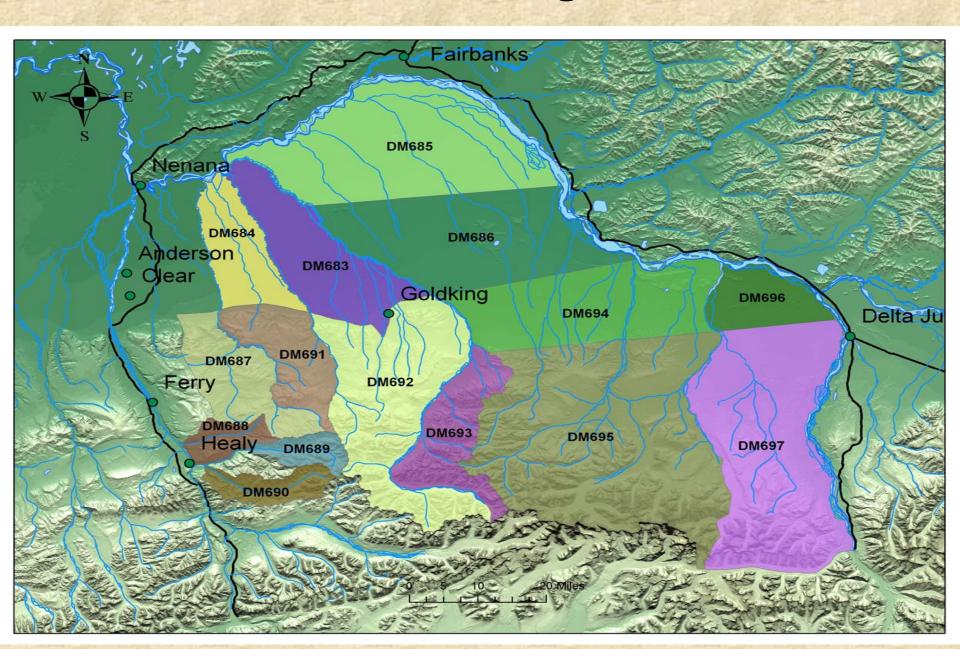
Unit 20A antlerless moose hunt RM764, 2004-2005

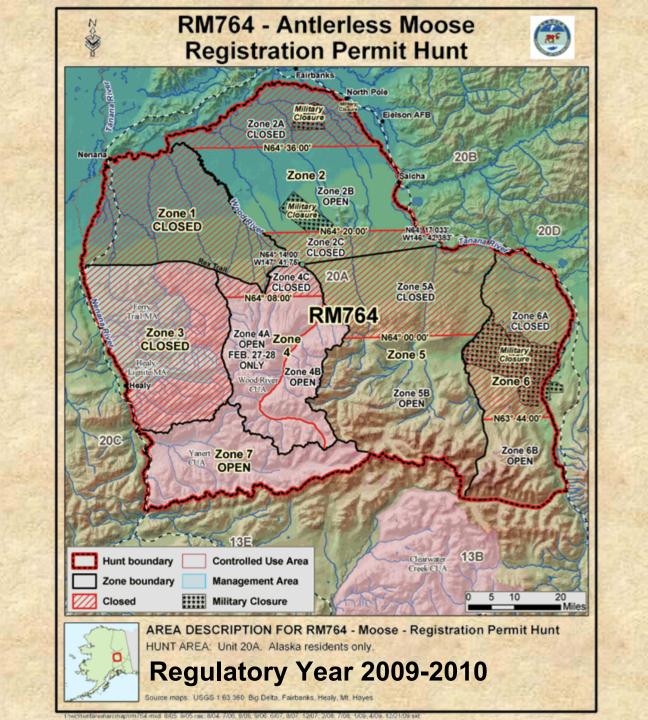


Unit 20A antlerless moose hunts RM764 and RM768, 2008-2009



Unit 20A antlerless drawing hunts, 2009-2010



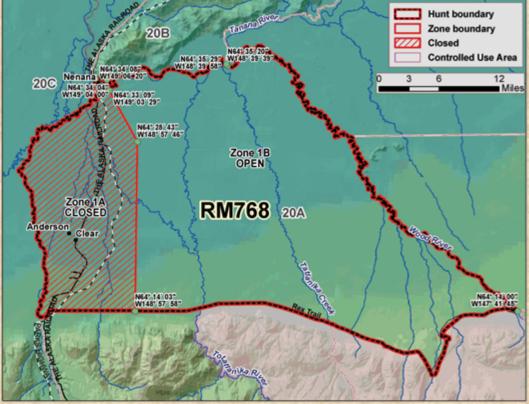


Regulatory Year 2009-2010



RM768 - Antlerless Moose Registration Permit Hunt





AREA DESCRIPTION FOR RM768 - Moose - Registration Permit Hunt

HUNTAREA: that portion of Unit 20A bounded on the north by the north bank of the Tanana River, bounded on the east by the east bank of the Wood River, bounded on the south by the south side of the Rex Trail, and bounded on the west by the east bank of the Nenana River. Alaska residents only.

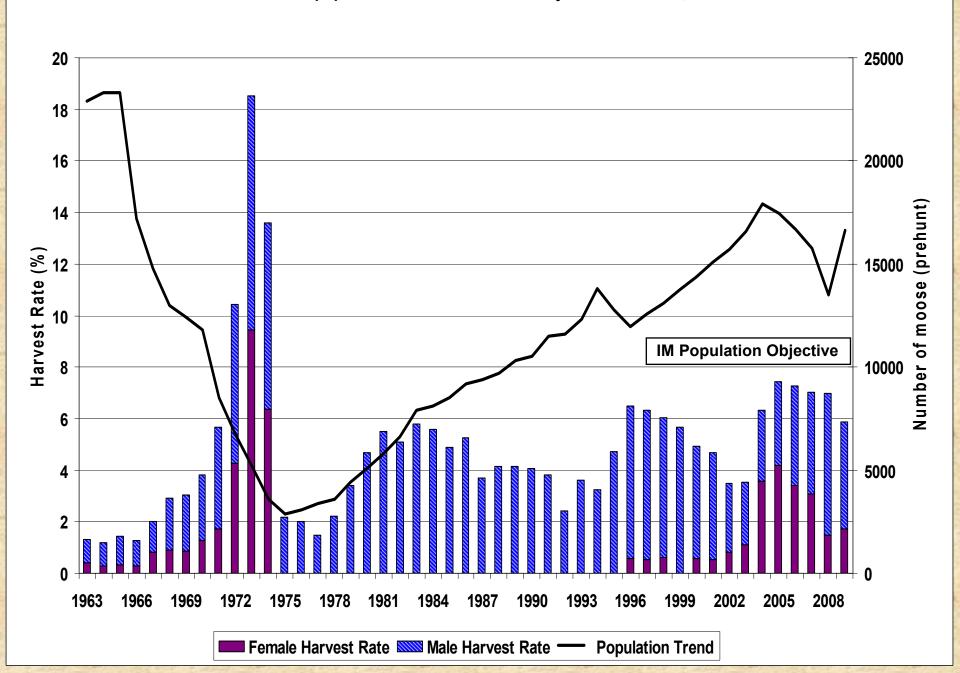
Zone 1A: that portion of Unit 20A Zone 1 bounded by a line beginning at unnamed trail originating at the east end of the Nenana Municipal Airport near the confluence of Meriwether Slough and the Tanana River at approximately N64' 33'09', W149' 03'29'', then southeasterly along said trail to the intersection with the Northern Intertie right-of-way at N64' 28'43'', W148' 57'46''; then south along the west side of the Northern Intertie right-of-way to its intersection with the Rex Trail at N64' 14'03'', W148' 57'58''; then west along the south side of the Rex Trail to the Nenana River; then downstream along the east bank of the Nenana River to the confluence of the Tanana River to a point approximately 0.4 miles above the Alaska Railroad train bridge at N64' 34'04' W149' 06'20''; then southerly to the point of origin is CLOSED.

Zone 1B: that portion of Unit 20A Zone 1 bounded by a line beginning at unnamed trail originating at the east end of the Nenana Municipal Airport near the confluence of Meriwether Slough and the Tanana River at approximately N64 33109°, V/149 0329°; then southeasterly along said trail to its

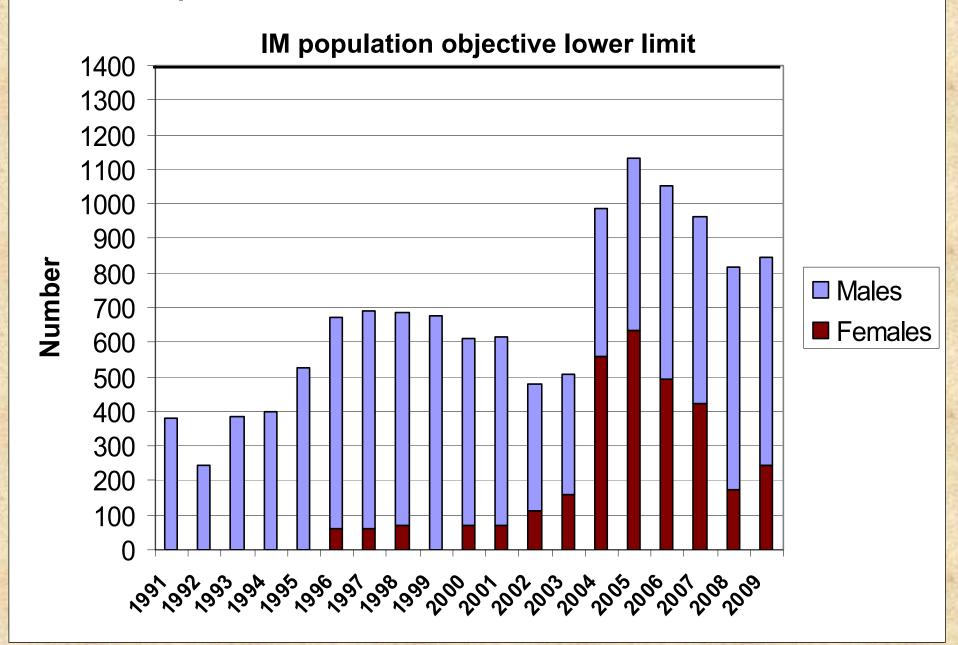


intersection with the Northern Intertie right-of-way at N64 28'43", W148' 57'46"; then south along the west side of the Northern Intertie right-of-way to its intersection with the Rex Trail at N64' 14'00", W148' 57'46"; then east along the south side of the Rex Trail to its intersection with the Wood River at N64' 14'00", W147' 41'45"; then downstream in a northwesterly direction along the east bank of the Wood River to its confluence with the south bank of the Tanana River at N64' 35'20", W148' 39'39"; then northwesterly in a straight line to the north bank of the Tanana River at N64' 35'29", W148' 39'38"; then downstream along the north bank of the Tanana River to a point approximately 0.4 miles upstream from the Alaska Railroad train bridge at N64' 34'04", W149' 04'00"; then southerly in a straight line to the point of origin; is OPEN.

Prehunt moose population and harvest trends by sex in Unit 20A, 1963-2009



Reported harvest of moose in Unit 20A, 1991-2009



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 antierless moose hunts in GMU 20 (i.e., Units 20A, 20B and 20D).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Take</u>
No Action

Supported by Middle Nenana AC (Fairbanks, Delta and Minto Nenana ACs did not support)

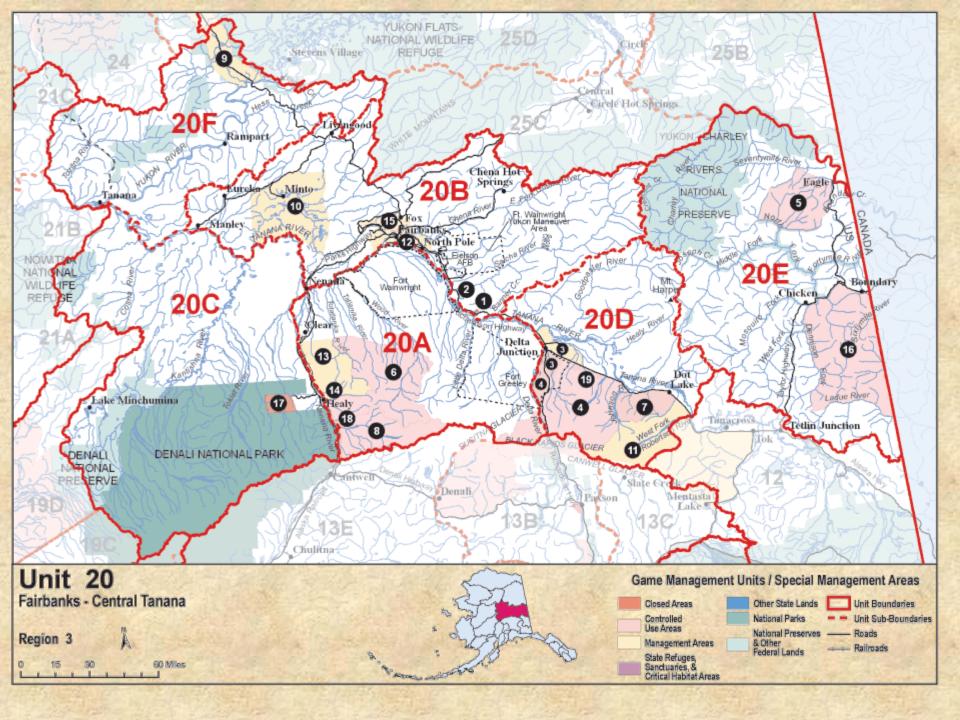
Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Change bag limit from spike-fork 50-inch ≥ 3 brow tines TO <u>36-inch 2 brow tines</u>.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

<u>Do Not Adopt</u>

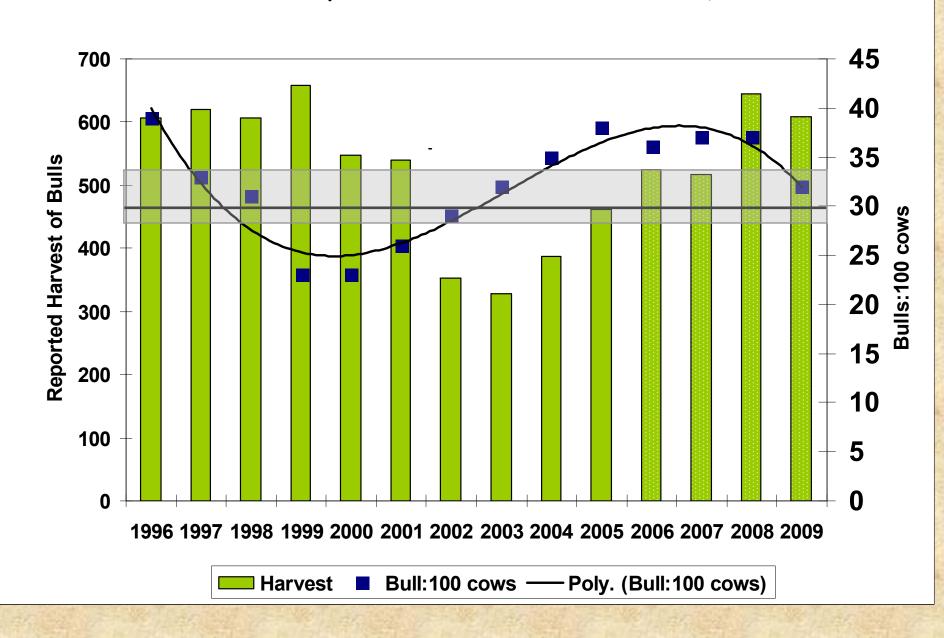


Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

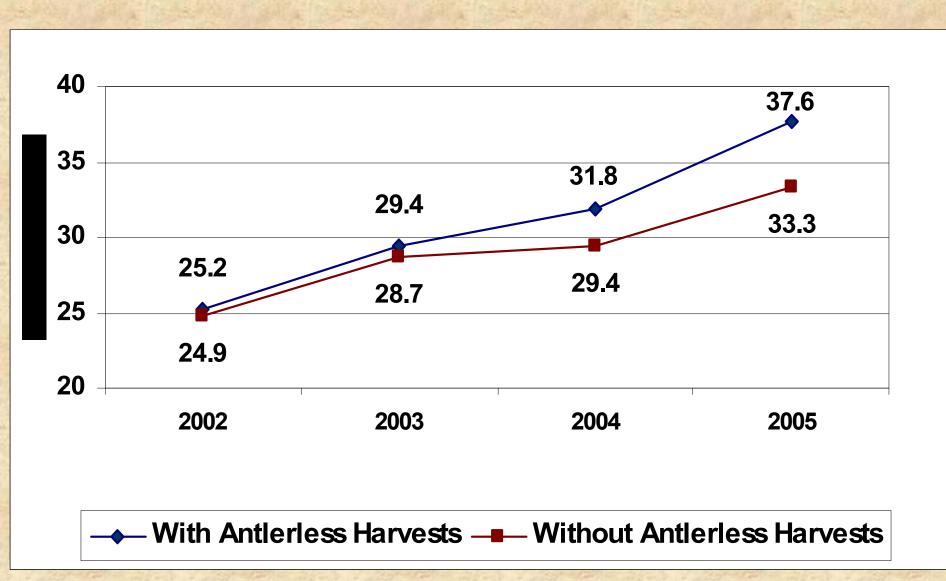
RATIONALE:

- Unit 20A an Intensive Management area for moose
- •To optimize yield, harvest strategy includes S-F/50-inch general season, "any bull" and antierless drawing hunts and antierless 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: cow ratios indicate recruitment is adequate

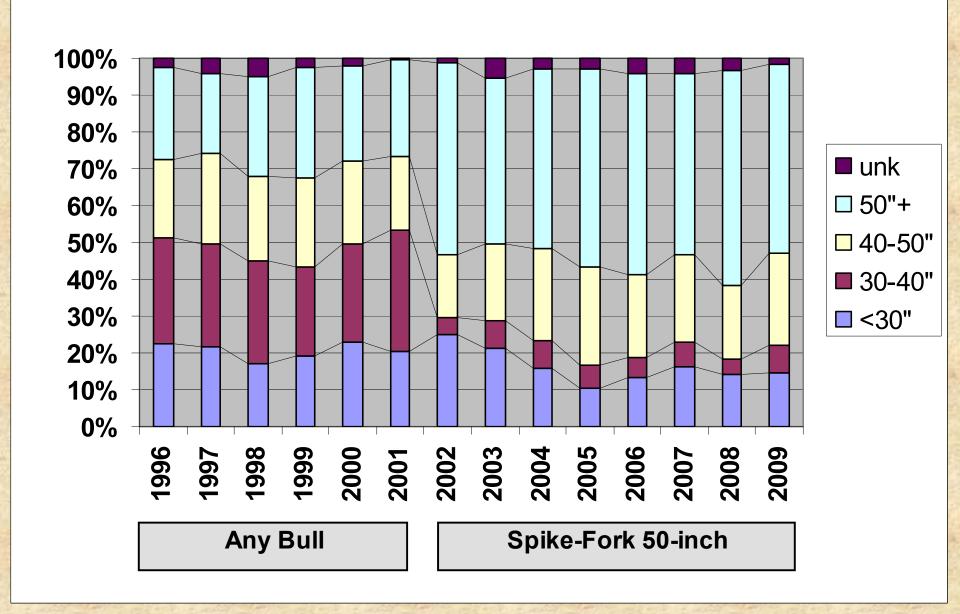
Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



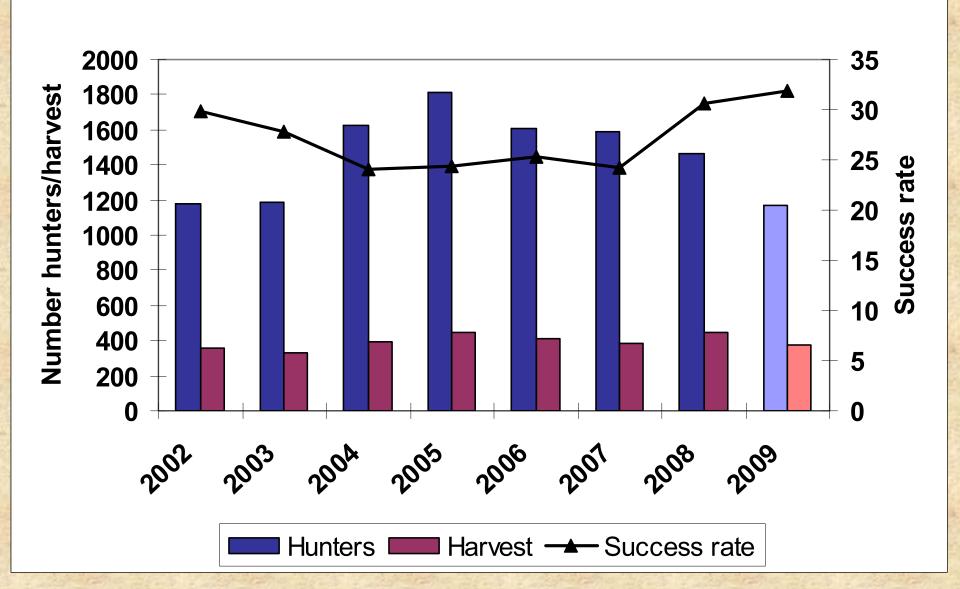
Simulated bull:cow ratios with versus without antlerless harvests, 2002-2005

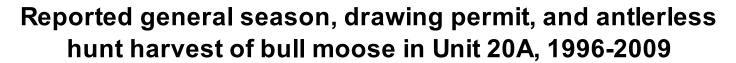


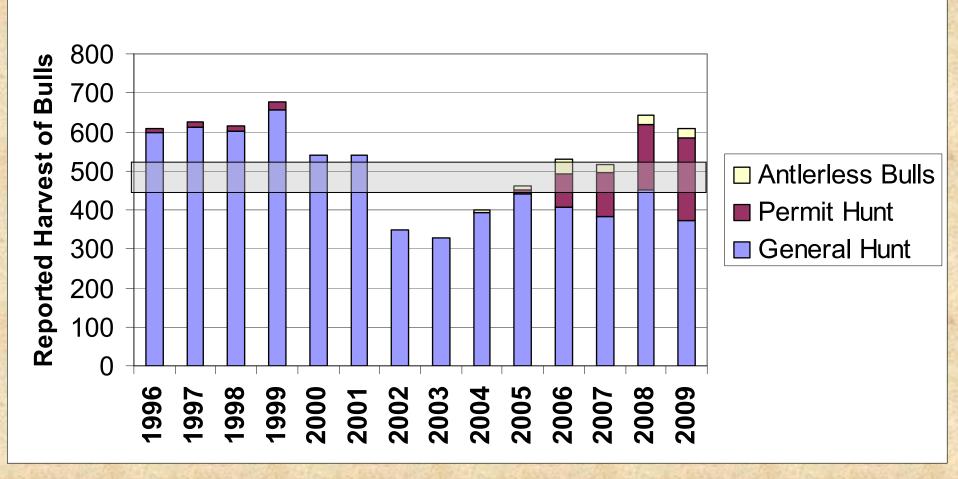
Antler spread (inches) of bull moose harvested, Unit 20A, 1996-2009



General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009







Proposal 32 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- 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)

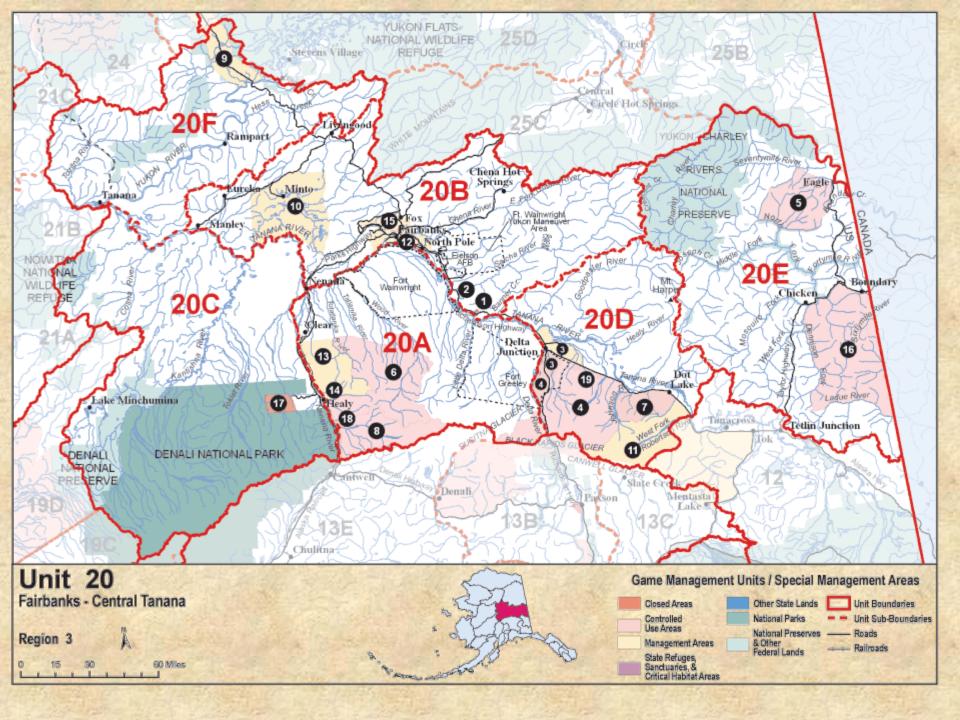
Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Add a registration hunt for bull moose when bull:cow ratios exceed management objectives.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Do Not Adopt</u>

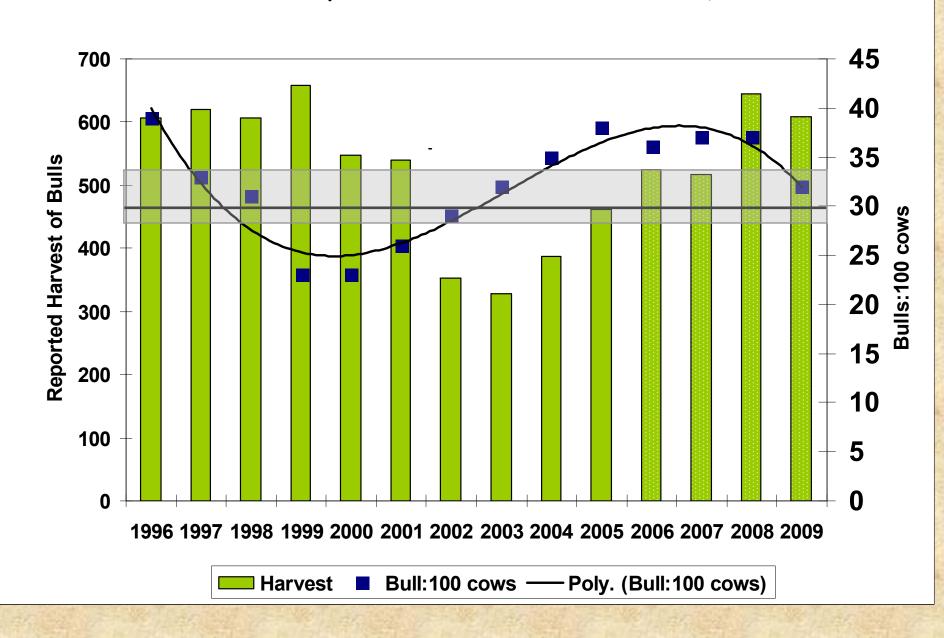
Fairbanks AC: "Take No Action"



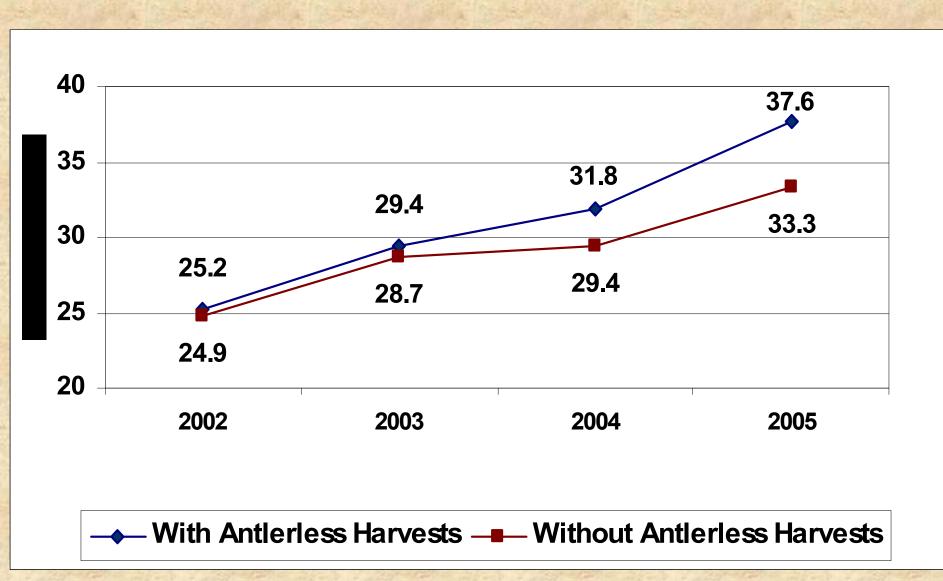
Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

- 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)

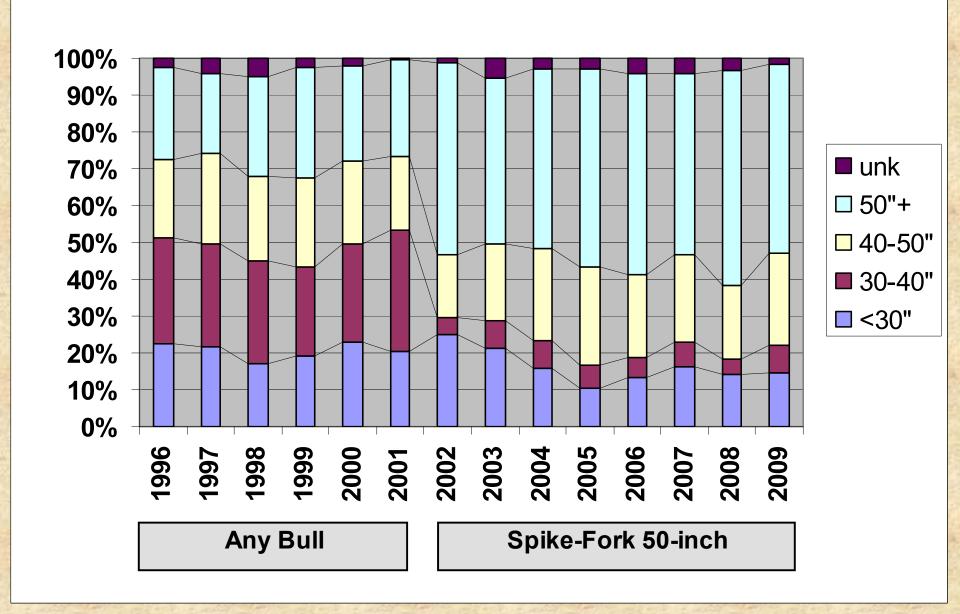
Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



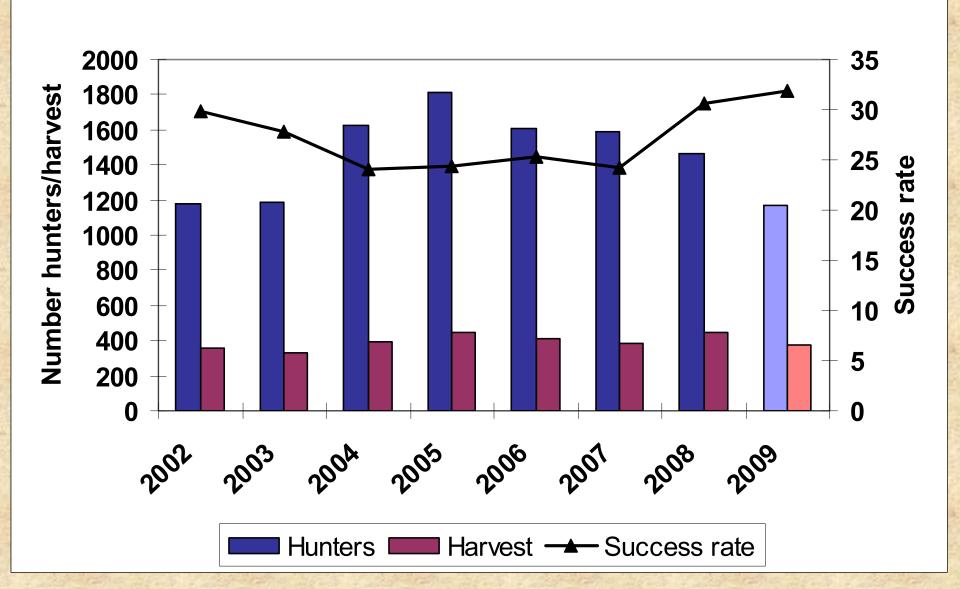
Simulated bull:cow ratios with versus without antlerless harvests, 2002-2005

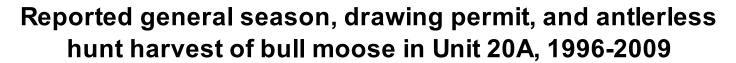


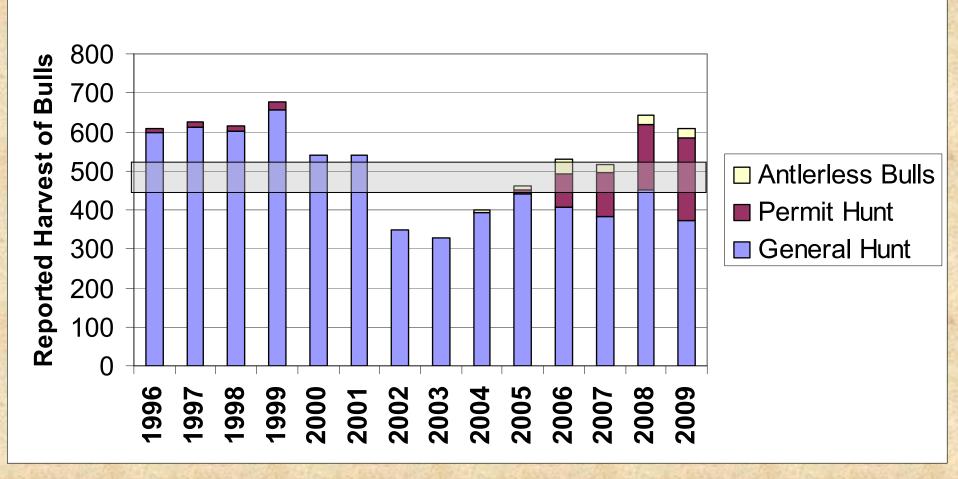
Antler spread (inches) of bull moose harvested, Unit 20A, 1996-2009



General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009







Proposal 34 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- 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)

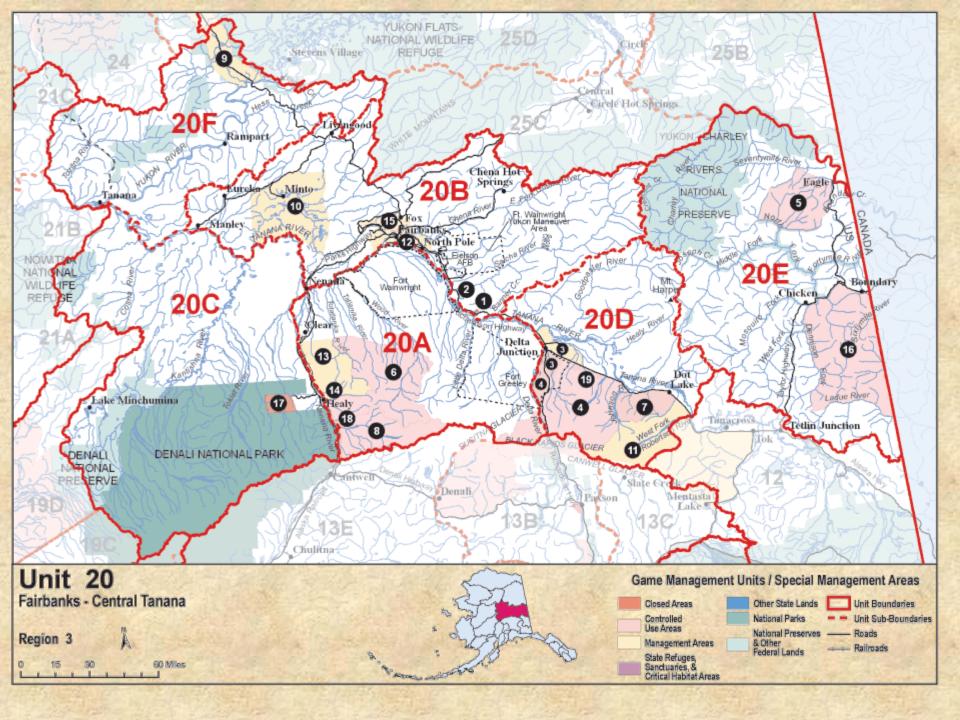
Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

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: <u>Do Not</u>
Adopt

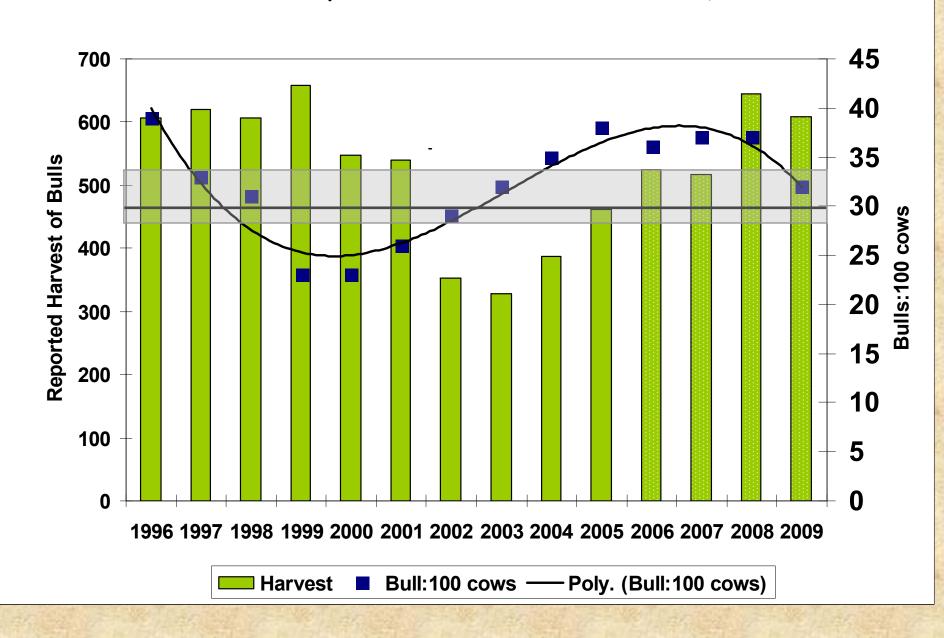
Middle Nenana AC: "Take No Action"



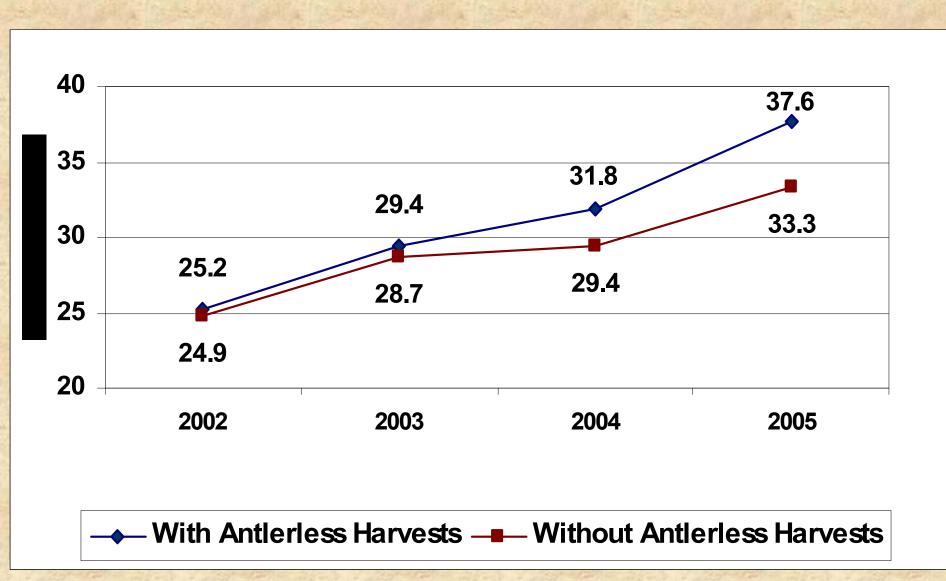
Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

- 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

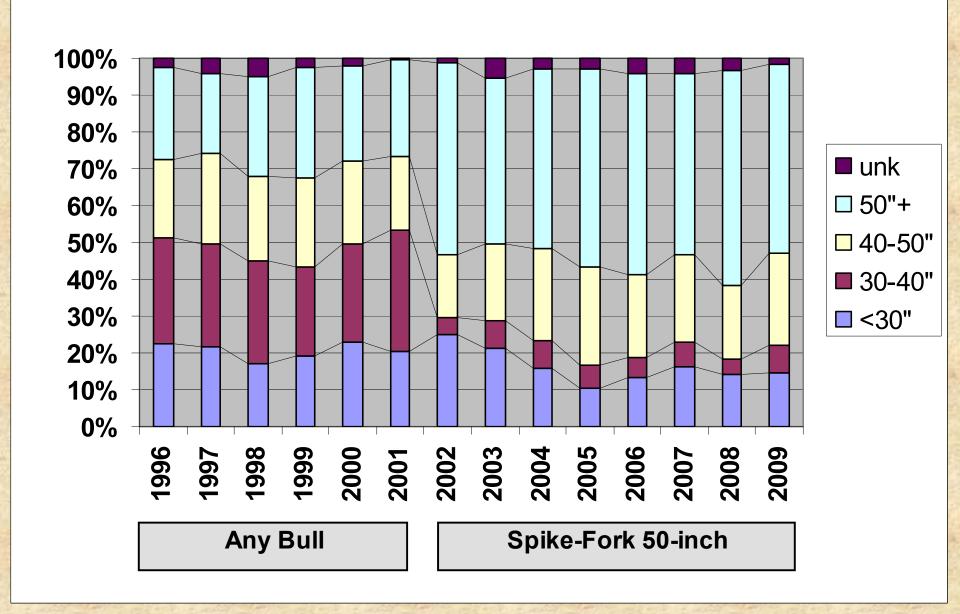
Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009



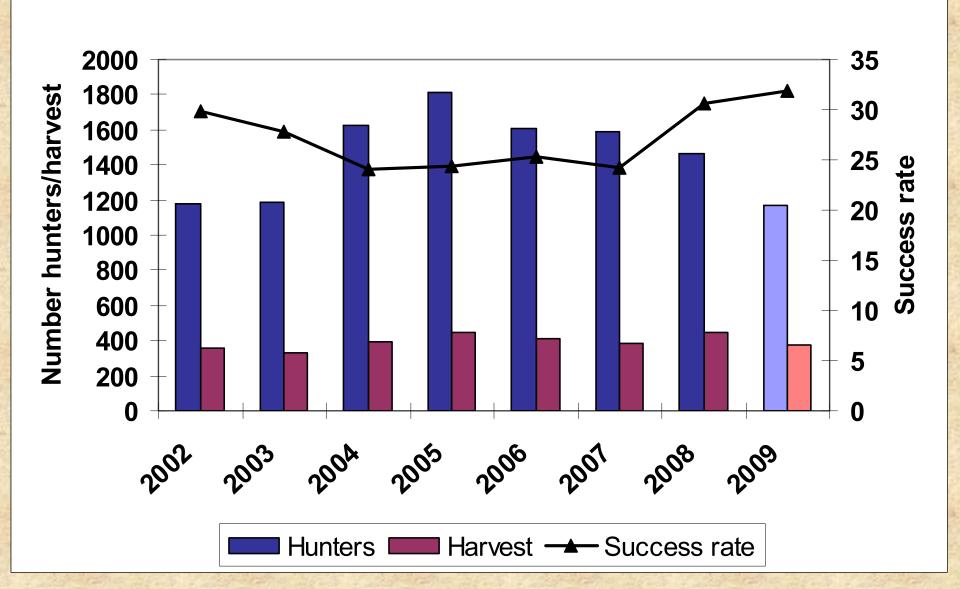
Simulated bull:cow ratios with versus without antlerless harvests, 2002-2005

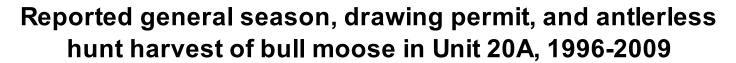


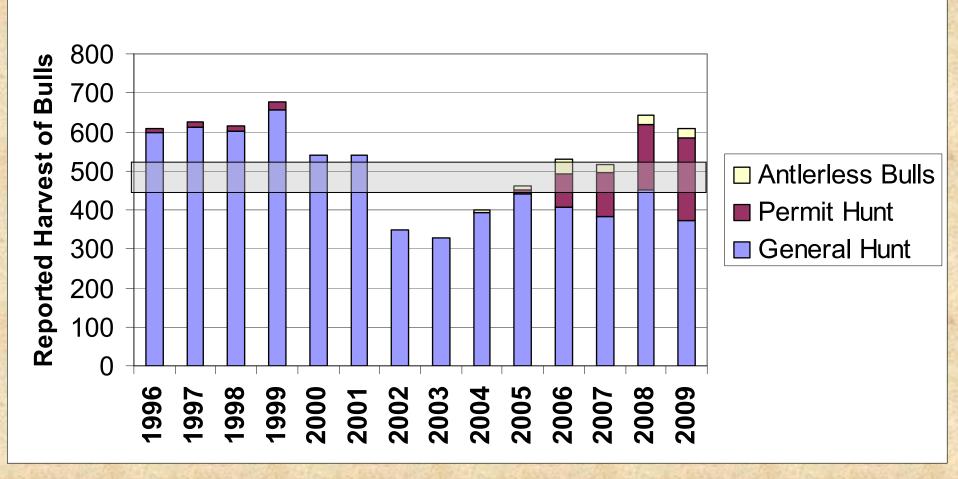
Antler spread (inches) of bull moose harvested, Unit 20A, 1996-2009

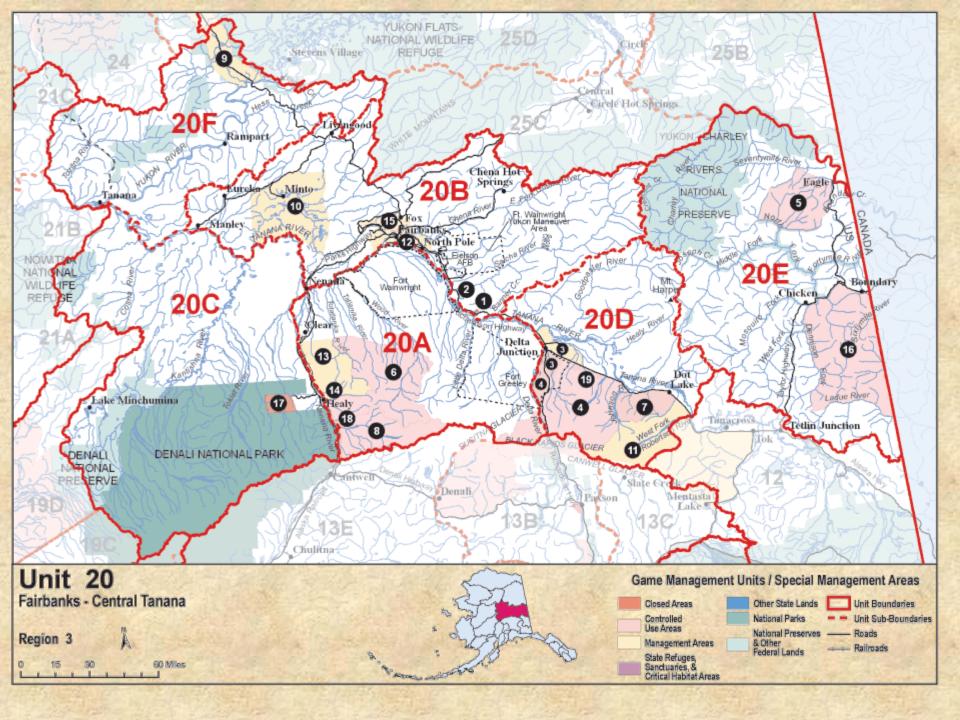


General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009

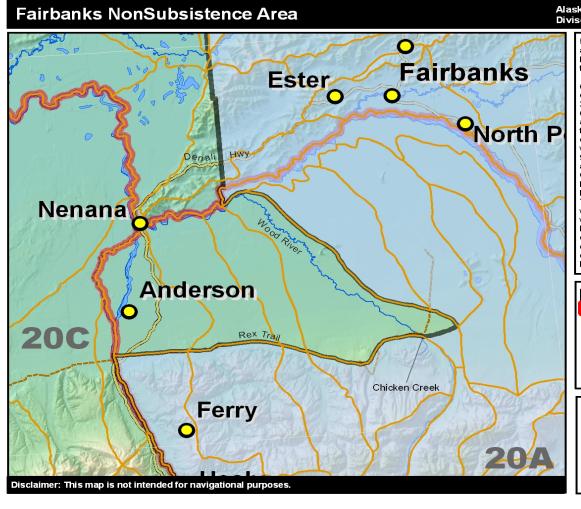








Portion of Unit 20A outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area with more restrictive bag limit

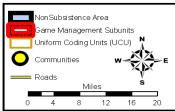


Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Divison of Subsistence



5 AAC 99.015 Joint Board nonsubsistence areas. (a) The following areas are found by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game to be nonsubsistence use areas:

(4) The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 20(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (A), east of the Wood River drainage and south of the Rex Trail but including the upper Wood River drainage south of its confluence with Chicken Creek; within Unit 20(B), as defined by 5 AAC 92,450(20) (B), the North Star Borough and that portion of the Washington Creek drainage east of the Elliot Highway: within Unit 20(D) as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (D), west of the Tanana River between its confluence with the Johnson and Delta Rivers. west of the east bank of the Johnson River, and north and west of the Volkmar drainage, including the Goodpaster River drainage; and within Unit 25(C), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(25) (C), the Preacher and Beaver Creek drainages.





Proposal 35 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

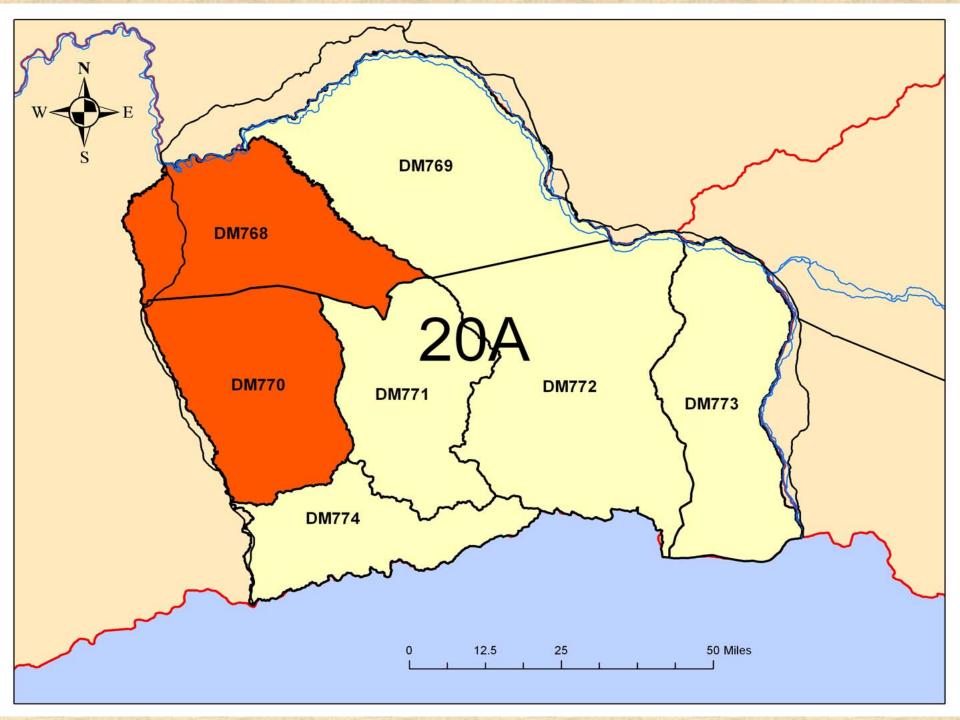
- Current harvest strategy effective
- •25-day S-F/50-inch general season and 25-day "any bull" drawing permit season provides substantial hunting opportunity
- Any additional harvestable surplus of bulls can be adjusted by issuing additional "any bull" permits the next year
- May result in additional 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 spikefork or ≥ 3 brow tine (DM768) or ≥ 4 brow tine (DM770) bulls.
- •Restrict hunters with "any bull" permits from hunting in general hunts elsewhere.

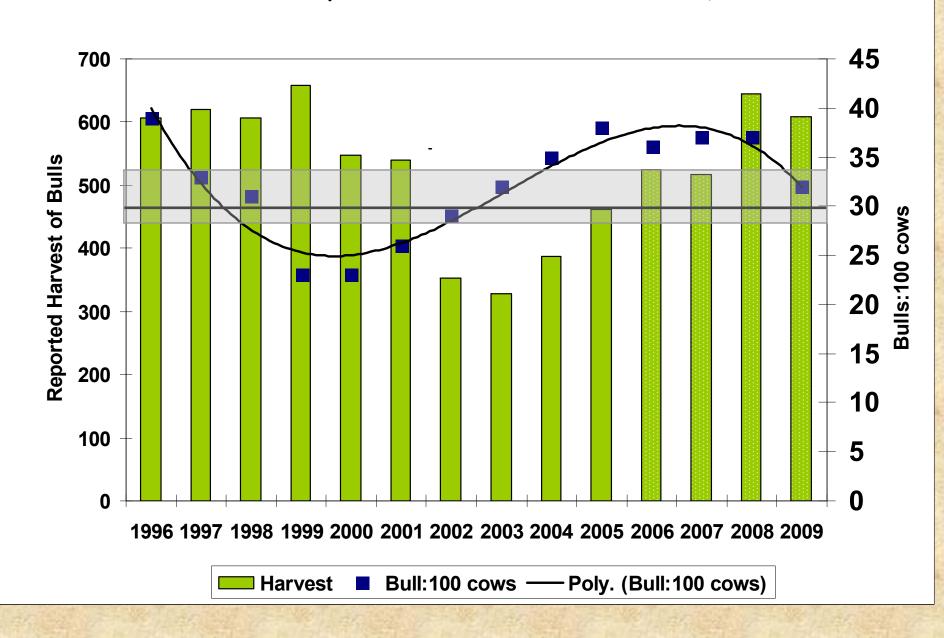
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Do Not</u>
Adopt



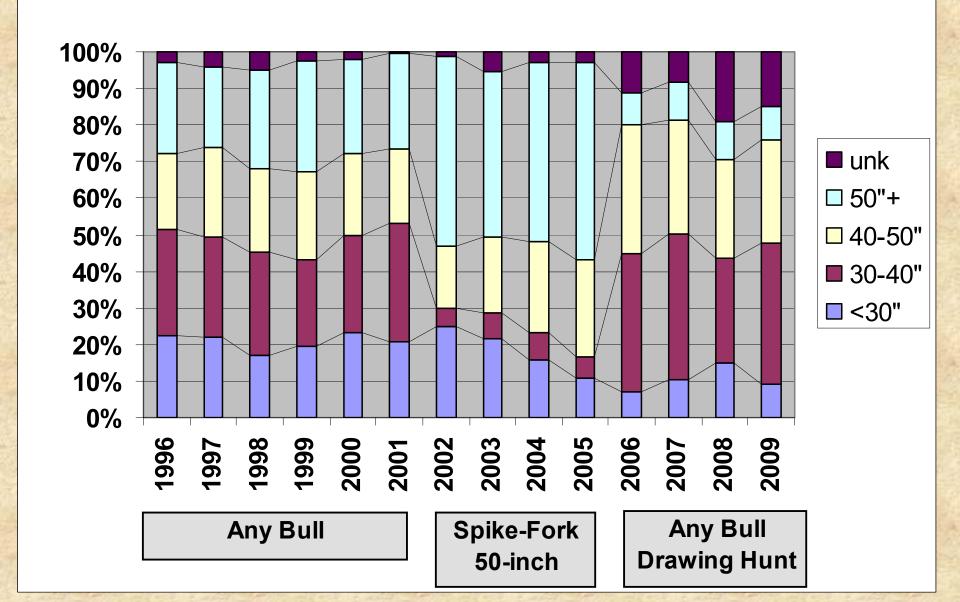
Proposal 38- Unit 20A Moose

- 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

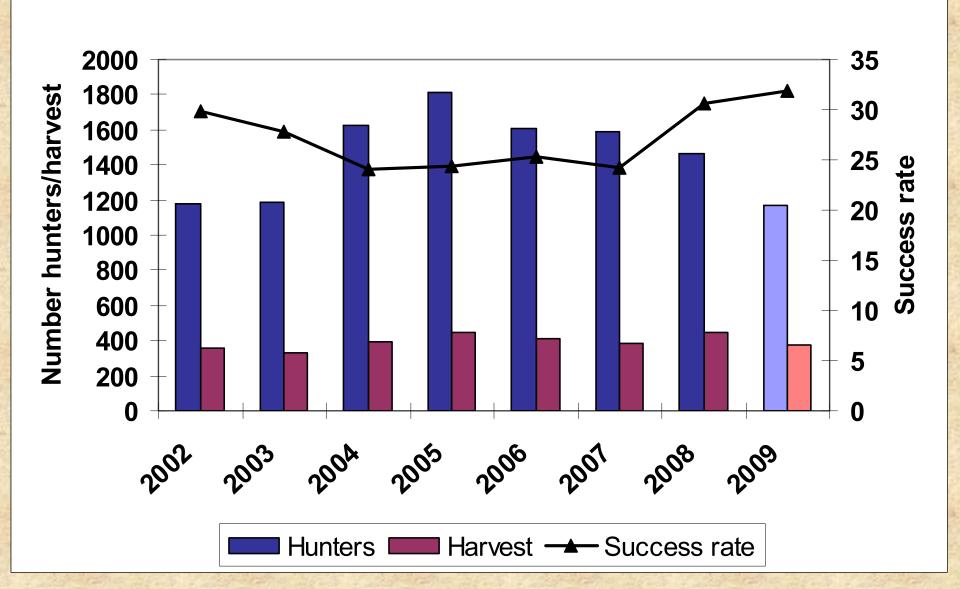
Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009

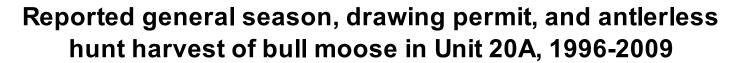


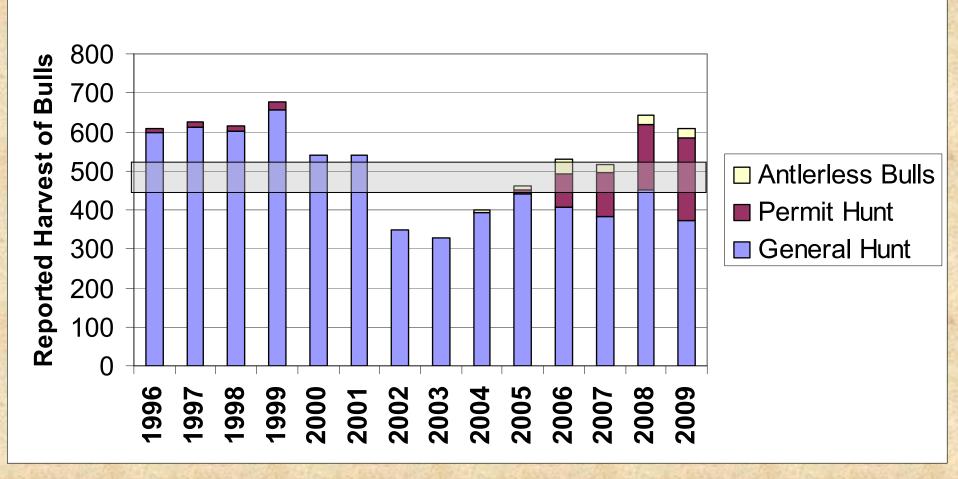
Antler spread (inches) of bull moose harvested, Unit 20A, 1996-2009



General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009







Proposal 38 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

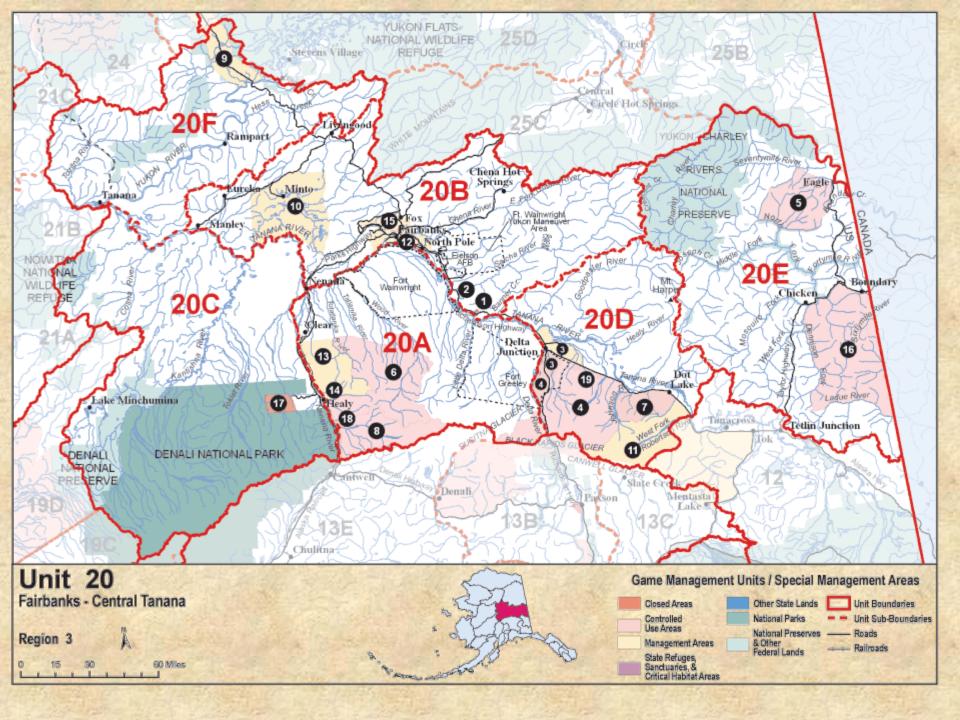
- Current harvest strategy effective
- •Complicate regulations in that 2 (DM768 and DM770) of the 7 drawing hunt areas for "any bull" moose would have different regulations
- •Combined effect of more complicated (i.e., hunters would have to be more selective) and restrictive (recipients of DM768-DM774 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

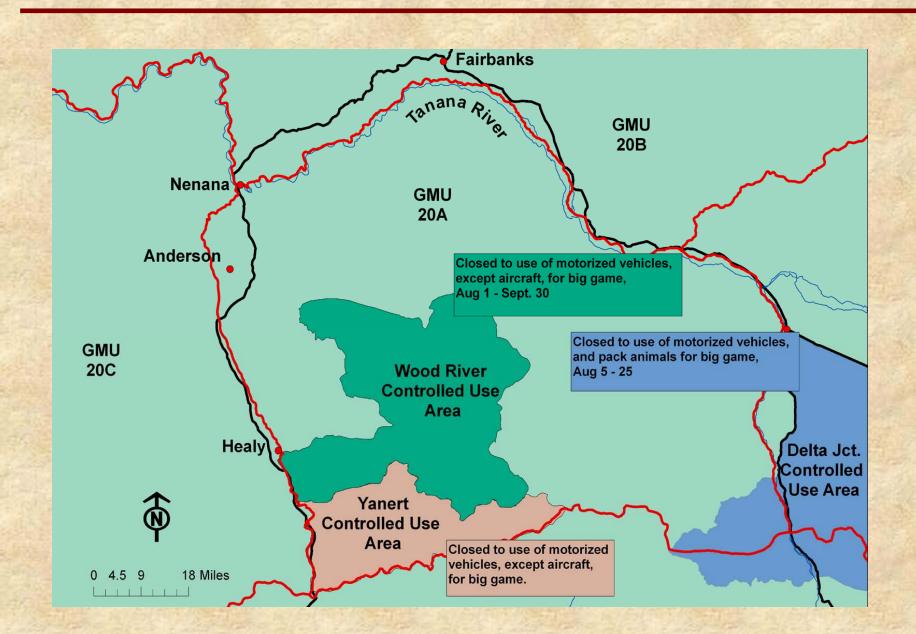
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

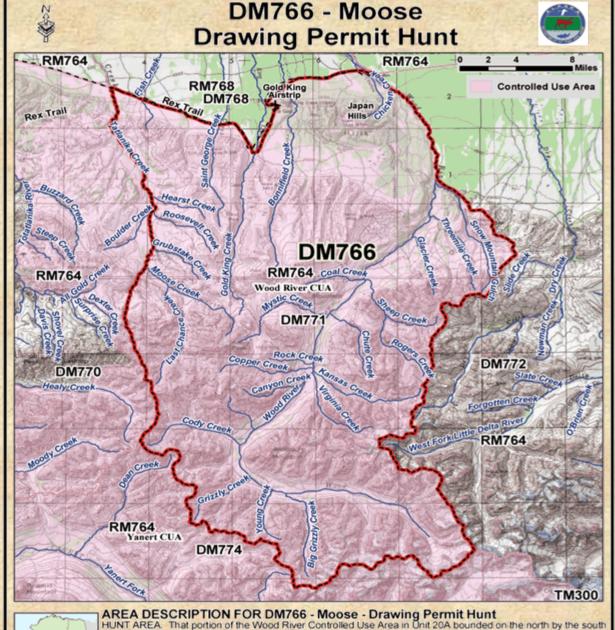
Close the November muzzleloader moose hunt in Unit 20A and open a similar muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20B.

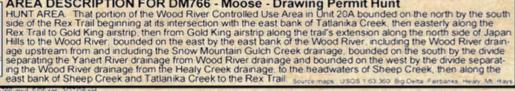
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation



Controlled Use Areas



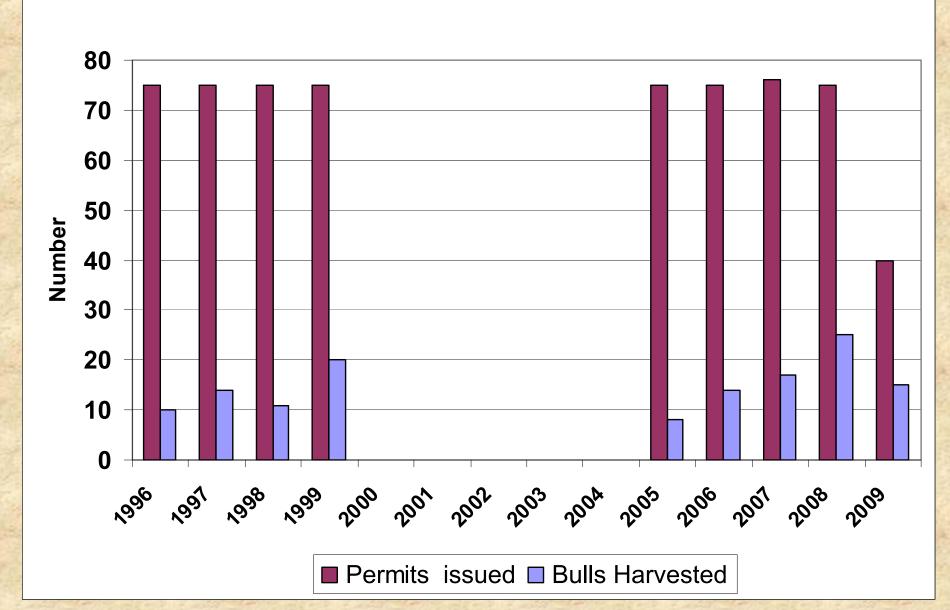




Proposal 39 – Unit 20A Moose

- 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 muzzloader hunt, regulatory years 1996-2009



Proposal 39 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

- 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

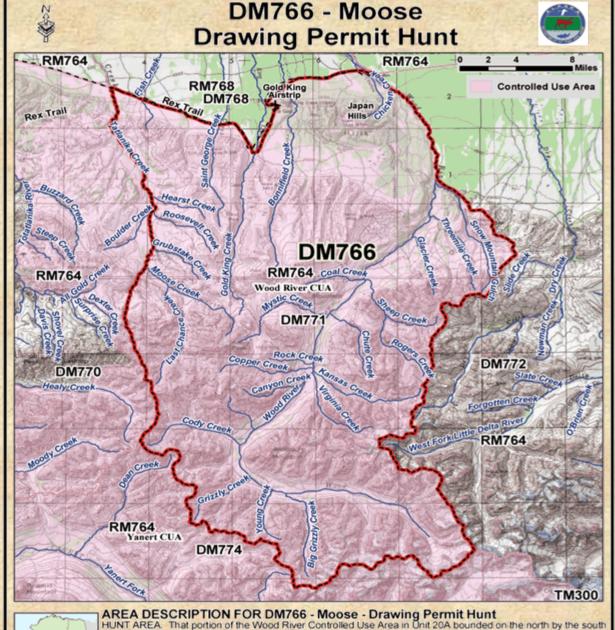
Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

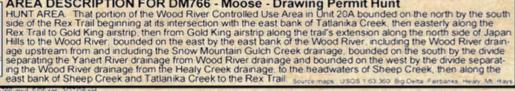
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

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

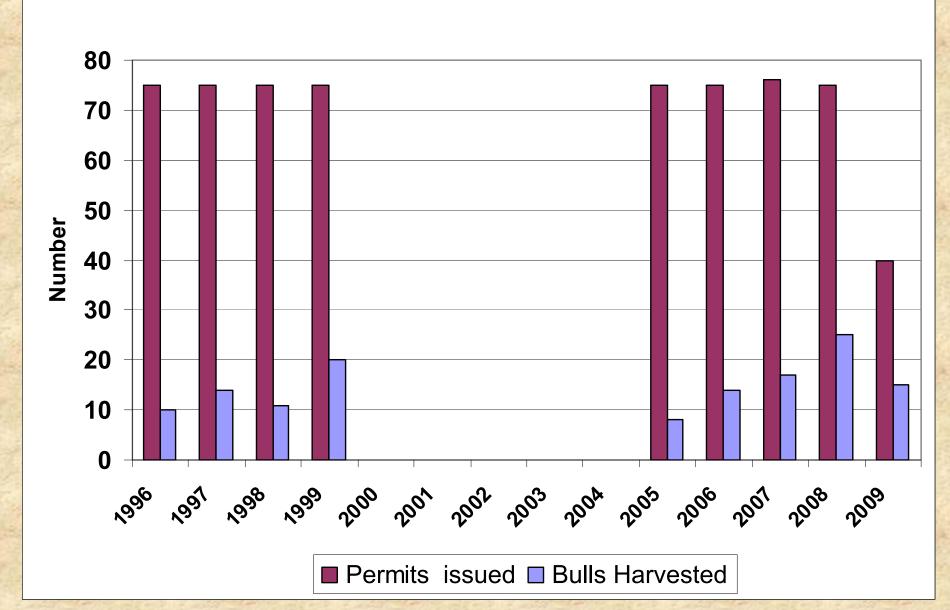




Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

- 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 muzzloader hunt, regulatory years 1996-2009



Proposal 37 – Unit 20A Moose

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Take</u> No Action

- 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 Alaskalicensed guide or resident relative within the second-degree of kindred for moose in Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Take No Action</u>

- •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

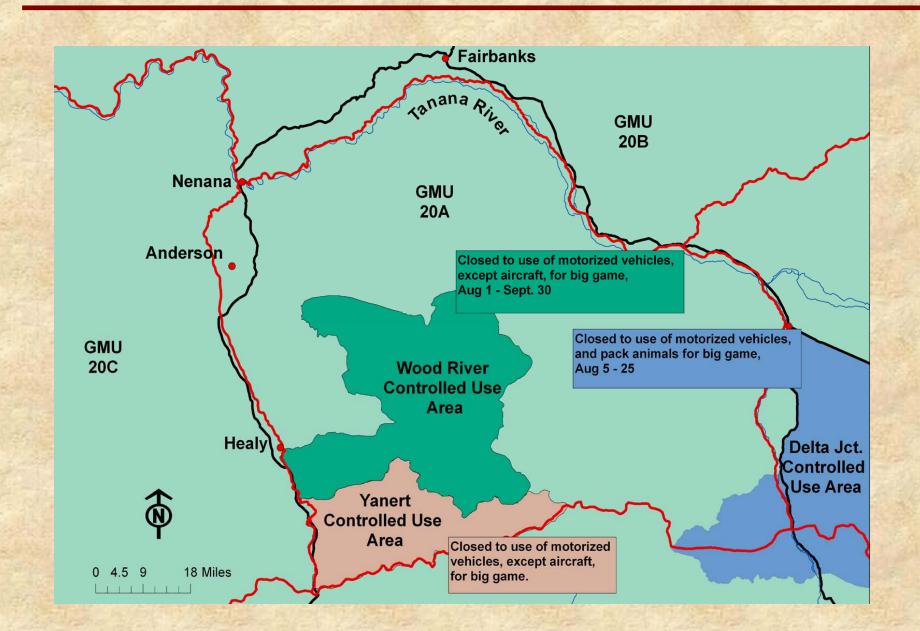
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

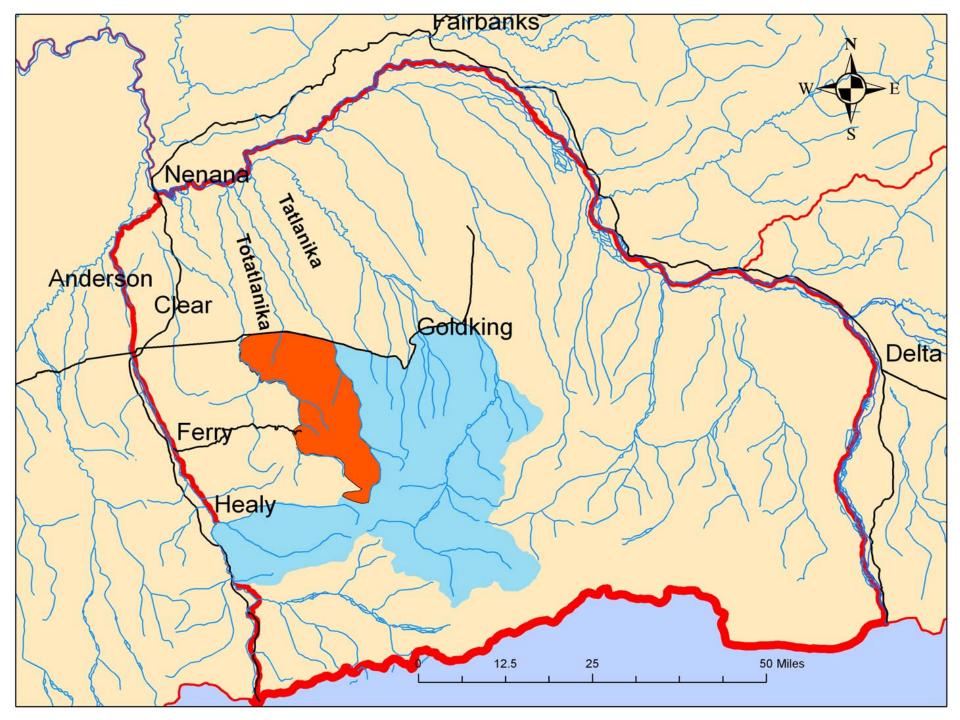
Allow the use of motorized vehicles for permit winners in the Wood River Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

Fairbanks AC did not support

Controlled Use Areas

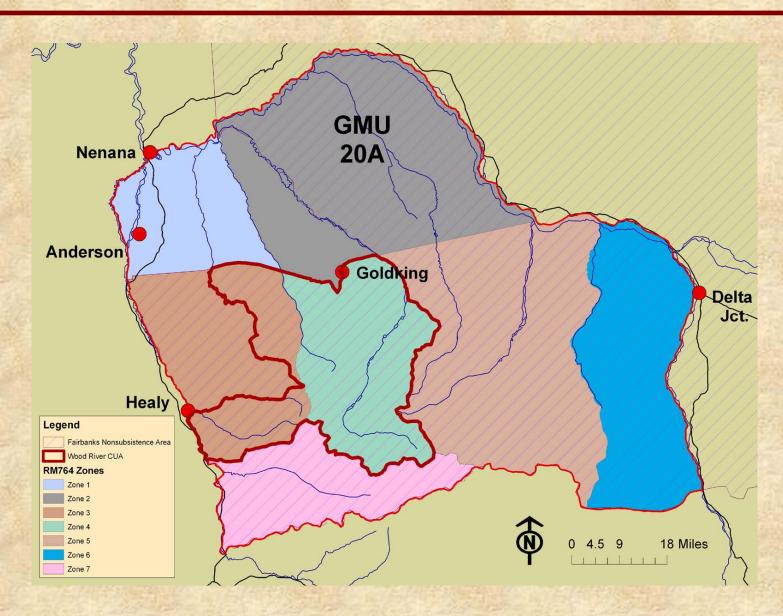




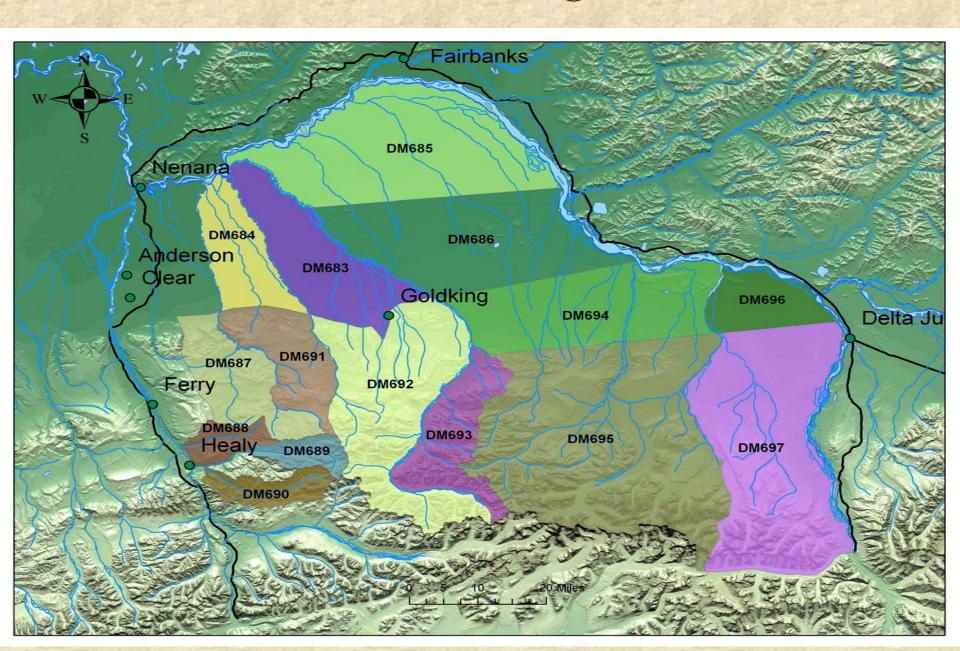
Proposal 69 – Unit 20A Moose

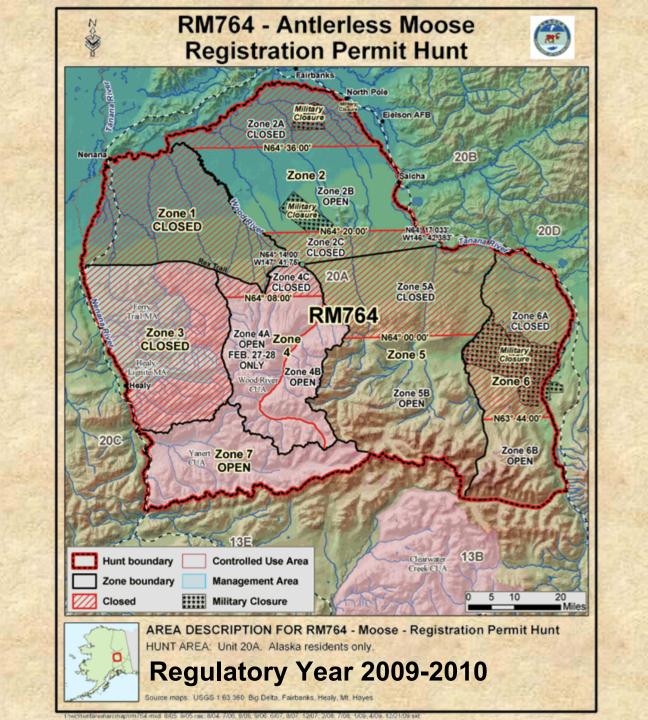
- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- •Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

Location of the Wood River CUA in relation to moose hunt zones



Unit 20A Antlerless Drawing Hunts 2009-2010





Proposal 69 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

- 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

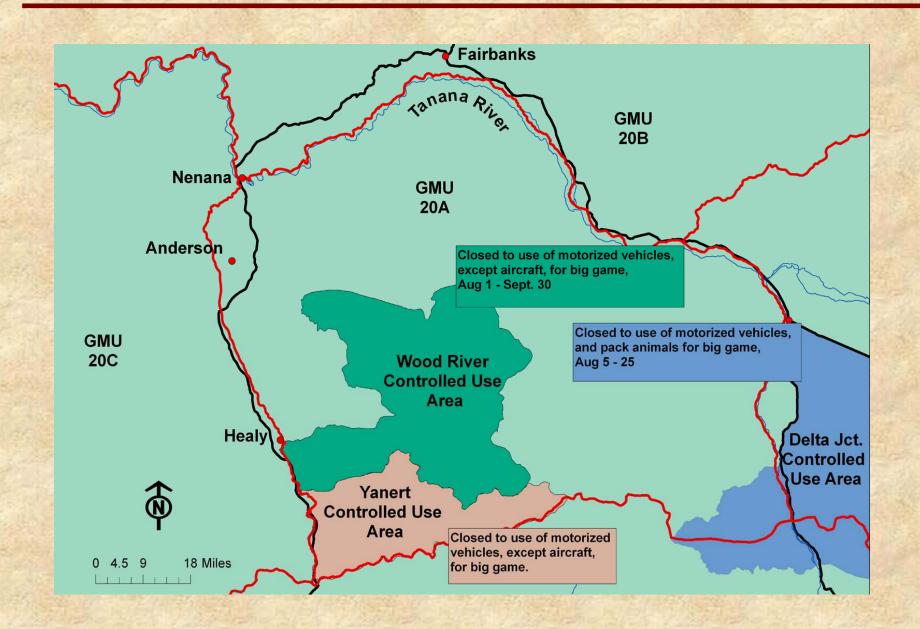
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

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

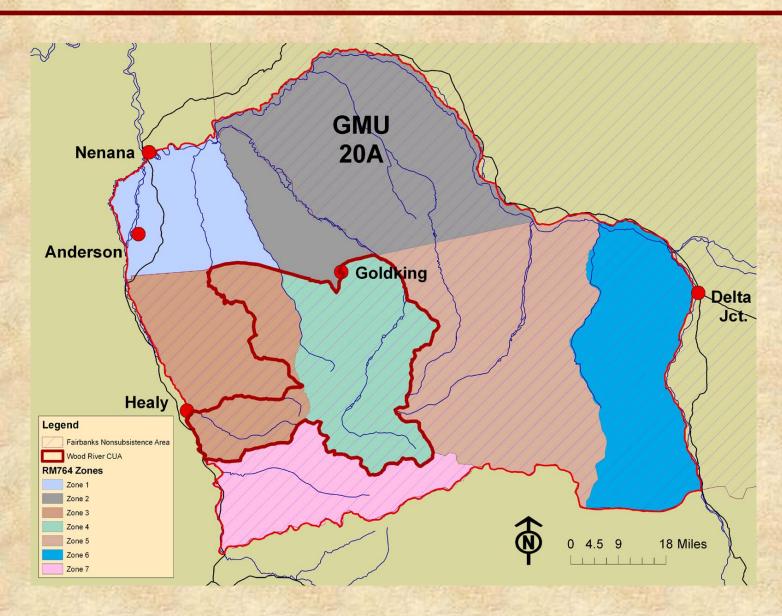
Controlled Use Areas



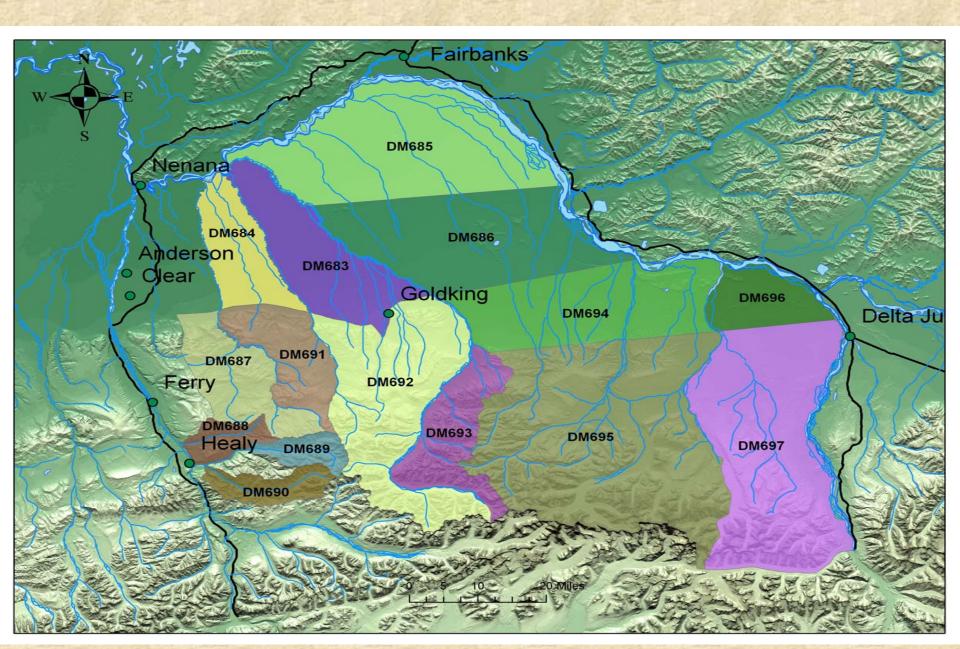
Proposal 70 – Unit 20A Moose

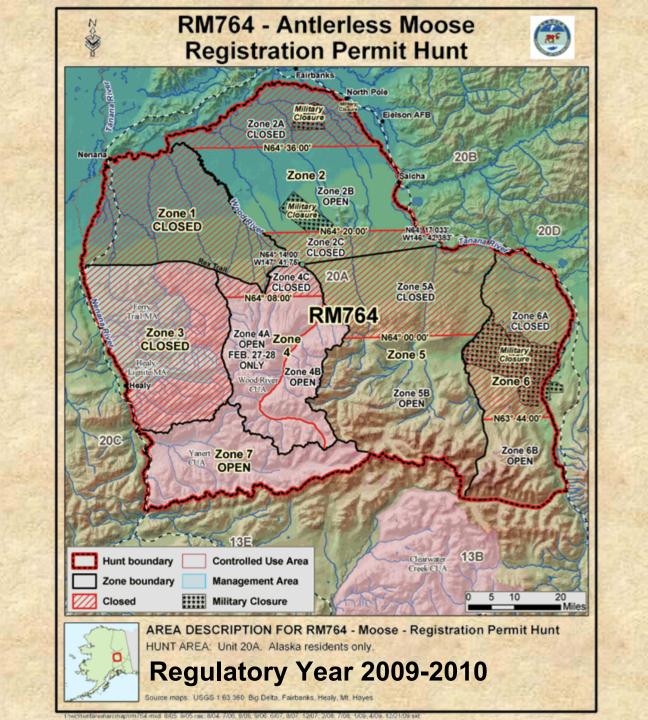
- This is an allocation issue
- Result in conflicts with nonmotorized users
- Difficult for AWT to enforce
- •Current game regulations are adequate to manage moose harvests in this portion of Unit 20A

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

- 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

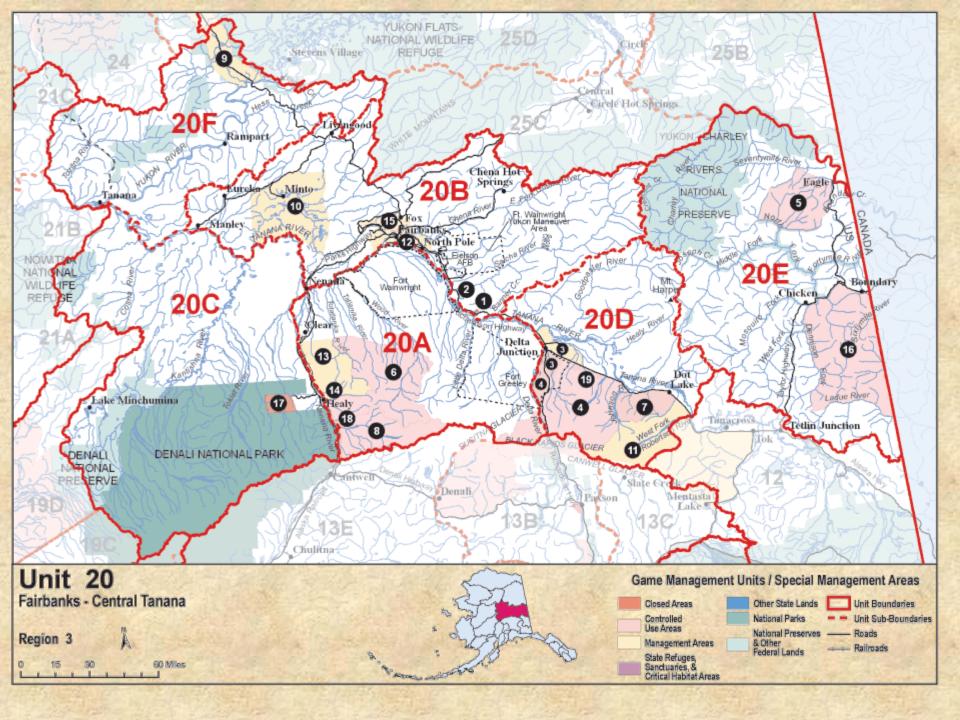
Proposal 68 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

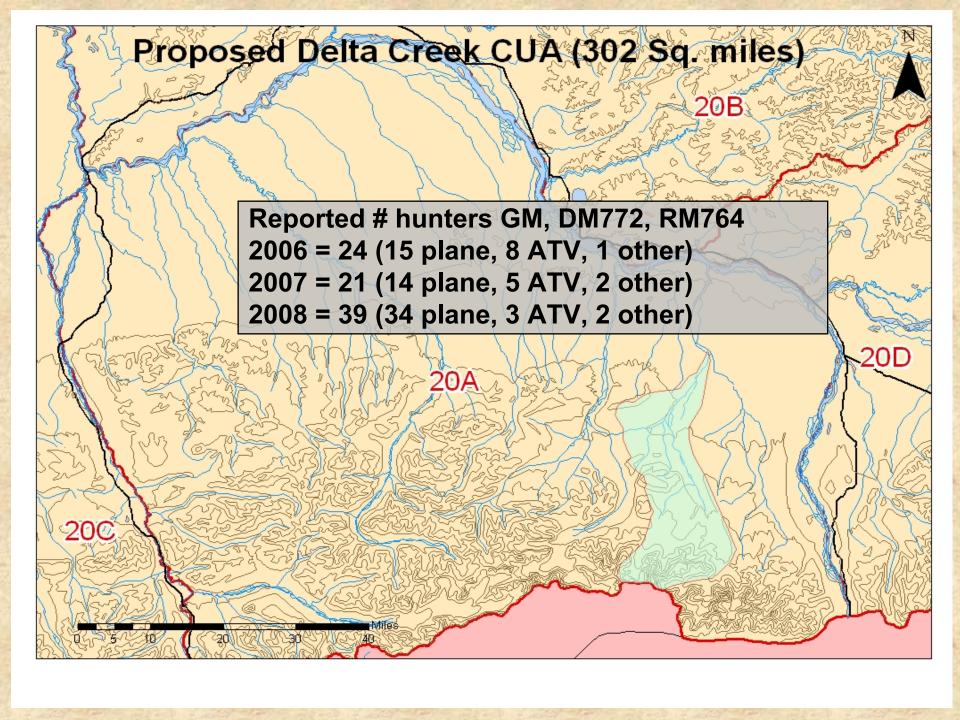
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

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

- 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

- 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:

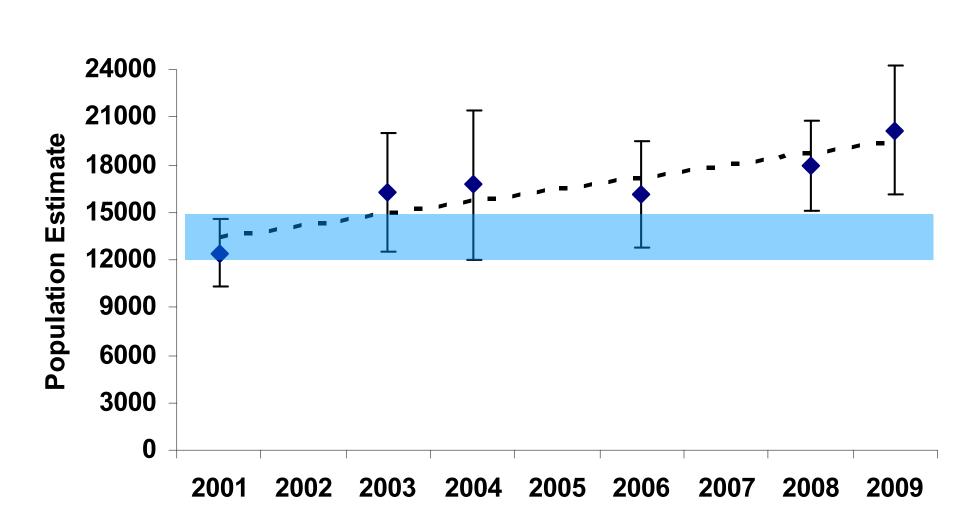
•Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Fairbanks MA, Minto Flats MA, and central 20B.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

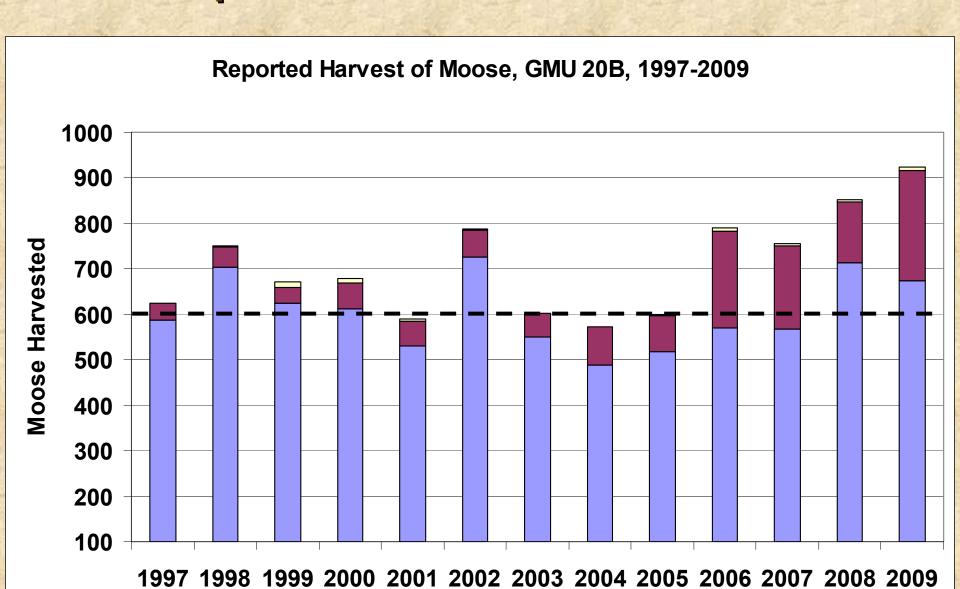
- Moose population in central GMU 20B high and increasing
- Above Population objective
- Meeting intensive management harvest objective
- Advisory committee support in Fairbanks, Minto and Nenana, but not Manley

Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

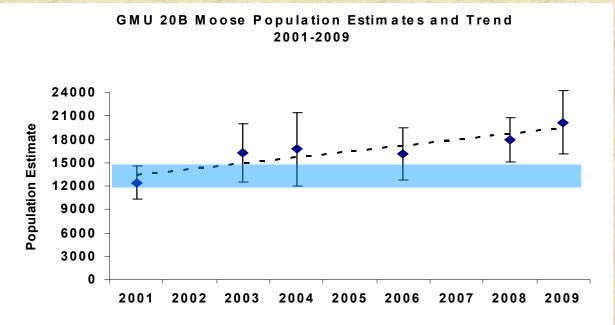
GMU 20B Moose Population Estimates and Trend 2001-2009

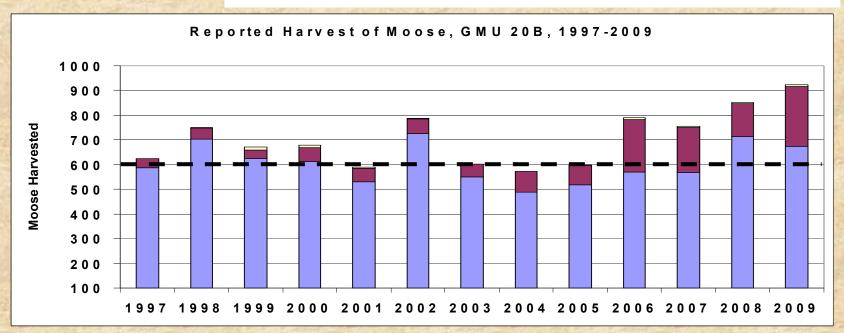


Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose



Proposal 42 – GMU 20B Moose

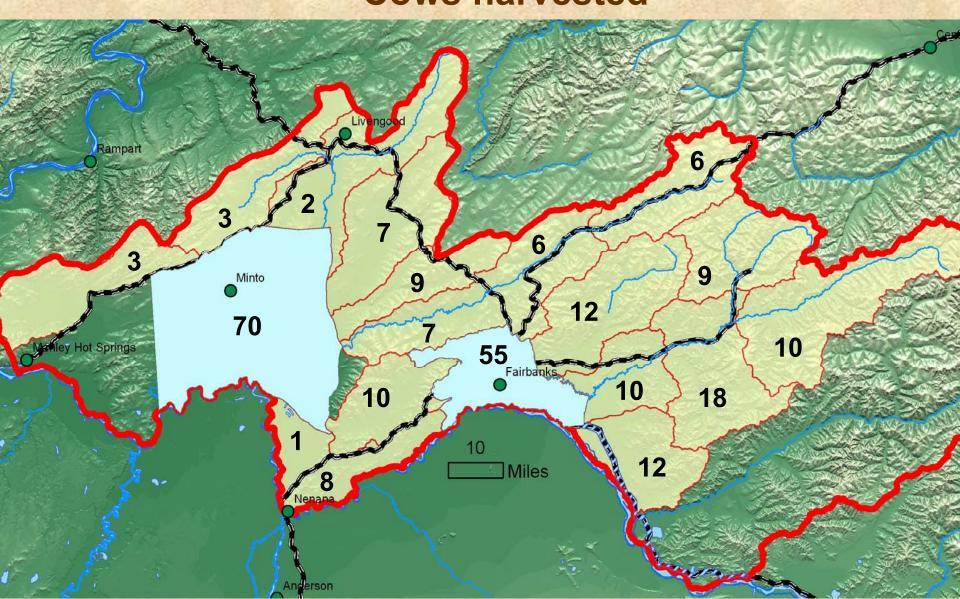


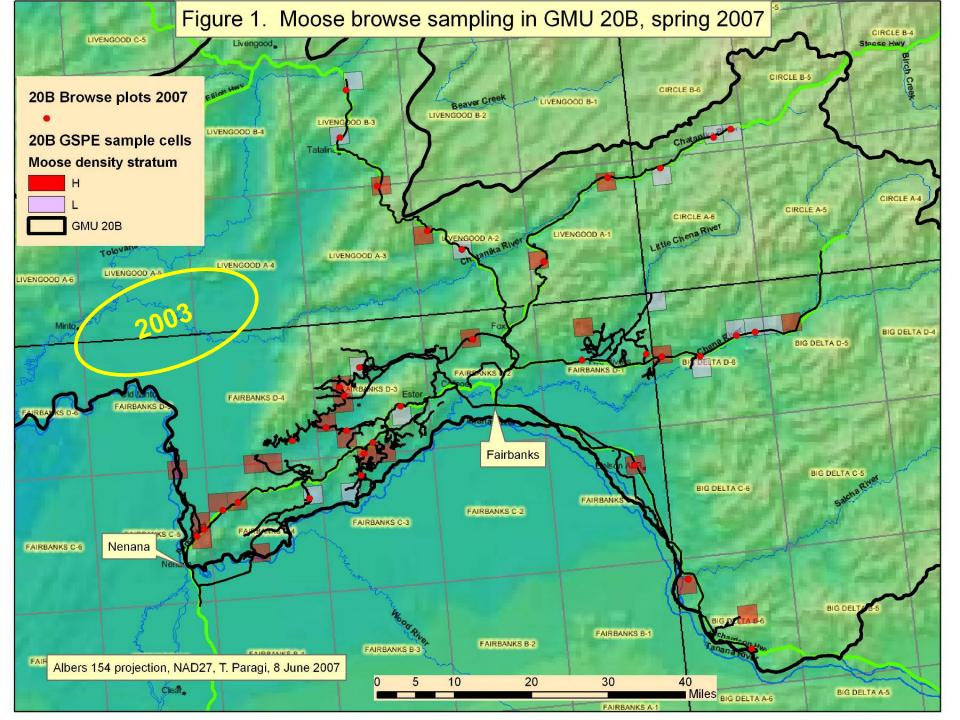


Proposal 42 - GMU 20B Moose



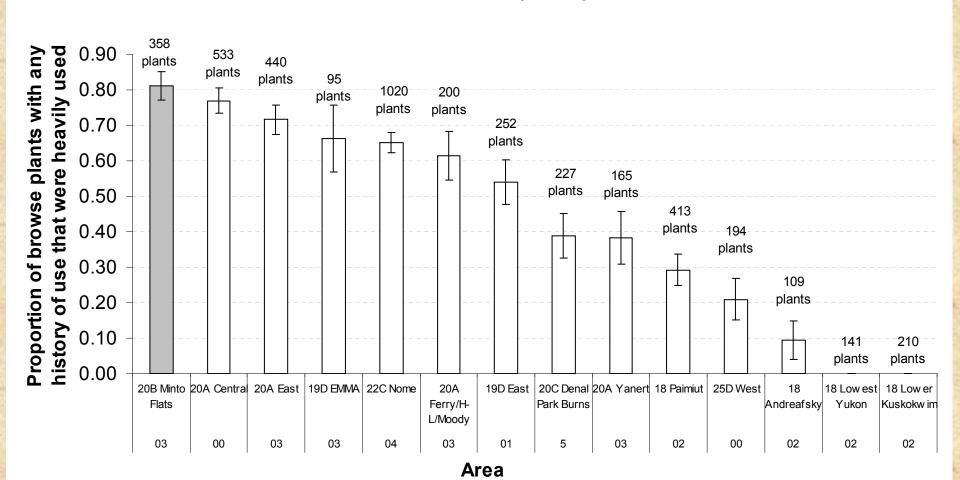
Cows harvested



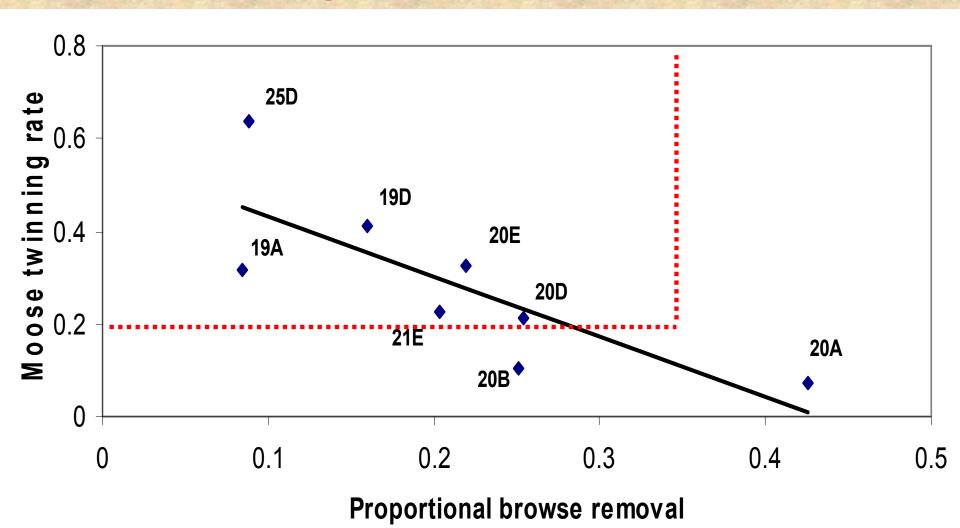


Nutrition- Range Condition

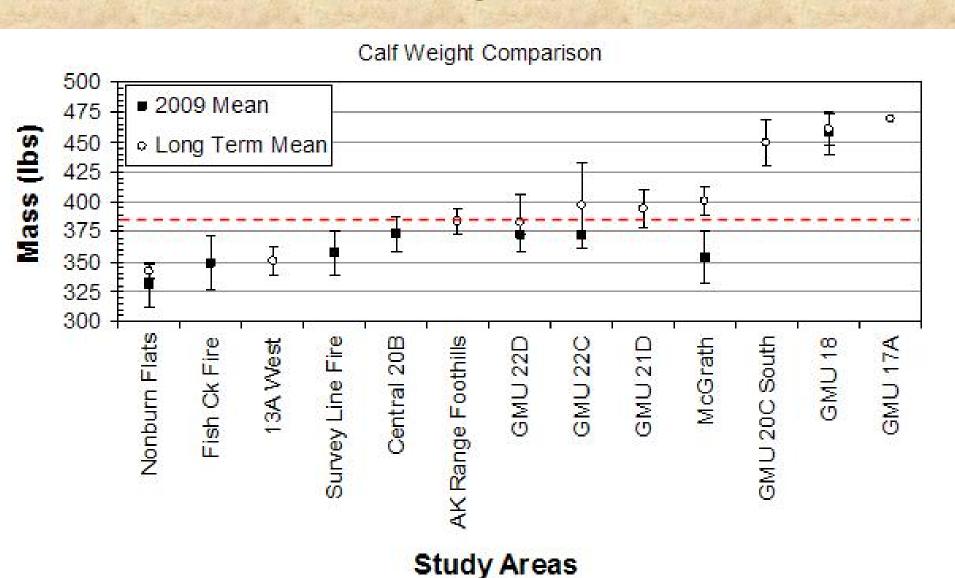
Broomed Index (95%CI)



Nutrition- Relationship between moose twinning and browse removal rates



Nutrition- calf weight at 10 Months old



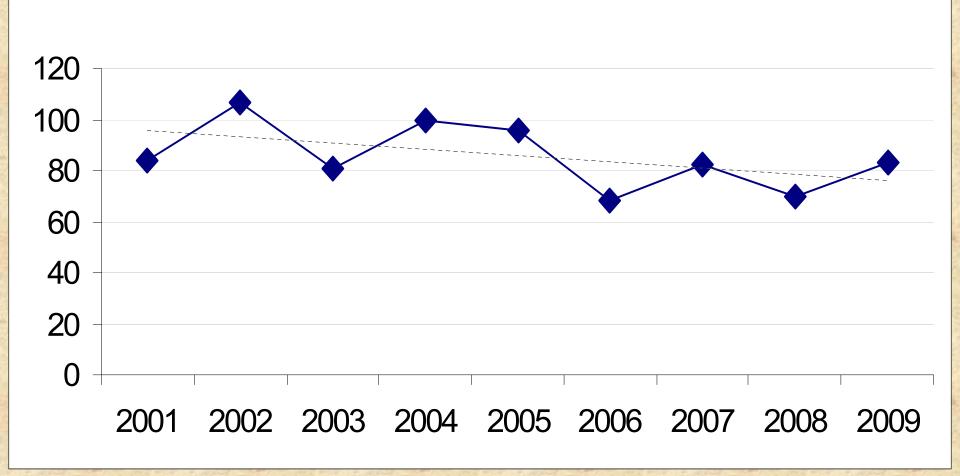
20B Antlerless Hunt 2009

• Area	Permits	Take
• MFMA	210	70
• FMA	160	55
• Central 20B	336	133

- Total 20B reported harvest
 - 258 Cows
 - 674 Bulls
 - 932 Total

·Roadkill





EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

•Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Fairbanks area, Minto Flats MA, and central 20B.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

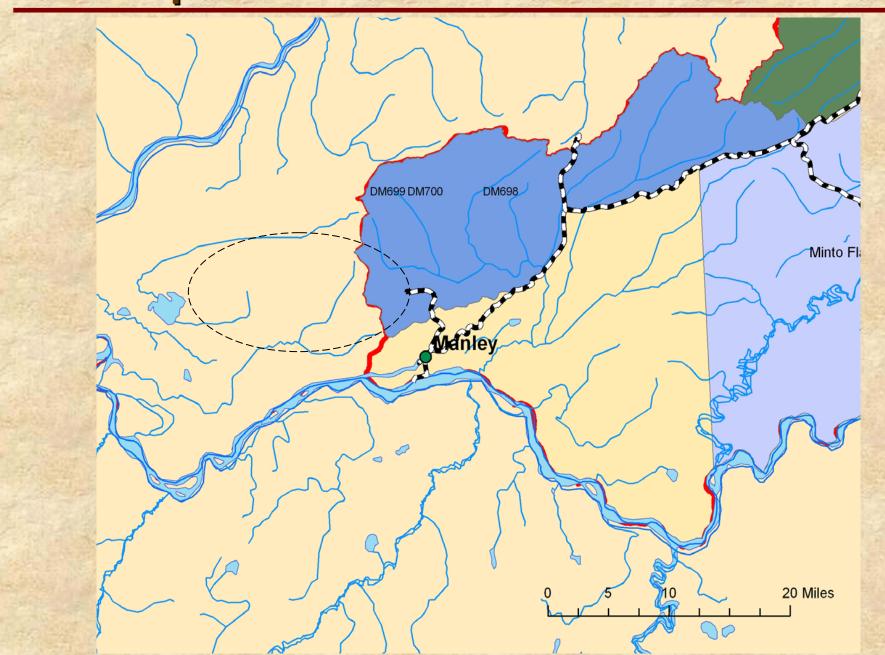
RATIONALE:

- 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

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

•Eliminate one of the antlerless hunt areas in Unit 20B

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>TAKE</u> NO ACTION



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:

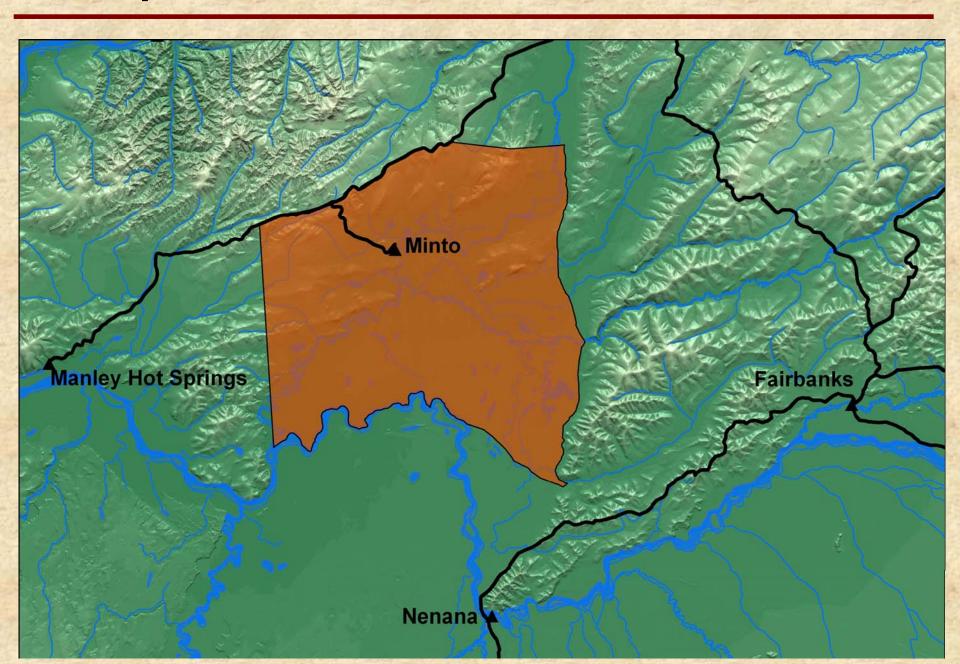
- Split hunt
 - -Limited registration hunt (~210 permits): "any moose" Sept 1-25 and Jan 10-Feb 28
 - -General season: SF50/4 BT Sept 11-25 season
- Distribution of limited registration permits has been controversial

- 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

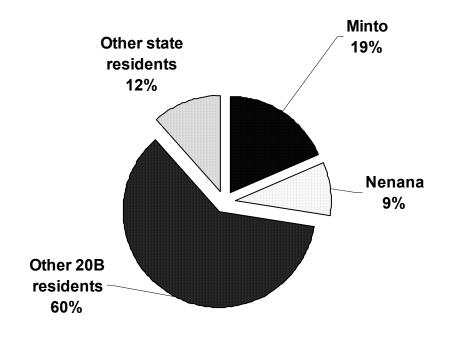
ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

- -Minto and Nenana- Support
- -Fairbanks- Opposed
- -Middle Nenana- Opposed
- -Delta-Opposed
- -Anchorage- Opposed

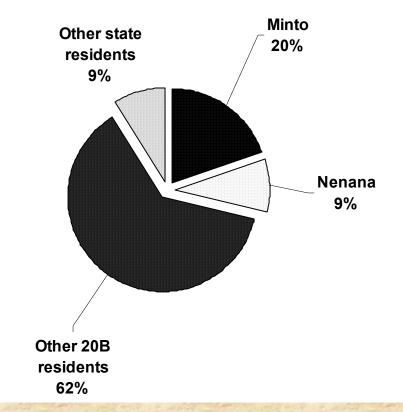
Proposal 46 – Location of Minto Flats MA

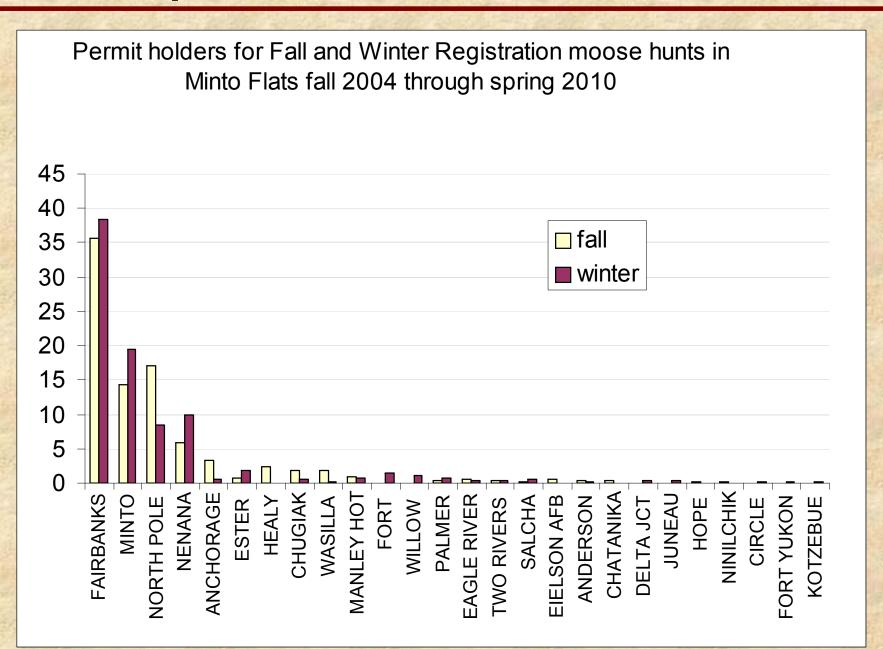


1993 through 2003 MFMA
Tier II Permits

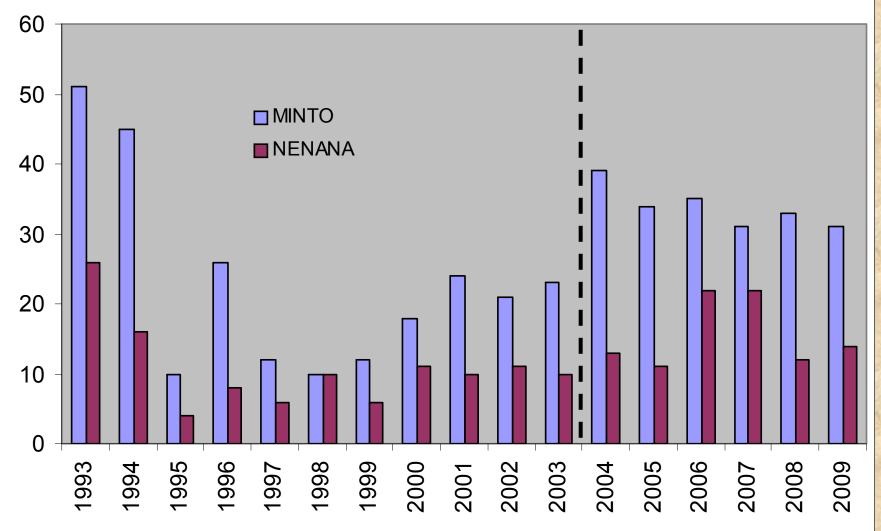


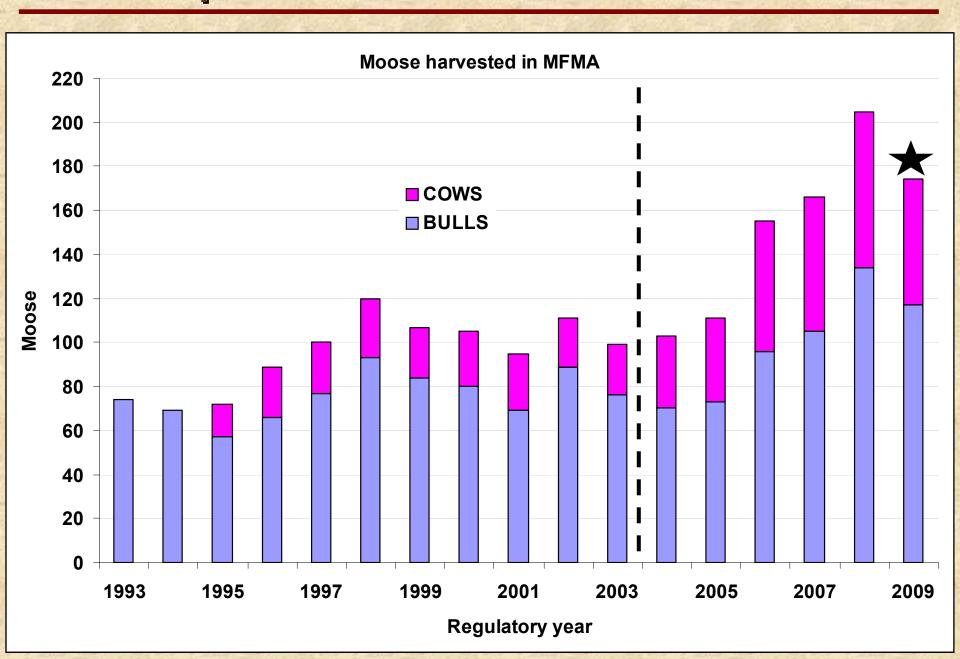
Fall 2004 through spring 2010 MFMA Registration Permits

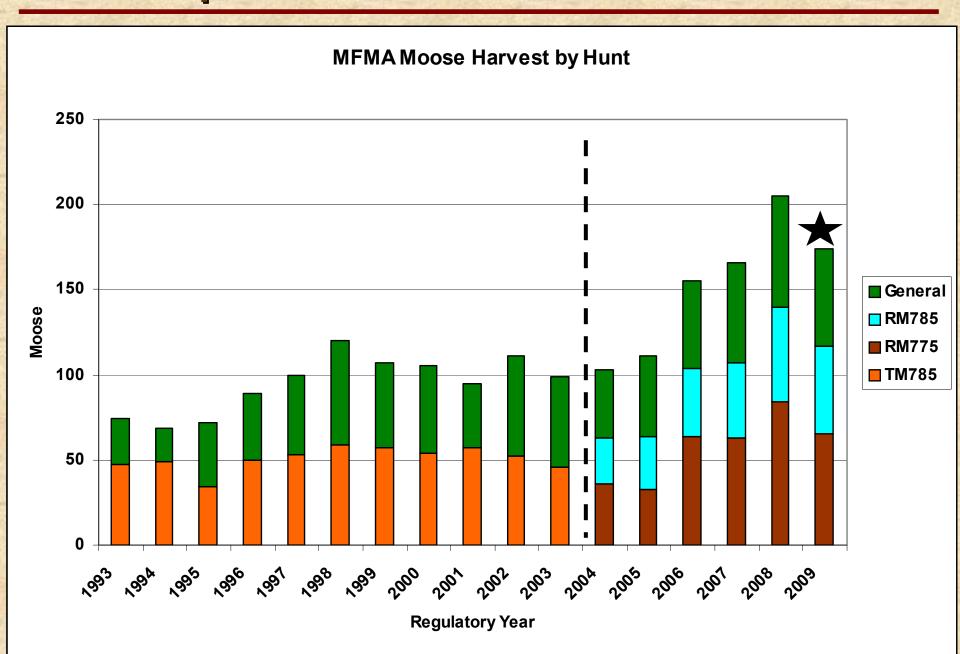










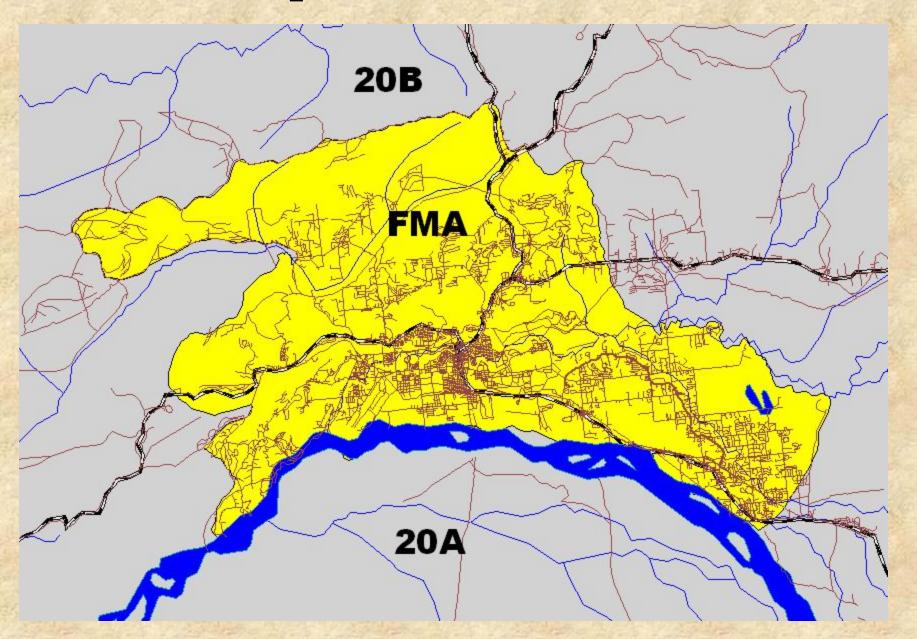


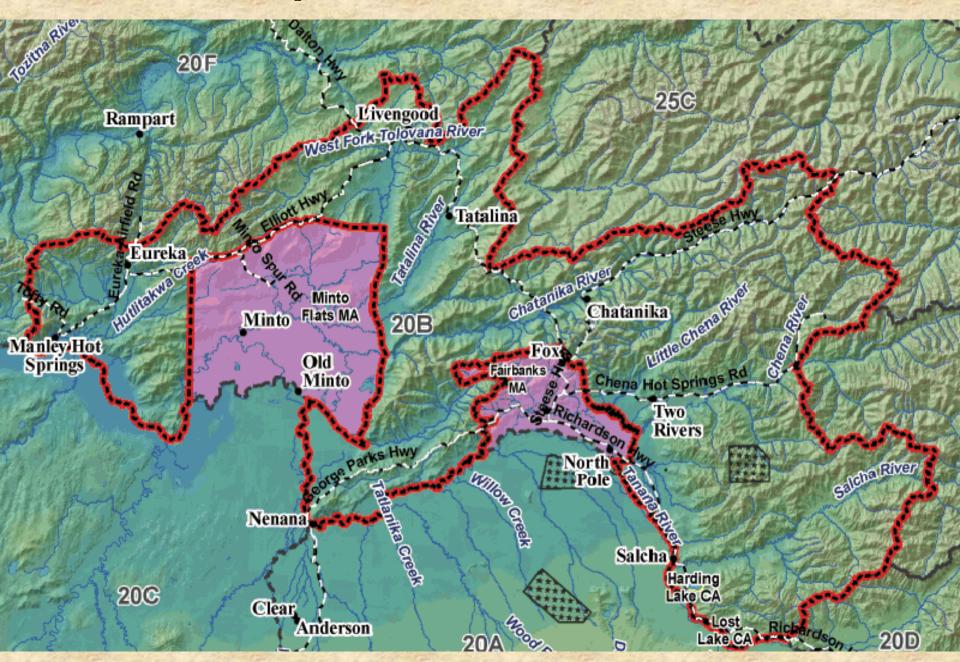
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Distribute one moose permit per household in Minto Village with the bag limit of any moose, up to 50 moose.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

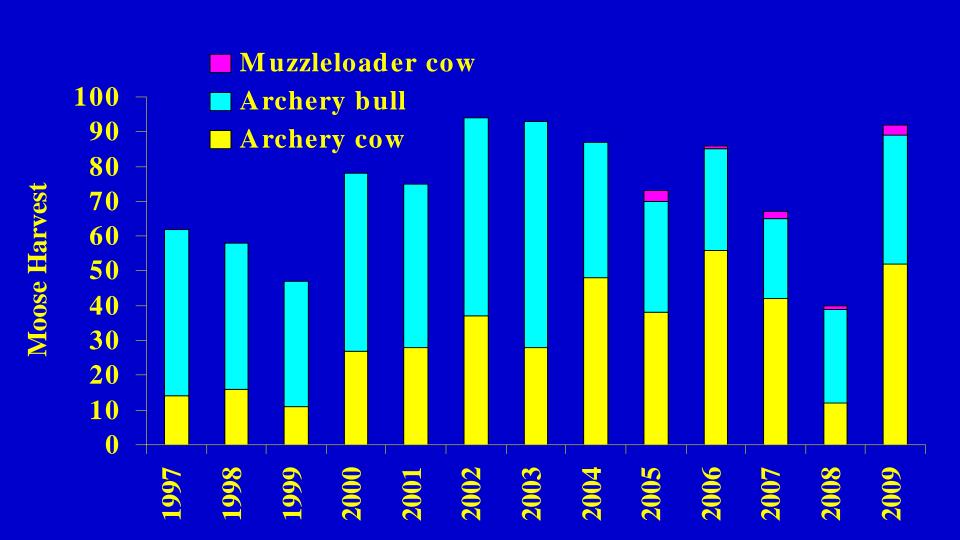
OPTIONS:

- 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



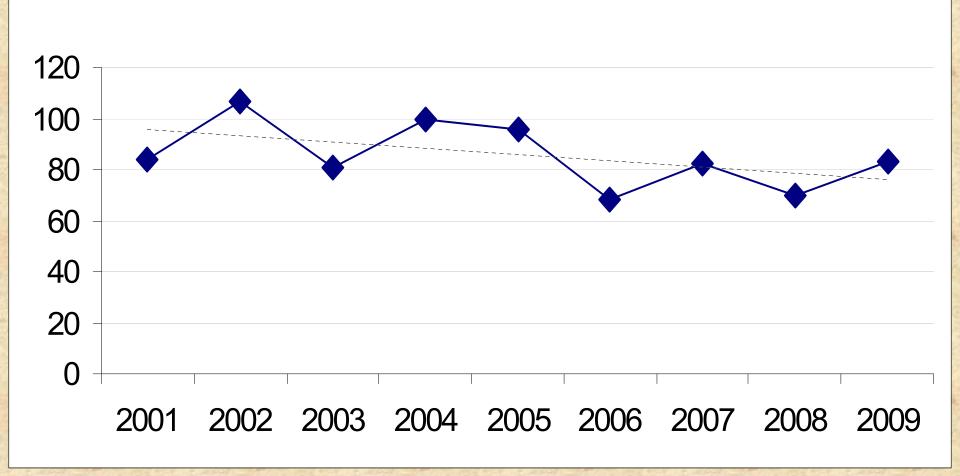


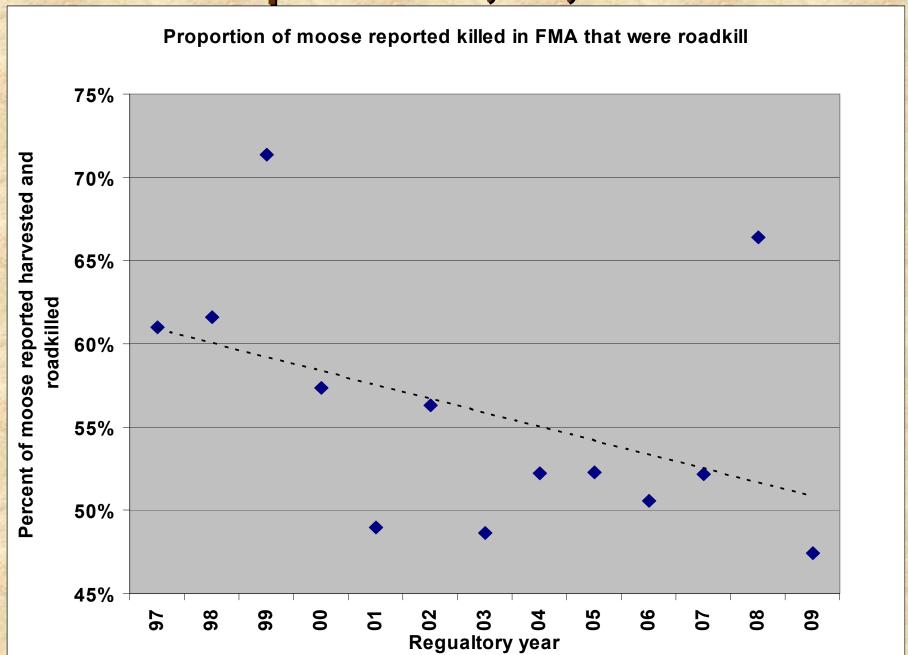
FMA Harvest

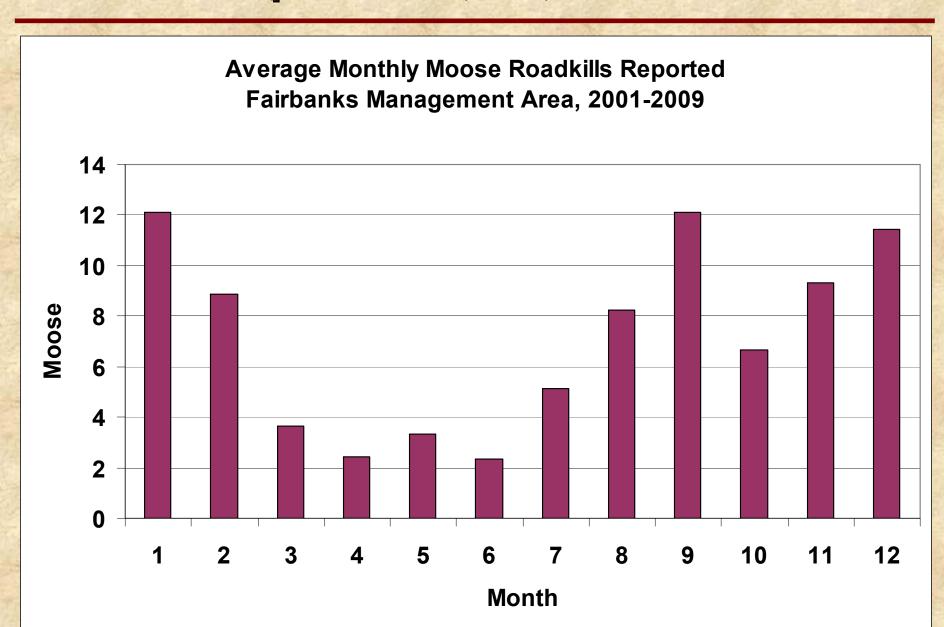


·Roadkill



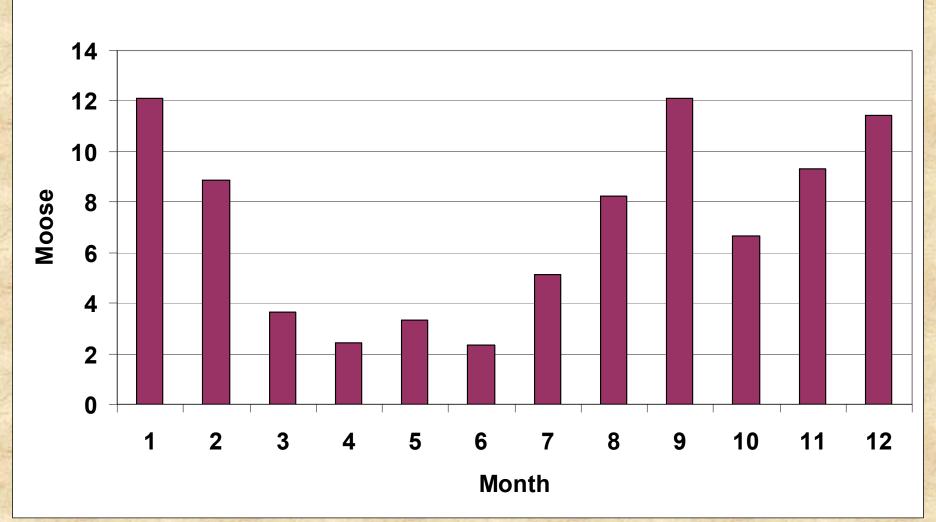


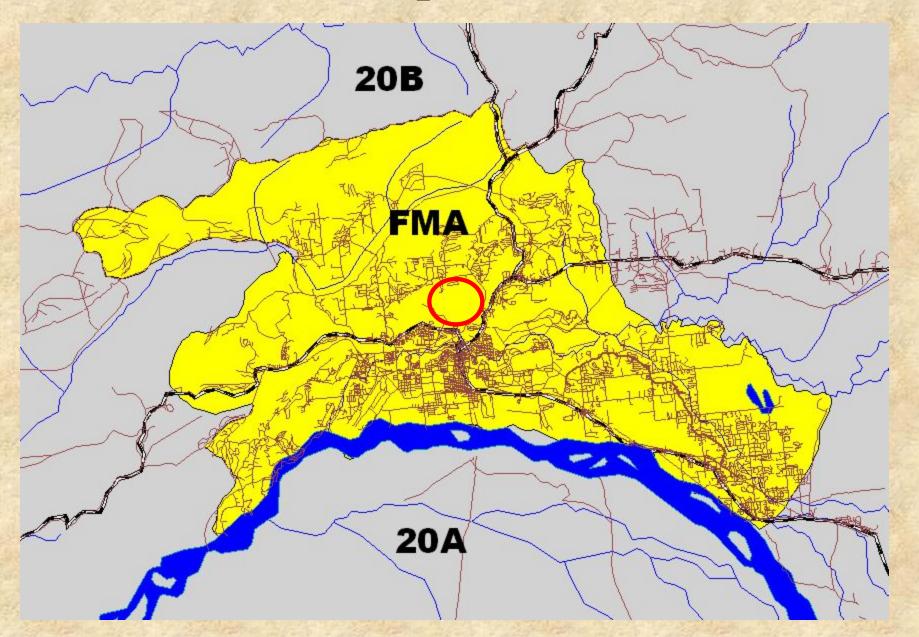




- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Lengthen the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt from 7 day to 61 days
- **•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation**
- ·RATIONALE:
 - This is an allocation issue with significant social issues
 - FMA hunts are designed to
 - Reduce collisions with motor vehicles
 - Reduce nuisance 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.





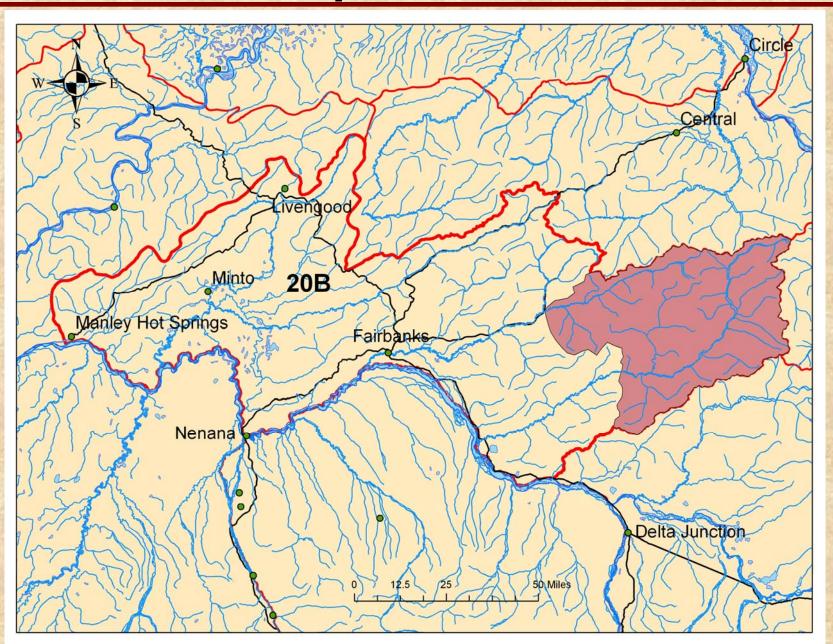


- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Lengthen the Creamer's Field Muzzleloader hunt from 7 day to 61 days
- **•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation**
- ·RATIONALE:
 - This is an allocation issue with significant social issues
 - Public acceptance is critical-
 - Adopting this proposal risks public acceptance
 - •The Fairbanks Advisory Committee opposed this proposal because it would increase conflicts with other users of Creamer's Refuge

- •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

- •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

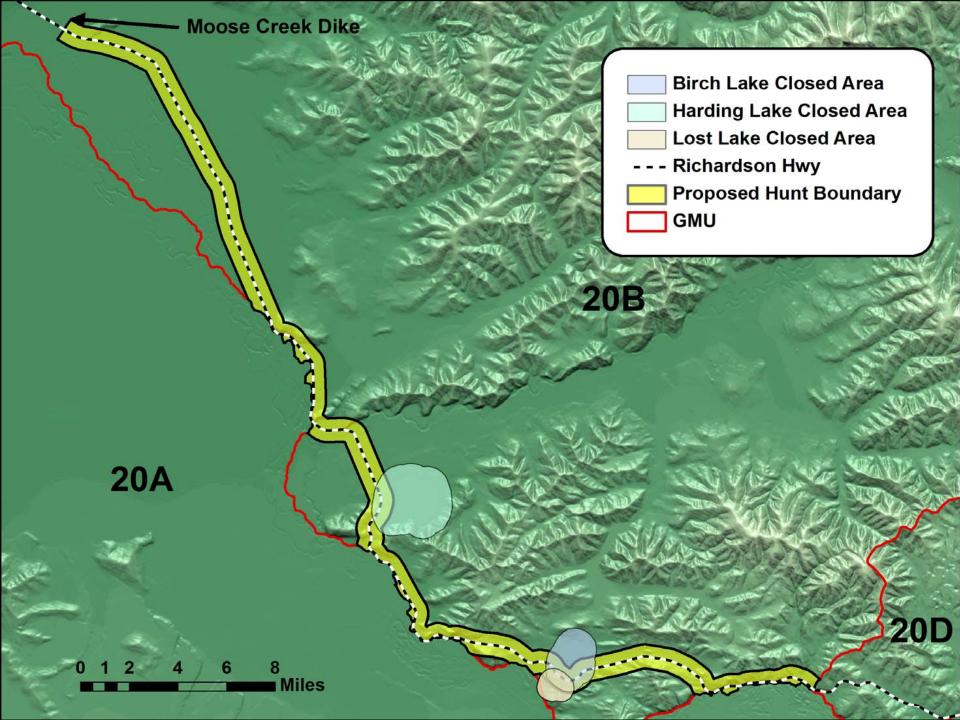
- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a November muzzleloader hunt in 20B
- **•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt**
- ·RATIONALE:
 - Amend the area to the Middle Fork of the Chena and the Salcha River upstream of Goose Creek
 - Up to 60 permits to be issued for bull or cow without calf
 - Increasing moose population
 - At this time, additional opportunity is warranted



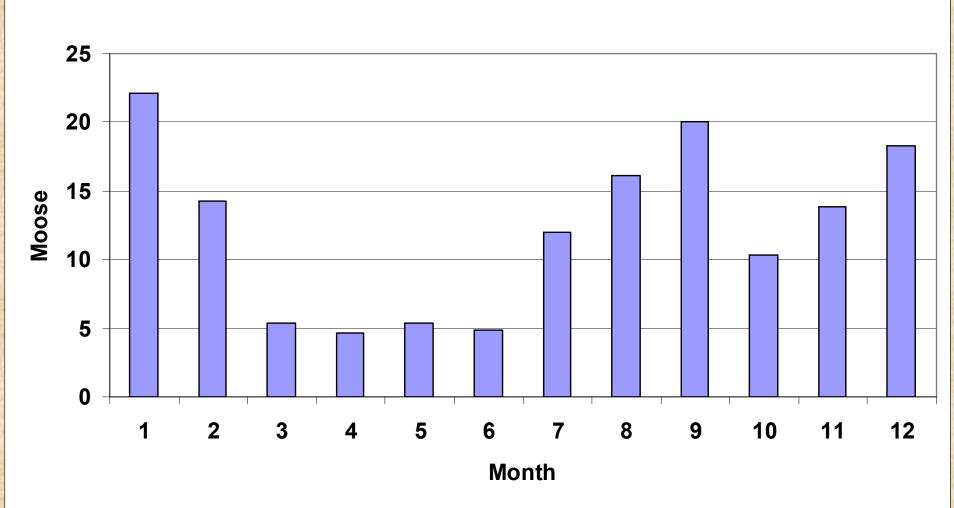
- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a winter archery hunt in 20B along the Richardson Highway
- •DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

·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









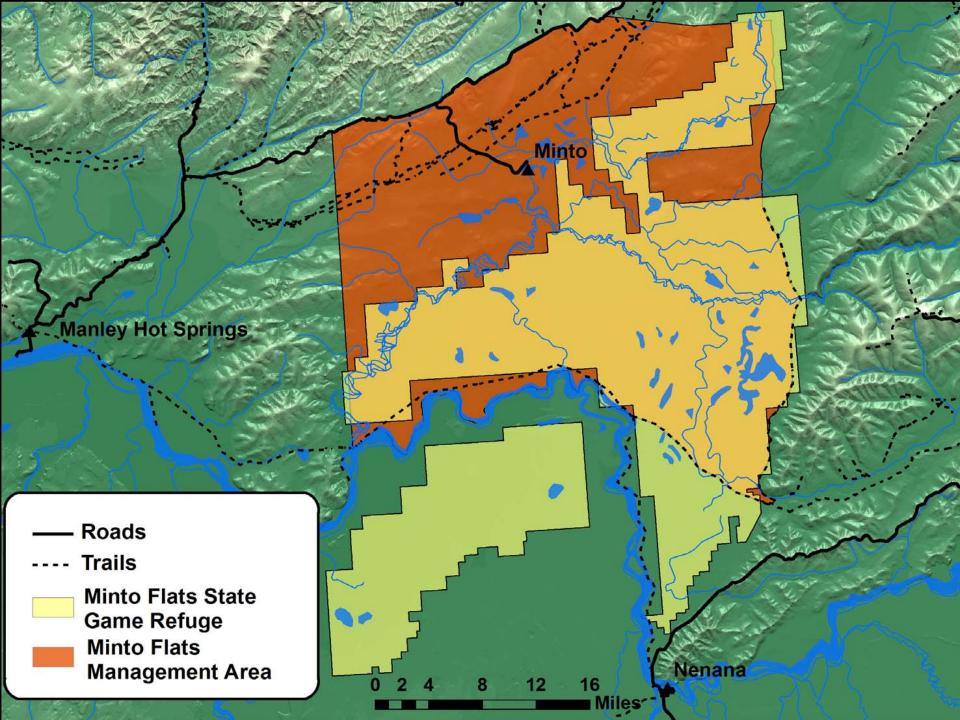
- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Allocate a number of antierless moose drawing permits in 20B to youth hunters
- •DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

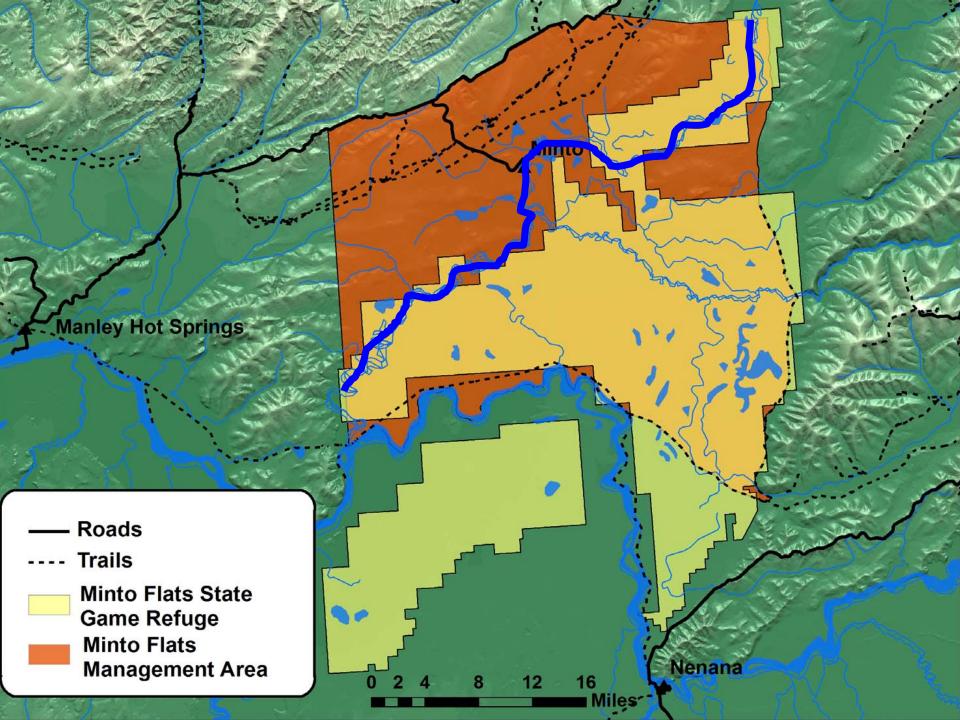
·RATIONALE:

- 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.

- •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

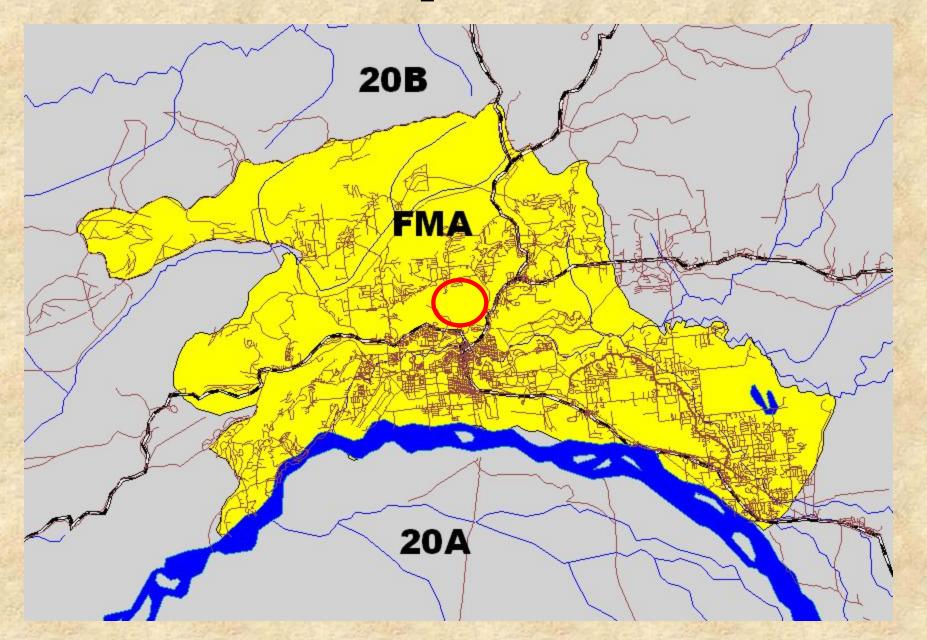






- •EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Restrict the use of wheeled or tracked vehicles for hunting moose in Minto Flats Management Area
- **•DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt**
- ·RATIONALE:
 - Amend to the East side of the Tolovana and except snowmachines
 - Already illegal in the refuge
 - Need public notice for enforcement
 - Adopting this language would be a clean method of public notice

- •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 an do 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



Effects of the proposal: Modify the moose season dates for residents in Unit 20C from September 1-20 to September 5-25.

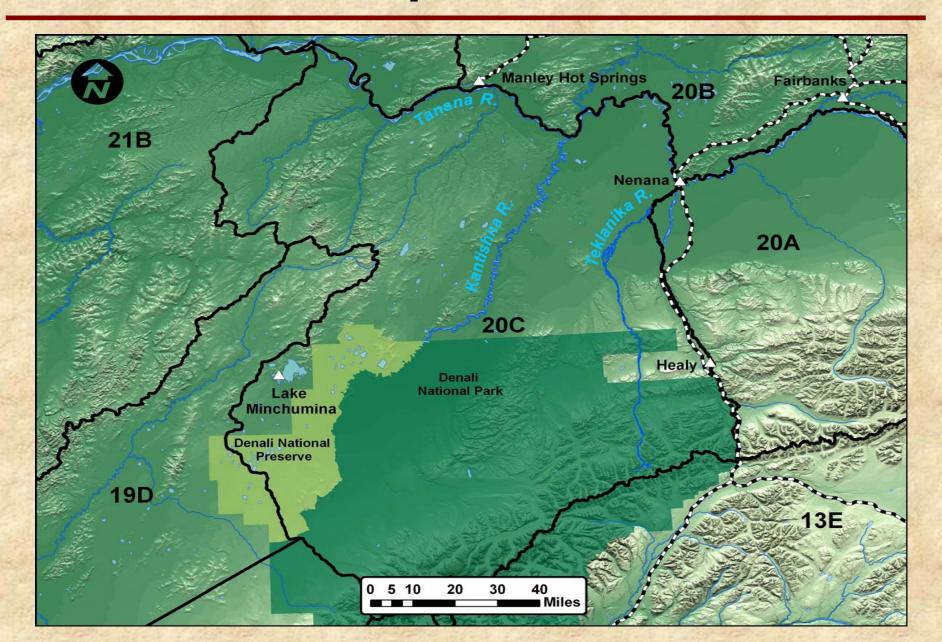
Department Recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

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.

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.



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.

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)

- 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.

Department Recommendations: **Do Not Adopt**

Effects of the proposal: Modify the moose season dates for residents in Unit 20C.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Effects of the Proposal: Expand the Non-resident moose season in Unit 20C.

Department Recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

• 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".

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)

- 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.

- 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.

 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.

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Effects of the proposal: Remove the prohibition against shooting white moose in Unit 20C.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

- 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.

- 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 whitephased and albino cow moose would still be protected.

Recommendation: Adopt

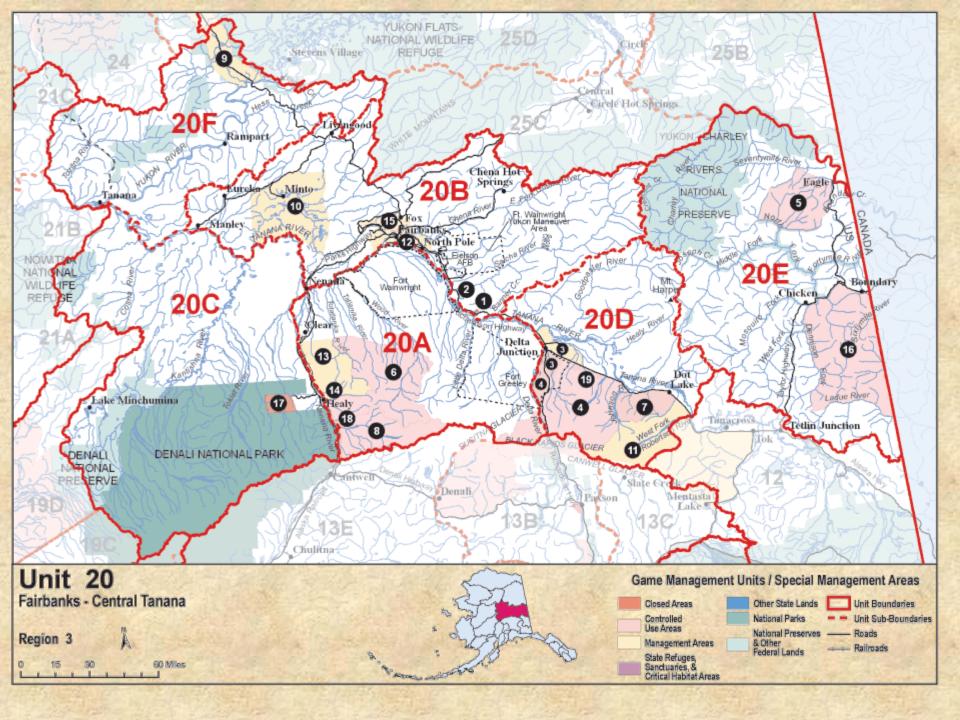
EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

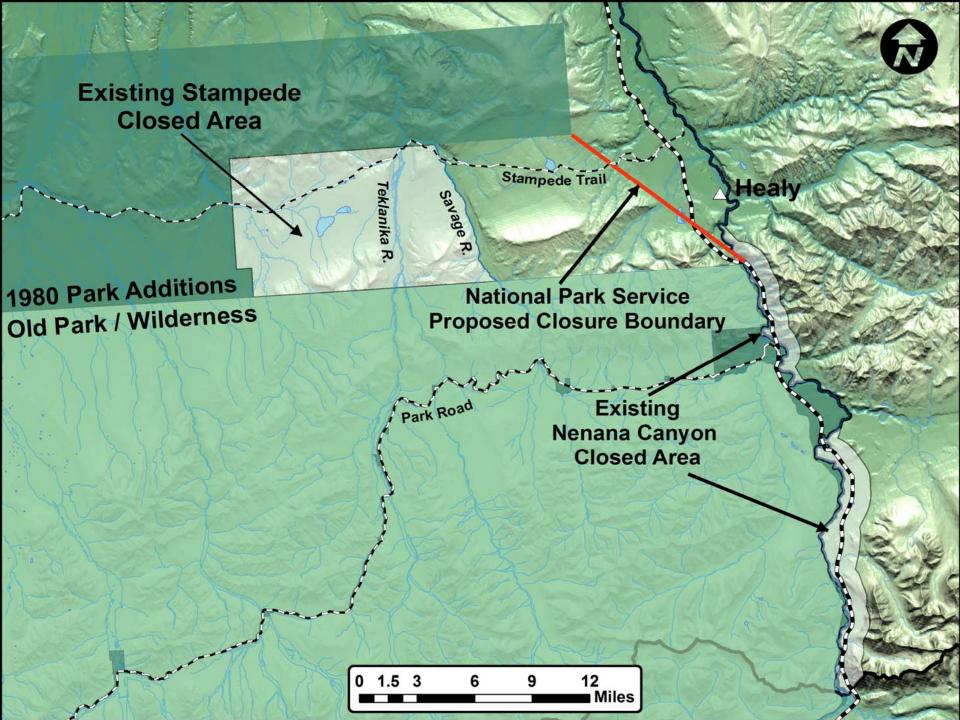
- •Increase the size of the Stampede Closed Area (closed to the taking of wolves).
- Nenana Canyon Closed Area a related issue.

Submitted by: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve (DNP&P)

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

·Also addresses proposals 55-61, 63, and 64





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

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

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

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

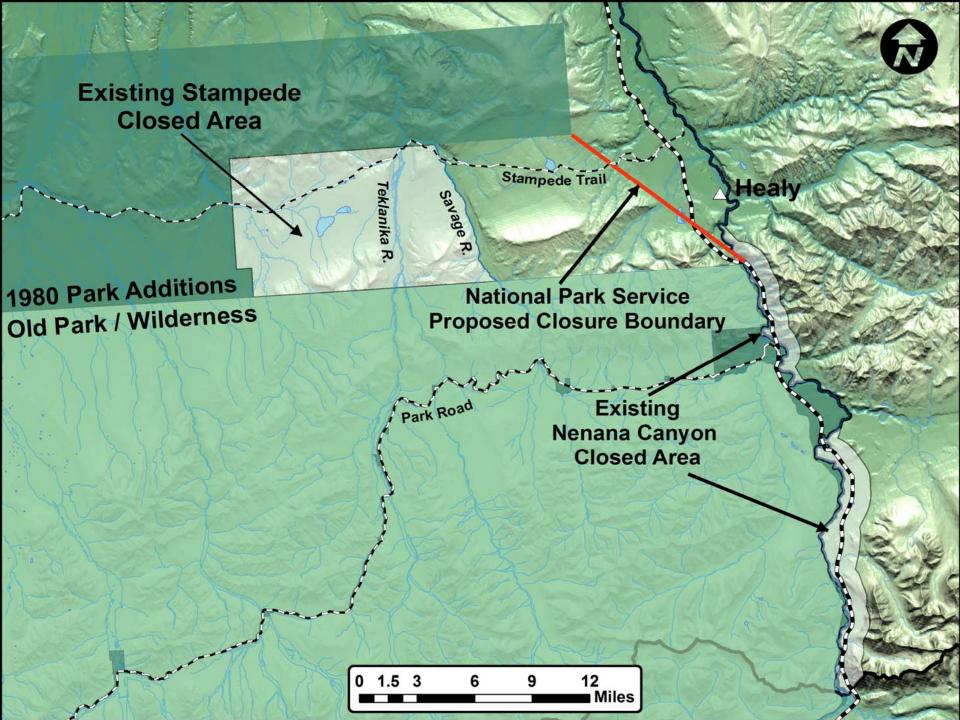
Proposal 56 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

<u>Take No Action</u>



Proposal 57 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Nenana Canyon Closed

Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Take No Action</u>

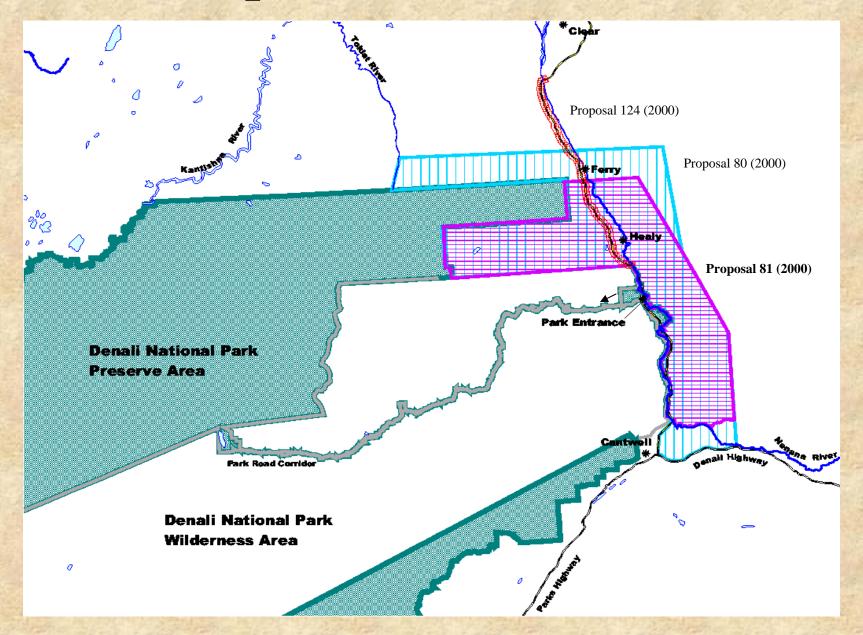
Proposal 58 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Expand the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

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

Proposal 60 - Unit 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Expand the Stampede Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

<u>Take No Action</u>

Proposal 61 – Unit 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Eliminate the Stampede Closed Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action

Proposal 63 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

<u>Take No Action</u>

Proposal 64 – Units 20A and 20C Wolf

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Eliminate the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

<u>Take No Action</u>

Proposal 31- Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

Liberalize brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 20A:

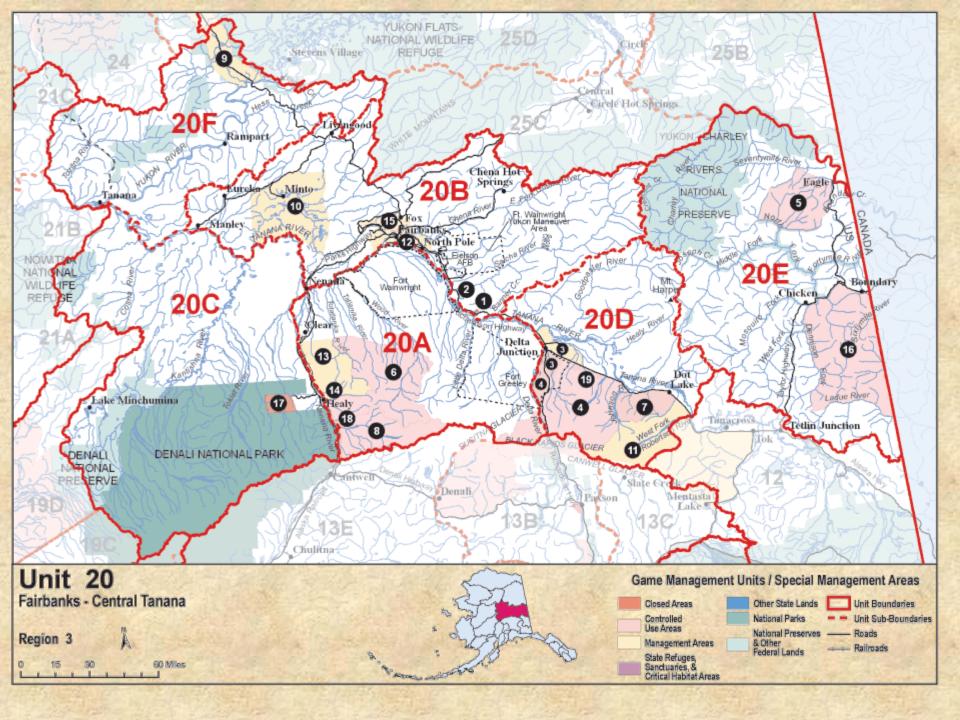
From Sep 5-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30 Unit 20C:

From Sep 1-May 31 to Aug 10-Jun 30

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: <u>Amend</u> and Adopt:

Unit 20A: Sep 1-May 31

• Unit 20C: Aug 10-Jun 30

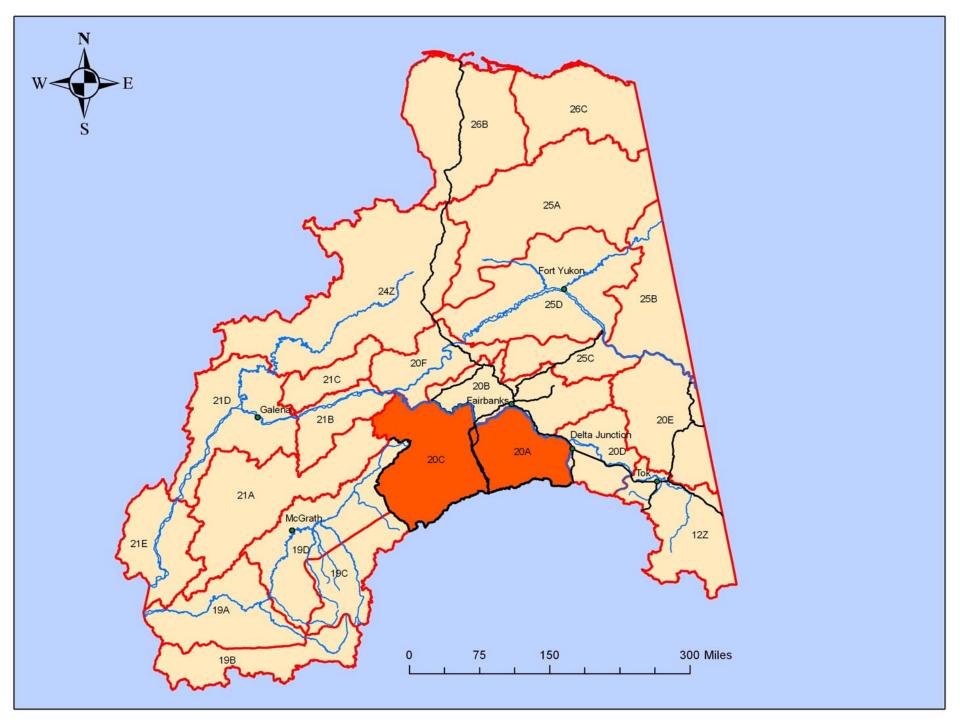


Proposal 31- Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

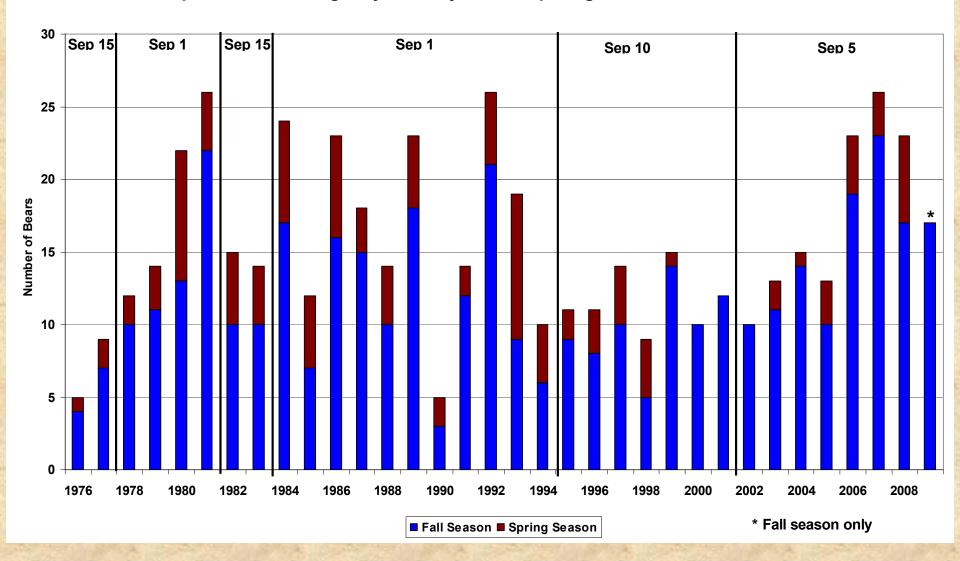
RATIONALE:

Unit 20A

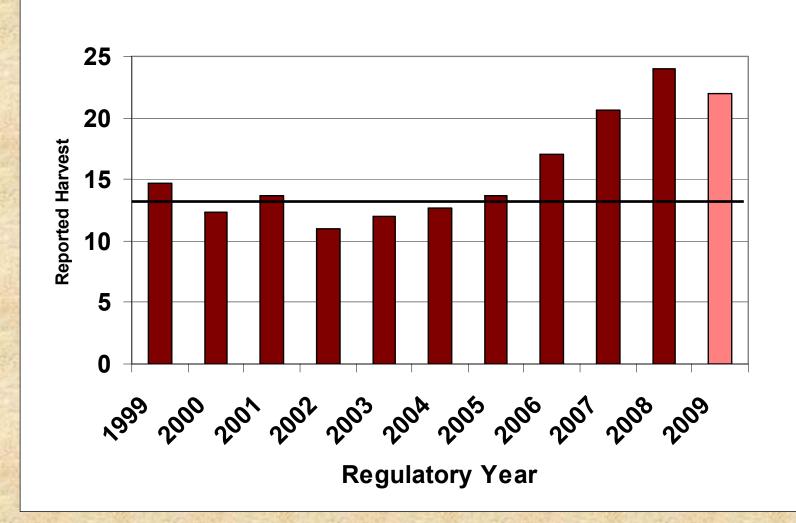
- Aligns season with Unit 20B to the north
- Aligns season opener with general moose season (Sep 1-25)
- High bear harvests last 4 years
- No changes detected in sex and age composition or skull size

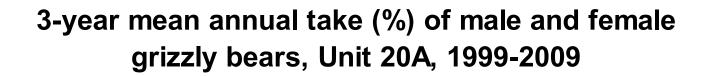


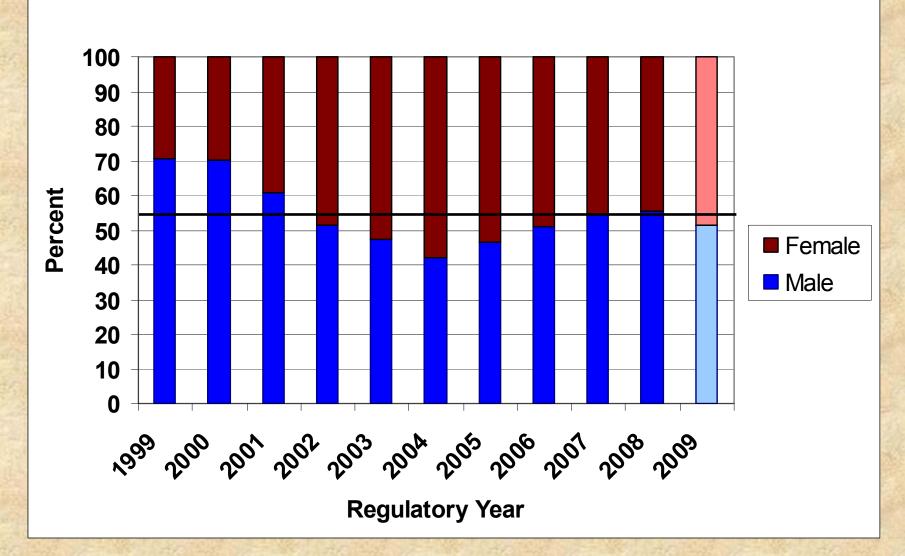
Reported harvest of grizzly bears by season opening date, Unit 20A, 1976-2009



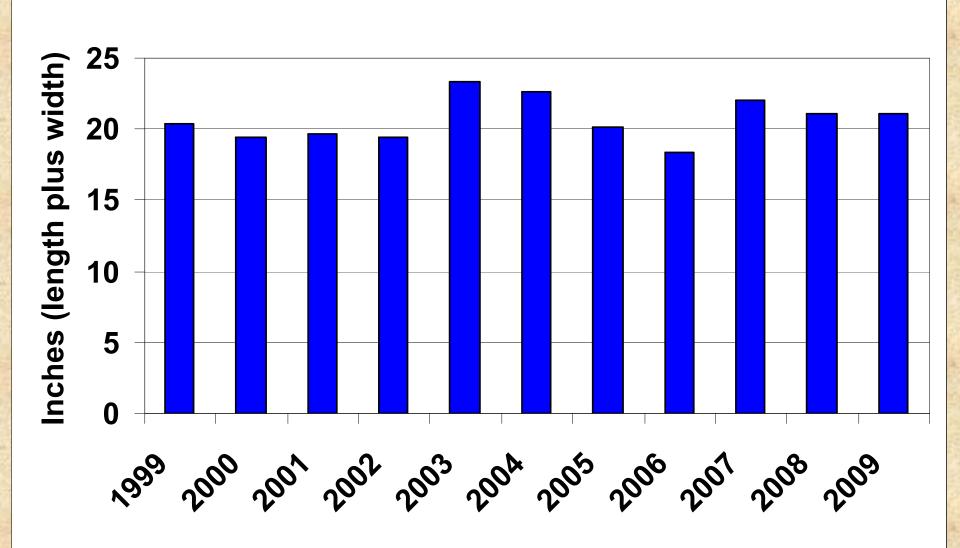
3-year mean annual harvest of grizzly bears, Unit 20A, 1999-2009







Mean skull size of male grizzly bears harvested in Unit 20A, 1999-2009

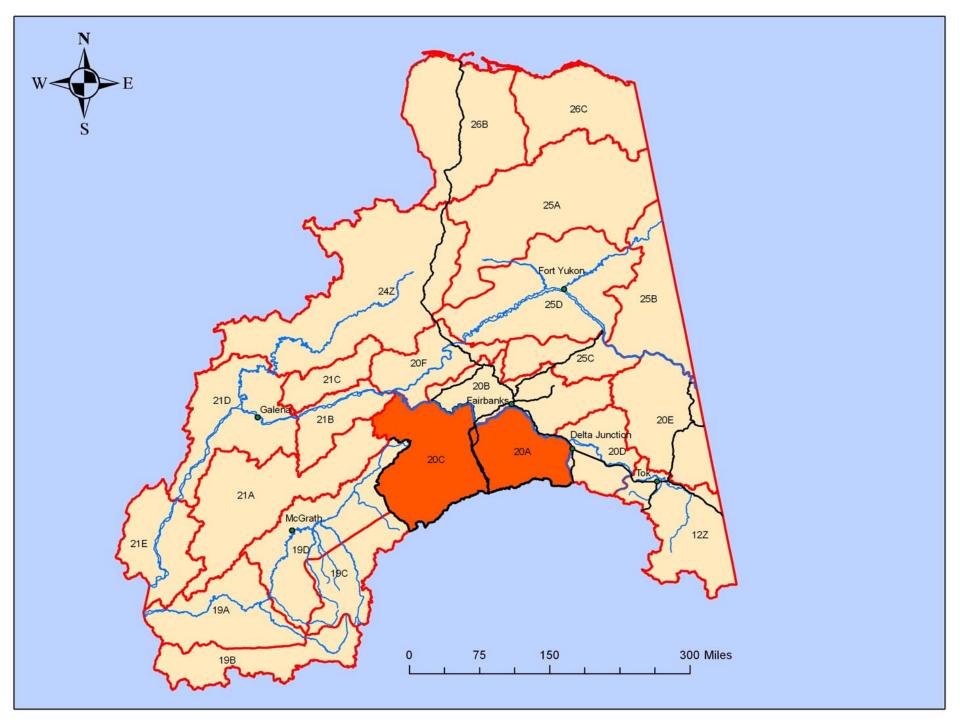


Proposal 31- Units 20A and 20C Brown Bear

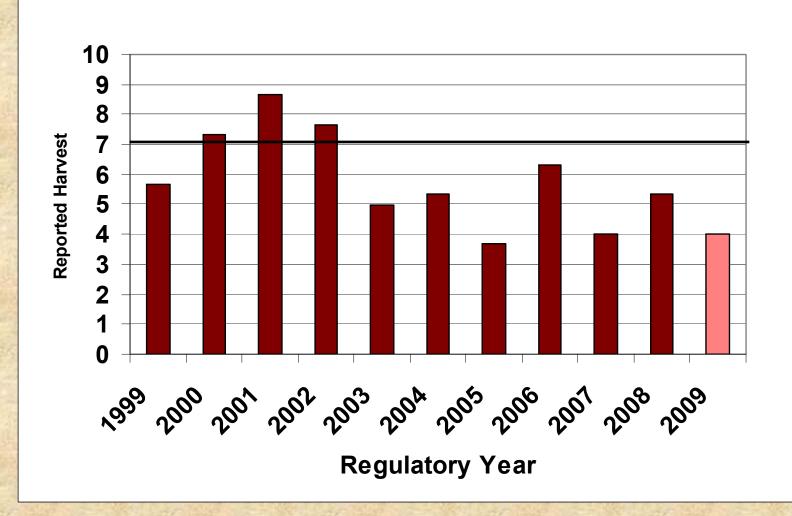
RATIONALE:

Unit 20C

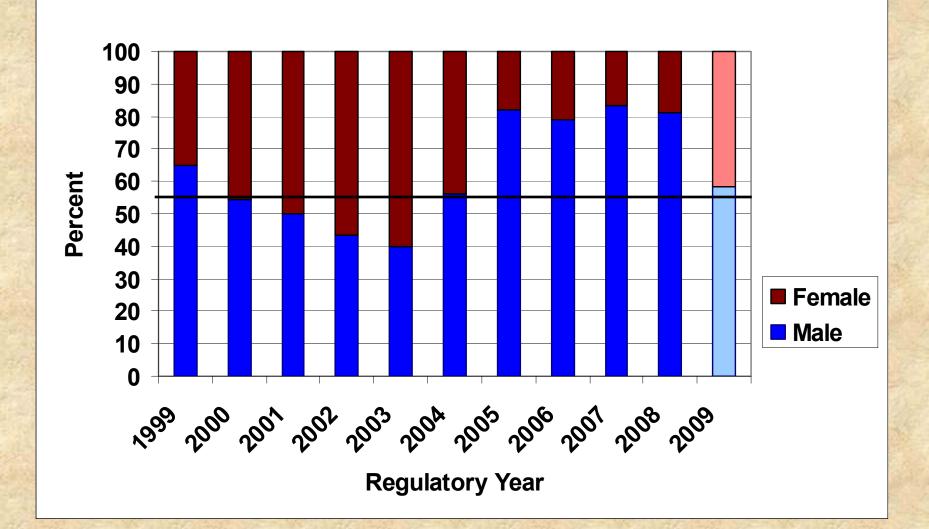
- Aligns season with Unit 19D, 21A and 21B to the west and Unit 20F to the northwest
- Access is relatively poor
- ·Harvest is low



3-year mean annual harvest of grizzly bears, Unit 20C, 1999-2009



3-year mean annual harvest (%) of male and female grizzly bears, Unit 20C, 1999-2009



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: <u>Amend</u> 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

Effects of the Proposal: Shorten the beaver trapping season in 20B.

Department recommendation: **Do Not Adopt**

Current beaver trapping season: September 25 – May 31; no limit.

Proposed season:

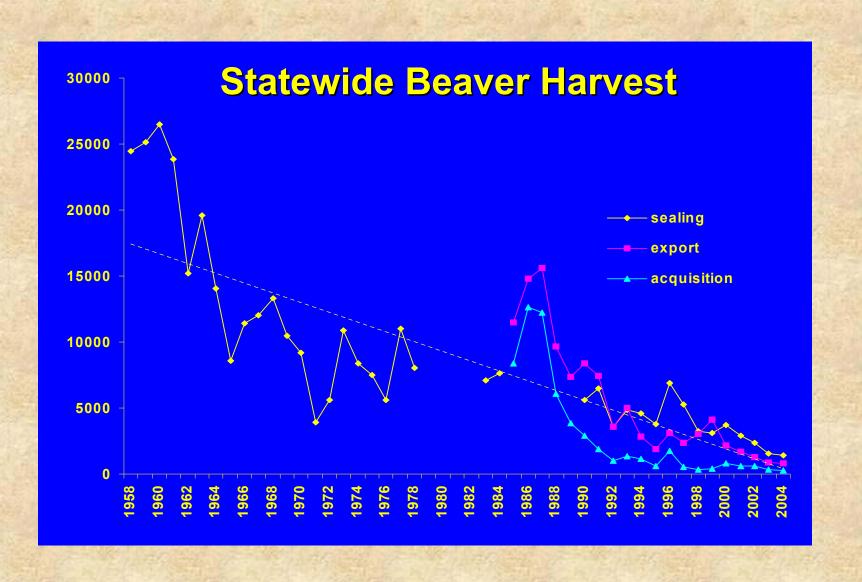
November 1 – April 15; no limit.

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.

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.



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.

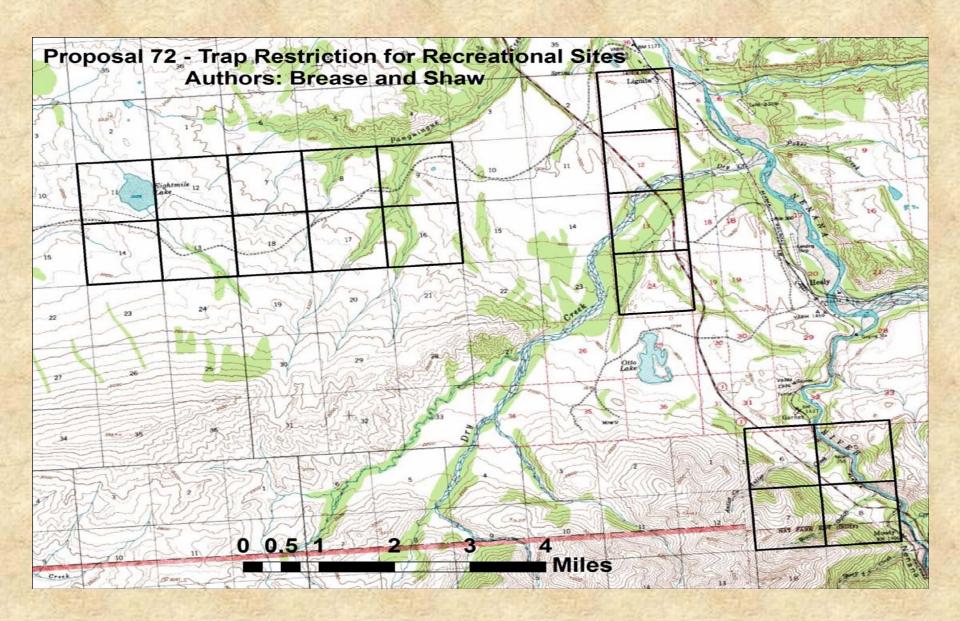
- The number of active caches has remained steady over the last ten years (range 20-29 active caches, mean= 25.5)
- Every section of good beaver habitat is occupied by beavers
- Huts that are trapped out one winter have been reoccupied by the next fall.
- Local trappers are reporting similar densities in other parts of the Chena River, Chatanika River and Salcha River where trapping is not limited.

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Effects of the proposal: Restrict the use of traps near certain recreational and residential areas in Unit 20C.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation.

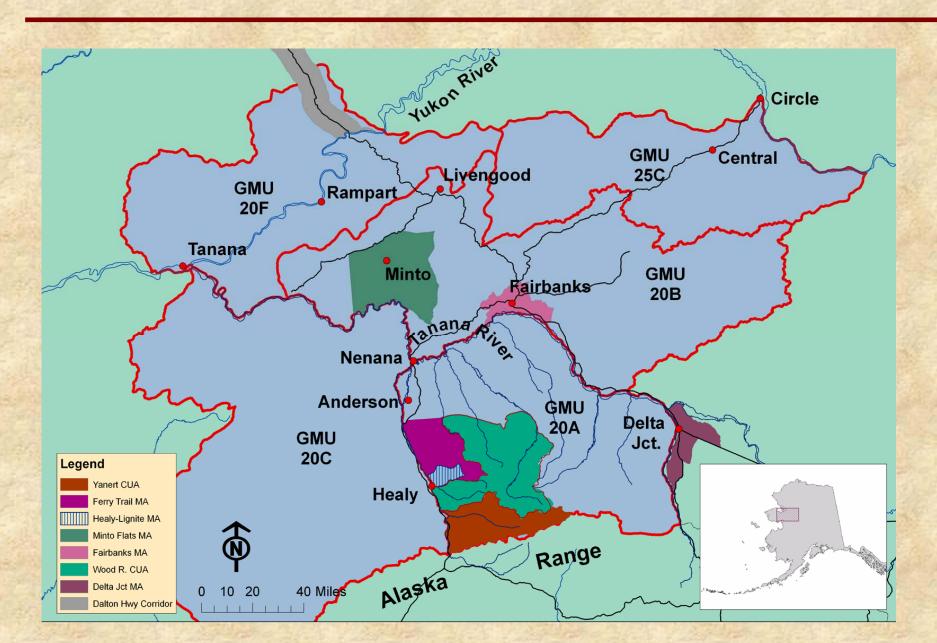
- This is an allocation issue.
- Boundaries in the proposed areas would be hard to identify by trappers and hard to enforce because identifiable landmarks are not used in the descriptions.
- According to the Department of Law, the board is not authorized to close areas based primarily on public safety.



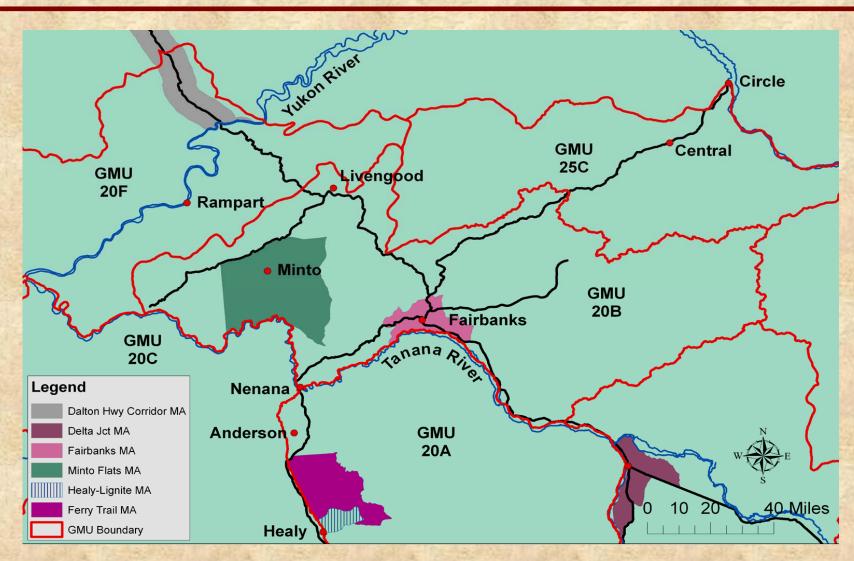
Proposal 72

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Fairbanks Area

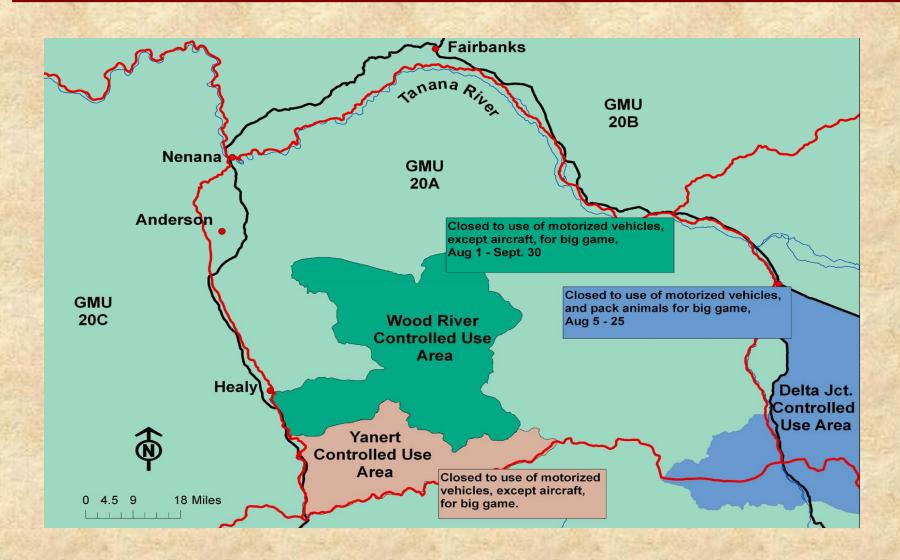


Management Areas



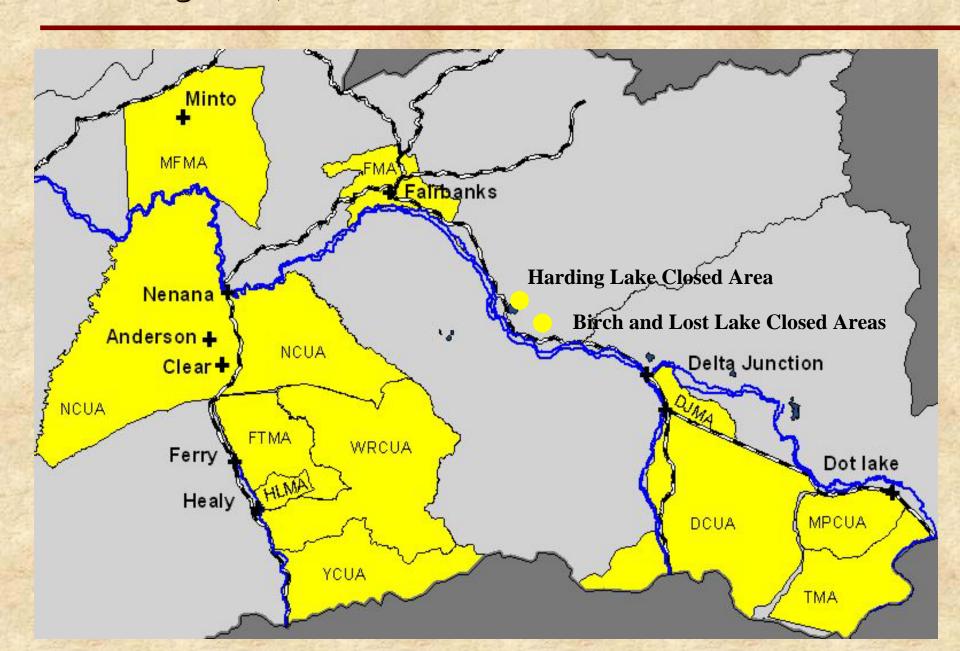
6 PROPOSALS: 3FMA; 3 MFMA

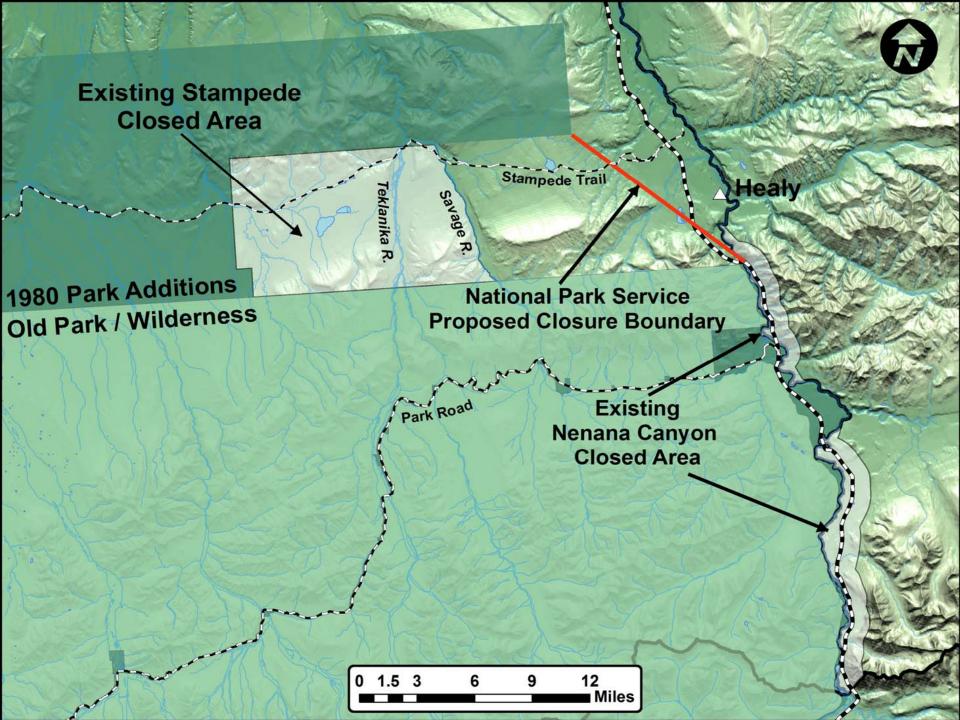
Controlled Use Areas



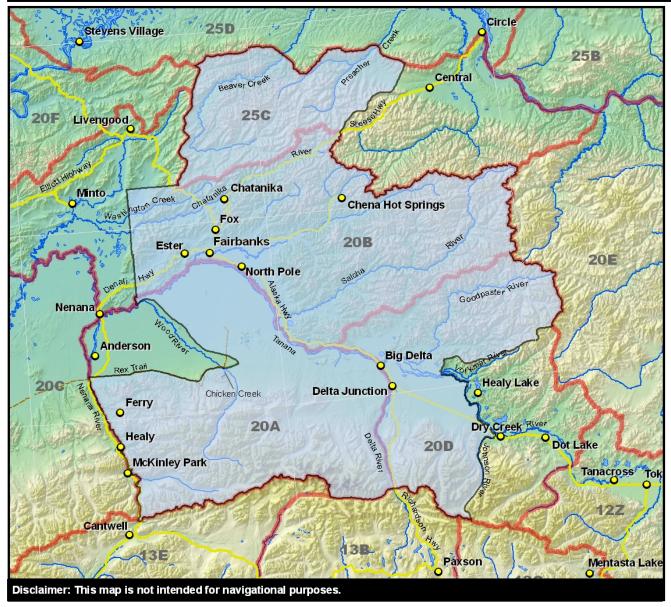
3 PROPOSALS: 2 WRCUA; 1 create new CUA southeastern 20A

Harding Lake, Birch Lake and Lost Lake Closed Areas



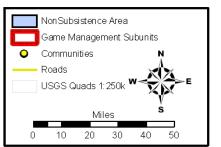




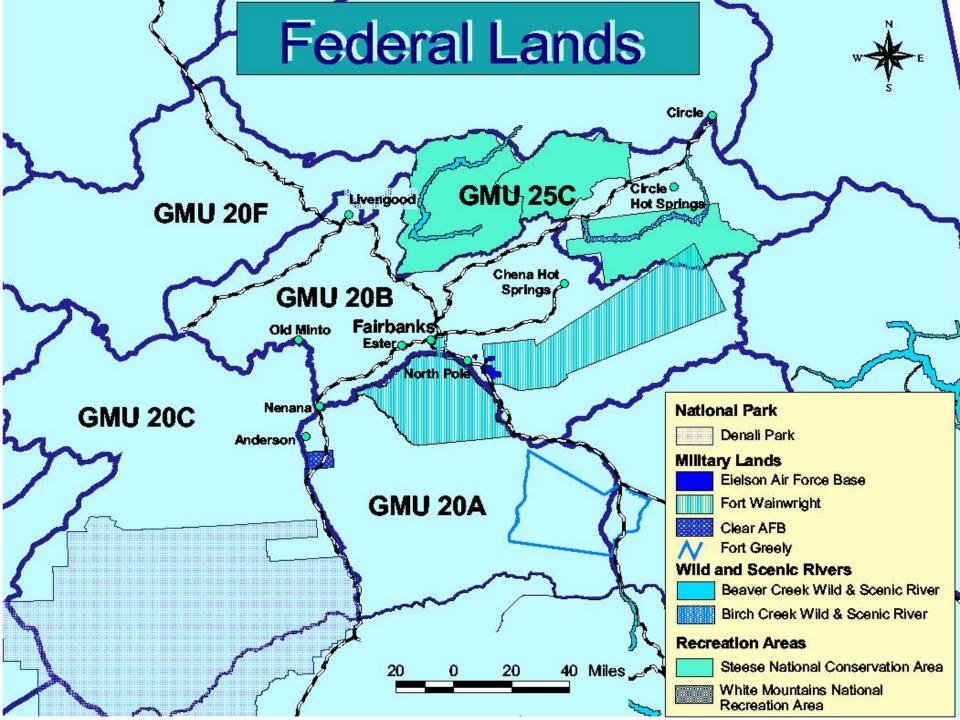


5 AAC 99.015 Joint Board nonsubsistence areas. (a) The following areas are found by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game to be nonsubsistence use areas:

(4) The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 20(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (A), east of the Wood River drainage and south of the Rex Trail but including the upper Wood Ri∨er drainage south of its confluence with Chicken Creek, within Unit 20(B), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (B), the North Star Borough and that portion of the Washington Creek drainage east of the Elliot Highway; within Unit 20(D) as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (D), west of the Tanana River between its confluence with the Johnson and Delta Rivers. west of the east bank of the Johnson River, and north and west of the Volkmar drainage, including the Goodpaster River drainage: and within Unit 25(C), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(25) (C), the Preacher and Beaver Creek drainages.



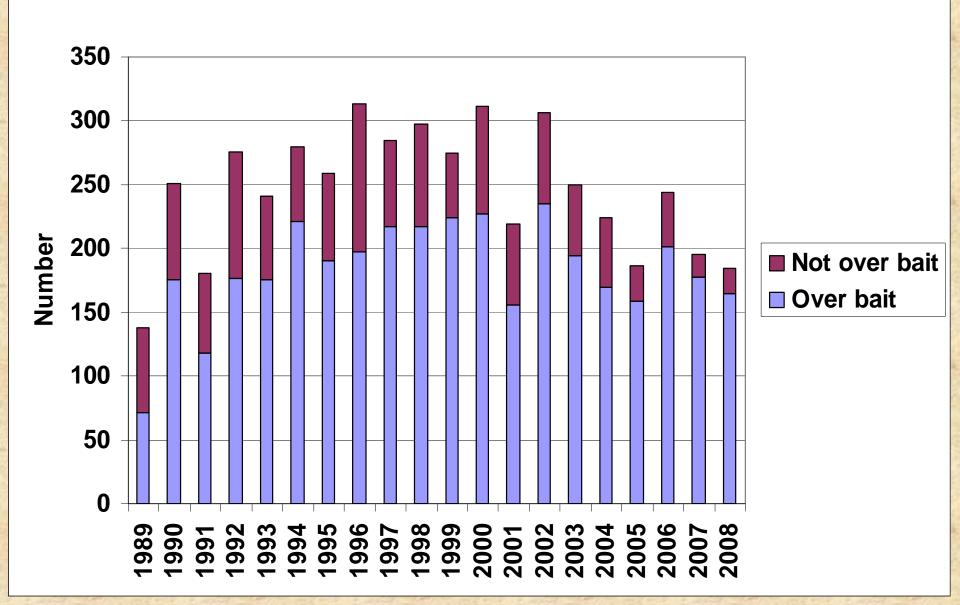




Black Bear

- Common in all units
- Issues:
 - Slight declines in effort/harvest (possibly due to military deployments)
- No proposals

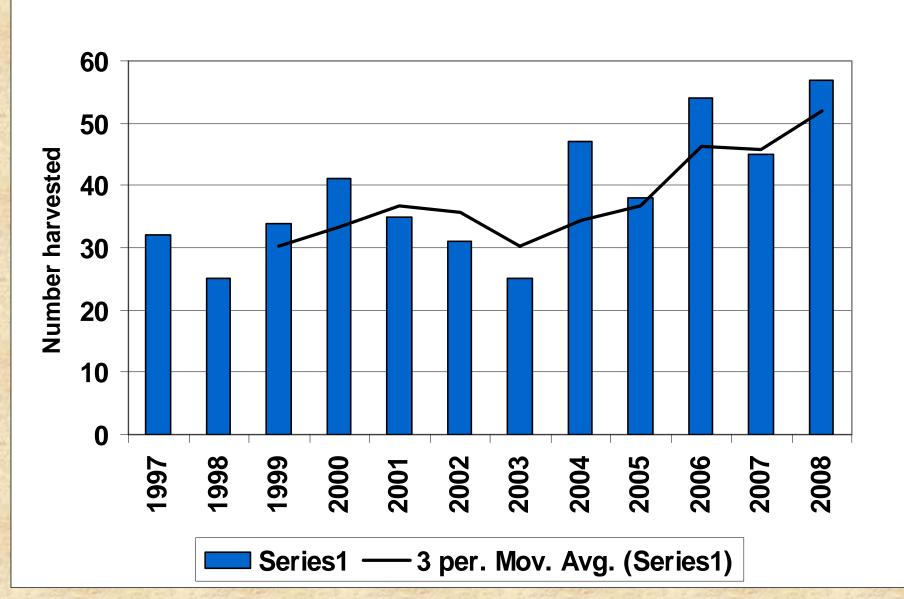
Reported black bear harvest, Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20F, regulatory years 1989-2008



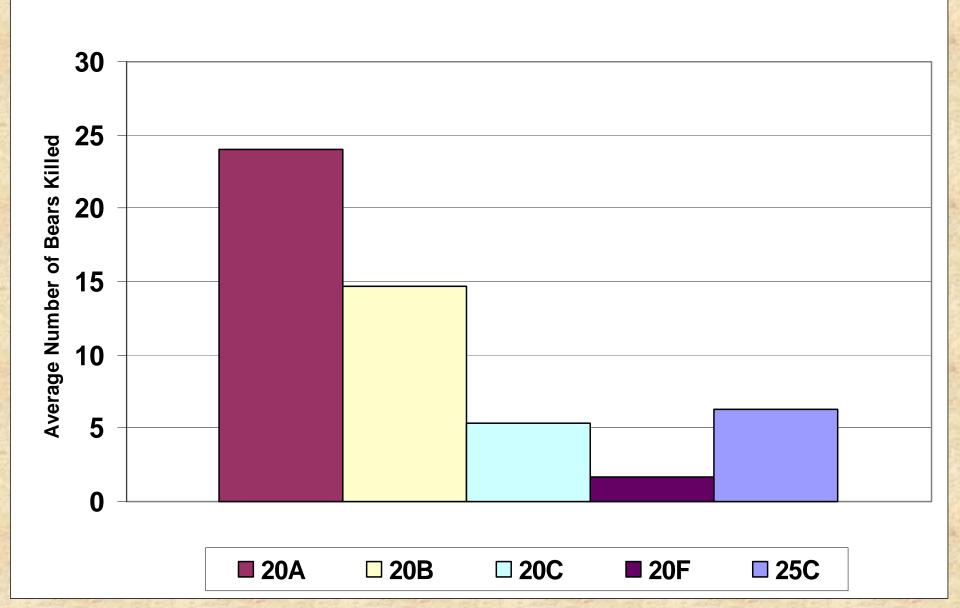
Brown Bear

- 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

Reported grizzly bear harvest in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, regulatory years 1997-2008

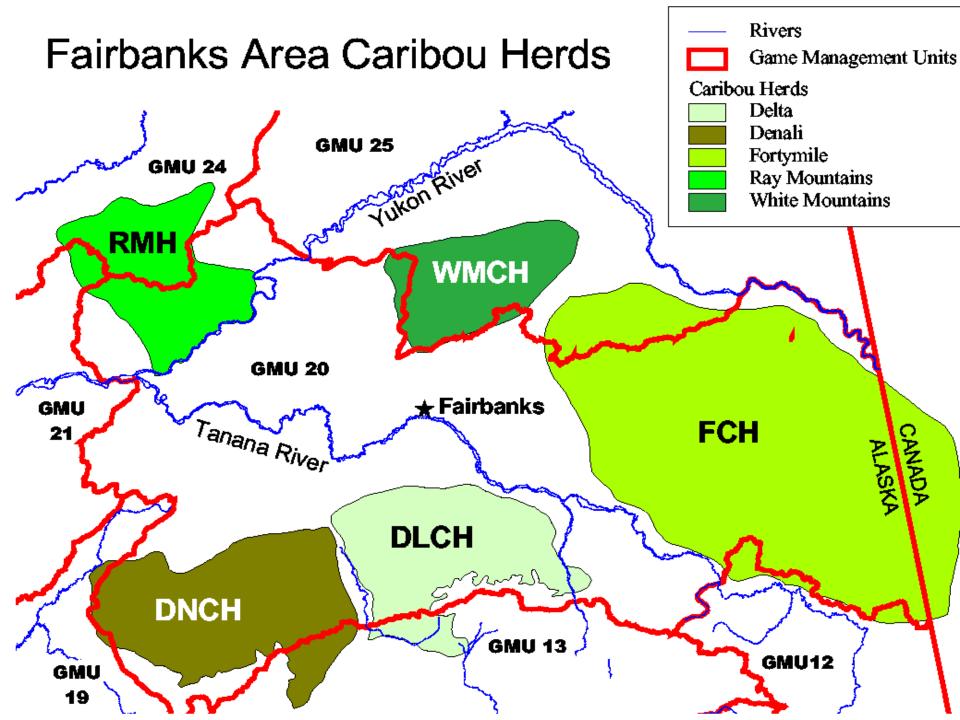


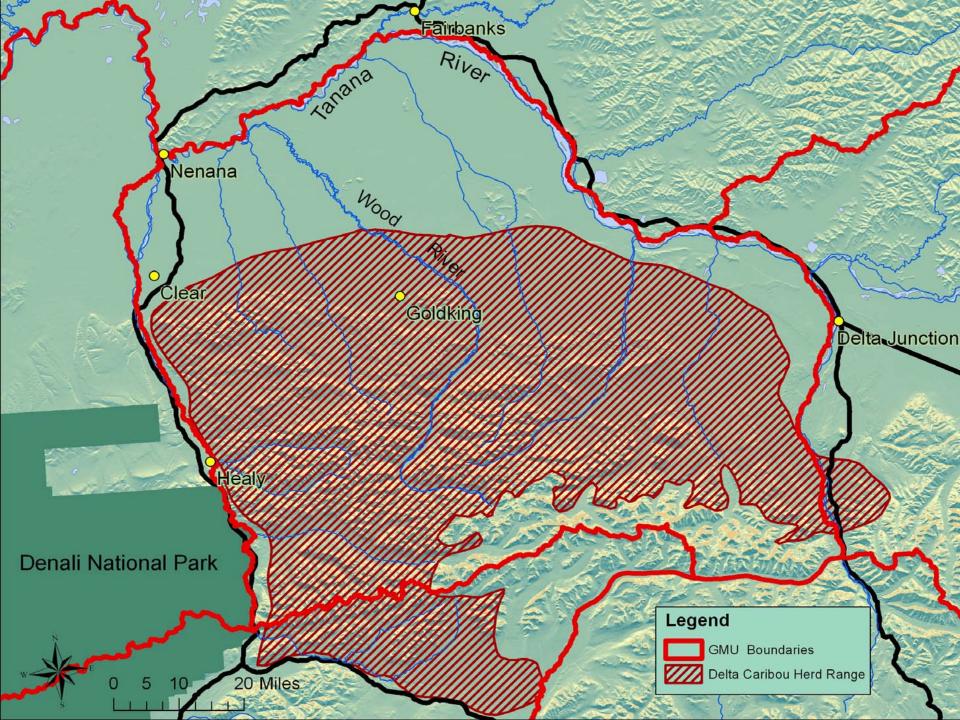
3-year average reported harvest of grizzly bears in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, 2006-2008



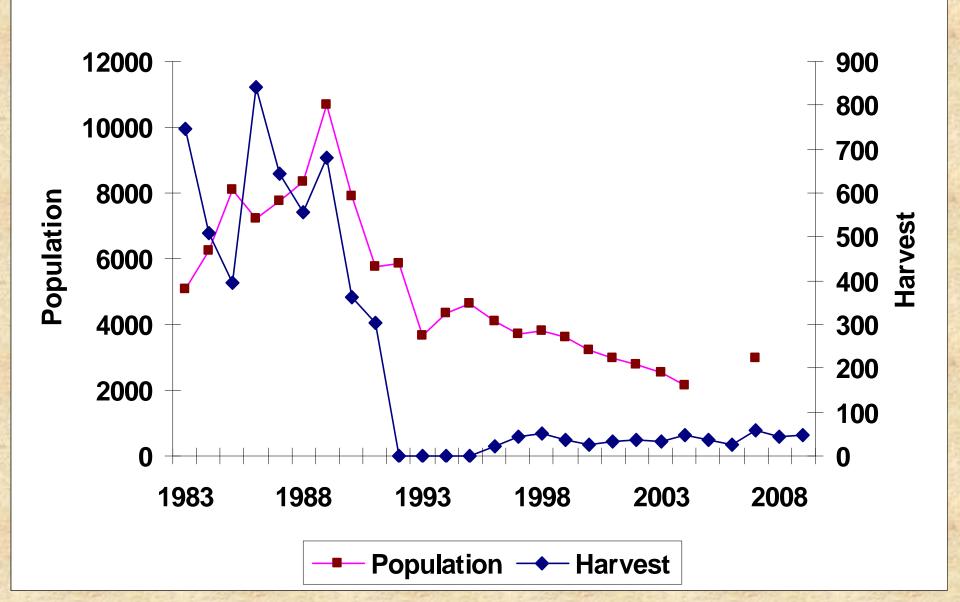
Caribou

- 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





Population size and harvest, Delta Caribou Herd, 1983-2009

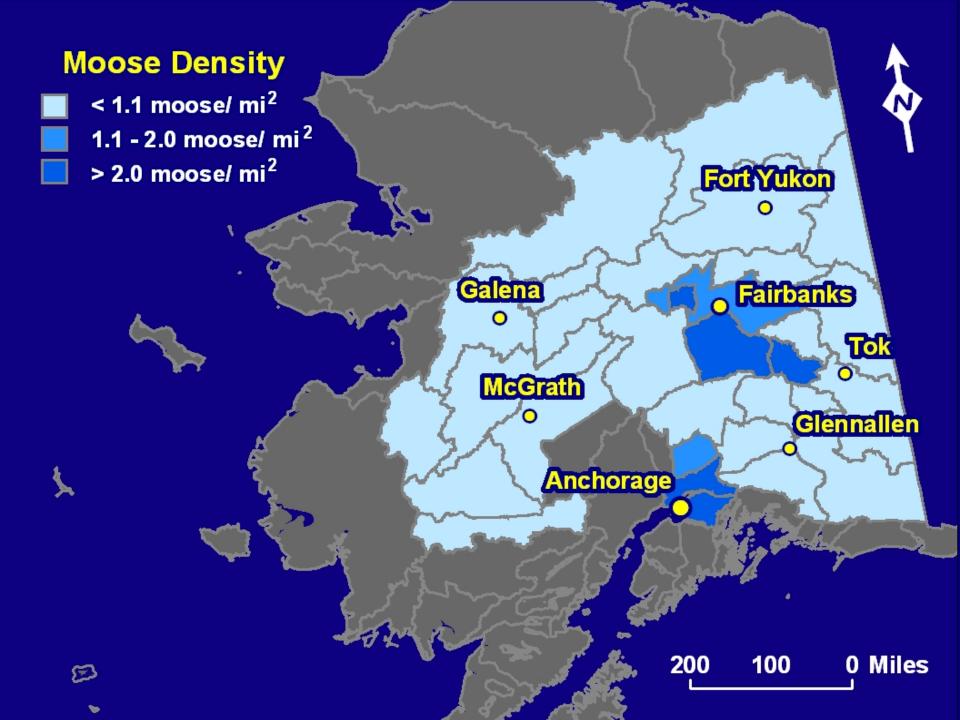


Furbearers

- 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

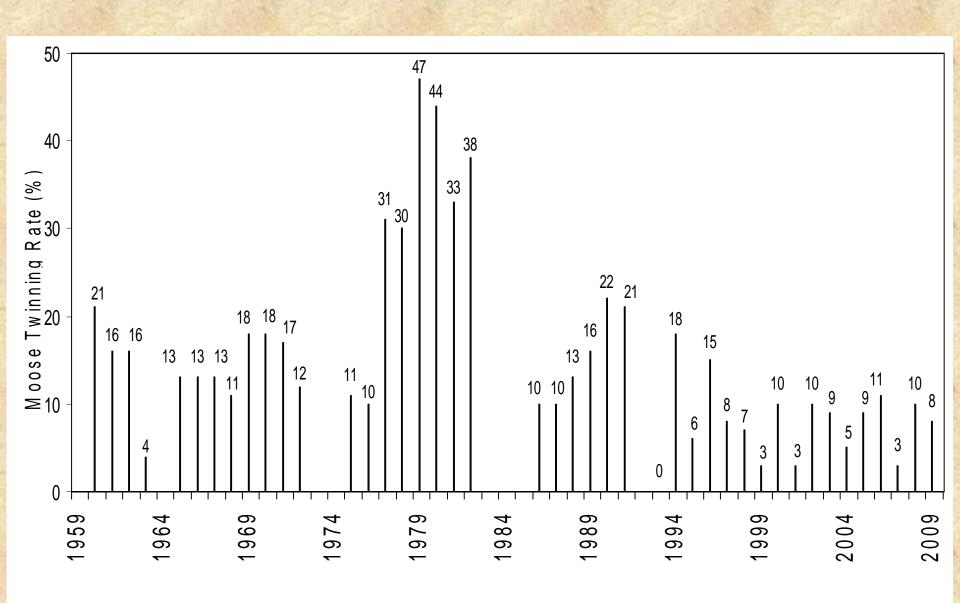
- 1) Protect the moose population's health and habitat
- 2) Fulfill Intensive Management mandate for elevated yield
- 3) Maximize hunting opportunity
- 4) Reduce moose-human conflicts by reducing moose density along roads and Fairbanks vicinity



(Example of heavy browsing of willow by moose in Unit 20A)

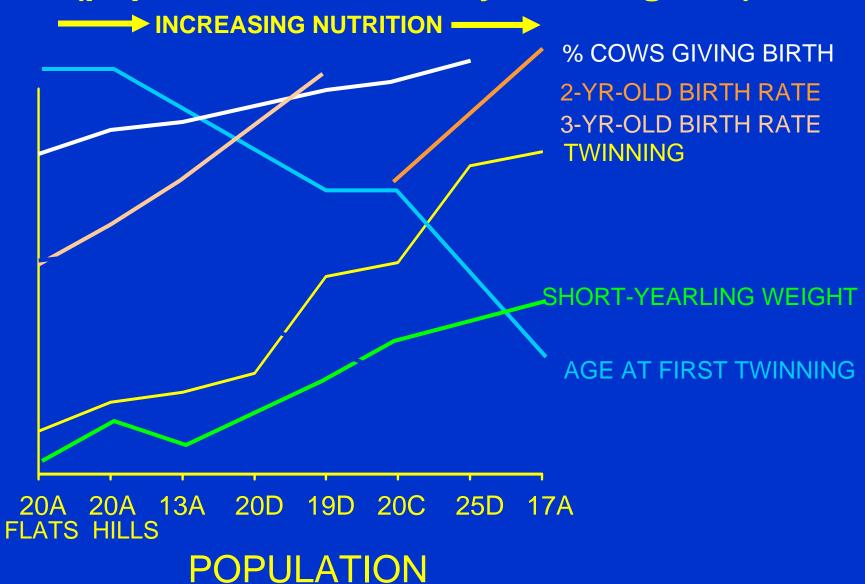
Management Goal: Protect the moose population's health and habitat

Moose twinning rates, Unit 20A, 1960-2009





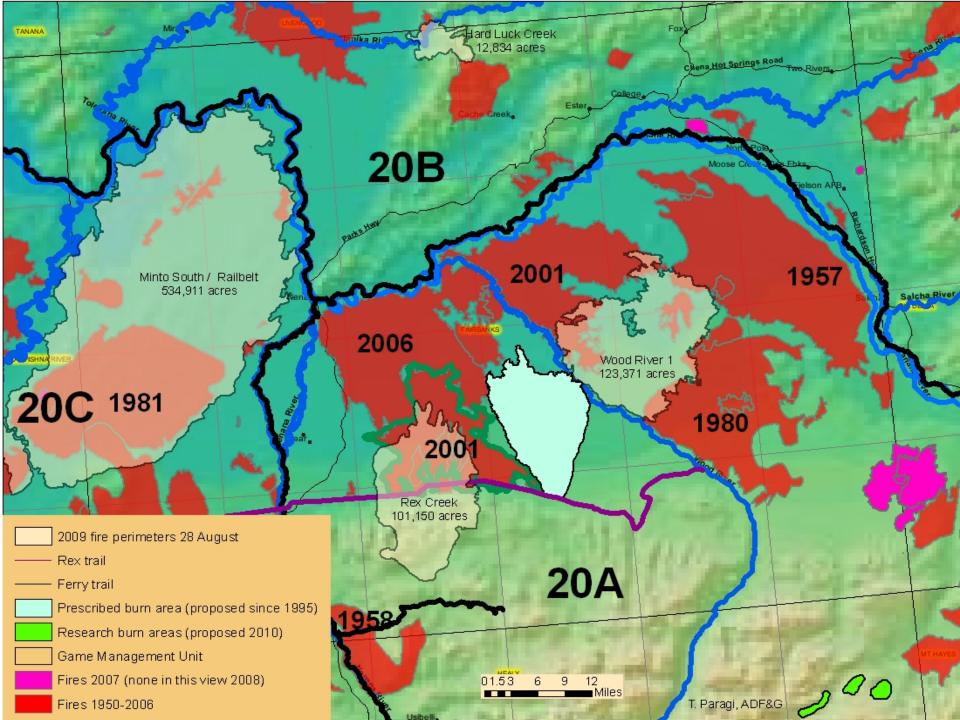
Indices of Nutrition (populations ordered by twinning rate)



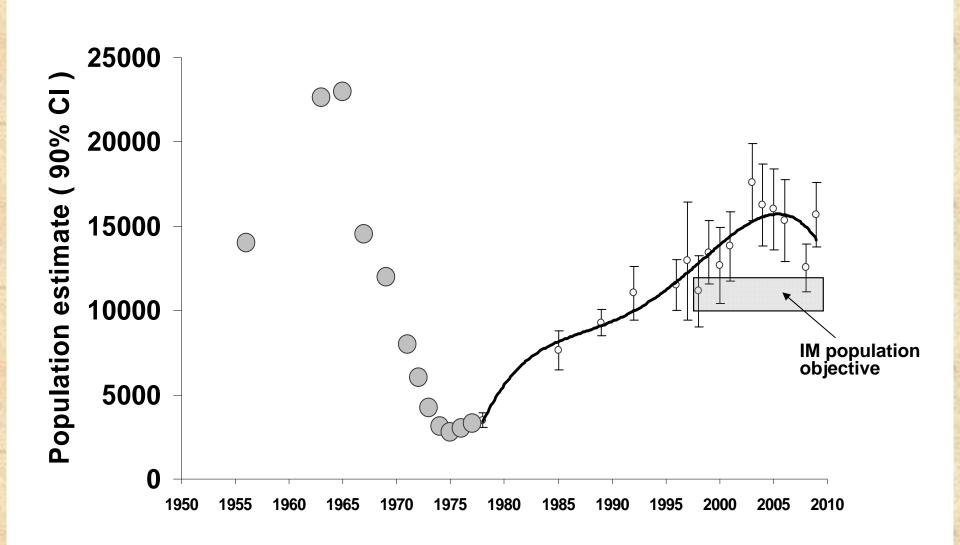


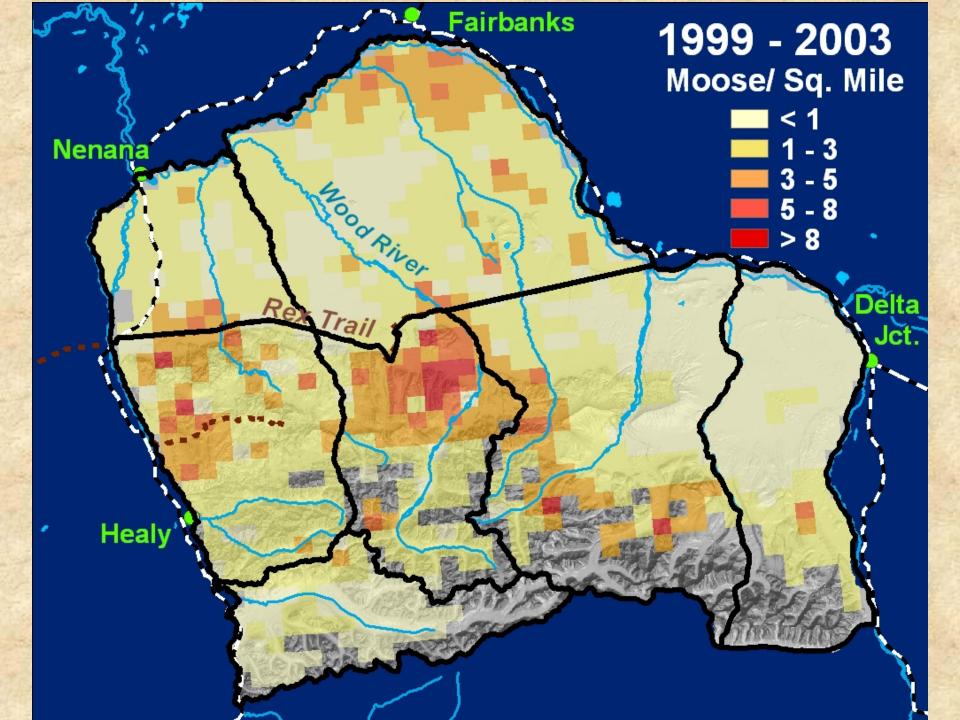


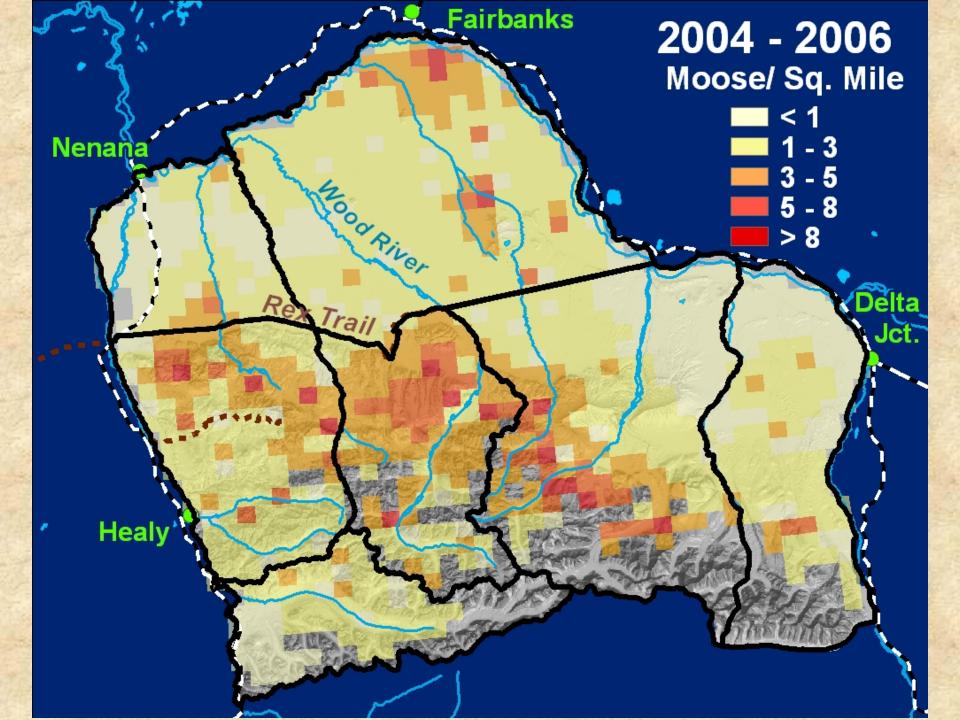


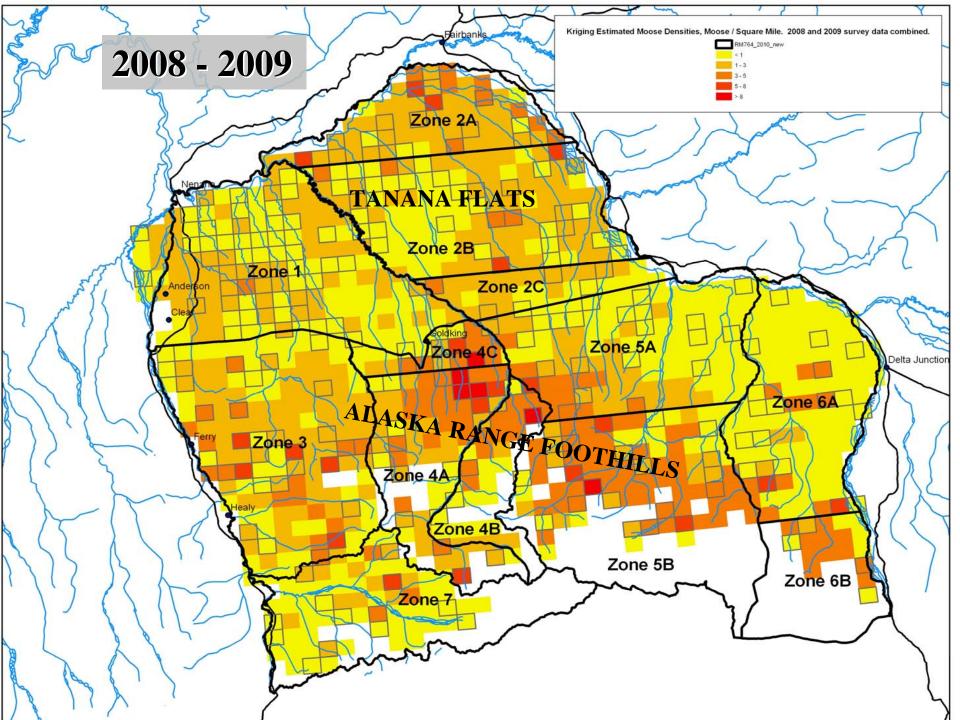


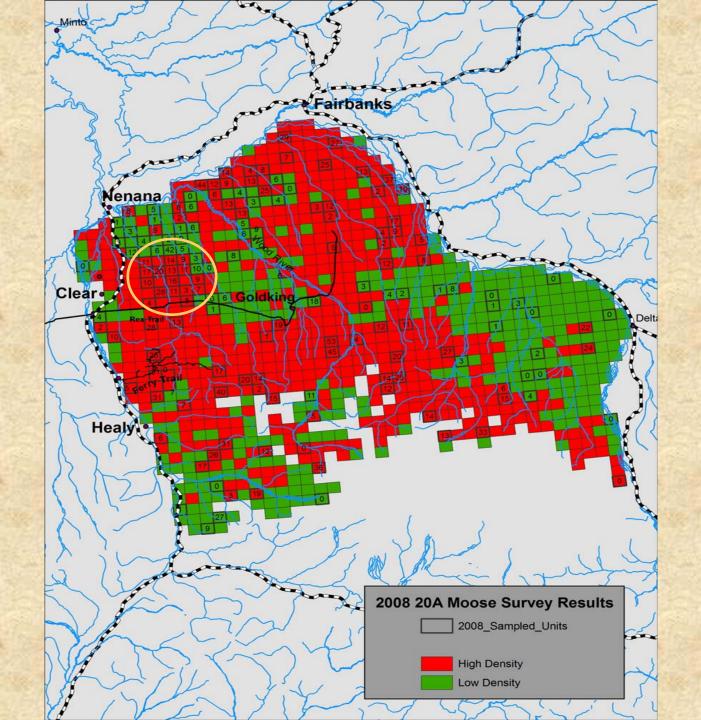
Unit 20A moose population trend, 1956-2009

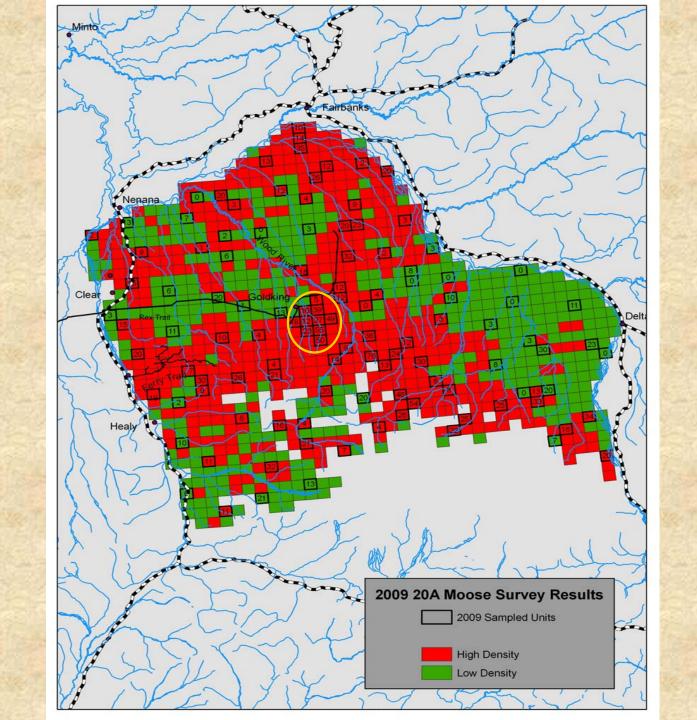




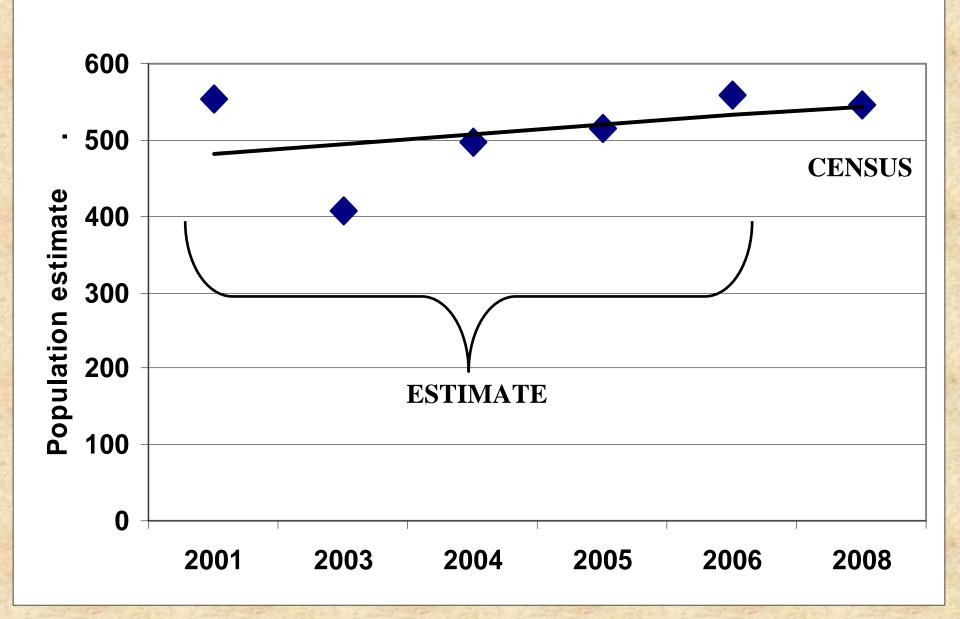


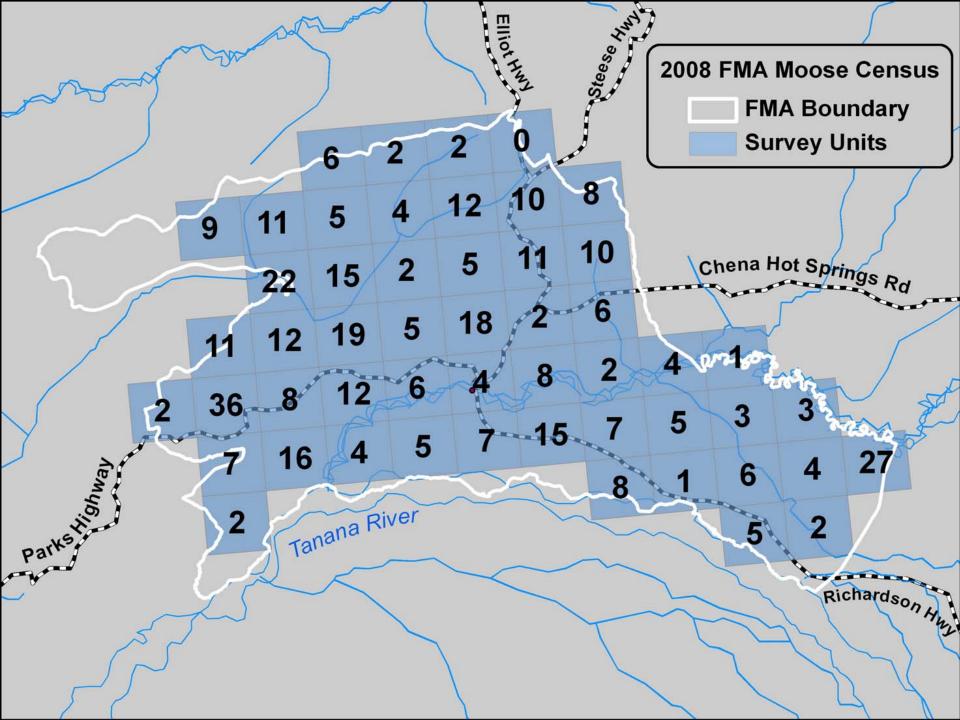




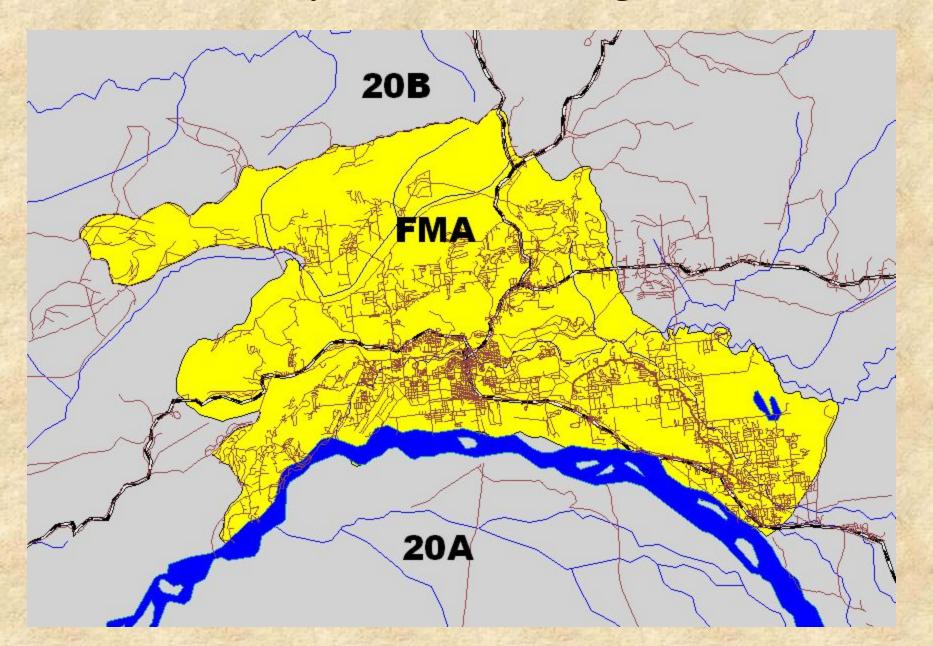






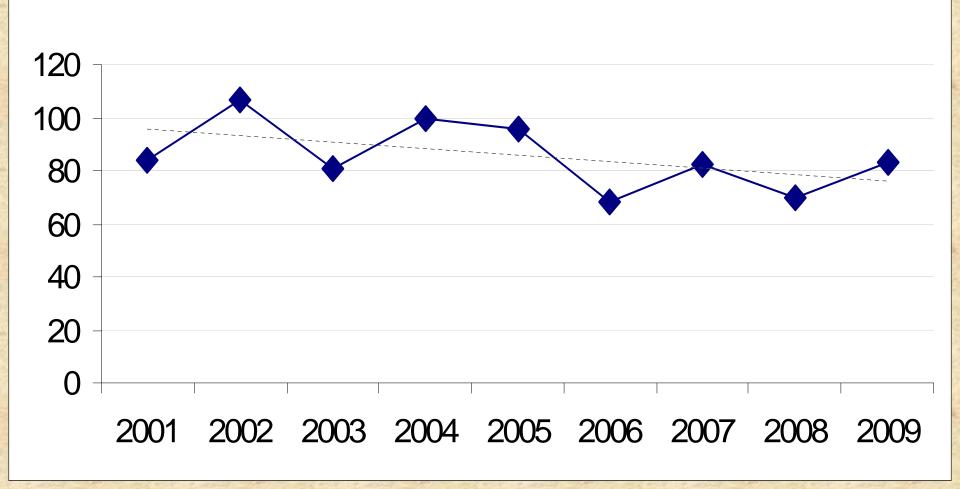


Road density, Fairbanks Management Area

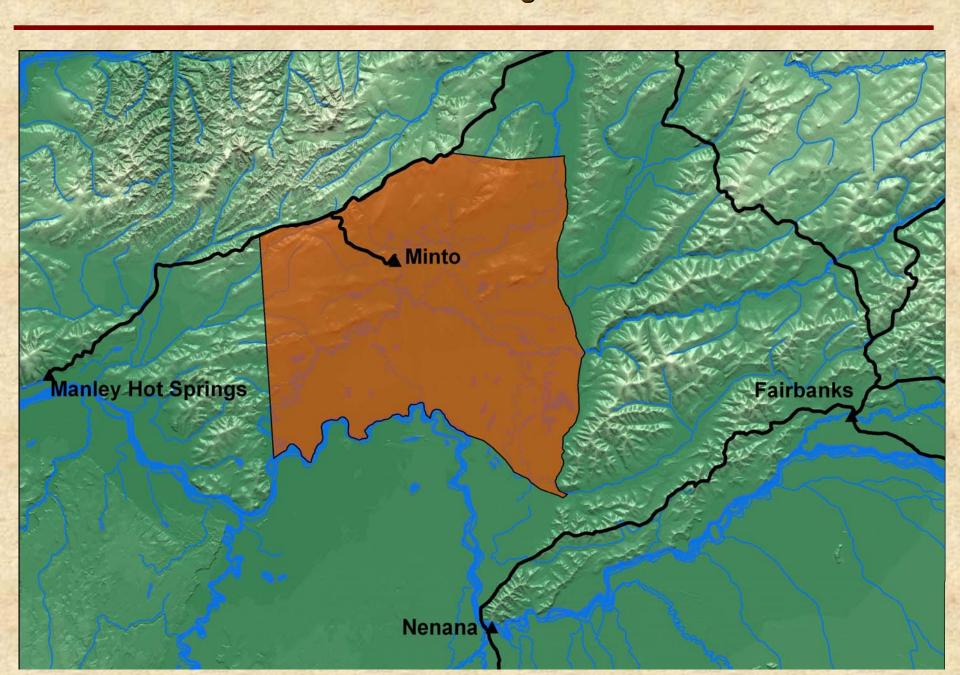


GMU 20B Moose





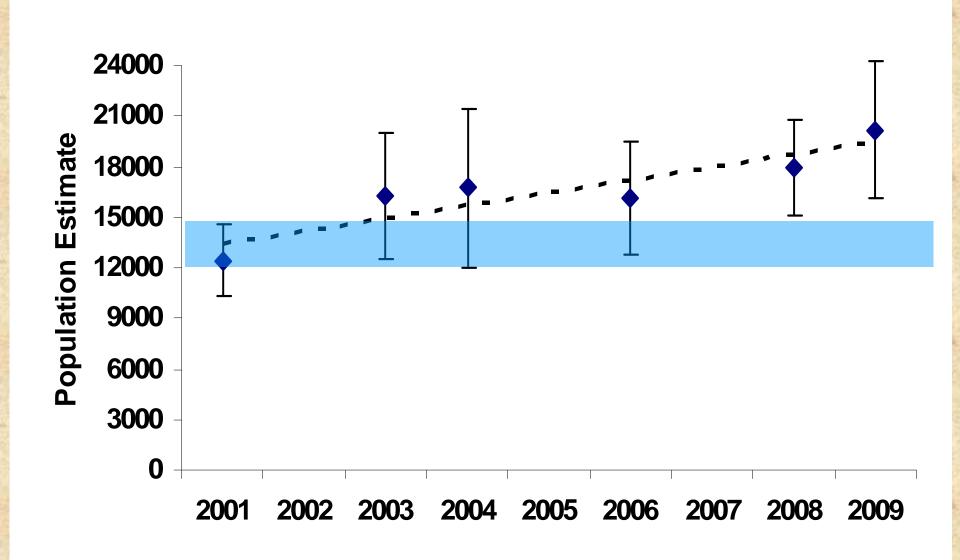
Location of Minto Flats MA moose registration hunts RM775/RM785



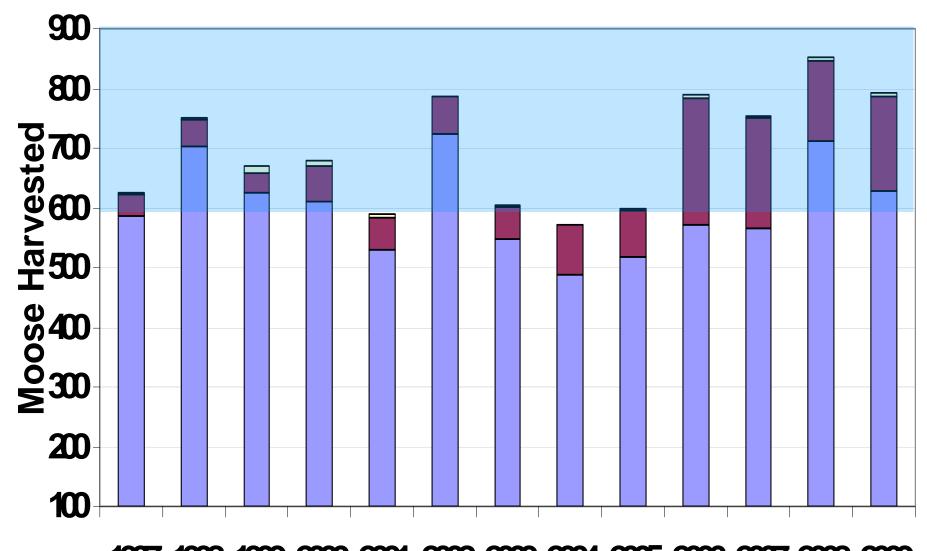
Minto Flats MA registration hunt permit distribution, Fairbanks, August 2006



GMU 20B Moose Population Estimates and Trend 2001-2009

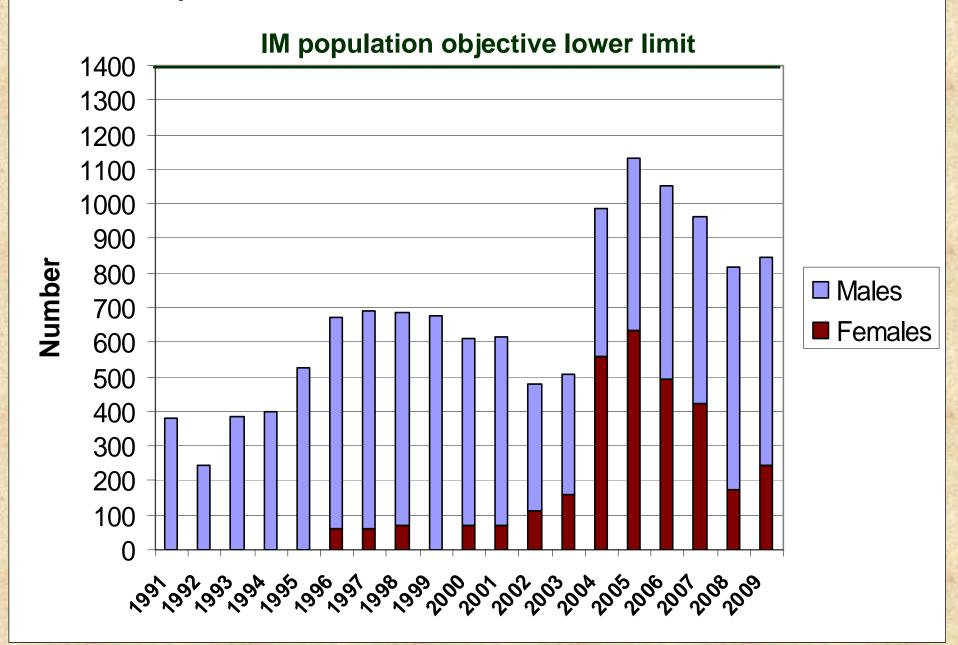


Reported Harvest of Moose, GNU20B, 1997-2009

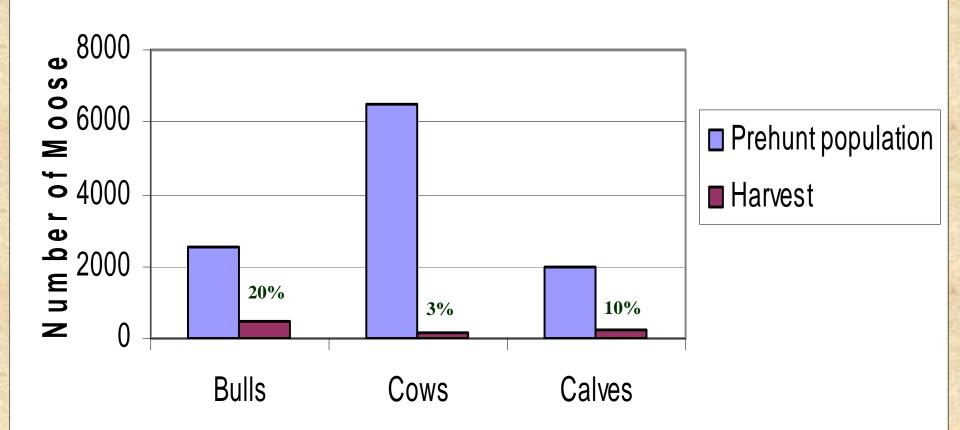


1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

Reported harvest of moose in Unit 20A, 1991-2009



Recommended harvest levels for moose relative to prehunt population estimates in Unit 20A



Roughly 50:20:20 harvest ratio of bulls:cows:calves

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"

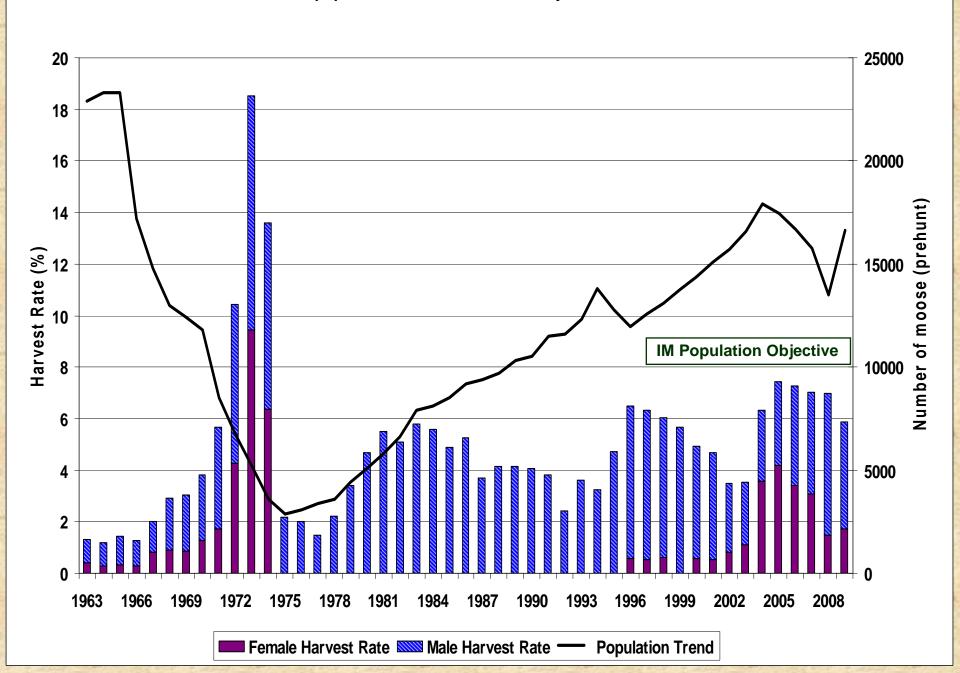
(continued)

- 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 antierless 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 antierless 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 antierless 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

Prehunt moose population and harvest trends by sex in Unit 20A, 1963-2009

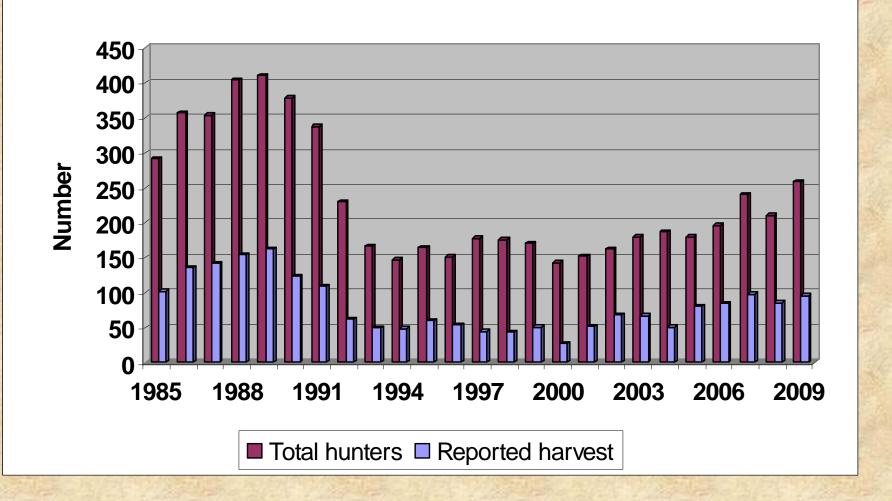


Sheep

- Populations appear to be increasing
- Unit 20A effort and harvest increasing
- White Mountains effort and harvest increasing
- No area proposals

Sheep

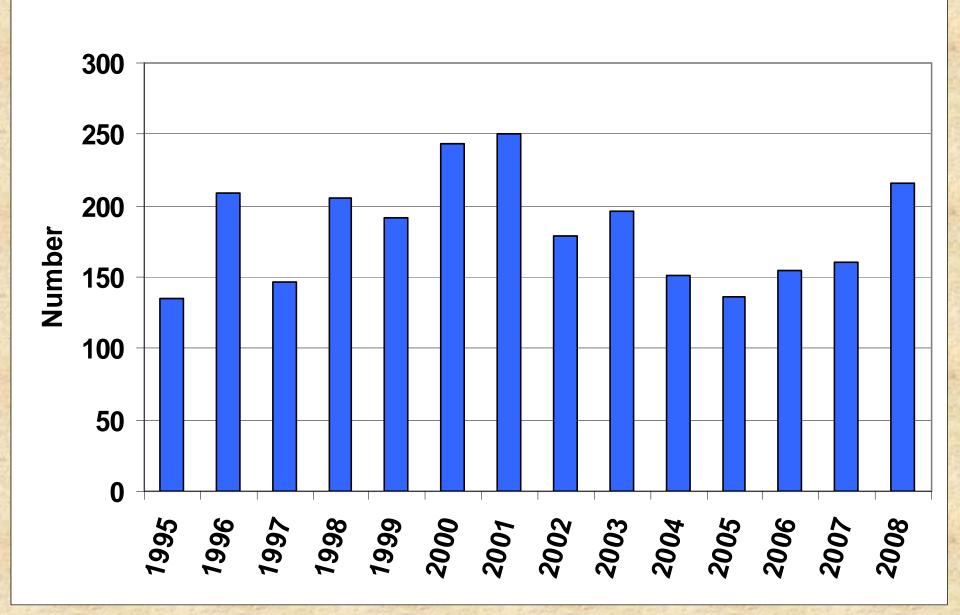




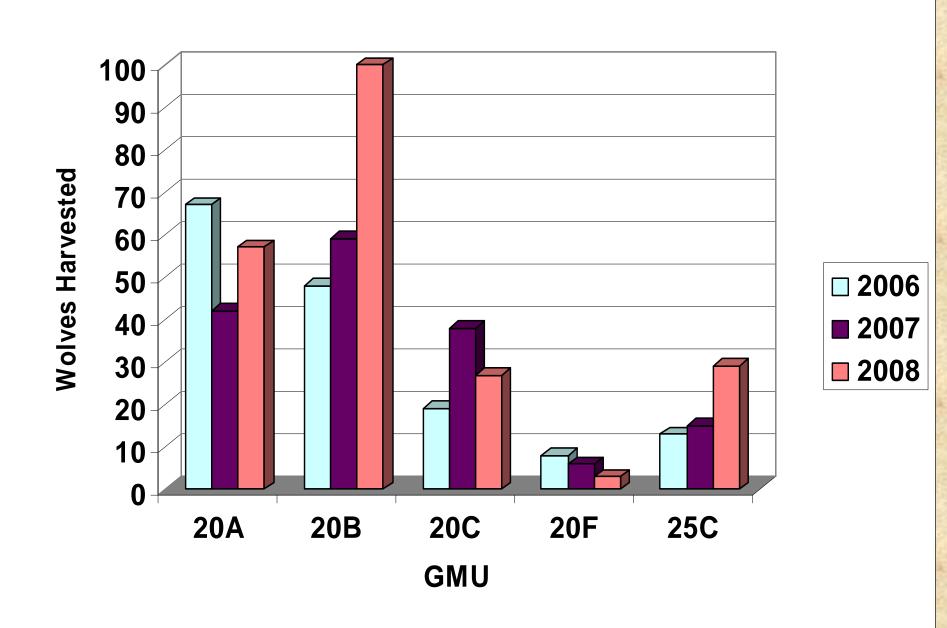
Wolf

- 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

Reported wolf harvest Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, regulatory years 1995-2008



Reported harvest of wolves stratified by Unit, 2006-2008

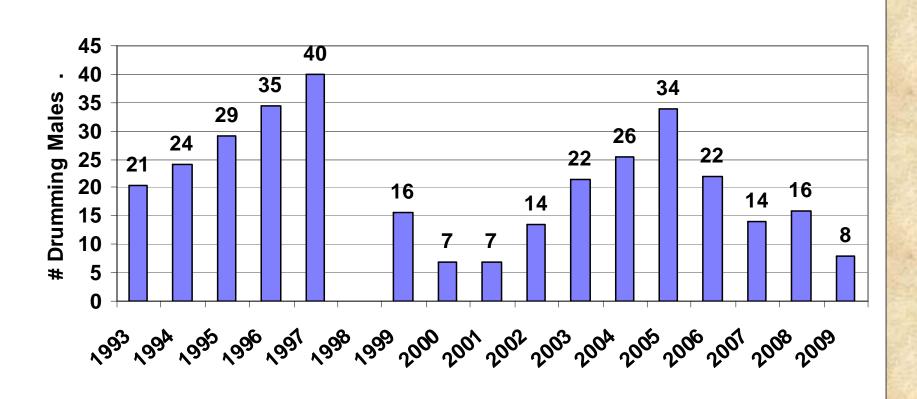


Small Game

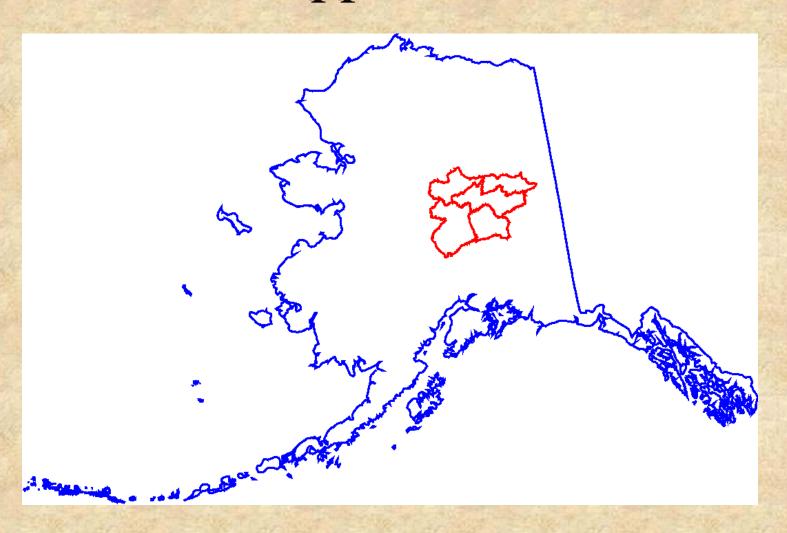
- Conduct annual Ruffed Grouse drumming count surveys
- Ptarmigan surveys in Unit 25C
- Small-scale habitat improvement projects for grouse in Unit 20B
- No proposals

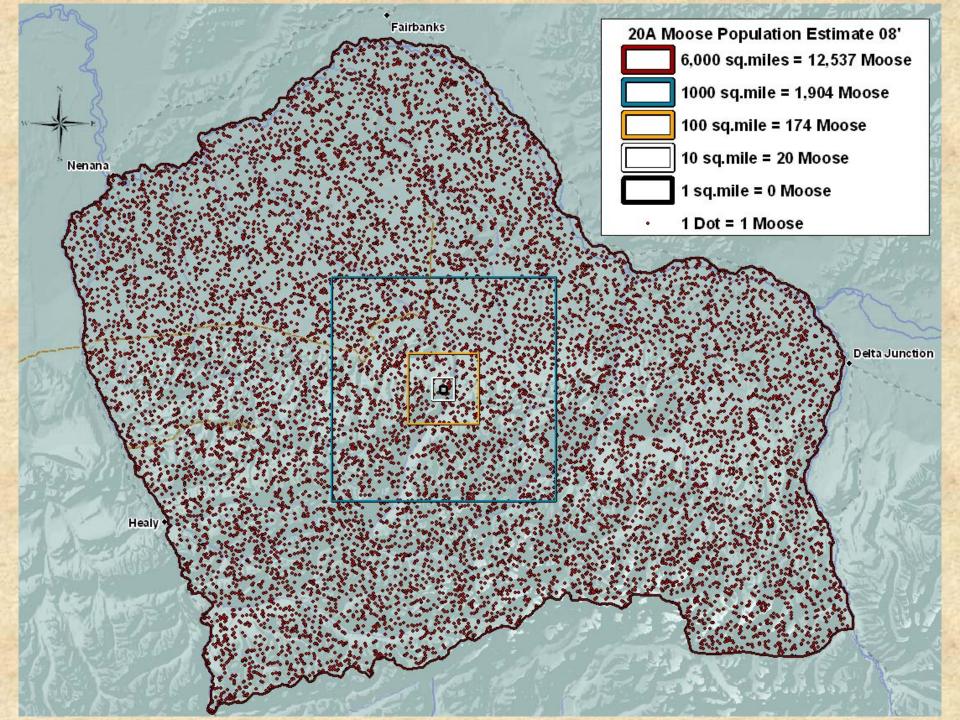
Small Game

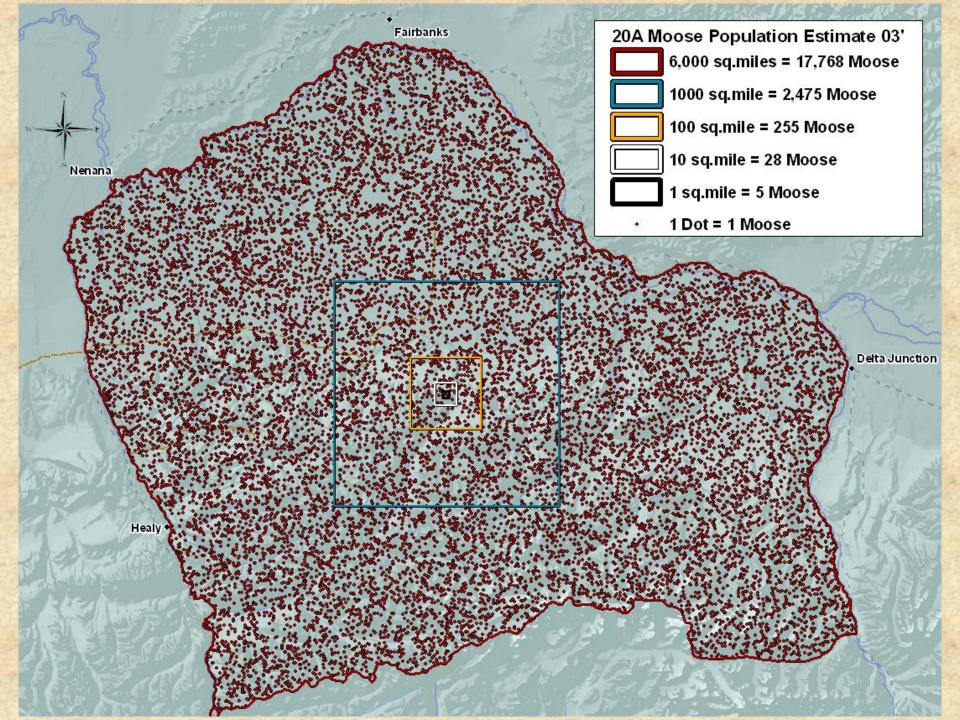


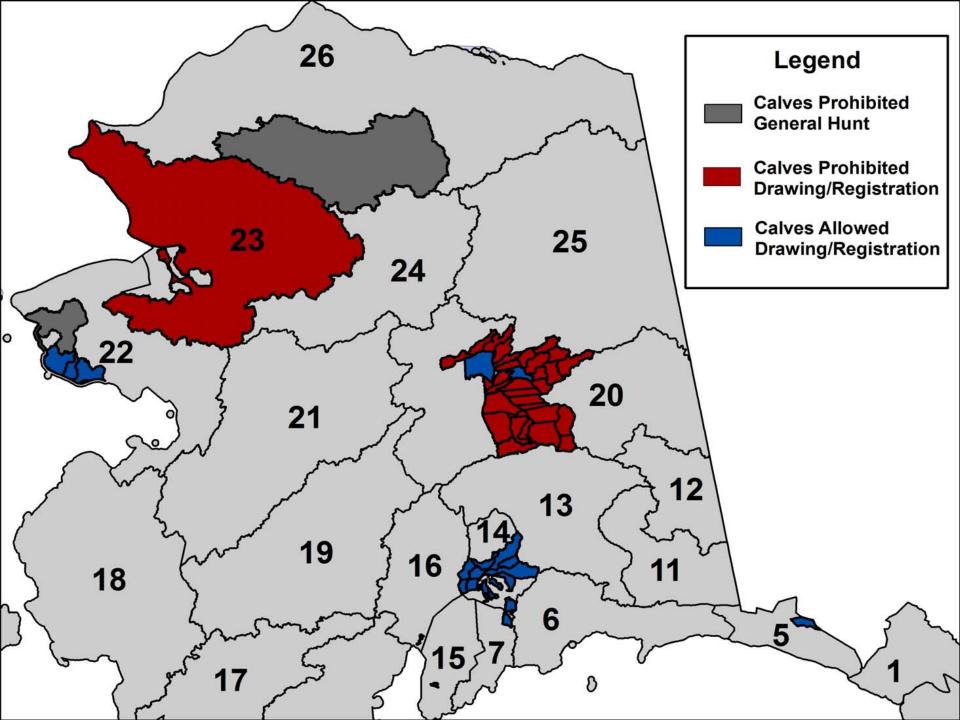


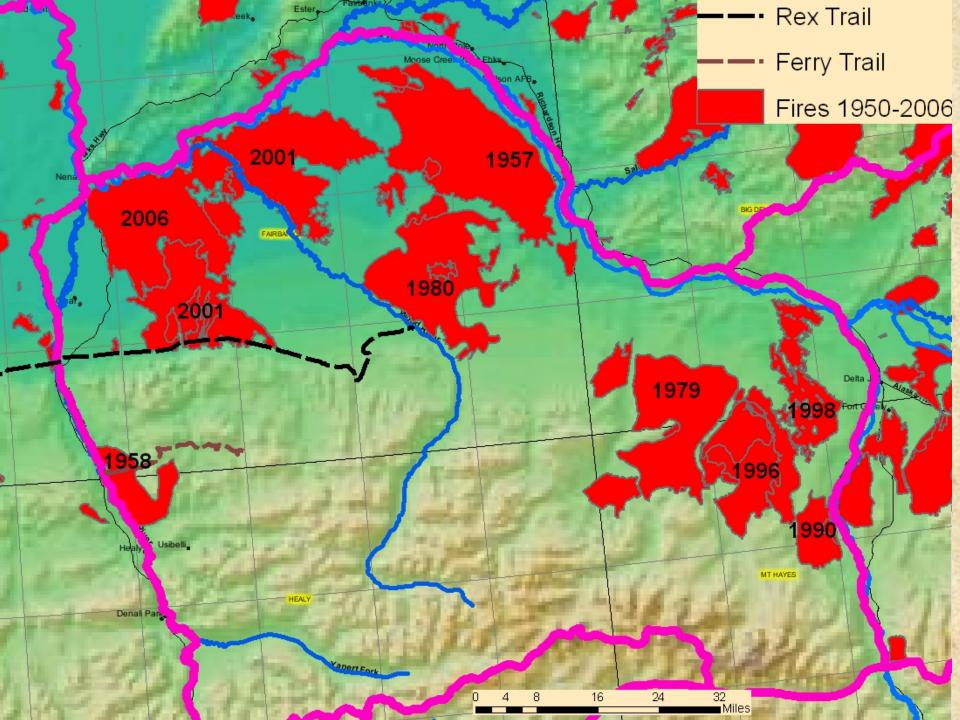
Appendix



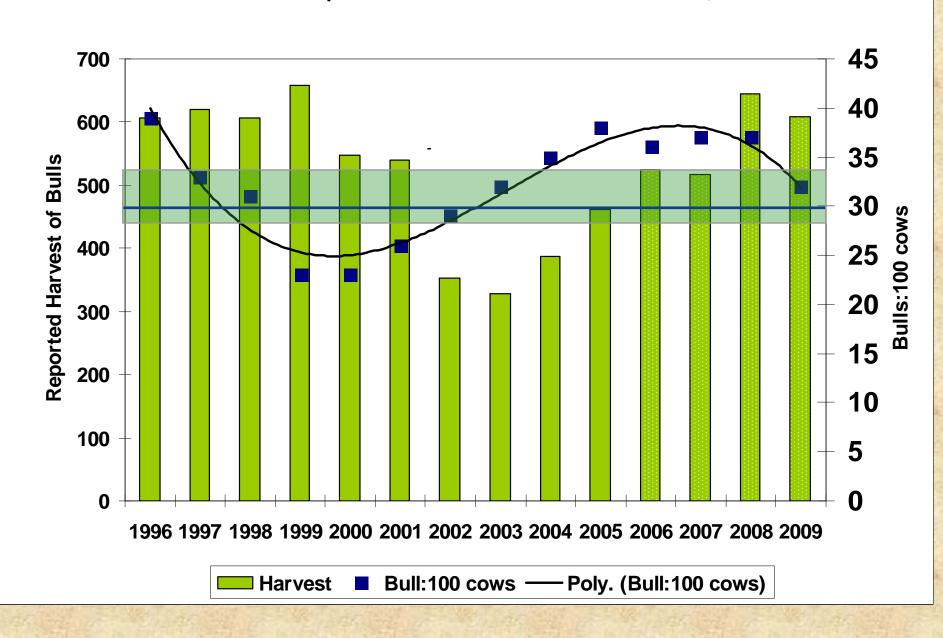


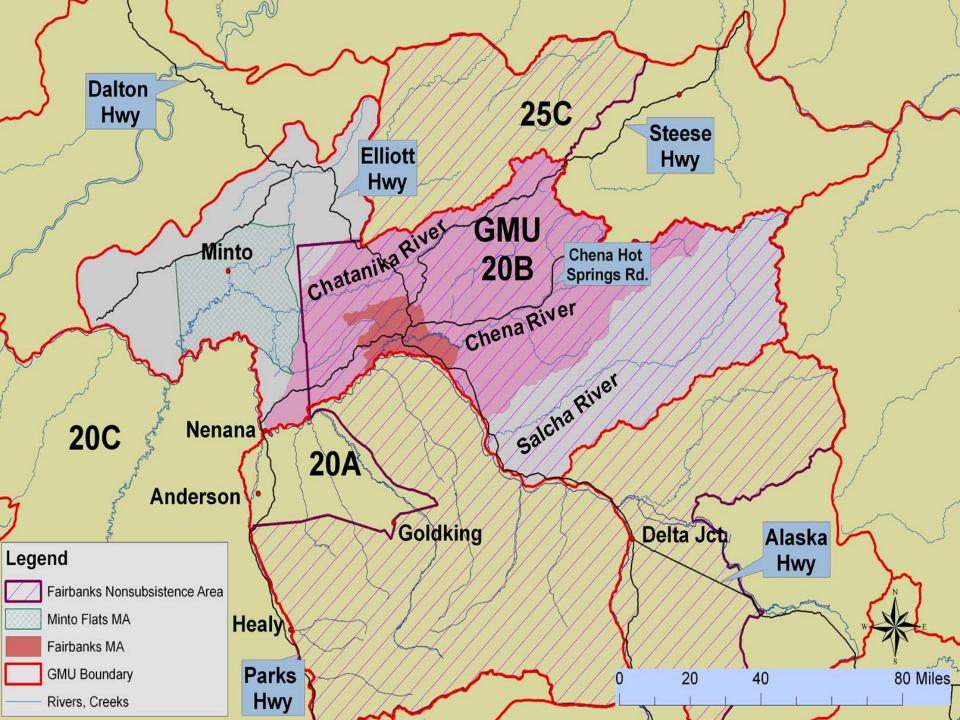




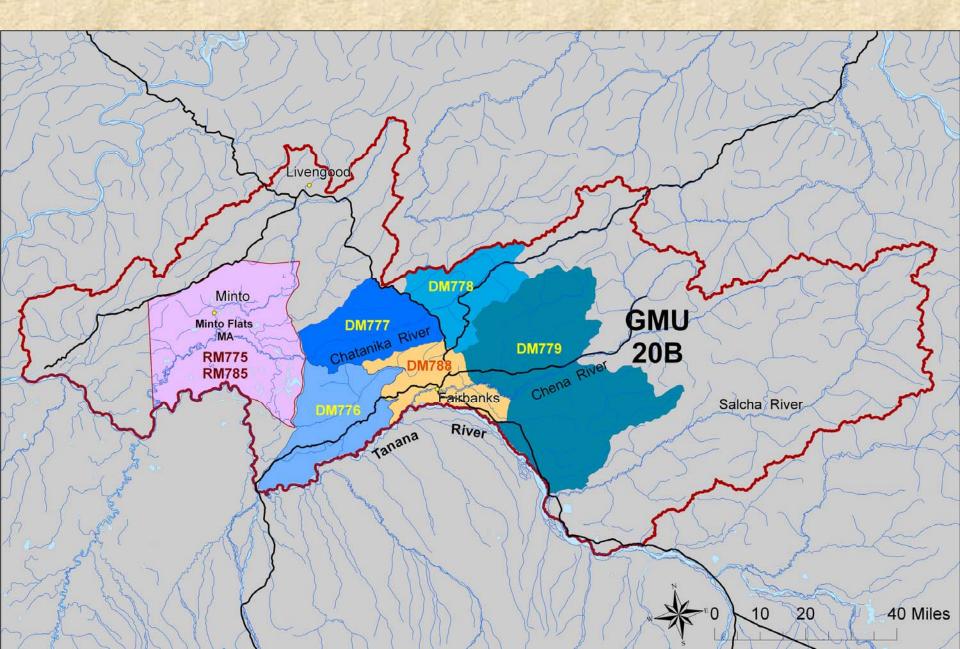


Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in Unit 20A, 1996-2009





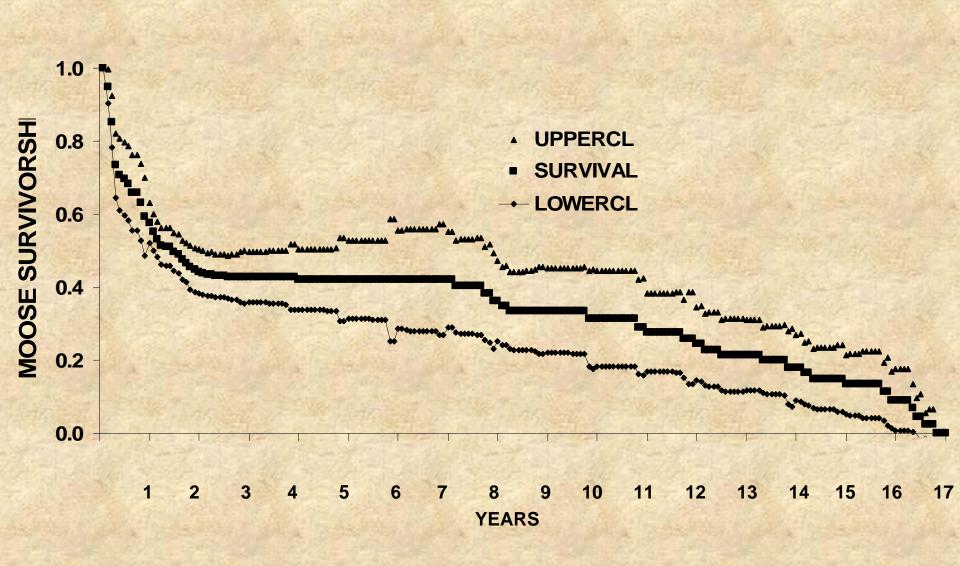
GMU 20B ANTLERLESS MOOSE HUNTS



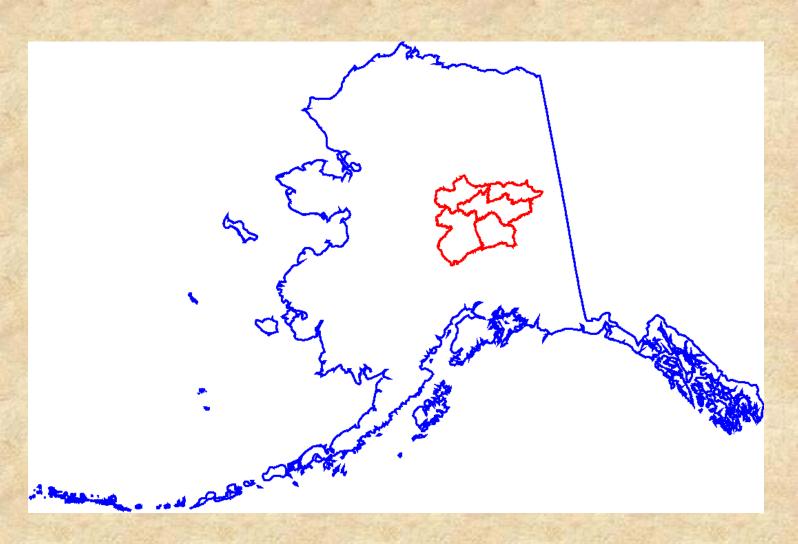
Proposal 42 - GMU 20B Moose



Kaplan Meier Age-Specific Survival Curves for Radiocollared Moose in 20A



Book End



DELTA BISON HERD MANAGEMENT REPORT





Board of Game Report

February 26, 2010

Presented by:

- Steve DuBois: Delta Area Biologist
 - Delta bison herd management
 - Proposed actions and conclusions
- Randy Rogers: Wildlife Planner
 - Delta Bison planning process and recommendations



Purposes of the Presentation

- Inform the Board about conflicts between Delta bison and Delta agriculture and the on-going effort to update the management plan.
- Identify options that are being considered to reduce impacts of the Delta Bison Herd (DBH) on agricultural operations in the Delta area.
- Seek discussion and feedback from the Board and public on DBH management.

Delta Bison History



- 23 plains bison were moved from Montana to Delta Jct in 1928 to start the herd.
- Bison from Delta were transplanted to:
 - the Copper River (1950)
 - Chitina River (1962)
 - Farewell (1965 and 1968)

Delta Bison History



- Agriculture started in Delta Junction in 1950s in range of bison.
- The state initiated the Delta I & II agricultural land sales in 1979.

Over time conflicts between bison and agriculture have escalated.

Delta Bison History

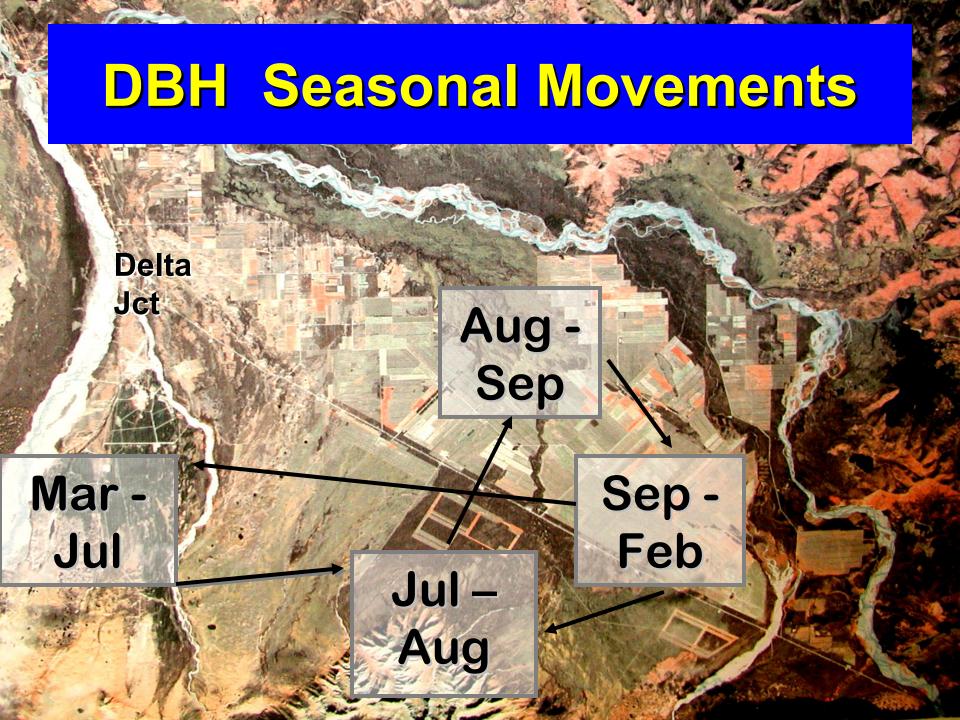
- 1979 Alaska Legislature established the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR)
- Purposes were to:
 - perpetuate <u>free-ranging</u>bison
 - alter seasonal movements to <u>diminish damage to</u> <u>agriculturally developed</u> land
- Does not prohibit public uses including hunting, trapping, recreation activities, using the land for access to adjacent areas



The DBH has National Bison Conservation Significance

- Recent studies
 have shown that
 the DBH is one
 of the few
 genetically pure
 plains bison
 herds in the
 United States.
- National interest in conservation of DBH and Alaskan plains bison genetics.





DBH Management is Complex

ADF&G must balance conflicts between statewide hunting interest and local agricultural development.



- The DBH is a wildlife resource with statewide importance.
- Intensively managed herd (~20%/yr harvest rate).
- Much of bison forage and hunting comes from private land.
- Bison management involves state, federal and private lands.

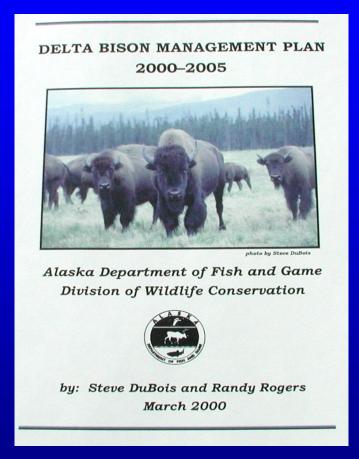
Cooperation with the U.S. Army

- Much bison summer range is military training & impact area
- Military training increasing on summer range
- Military training impacts bison movements, use areas, data collection, etc



Delta Bison Management Plan

Since 1980 a series of Delta Bison Management Plans have served as the guide for DBH management.



Available online

http://wildlife.alaska.gov/management/planning/planning_pdfs/dbplan.pdf

Delta Bison Working Group



The DBWG was initially formed in 1992 to advise ADF&G on DBH management.

- Phil Kaspari: Statewide agriculture & research
- Mike Schultz: Delta agriculture
- Don Quarberg: Delta hunting
- Leonard Jewkes:Statewide hunting
- Glen Wright: Delta community
- John Sloan: Delta business
- John Haddix: U.S. Army

Delta Bison Management Plan Mission Statement

- Maintain a healthy, free-ranging bison herd in the Delta Junction area
- that provides the greatest reasonable opportunity to hunt and view bison
- while also minimizing conflicts between bison and private property owners using all management techniques available to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Delta Bison Management Plan

Herd Size And Composition Goal:

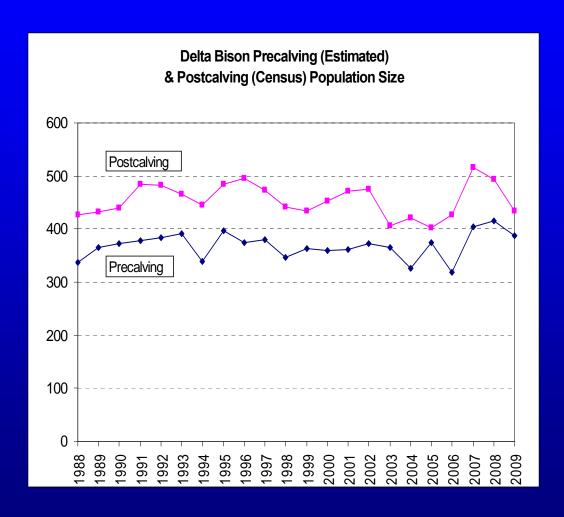
- Balance between opportunity to hunt & minimum negative impacts
 - Herd size of 360 precalving (~475 ± 20 prehunt)
 - Sex ratio no less than 50 bulls:100 cows



Herd Size Objective has Changed Over Time

- 1980-1985: 250-300 precalving
- <u>1985-1988</u>: 275-325 precalving
- <u>1989</u>: 325-360
- 1992- present: 360 precalving

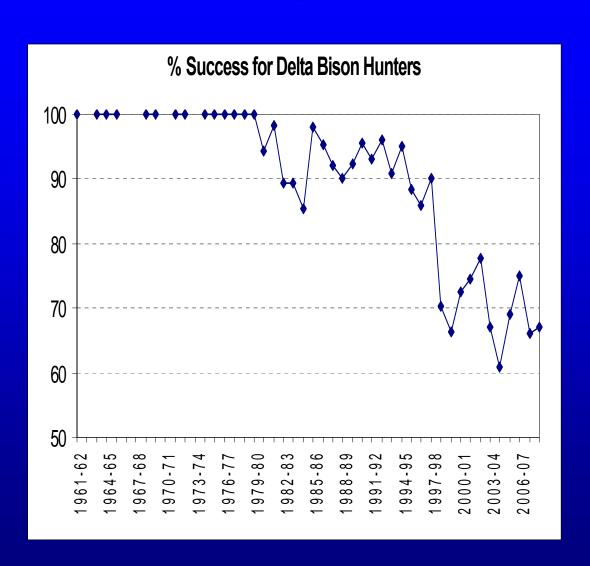




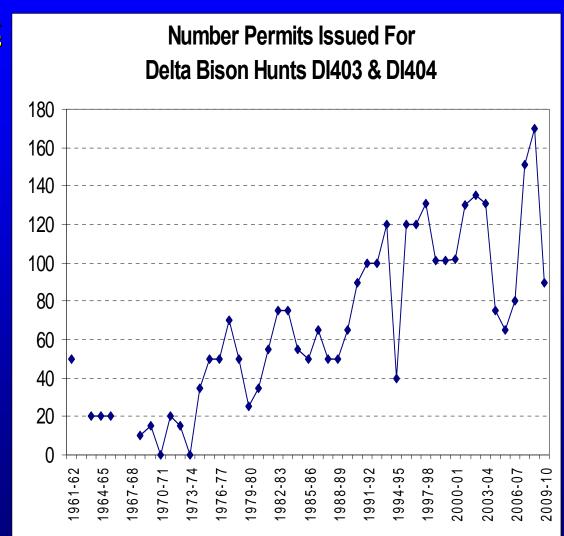
- Herd size is managed through hunting
- 2009 precalving= 387
- 2009 posthunt= 435



- Hunter success has been declining over time, making it more difficult to manage herd size
- Factors
 - Number of permits
 - Landowners more difficult to find
 - More fences
 - More no hunting, or only 1 party
 - Less forage acreage, more CRP, fallow, land taken out of ag base



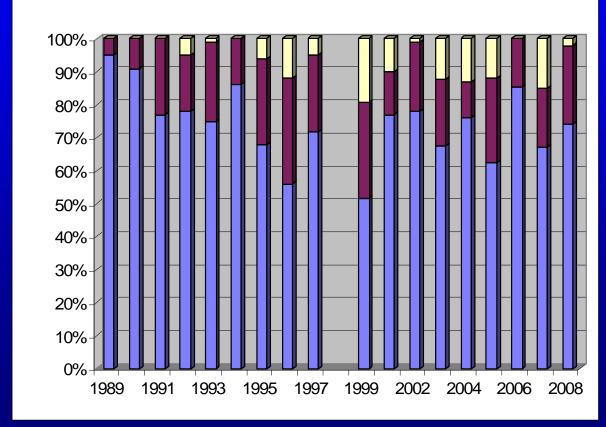
- Number of bison hunt permits is increasing to compensate for lower success
- Makes hunting difficult
- Most permits ever in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009
 - Either-sex permits in 2008 & 2009 to increase hunter success
 - Problems include greater wounding & skewed sex ratio



- Most hunters kill bison on private land
- Private land owners have significant influence on herd size management
 - & on datacollection (i.e.comp counts)

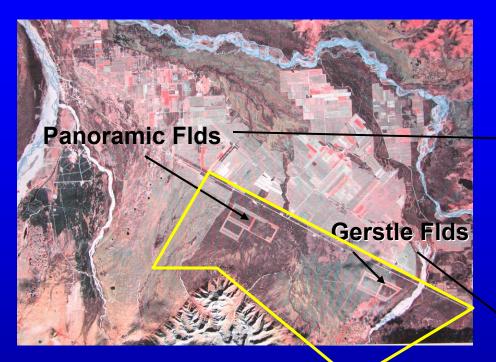
% Delta Bison Killed By Hunters On Private, DJBR, and Other Land

■ Private ■ DJBR □ Other



Delta Bison Management Plan

- Bison Conflicts Goal: Minimize conflicts with public & agriculture
- Objectives:
 - Administer hunt to minimize landowner/hunter conflicts
 - Manage DJBR to keep DBH south of AK Hwy as late as possible & attract bison in winter for greater hunter accessibility
 - Enhance summer range
 - Provide assistance with bison conflicts inside fences



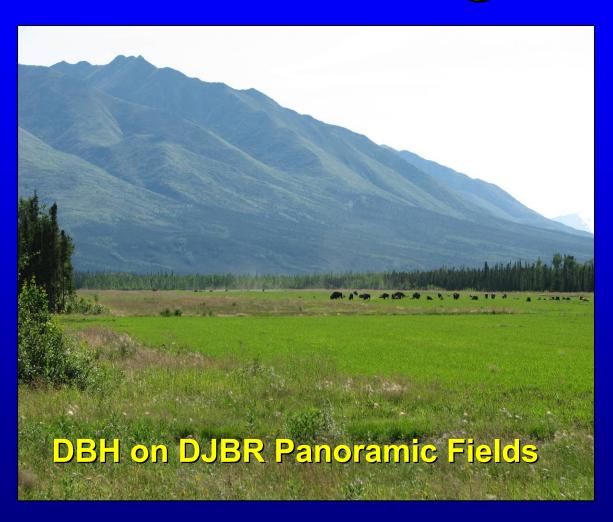
~90,000 acres

~2,700 acres bison forage





- Original DJBR
 working
 hypothesis was to
 produce adequate
 high quality forage
 on south side of
 AK Hwy to hold
 bison until harvest
 was completed
- Changes in agricultural production (i.e. more hay & CRP acreage) have made this less effective over time





322 bison in Panoramic Field oats

- Multiple use area when compatible: hunting, fishing, camping, trapping, logging, berry picking
 - Muzzleloader Rendezvous



Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt



- Established in 2002 to reduce disturbance to bison and help keep them on the DJBR
 - Consists of Panoramic & Gerstle Fields of DJBR
- Provides unique moose hunting opportunity for youth by drawing permits
 - Use of motorized vehicles for hunting is prohibited

Ruffed Grouse Habitat Management Area



Summer 2009: Increased Forage Production on the DJBR

- ADF&G allocated additional funding for habitat improvement on the DJBR in 2009
 - Planted an additional 200 acres of oats
 - Increased the fertilization rate on 700 acres of perennial bluegrass
 - Planted 30 acres with forage turnips to see if it would help keep bison on the DJBR longer
 - These efforts did not significantly alter bison crop damage



2009 Pilot Crop Damage Assessment Program

- ADF&G cooperated with the Division of Agriculture to assess crop damage from August- September 2009
- ADF&G conducted overflights to identify and photograph areas of damage
- Div. of Ag. conducted site inspections to estimate percent loss of crops in damaged areas.
- 2009 was a good crop year and bison damage was judged to be less than normal



Aerial photograph of bison in agricultural fields

Div. of Ag. Crop Damage Estimate

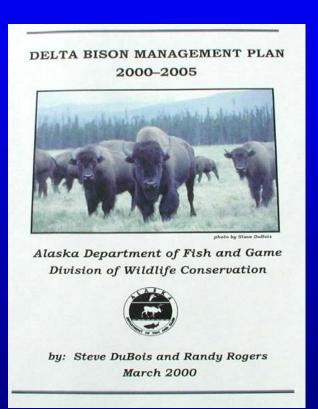
Grain down (174 tons x \$185)	\$32,190
Extra grain drying costs	30,700
Grass, hay and straw	37,250
Potato damage	35,000
Seedling grass field damage	4,000
Fence damage	3,000
Missed opportunities	0
Total	\$142,140

Dr. Charles Knight, Division of Ag., emphasized that these are very rough estimates and further work is needed to more accurately assess actual crop damage.

- Bottom Line: Is DJBR meeting legislative objective by "altering seasonal movements (of bison) ... to diminish the damage caused by the herds to agriculturally developed land?"
 - -Answer: Yes
 - The DJBR has altered seasonal movements
 & has diminished crop damage
- Is DJBR eliminating all damage?
 - Answer: No

Delta Bison Management Plan Update

- Current plan titled DBMP "2000-2005" - plan has remained effective.
- Encompasses the "Game Management Plan" for the DJBR.
- Delta Bison Working Group (DBWG) meets periodically to review the plan - only minor revisions needed
- ADF&G proposed a minimal planning process to complete a relatively simple plan update



Fall 2008 Controversy Increased

Factors involved:

- Summer 2008 was very cool and wet and a bad crop year in Delta.
- The agreements for approximately 10,000 acres of CRP land will expire in the next few years. Farmers need to decide to re-enroll or plant new crops.
- There may be an improved market for oats in Alaska but farmers may be reluctant to plant oats if bison depredation is likely to occur.
- The Cooperative Extension Service and Delta Chapter of the Alaska Farm Bureau organized meetings to discuss bison-caused damage.

Planning Process Expanded

 Because of significant interest expressed by the Delta agricultural community a scoping meeting was held in Delta in March 2009.



- Seven DBWG meetings were held in Delta in 2009.
- Alaska Division of Agriculture has actively participated in the planning process.
- Two presentations and discussions occurred at the Fairbanks Advisory Committee.

Legislative Involvement

- Staff from Rep. John Harris attended some DBWG meetings
- HB 220 was introduced 4/7/09
- Would amend the requirements for a DJBR game management plan to include:

"designing, developing, and building diversionary fencing, holding pens, and other apparatus to control movement of bison into unharvested agricultural crops."

Delta Bison and Ag. Field Trip August 4, 2009

- Participants included:
 - ADF&G
 - Div. of Ag.
 - **DBWG** members
 - Delta Soil and Water
 Conservation
 District
 - U.S. Army
 - farmers
 - Advisory
 Committee
 members.









Delta Bison News, Sept. 2009

- Management plan update underway
- Background and history
- Recommendations being considered
- Opportunity for public comment



Delta Bison News

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

September 2009

<u>Delta Bison Working</u> Group

- Don Bunselmeier
 – statewide hunting
- + John Haddix- U.S. Army
- Phil Kaspari— agriculture and Delta Cooperative Extension Agent
- Mike Schultz

 Delta agriculture
- + John Sloan- Delta business
- Don Quarberg

 Delta hunting and Chairman of the Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Glen Wright

 Delta Junction community

Delta Bison Management Plan Update Underway

The Delta Bison Herd (DBH) is managed by The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) according to the Delta Bison Management Plan. The plan is updated every few years through a cooperative process involving the Delta Bison Working Group (Working Group). The Working Group is an advisory group that includes hunters, farmers and other people interested in the bison herd. The process also involves state fish and game advisory committees and other interested members of the public.

A major focus of the plan is to identify management actions that can minimize the damage caused by bison to agricultural operations in the Delta area. Herd size is an important component of the plan. The size of the herd influences the level of harvest that can be sustained and the number of bison hunting permits that can be issued. Herd size can also affect the level of bison-caused damage to agricultural operations.

Last winter the Working Group held a series of meetings in Delta to discuss bison management and address possible changes to the plan. Representatives of the Delta agricultural community expressed a higher level of concern about bison-caused crop damage than had been expressed to ADF&G for earlier versions of the plan. In response, ADF&G expanded the planning process to ensure adequate opportuni-

ties for input from the agricultural community and others. The Division of Agriculture has become actively involved in the planning process as well. The Working Group is seeking to make every effort to evaluate all information and ideas and bring forth strategies to minimize conflicts between the bison and agriculture and to address other management issues.

Meetings will continue this fall and there will be opportunity for public review and comment on a draft plan. The draft plan and any hunting regulation proposals that may be developed will also be reviewed through the state fish and game advisory committee process. The goal is to submit a



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Delta Bison and Alaska Range

Public Input

- Most comments during DBWG meetings in Delta came from farmers expressing concerns about crop damage.
 - Some Delta residents spoke in support of the bison herd and noted the benefits to the community.
- All the written comments received in response to the newsletter came from hunters who did not want to see a loss of hunting opportunity.
- Fairbanks AC submitted detailed comments.

Points Raised by Agricultural Interests

- Some farmers feel that the DJBR and other management actions have not adequately reduced bison crop damage.
- Some have questioned the validity of the legislative intent to maintain a free-ranging herd of bison and assert the state is liable for crop damage.
- There is a strong desire to implement a more complete and long-term solution.
- There is not consensus among agricultural interests about the best solutions.

Points Raised by Hunting Interests

- The bison herd was there before agriculture was developed in Delta and farmers knew the risk of bison damage.
- There should be no reduction in the size of the DBH until all other alternatives have been exhausted.
- Hunters are strongly opposed to fencing the bison herd into the DJBR.
- Several comments noted the importance of the crop damage assessment program.
- Some criticized the planning process for the focus in the Delta area - Need broad statewide involvement.

Fencing Alternatives Considered

- 1. Support a cost-sharing program to assist farmers in fencing bison out of their property.
- 2. Construct a "drift fence" to prevent bison from moving north across the Alaska Highway until crops are harvested.
- 3. Fence the bison herd into the DJBR.
- 4. Fence the bison into the Panoramic Fields on a temporary basis in the summer and then release them after crops have been harvested (SWCD proposal).

All fencing options would be expensive!

Considerations of Fencing Bison out of Agricultural Areas

Advantages

- Does not affect free-ranging status of the herd
- Not all land would be fenced (e.g., CRP)
- Private landowners would maintain the fences and could better control access to their land

Disadvantages

- Would remove forage from bison
- Could shift impacts to other areas
- Could disrupt movements of other wildlife

Considerations of Fencing Bison into the Bison Range

Advantages

- Would require less total fencing
- Bison survey and management could be easier
- Would remove bison from Army lands
- Would reduce chance of disease transmission & genetic contamination

Disadvantages

- Would no longer be a free-ranging herd (legislative action required)
- Would disrupt other wildlife movements and the bison range youth moose hunt
- Would restrict access for other public uses (legislative action required)

Working Group Consensus Recommendations

- Increase funding for bison habitat improvement
- Allow use of herbicides on the DJBR
- Support BOG proposals to ensure harvest objectives are achieved
- Increase the application fee for Delta bison permits from \$10 to \$20 with increase going to DBH management
- Establish an on-going crop damage assessment program



Working Group Recommendations December 8, 2009 Meeting

- After considering many ideas the DBWG agreed that the long term solution to bison and agriculture conflicts is fencing.
- The group did not agree on the best fencing option.





ADF&G and ADNR Coordination

- Agreed to take a 3-phased approach to addressing Delta bison and ag. conflicts
 - Continue the crop damage assessment program to gather fundamental information that can be used to judge the costs and benefits of possible solutions.
 - Seek to conduct a legislative briefing on Delta bison and agriculture issues.

Evaluate fencing and other alternatives more thoroughly.

Agricultural Interests are Seeking Immediate Action

- Legislative action and/or litigation are possible.
- ADF&G and ADNR have limited options for what can be done immediately without legislative action and/or additional funding.
- Until an initial briefing is held ADF&G does not know what level of interest exists in the legislature to address Delta bison issues.



Status of Plan Update

- Intended to submit plan update to the Board at this meeting
- On-hold pending Board input and possible legislative consideration
- Will consider additional working group meetings or other public process if needed
- Will work to finish at least an interim plan update pending more long-term solutions.

ADF&G Proposed Actions

- Continue to maximize forage production on the DJBR within available funding.
- Continue to assess crop damage levels cooperation with ADNR, Div. of Ag.
- Implement regulatory proposals (74, 75) to allow flexibility to harvest problem animals and ensure the harvest objective is achieved.
- Maintain willingness to work with all interests and the legislature to explore fencing and other options for more complete and long-term solutions to bison and agricultural conflicts.

Consider Reducing the Herd Size to 300 Bison, Pre-calving for Five Years

- This level of reduction in herd size is not out of line with herd size objective in place in the 1980's and early 1990's.
- This is one action ADF&G can take within existing authority that may help reduce bison crop damage.
- Success in reducing crop damage can be evaluated after a 5-year period and the herd size objective changed, if warranted.

Effects of Herd Size Reduction on Hunting Opportunity

- Initially more hunting permits would be issued to reduce the herd size.
- At a herd size of 300 approximately 70 90 permits could be issued each year, depending on success rates (compared to 100-150 at present)
- Harvest management can be improved by reducing the need to issue large numbers of permits which result in high competition among hunters and crowding at times.

Conclusions



- ADF&G and ADNR cannot completely eliminate bison and agricultural conflicts with existing authorities and funding.
- What ADF&G can do at the present is considered by some as a "band-aid" fix.
- More permanent long-term solutions will require legislative action and should be developed with opportunities for broad public participation which reflects the statewide interest in the DBH.





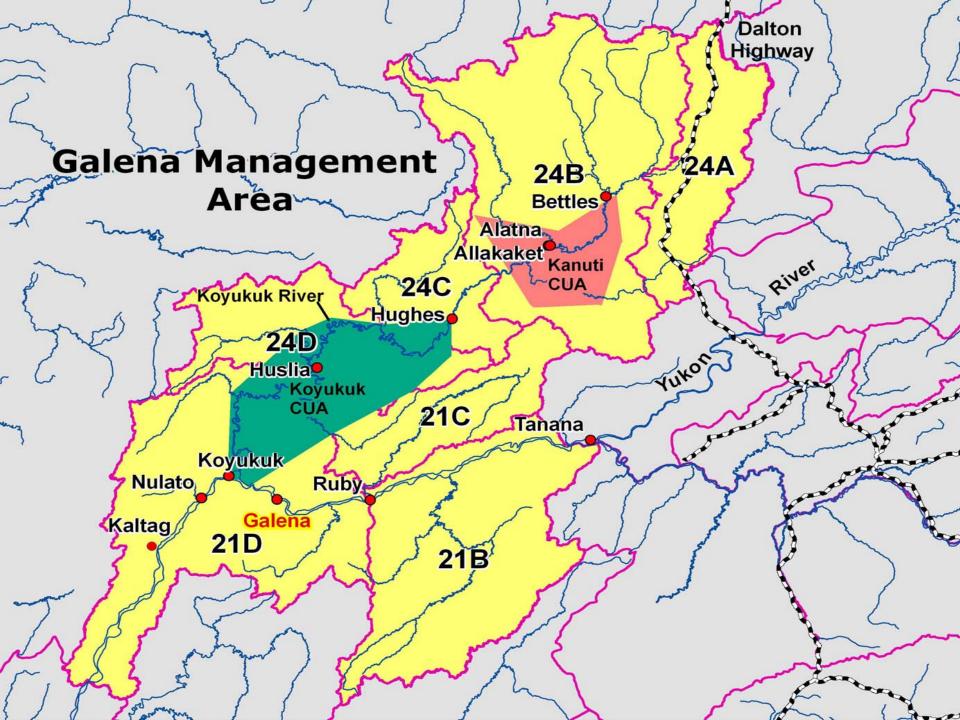


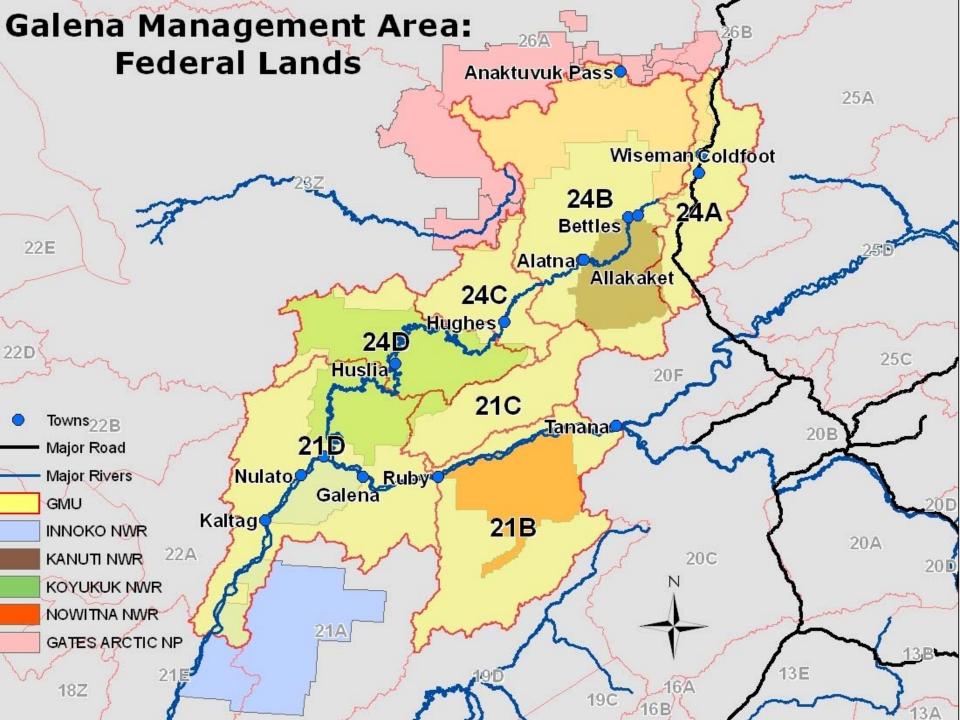
Galena Management Area Overview

Glenn Stout – Area Biologist Tony Hollis – Assistant Area Biologist Nate Pamperin – Wildlife Technician



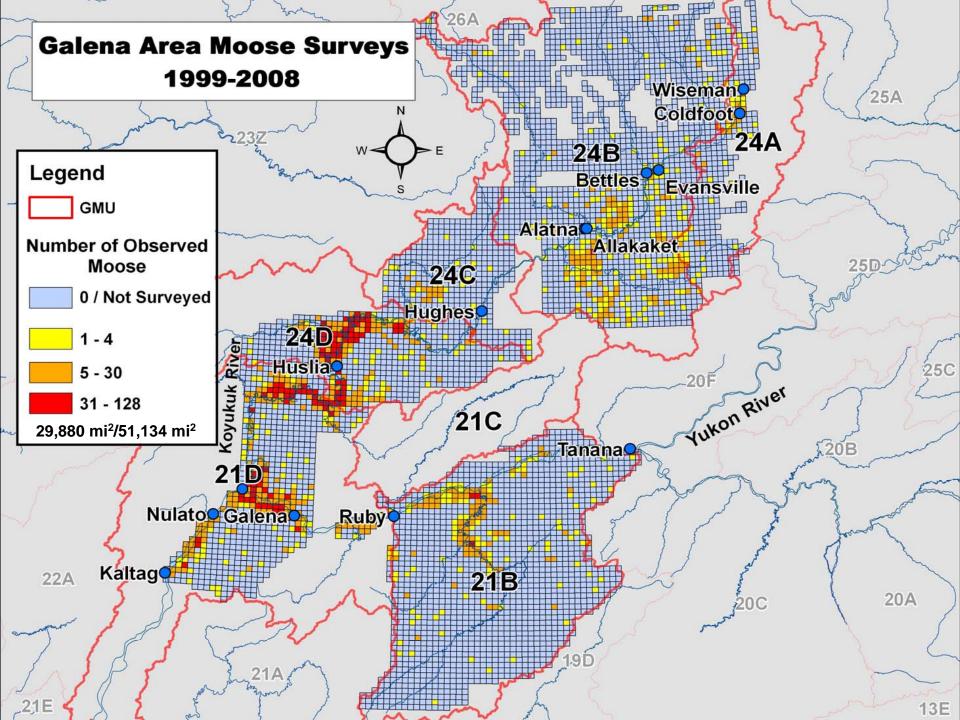






Galena Area Overview

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	Proposals
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

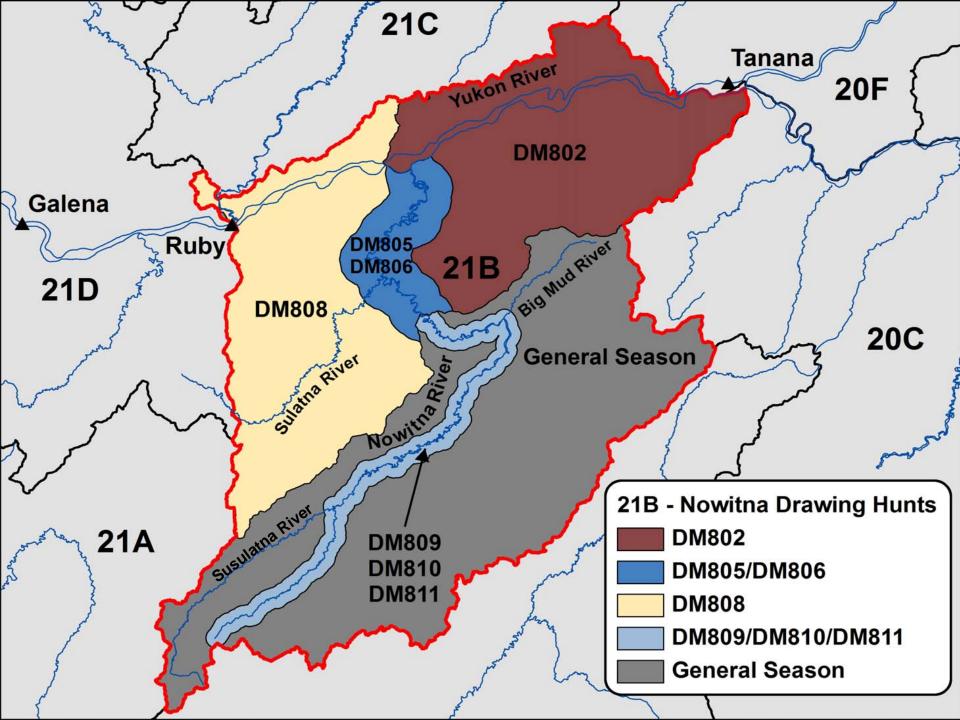


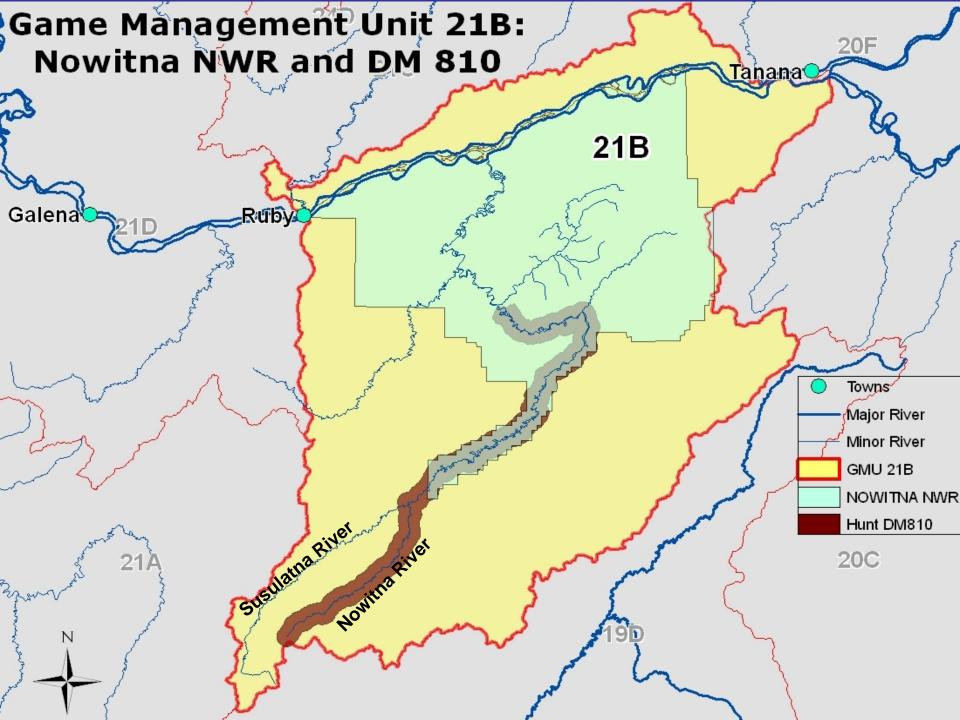




Eliminate drawing permit hunts on upper Nowitna River above Susulatna R.

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt





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 <u>succeeding</u>; bull:cow ratios improved, harvest is stable, hunter distribution is improved

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

Summary

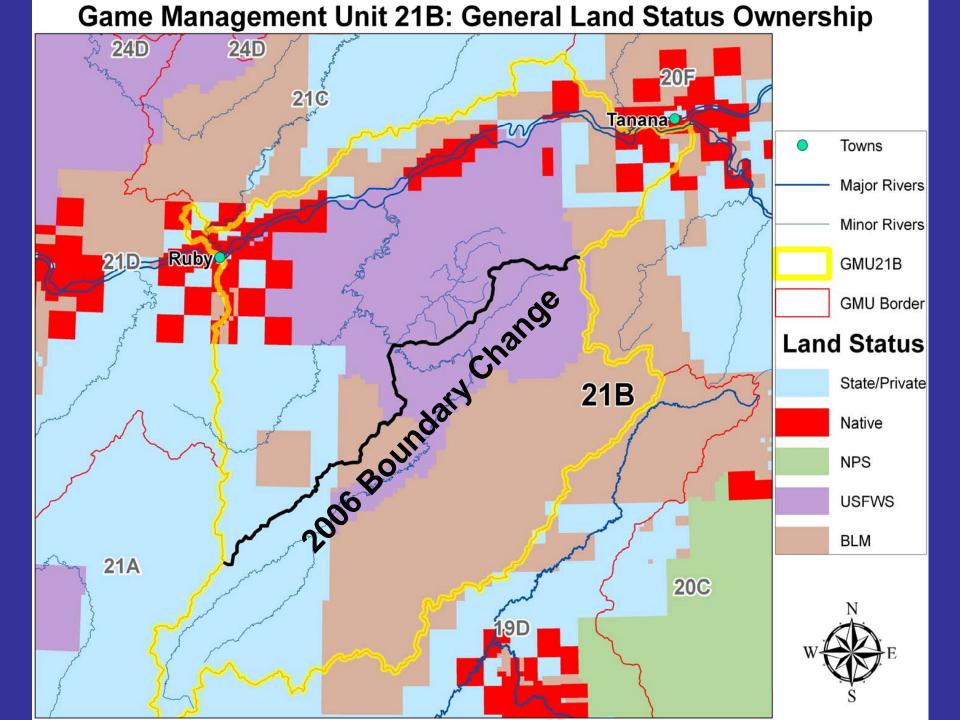
Maintain current regulations that are working effectively

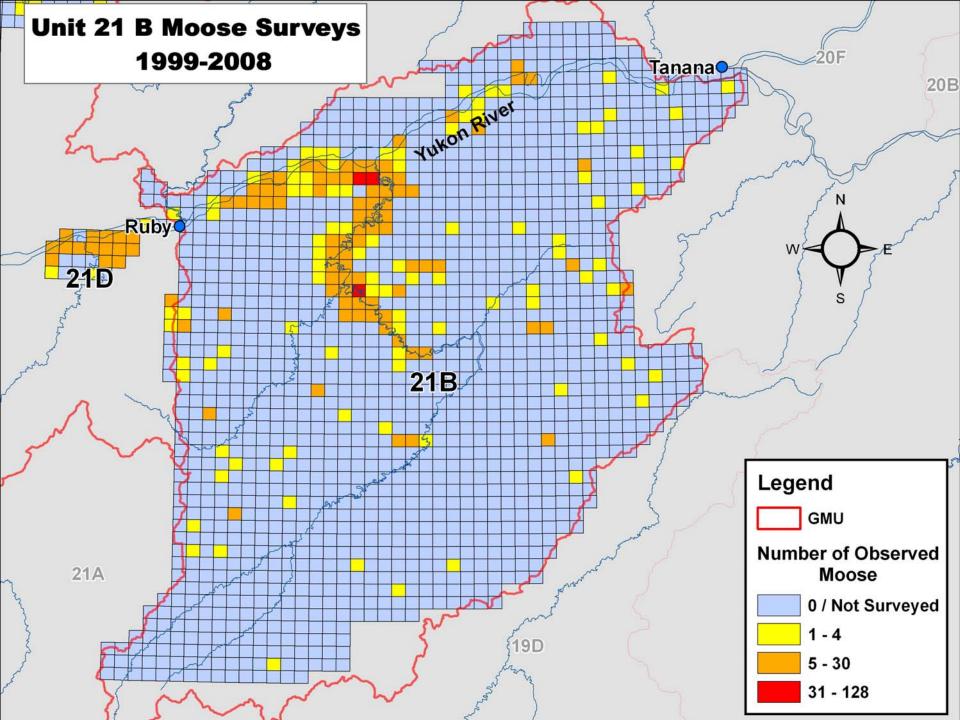
ADF&G - Do Not Adopt



Establish an Intensive Management positive finding for moose in Unit 21B

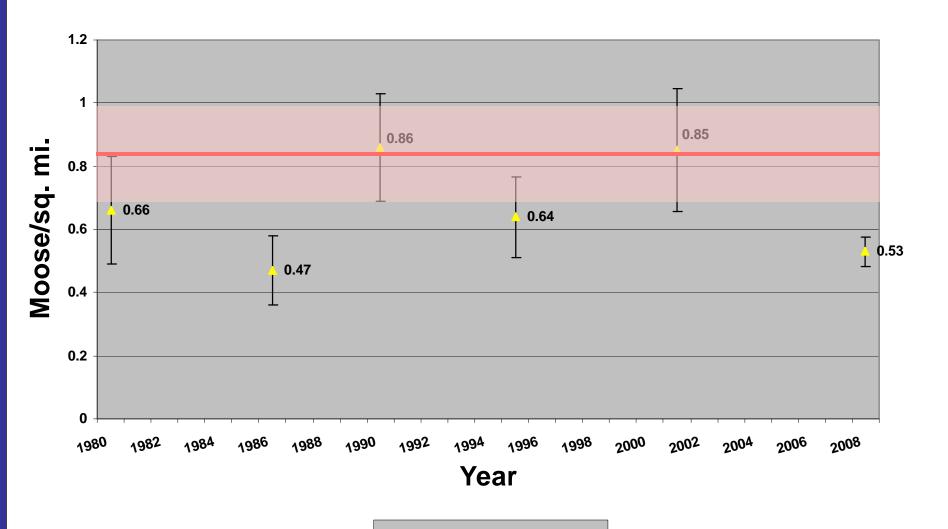
ADF&G - Adopt





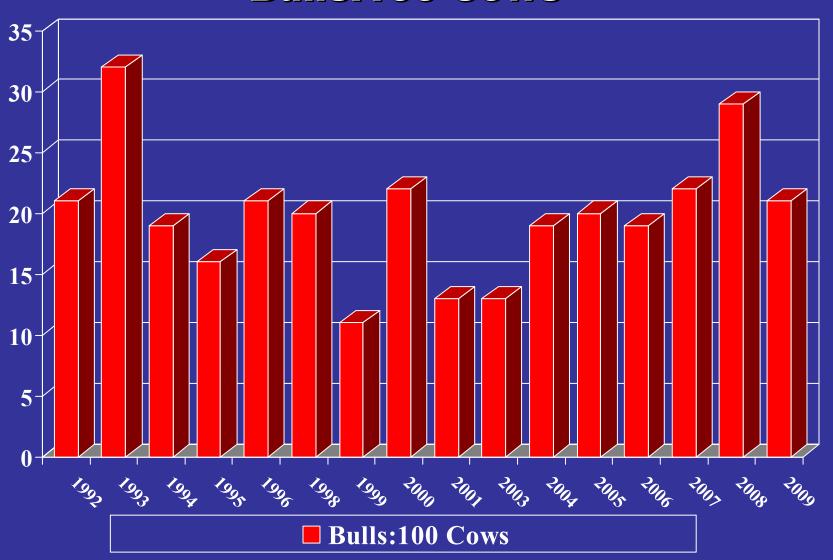
Nowitna Moose Density Estimates

Gasaway and GSPE

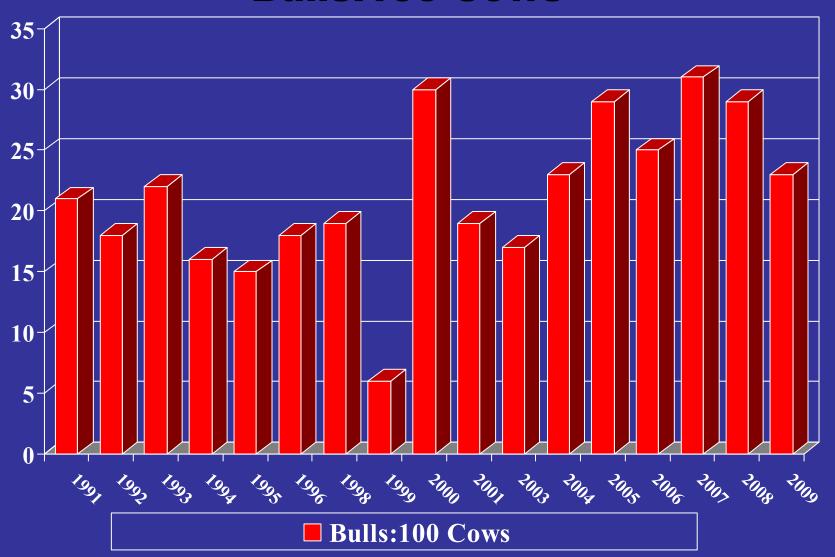


Lower Nowitna

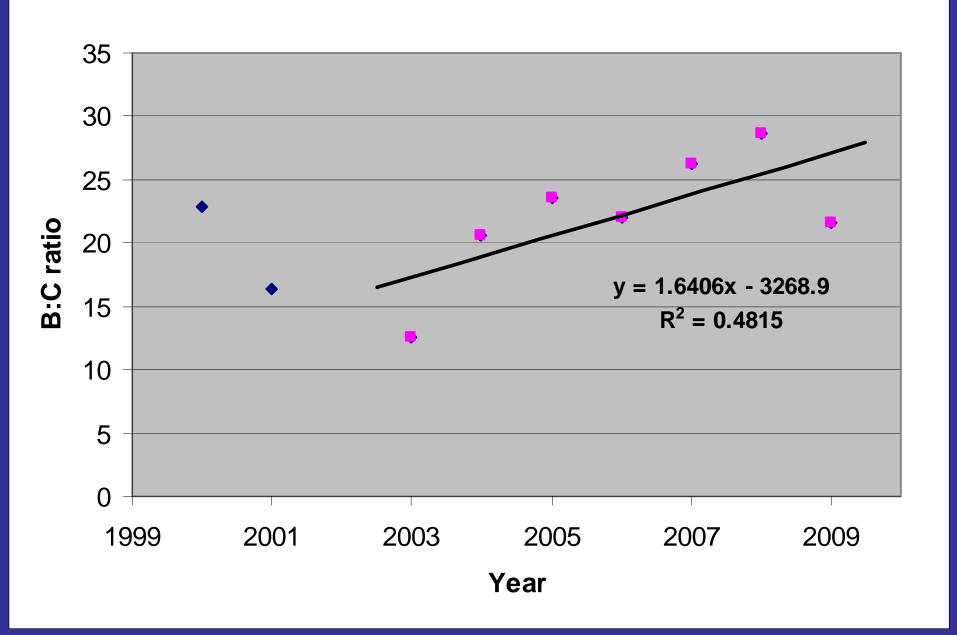
GMU 21B – Nowitna Mouth Trend Count Area, Aerial Survey Bulls:100 Cows



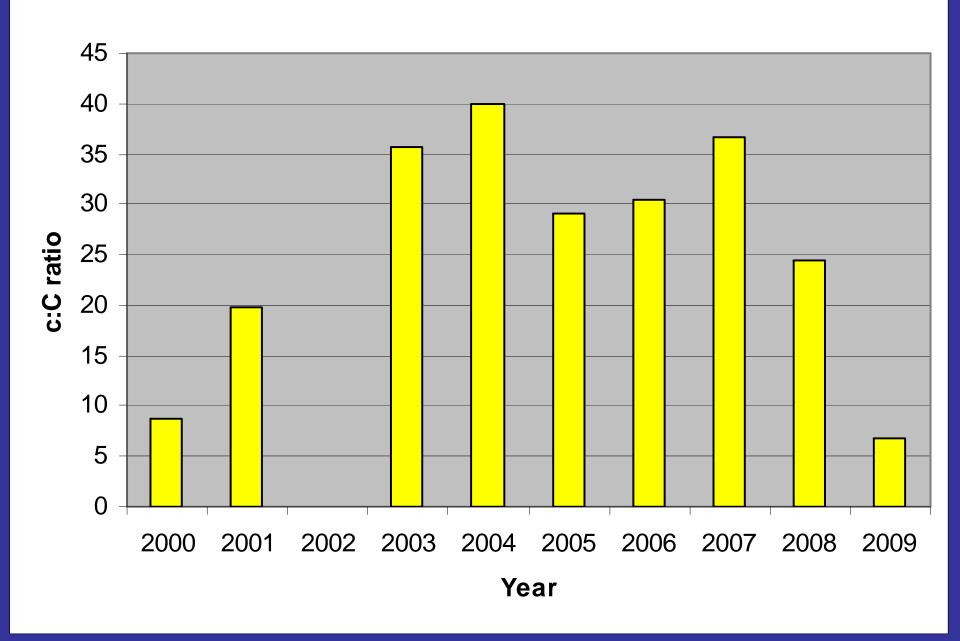
GMU 21B – Nowitna/Sulatna Trend Count Area, Aerial Survey Bulls:100 Cows



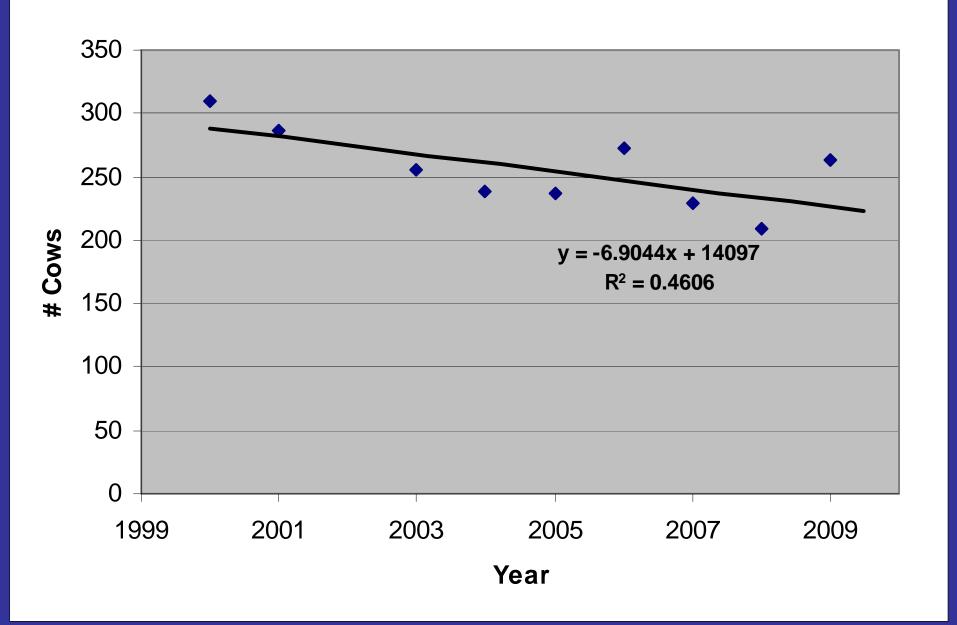
Nowitna - Bull: 100 Cows

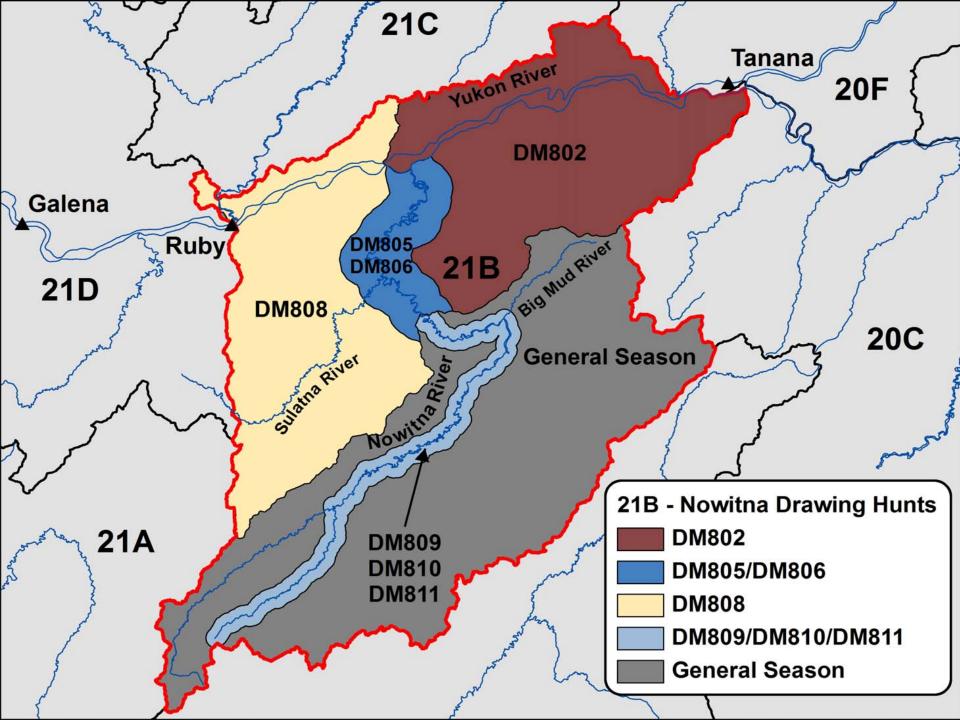


Nowitna - Calves: 100 Cows



Nowitna - Cows Counted

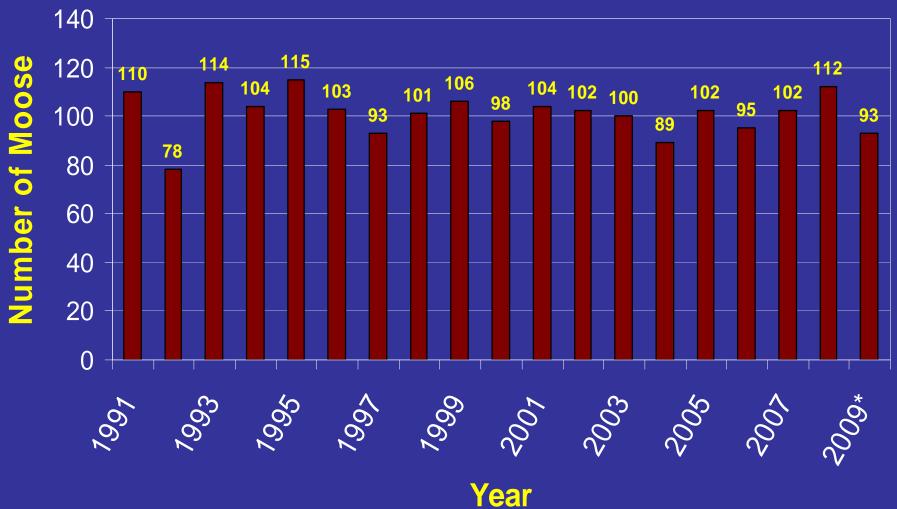




GMU 21B - Nowitna River Check Station Moose Checked



Moose Harvest Unit 21B (rept. & est. unrept.)



Intensive Management Objectives

GMU 21B (9,311 mi²)

Population Objective	Current Pop. Status
4,000 - 6,000 moose	1,898 - 2,736 moose
Harvest	Current Est.
Objective	Harvest
200 - 300 Moose	99 ^a (RY99-RY08)

^a Reported and estimated unreported harvest

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 nonlocal numbers are declining on Nowitna River
- Decreasing hunting opportunity

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

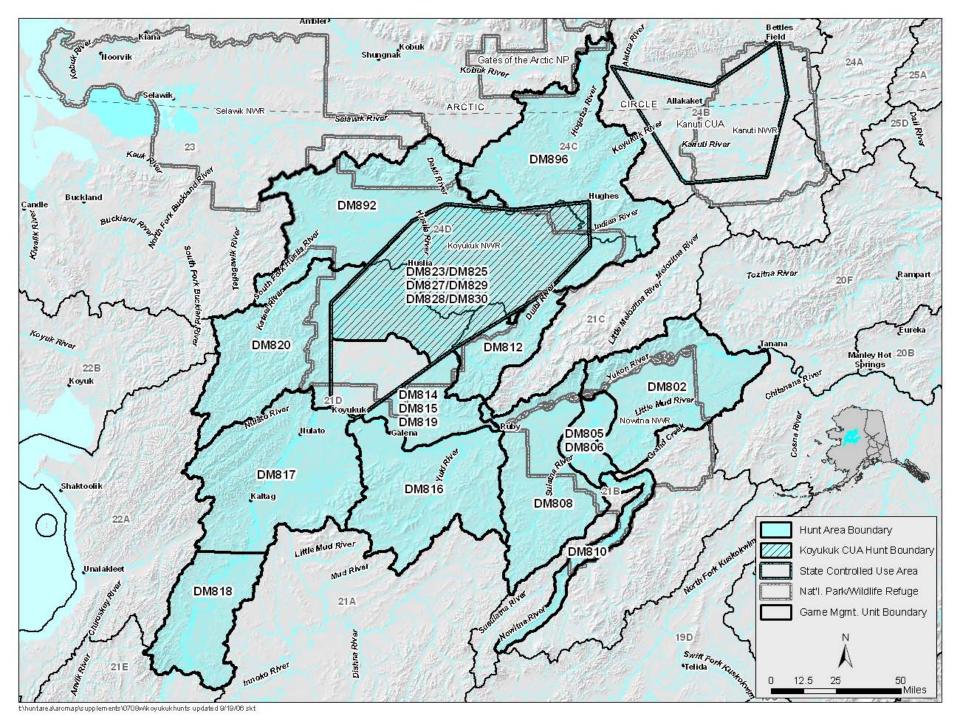
ADF&G - Adopt



Clarifies proxy regulations for Units 21B, 21C, 21D and 24

ADF&G - Adopt

KRAC - Adopt



Regulation Clarification

- Limited to Galena Mgt. Area, not 21A and 21E
- Registration hunters <u>may</u> proxy for another Registration permit or General Harvest hunts
- Registration hunters <u>may not</u> proxy hunt for Drawing permit hunts
- Drawing hunters <u>may not</u> proxy hunt for Drawing or Registration permit, or General harvest ticket hunts

Summary

- Regulation Clarification (including General Harvest)
- Galena Management Area GMU's only

ADF&G - Adopt



Change Koyukuk Checkstation location and clarify salvage requirements

ADF&G - Adopt

KRAC - Adopt





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

Summary

 Clarify existing regulations and hunt conditions that are already being implemented

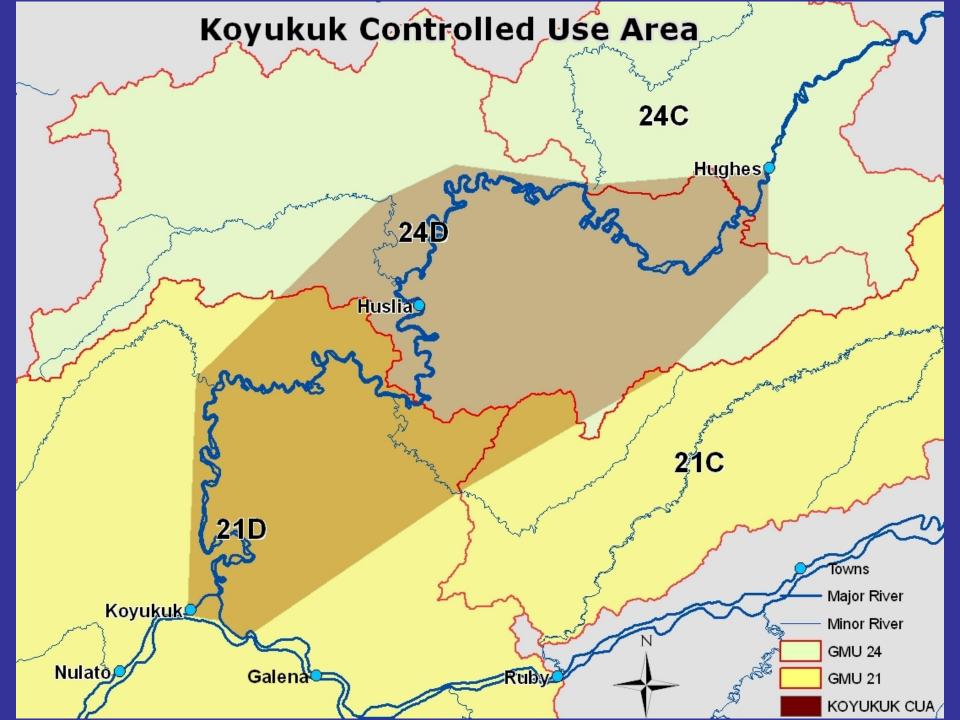
ADF&G - Adopt



Modifies language of the Koyukuk CUA to prohibit aircraft as an intermediate transport method.

ADF&G - No Recommendation

KRAC - No Action

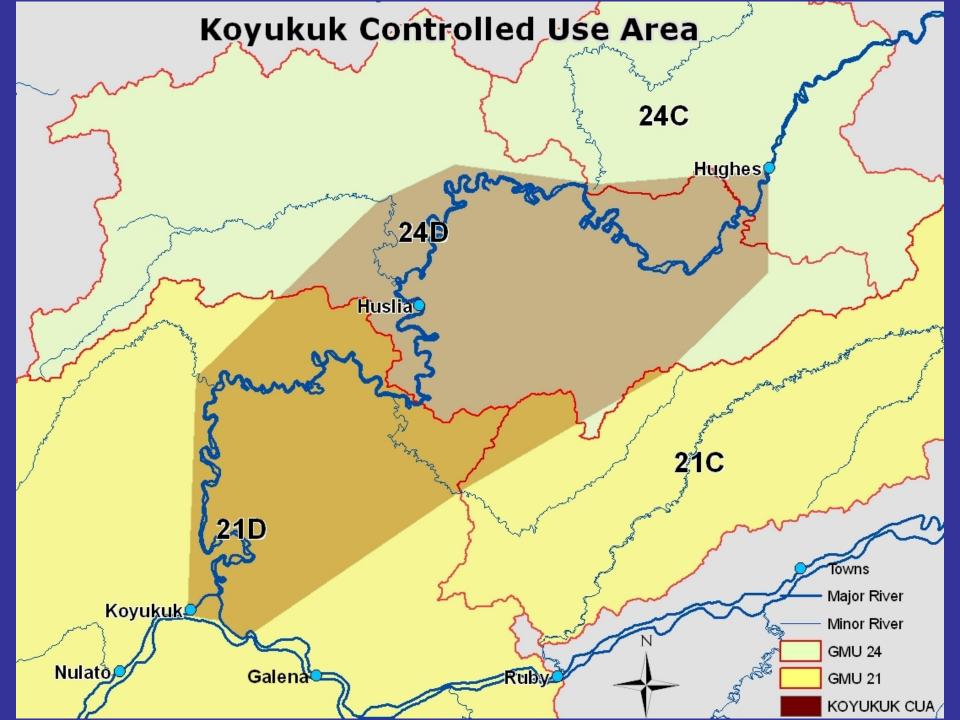


Proposal Considerations

- 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 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.



Summary

Allocation Issue

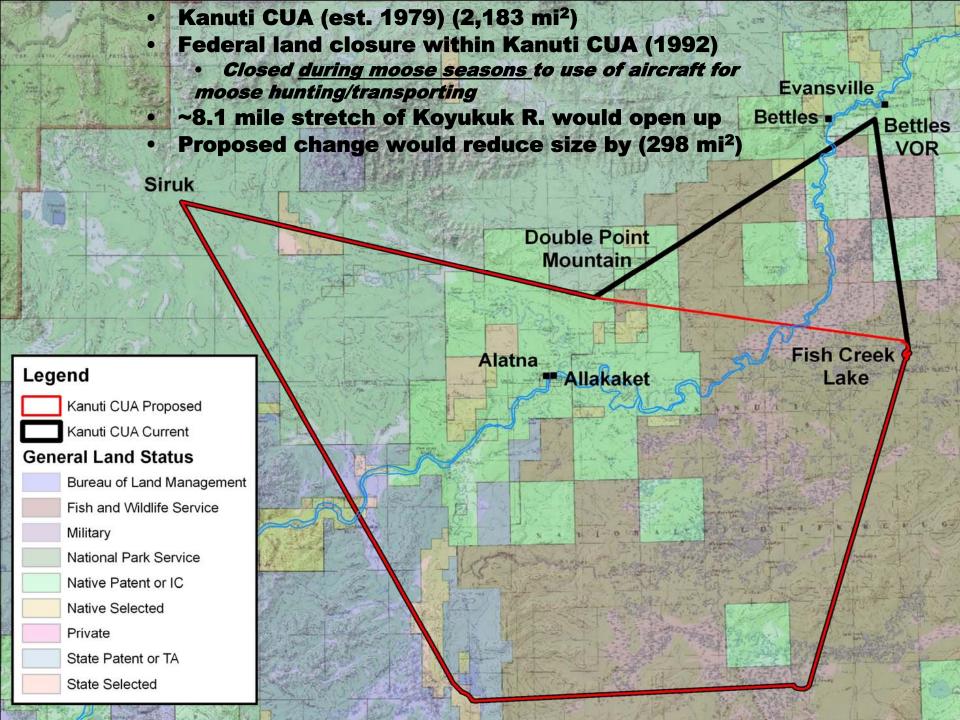
ADF&G - No Recommendation

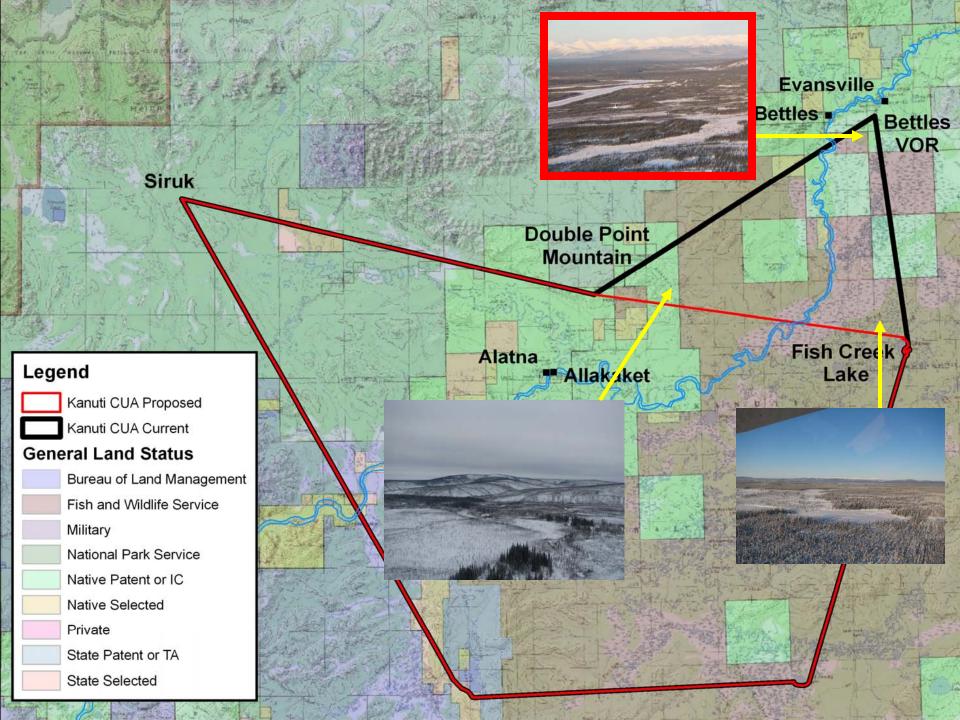


Change boundaries of the Kanuti CUA

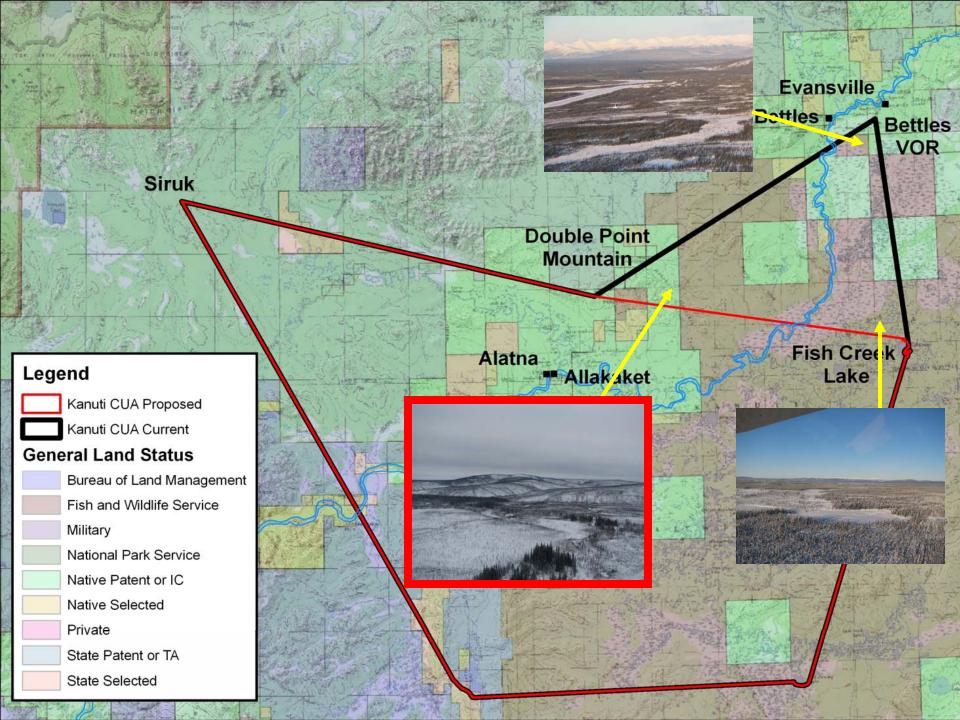
ADF&G - No Recommendation

KRAC - Do Not Adopt

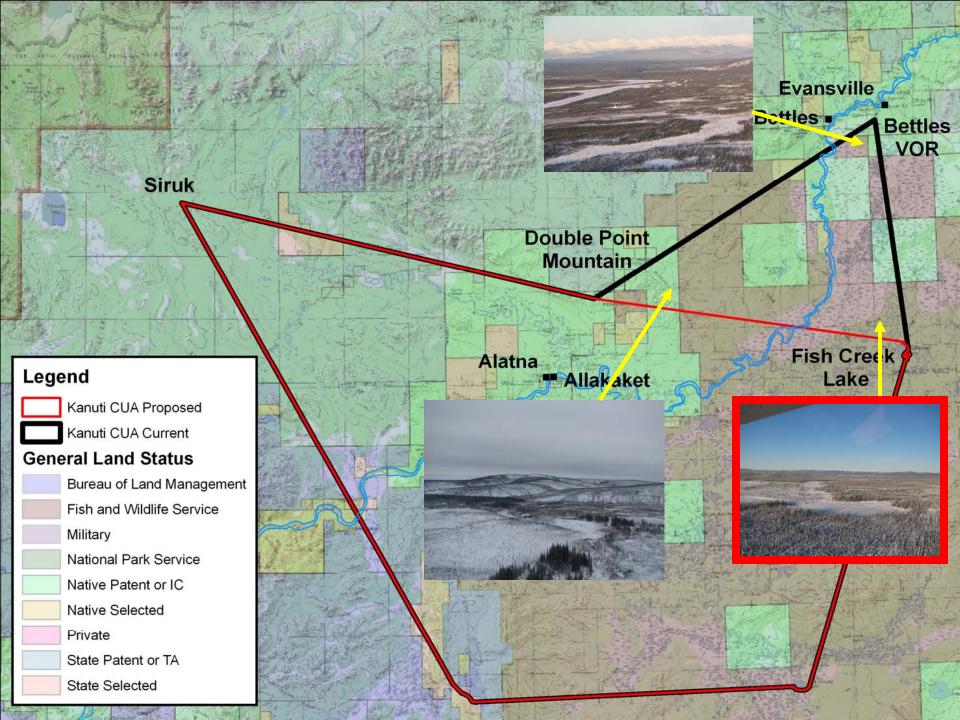




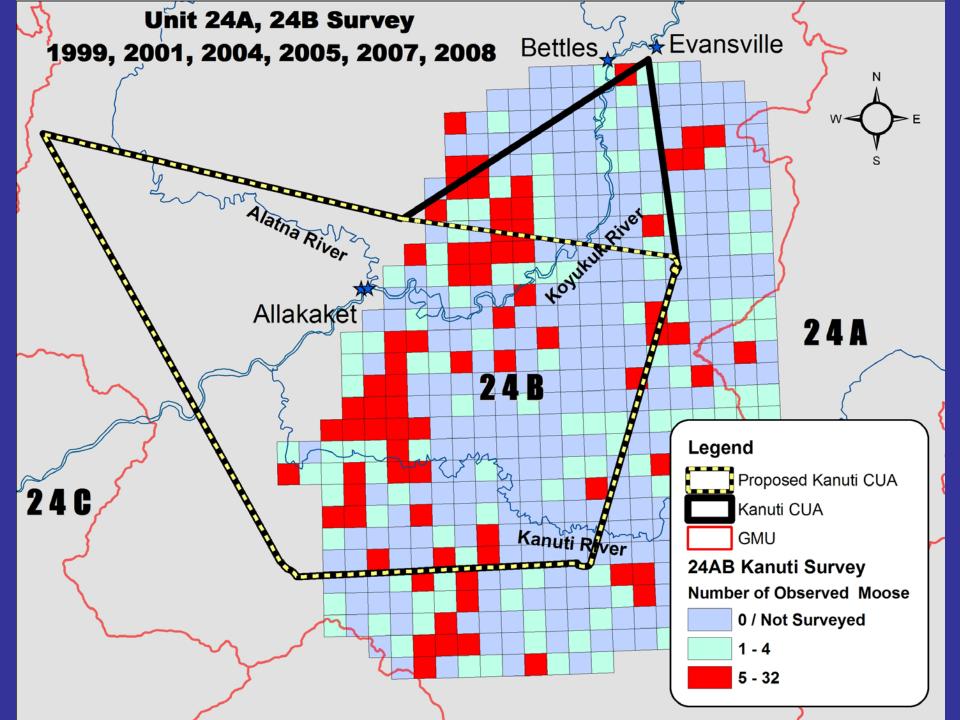


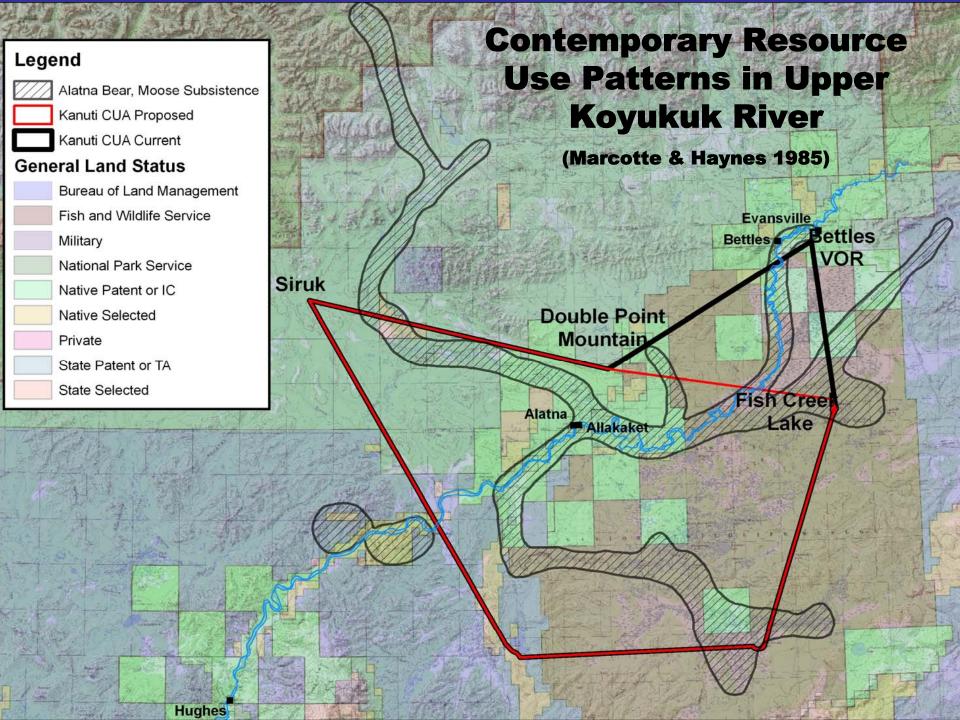












Proposal #94 Summary

Allocation Issue

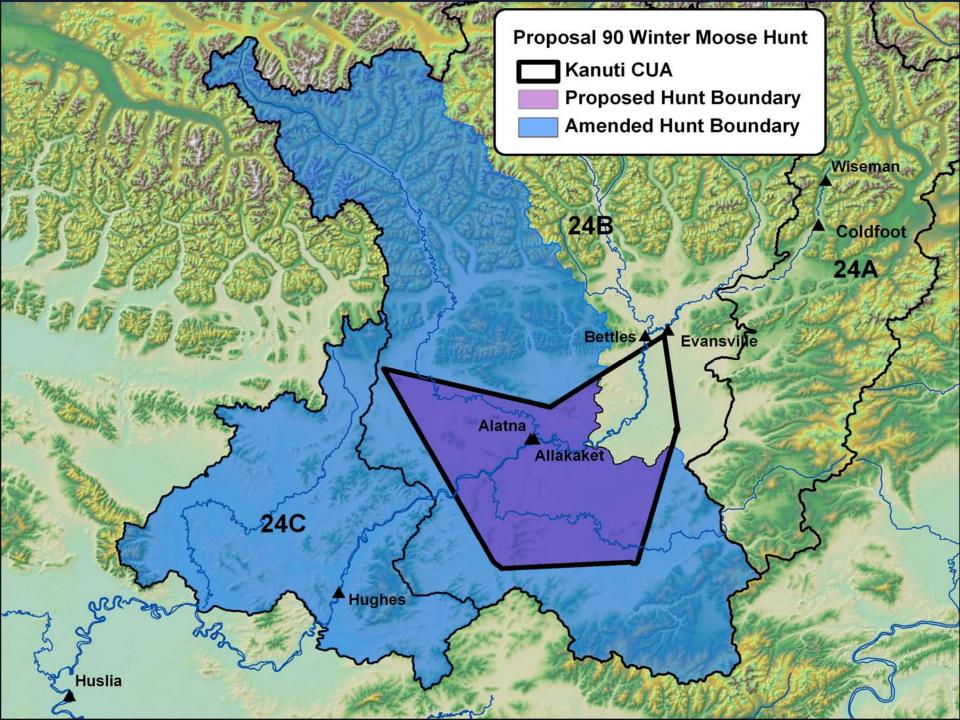
ADF&G - No Recommendation



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

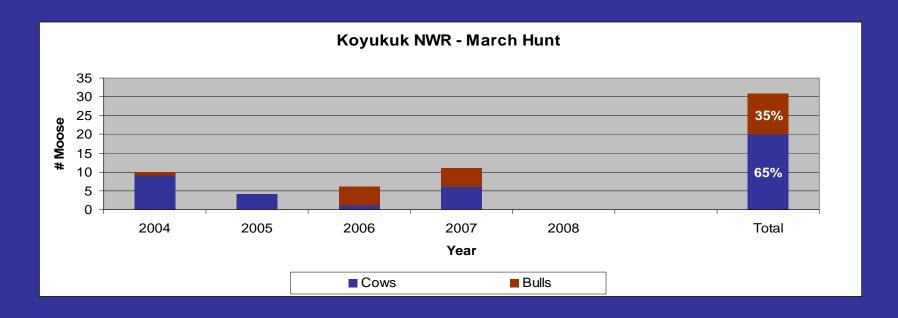
- December 15 to April 15; antiered bulls only
- Registration permit, subsistence hunt
- 4 year "sunset" on regulation (June 30, 2014)
- Minimum 5-inch antler

Permit Hunt Conditions

- Permits available at vendors or online
- Aircraft not allowed
- 5-day reporting requirement at vendor/ADFG

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)



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/Evansville 59, Coldfoot/Wiseman 35 = 280 people)
- Preliminary 2009 moose harvest = 24 moose

Moose Management Scenarios

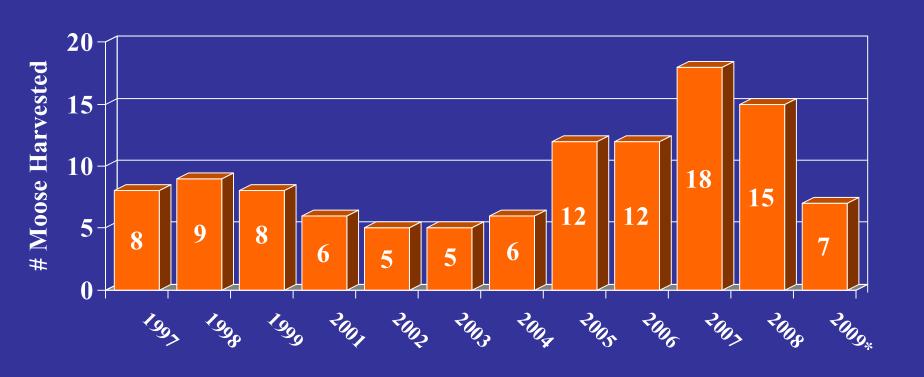
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- Few small villages (Hughes 69, Allakaket 85, Alatna 32, Bettles/Evansville 59, Coldfoot/Wiseman 35 = 280 people)
- Preliminary 2009 moose harvest = 24 moose
- ENCOUNTER RATE: (1 bull/11 miles²) vs. (1 person/59 miles²)

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



■ Total Harvest Ticket

Management Strategy Comparisons

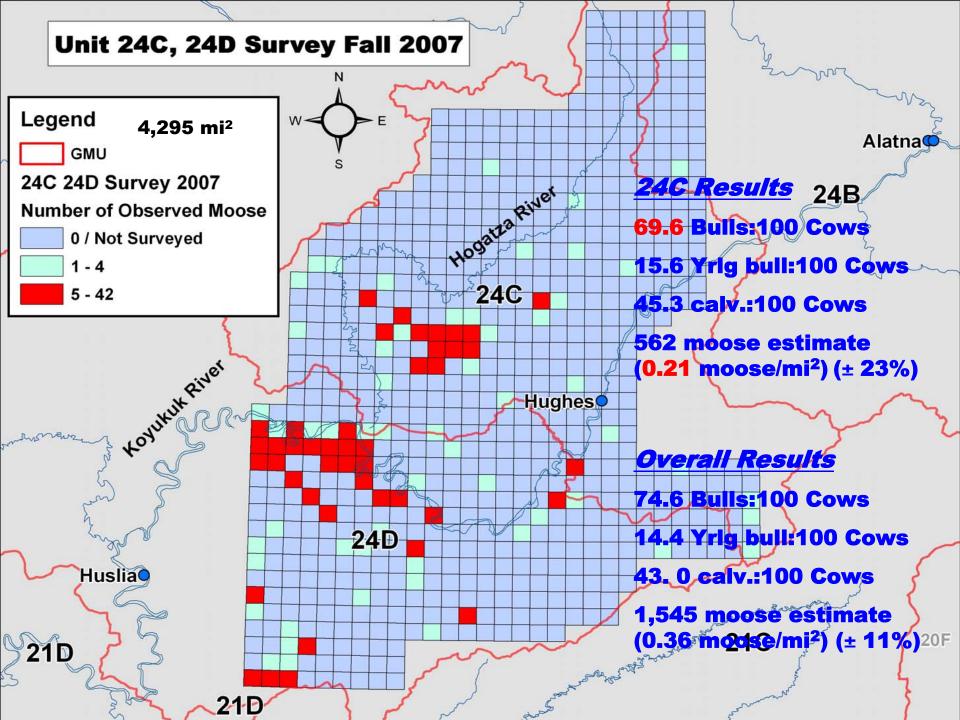
GMU 21D (12,096 mi²)

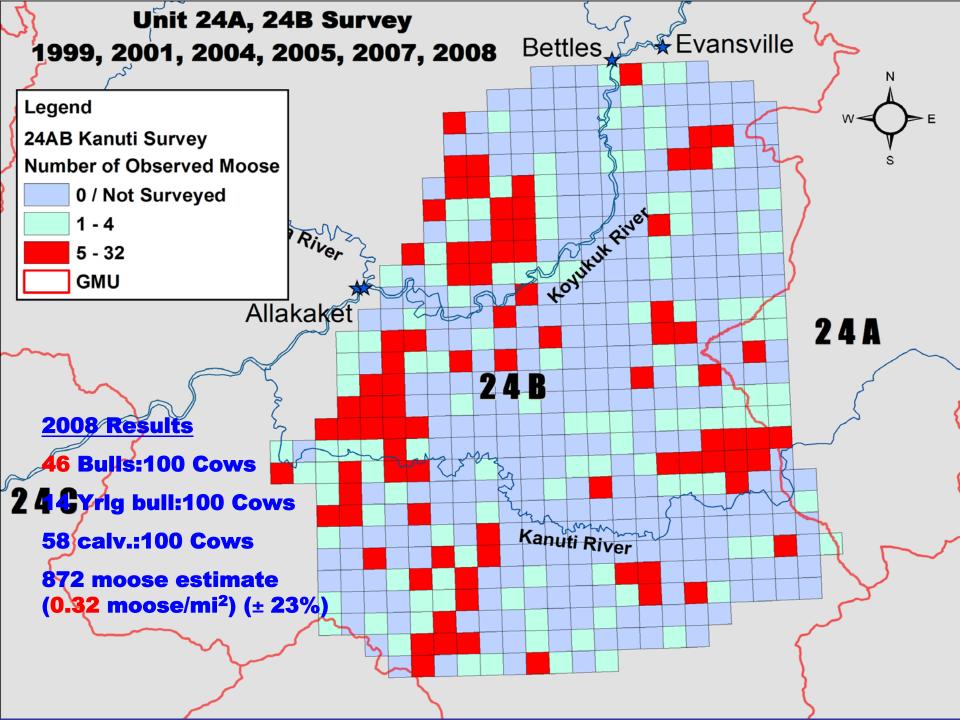
GMU 24 (26,068 mi²)

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Status</u>
9,500 ± 500	8,342 ± 1,000
moose	(-22%)
30B:100C	28-32B:100C
< 800 hunters	714 (RY09)
+ 425 Moose	247a (RY09)
+ 30calf:100C	✓
+ 8-10 yb:100C	✓

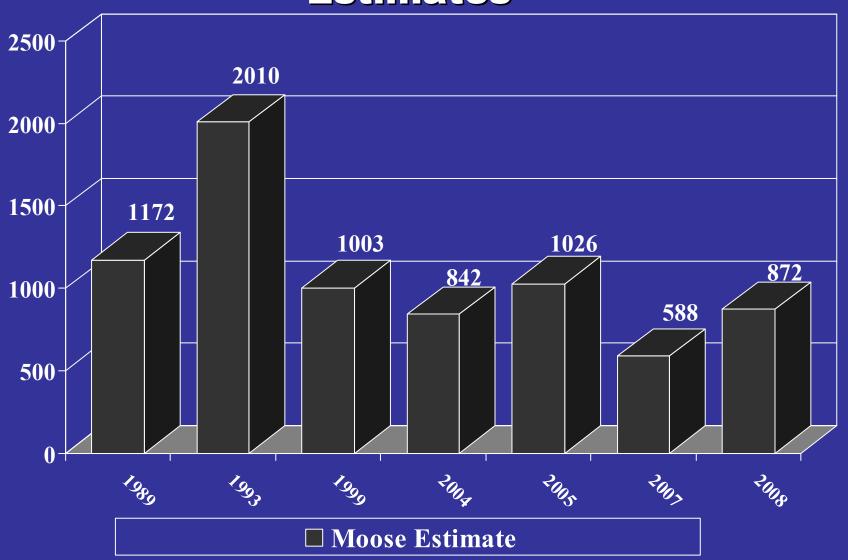
<u>Objective</u>	<u>Status</u>
11,000 ± 1,000 moose	(+33%)
45B:100C	45-60B:100C
< 400 hunters	388 (RY09)
+ 240 moose	171ª (RY09)
+ 30calf:100C	✓
+ 8-10 yb:100C	✓

^a Reported harvest





GMU 24 - Kanuti NWR GSPE Aerial Survey - Population Estimates



Amended Proposal #90A

GMU 24 – Koyukuk Drainage Hunt Strategy

- 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

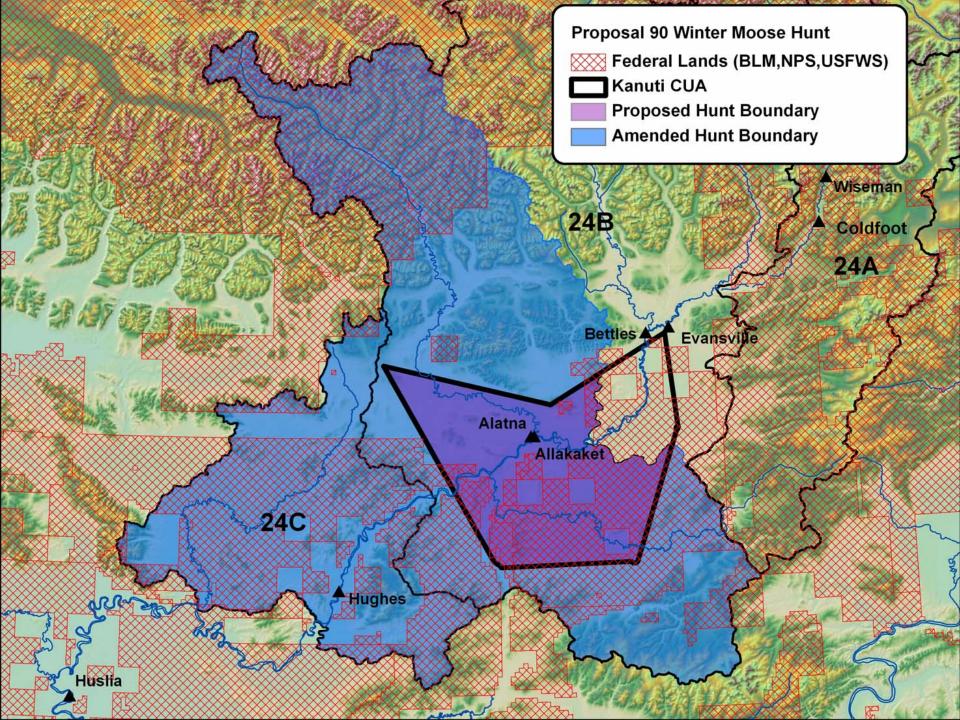
Rationale for Expanded Hunt

- Largest bulls have lost antiers by Dec. 15th
- Hard antiered 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

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

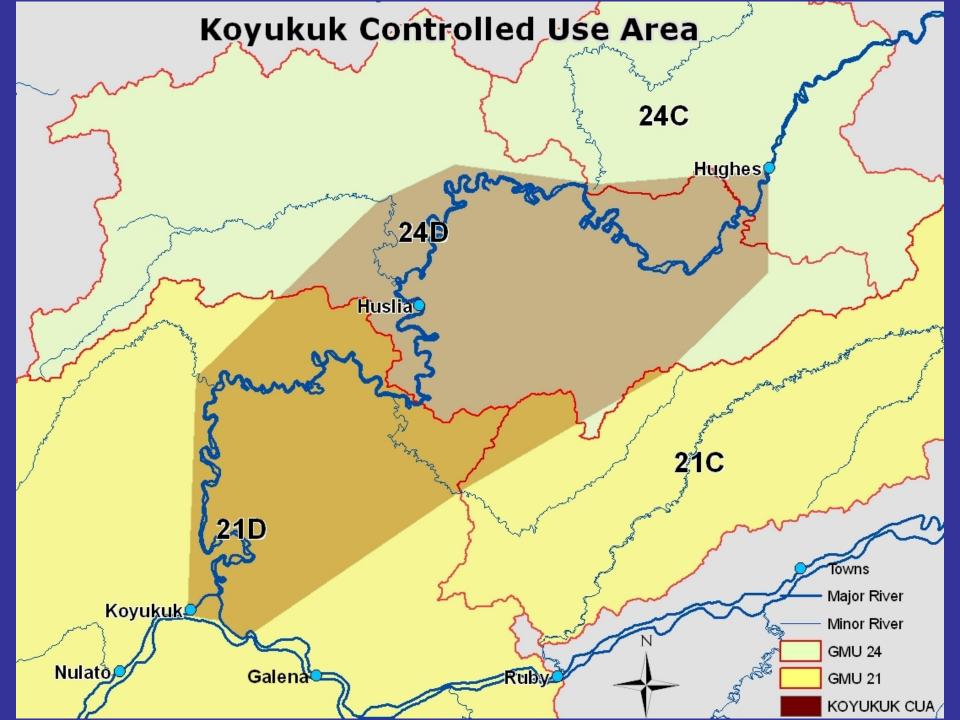


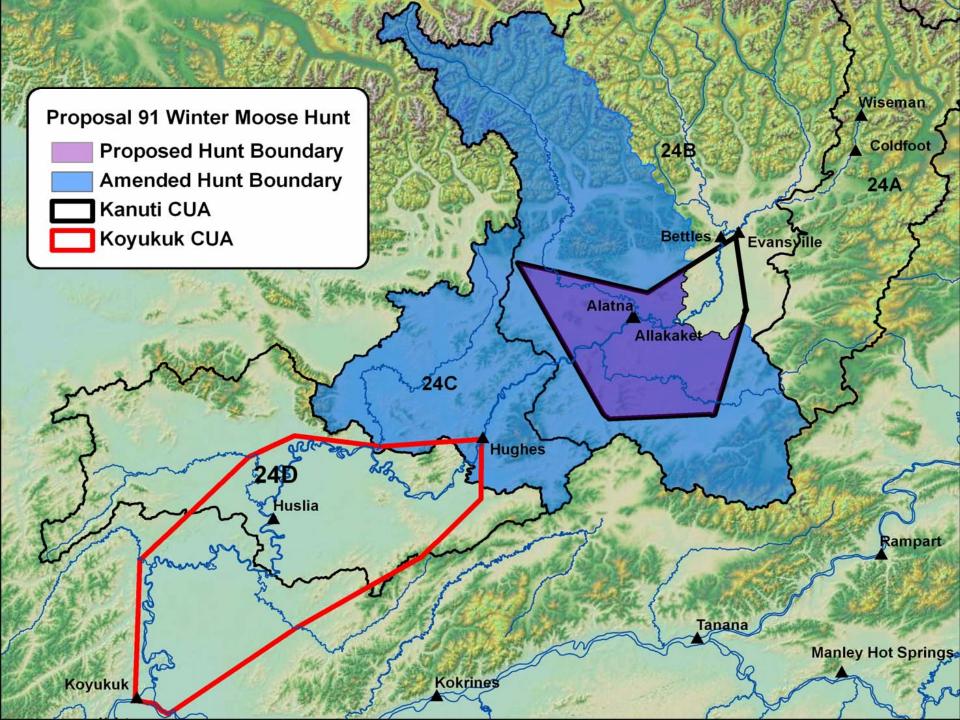


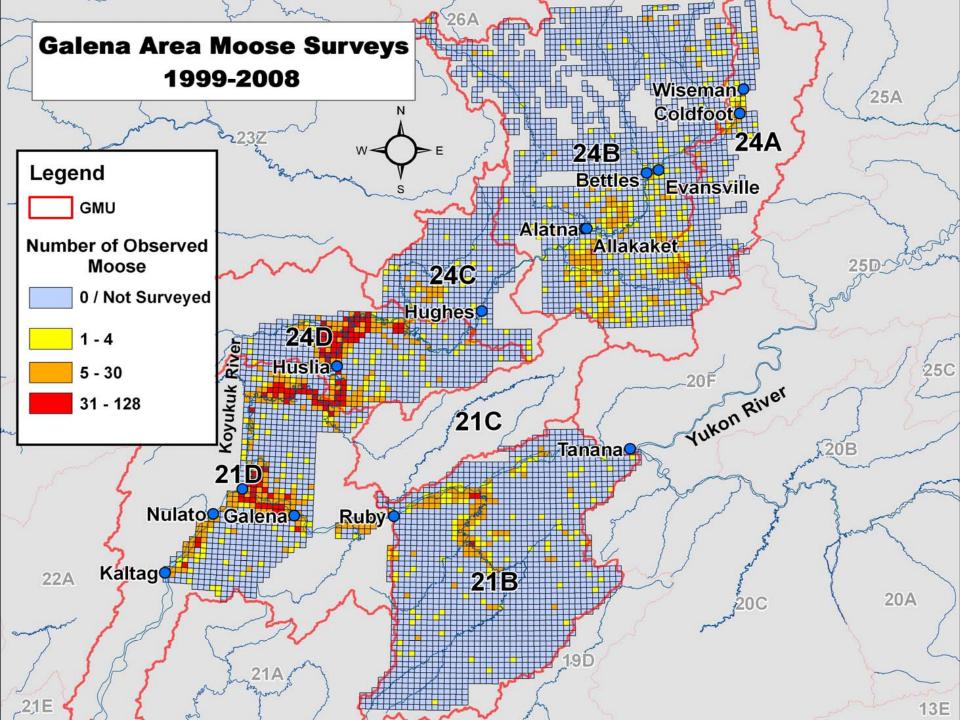
Establish April 5-15 season in Units 24C/24D/21D portions of Koyukuk CUA

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

KRAC - Do Not Adopt







Moose Management Scenario

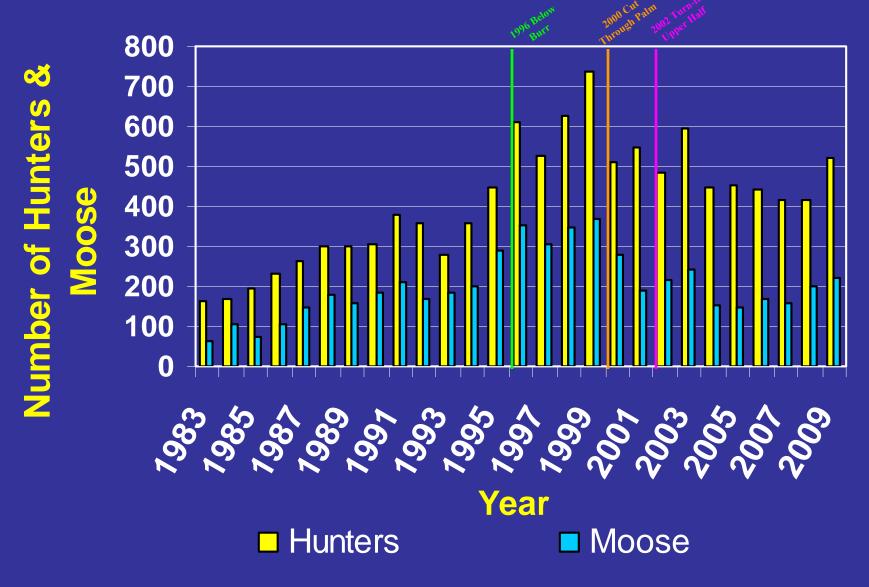
24D & 21D (KCUA)

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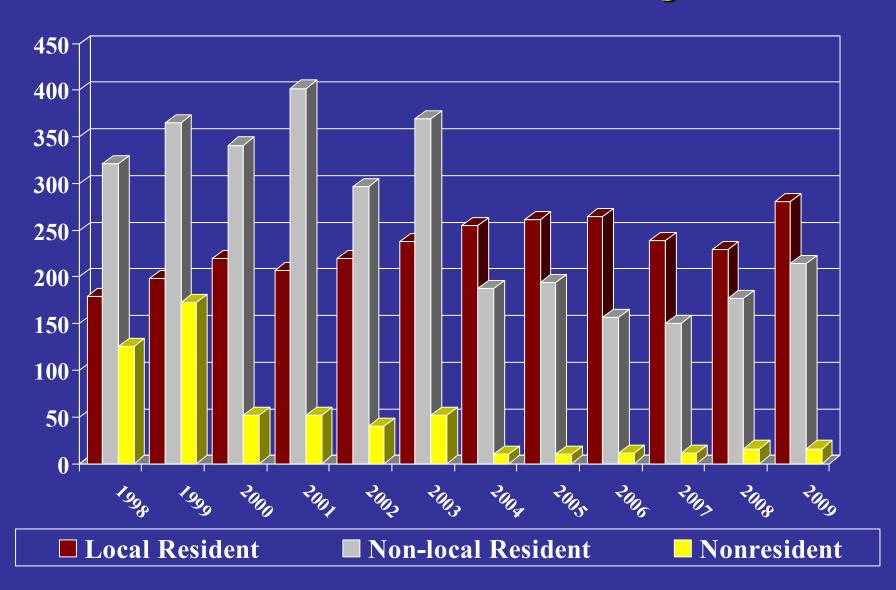
Moose Management Considerations

- 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...??

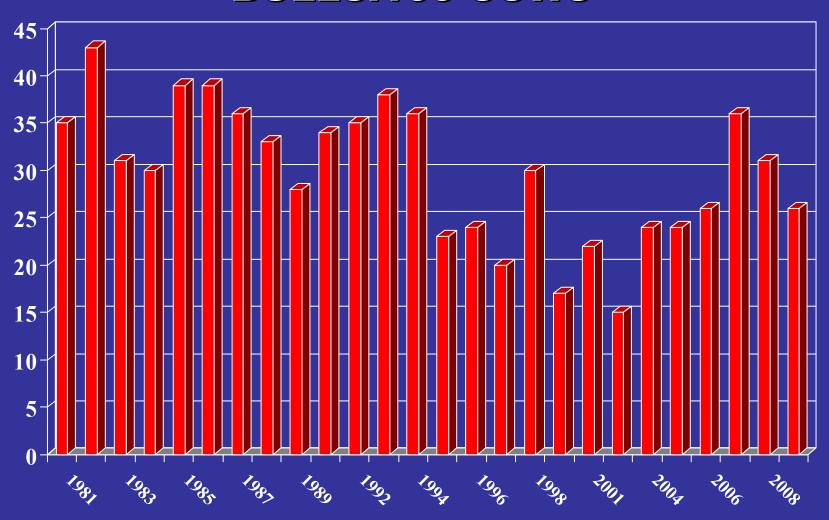
KCUA Check Station 1983-2009



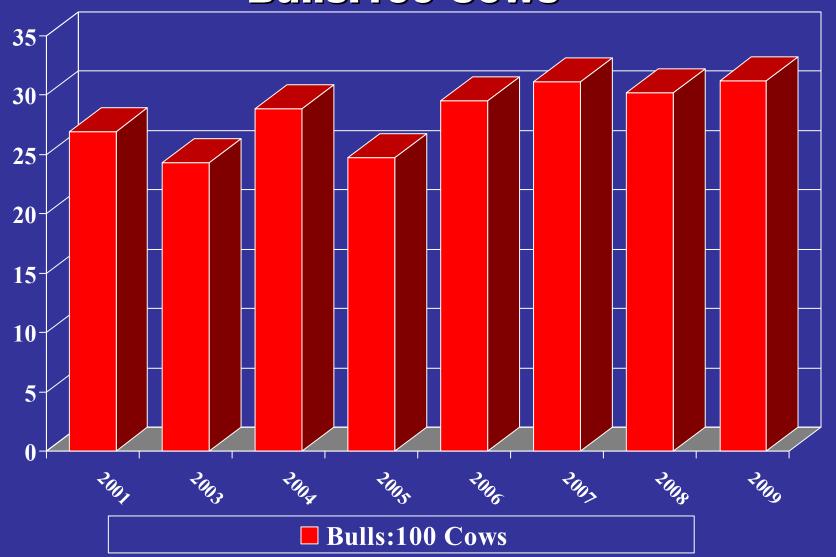
GMU 21D - Koyukuk Controlled Use Area – Hunter Residency



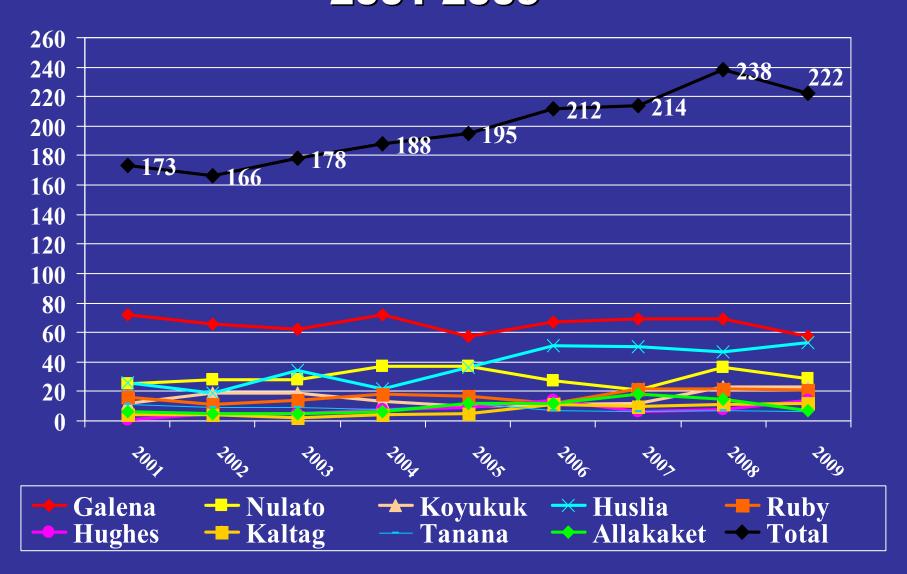
GMU 21D - Three-Day Slough Trend Count Area, Aerial Survey BULLS:100 COWS



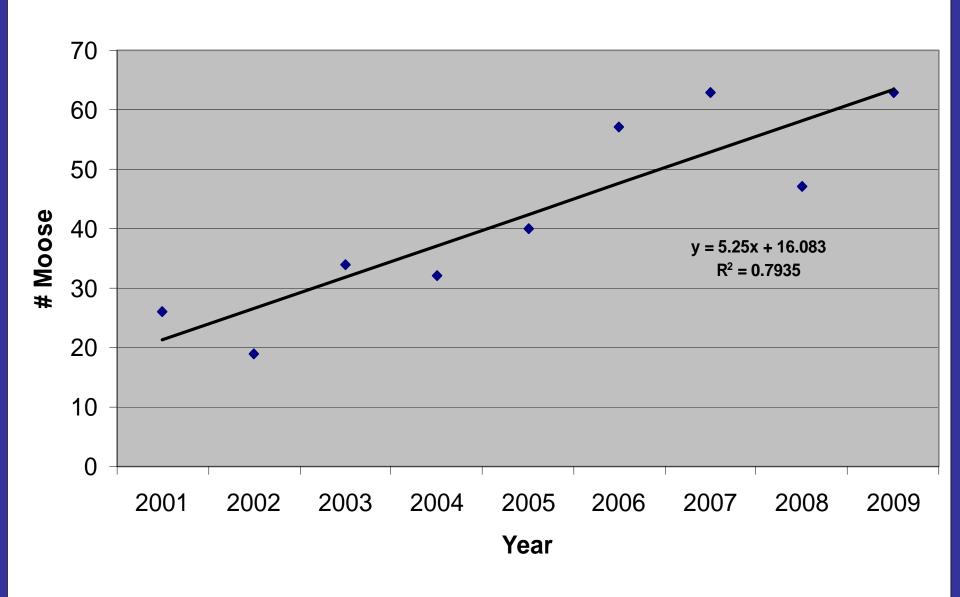
GMU 21D - Koyukuk Controlled Use Area – "Core 5" Trend Count Areas Bulls:100 Cows



Preliminary (02/15/10) Local Resident Reported Moose Harvest 2001-2009



Huslia Moose Harvest incl./ Federal Harvest



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

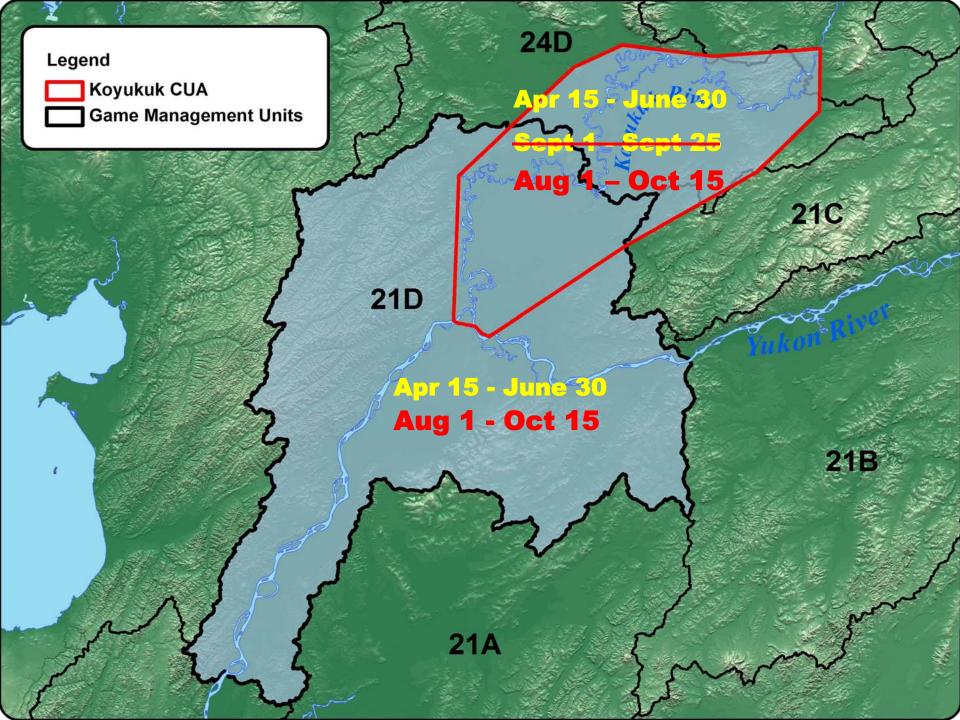
ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

KRAC - Do Not Adopt



Expand the fall black bear baiting season to the remainder of 21D

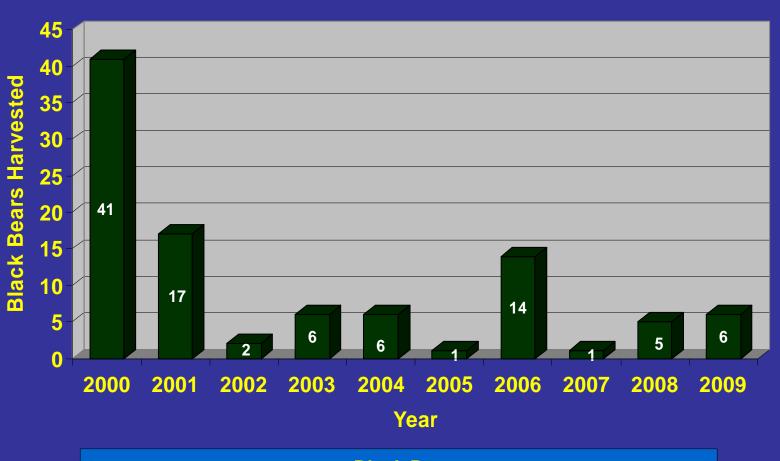
ADF&G - Amend and Adopt
(Discretionary Authority)



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



■ Black Bears

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



Establish a Grizzly Bear Baiting season for Unit 21D

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt

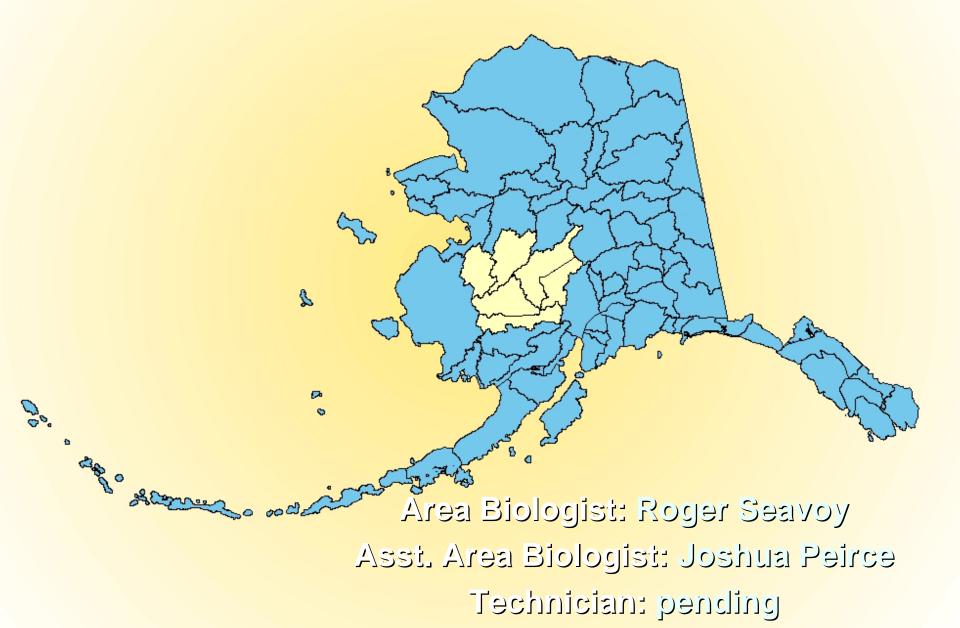
Summary

The Department does not support the baiting of brown bears outside of predator control areas (except disabled hunters)

ADF&G - Do Not Adopt



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)

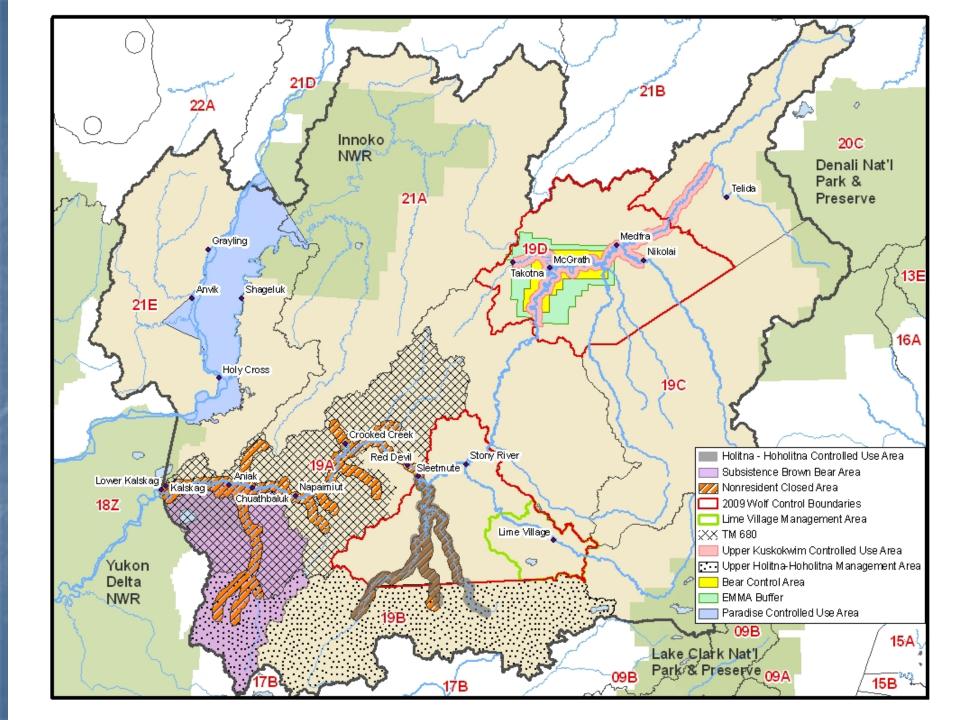
Federal Partners

- BLM, Geoff Beyersdorf Biologist
- Innoko NWR, Bo Sloan Refuge Manager
- Yukon-Delta NWR, Gene Peltola, Jr. –
 Pofuge Manager

Refuge Manager AND STAFF!







Moose Management Plans

CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared by:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
In cooperation with:

Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee



June 2004

Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan For Game Management Subunits 21A and 21E



Prepared by:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Division of Wildlife Conservation,
in Cooperation With
The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group

December 2006

Preliminary Unit 19D East Adaptive Wildlife Management Implementation Program

Alaska Department of Fish and Game *Frank Rue, Commissioner*

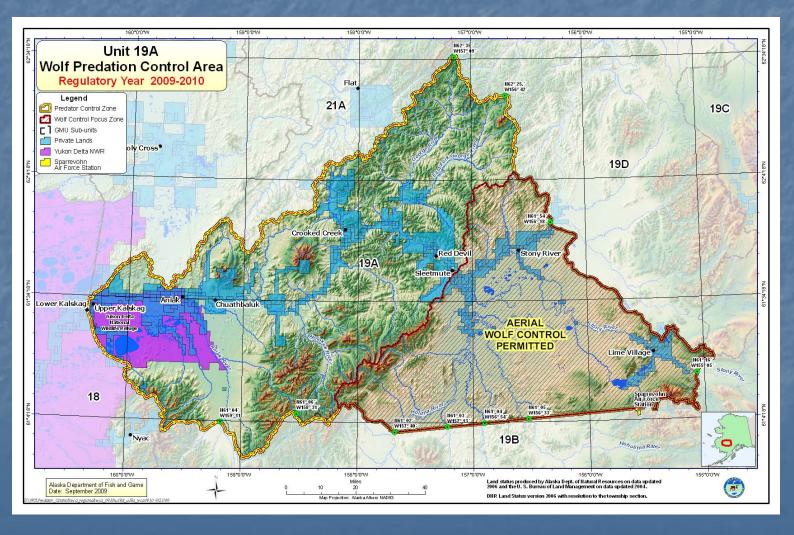
Division of Wildlife Conservation Dr Wayne L Regelin, Director



Initial Version, May 8, 2001

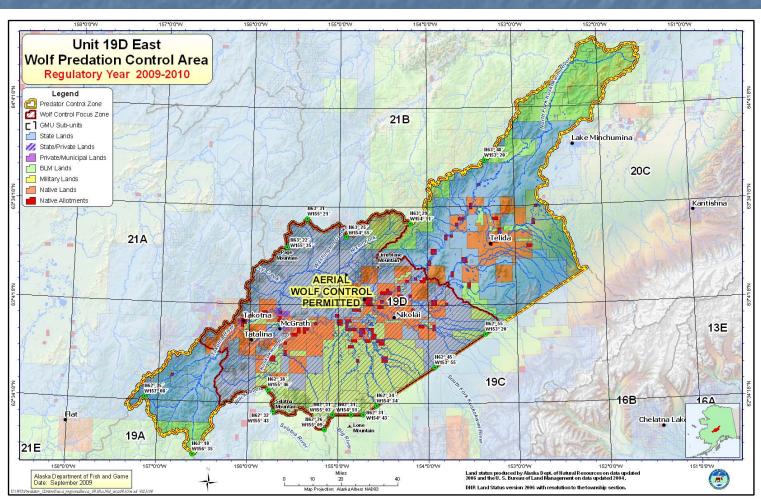
Predation Control Areas

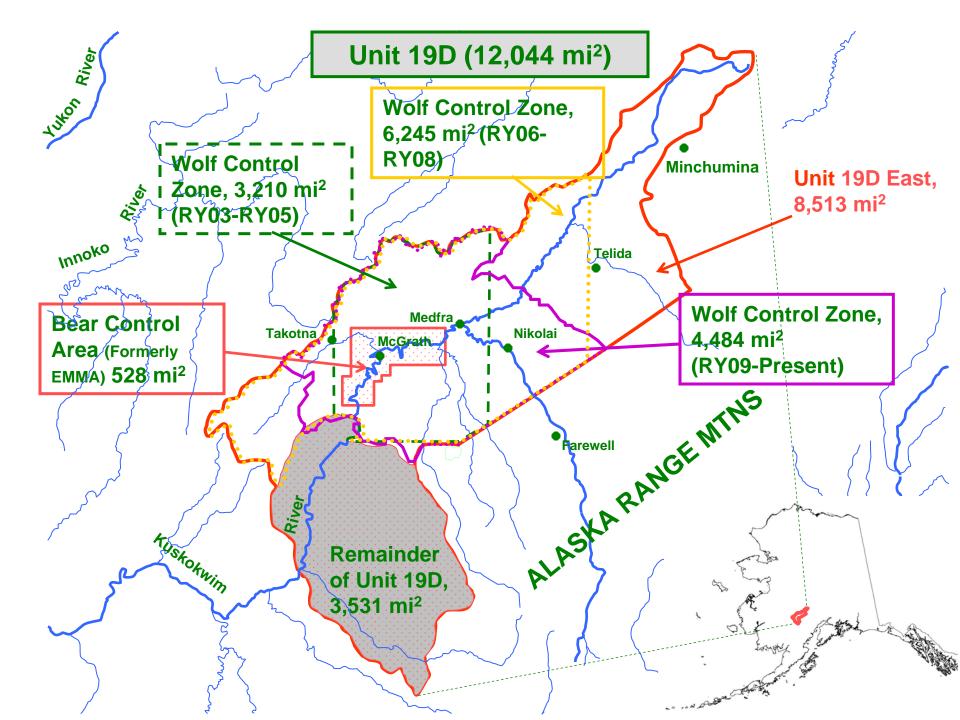
Unit 19A:



Predation Control Areas

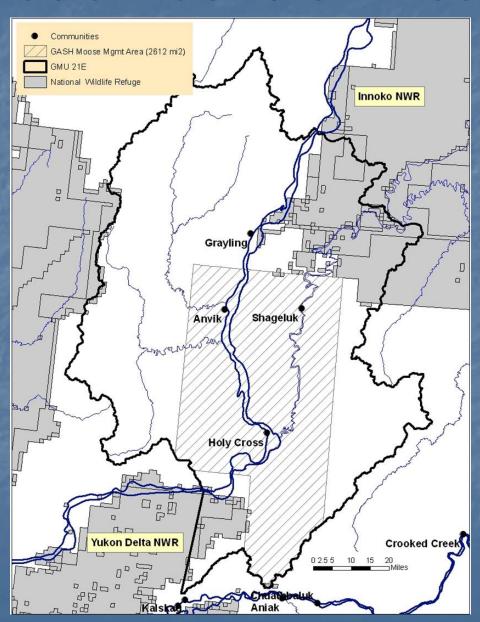
Unit 19D East:

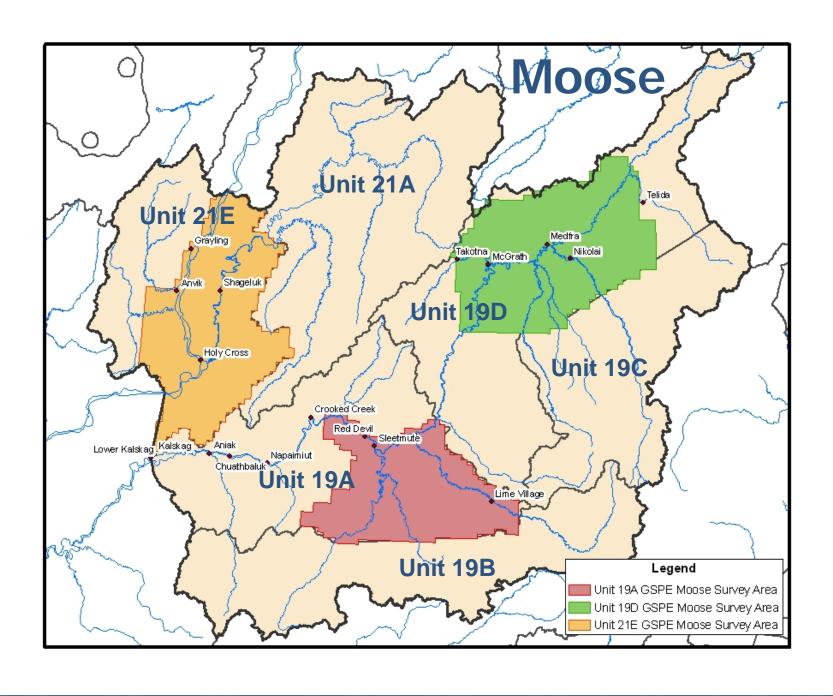




Predation Control Areas

Unit 21E:

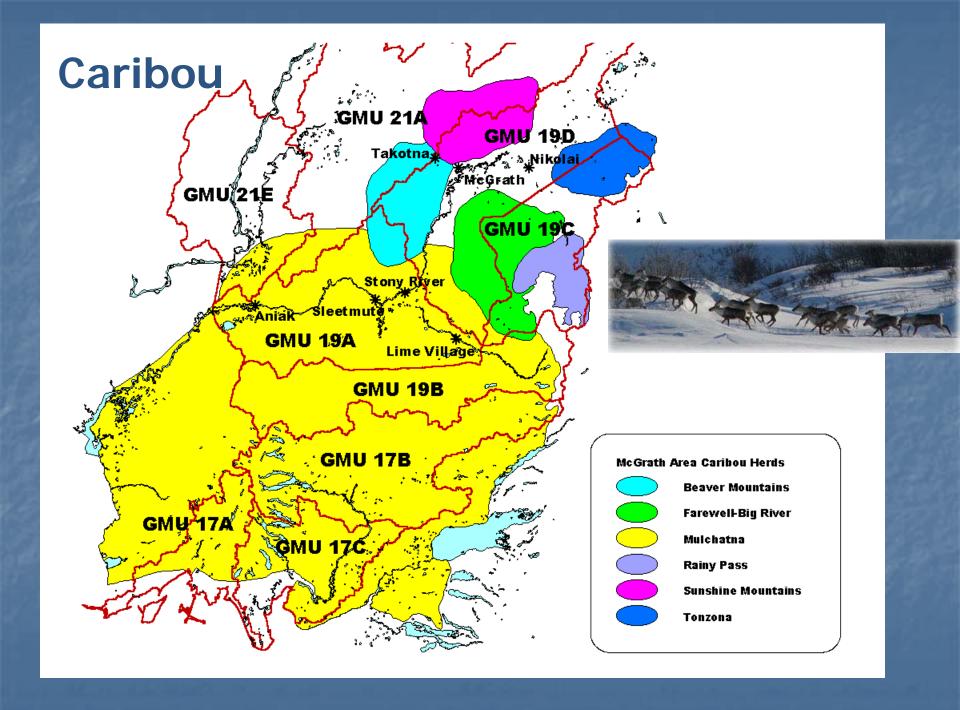


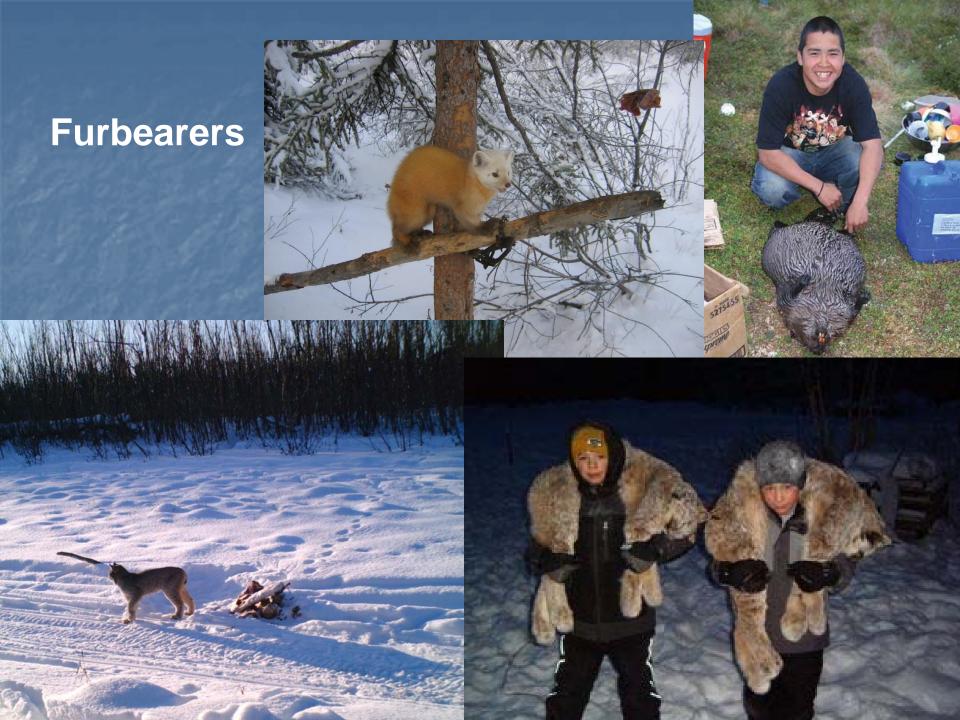


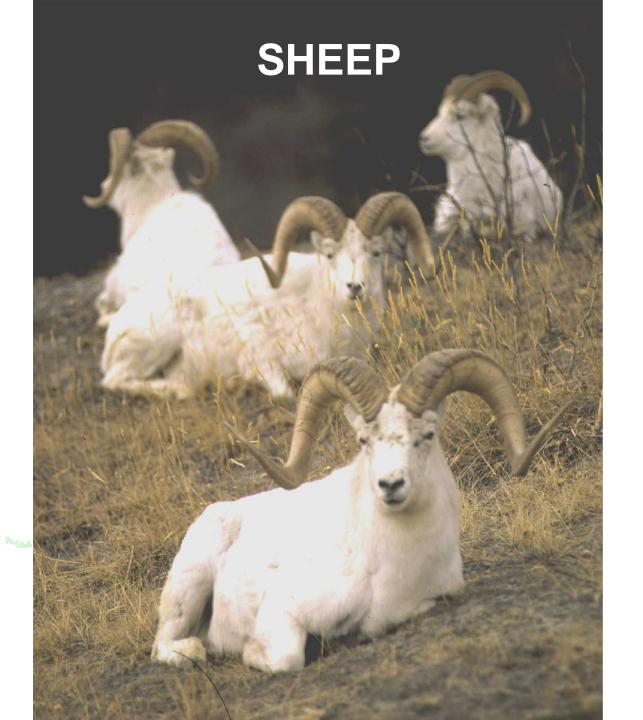






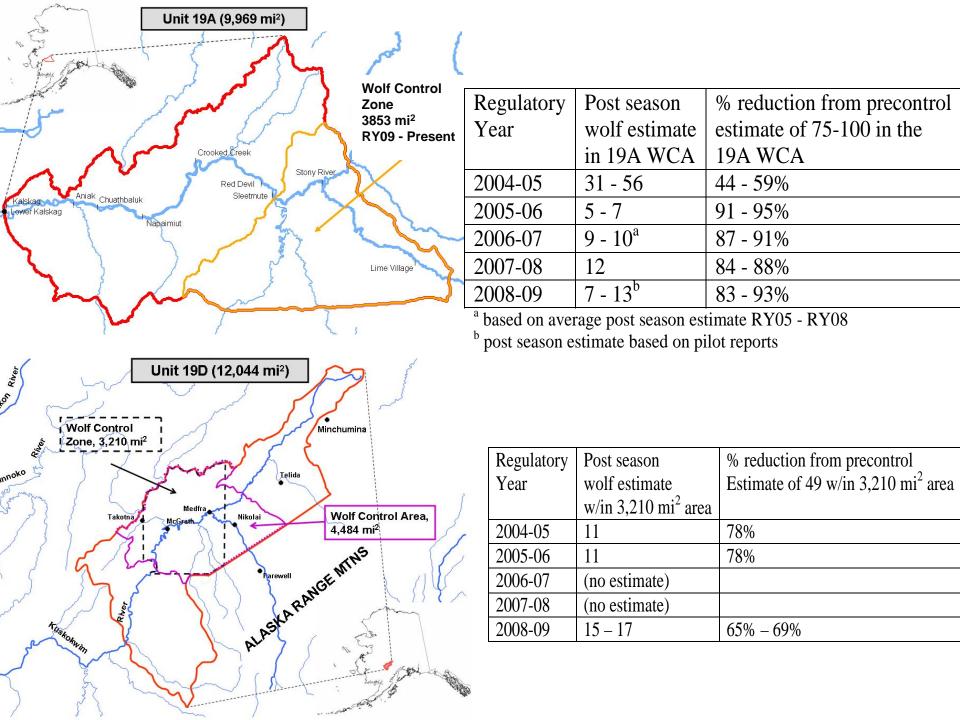






Wolf







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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

• 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

Northeast Alaska Area

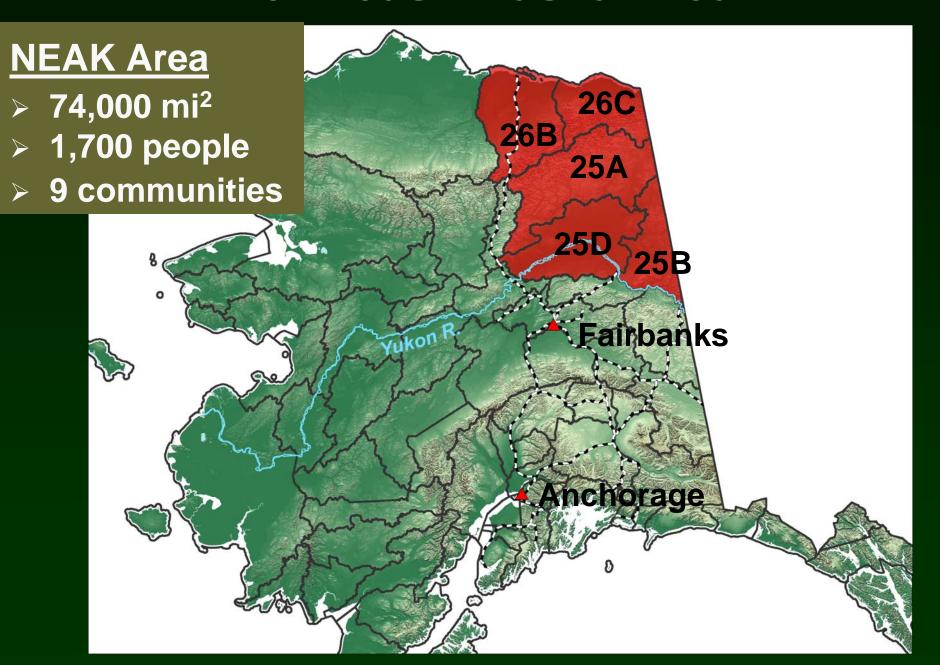
Area Biologist: Beth Lenart, Fairbanks

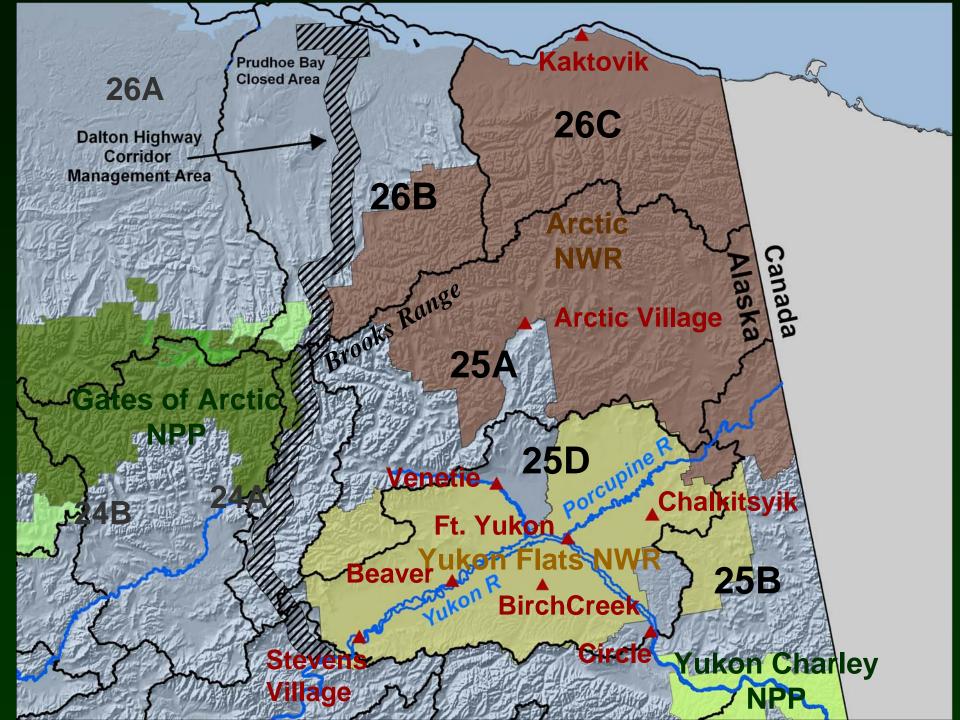
Asst. Area Biologist: Jason Caikoski, Fairbanks

Units: 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B & 26C

Includes upper Yukon drainage and central and eastern north slope (73,800 mi²)

Northeast Alaska Area





State Advisory Committees

- Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
- Arctic Advisory Committee

Federal Regional Advisory Councils

- Eastern Interior
- North Slope

BLACK BEAR

<u>Unit 25</u>

Abundant & lightly harvested

Survey:

Black bear abundance estimate (spring 2010)

Management issues:

- Effects of bear predation on moose in Unit 25D
- IM objectives to increase black bear harvest

2 Proposals

BROWN BEAR

<u>Unit 25</u>

- Moderate density
- Low harvest in 25B &D
- Moderate harvest in western 25A

Unit 26B & 26C

- Low density in 26B & 26C
- Low to moderate harvest

Management issues: 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

Management Issues:

- Chronically low densities in Unit 25D
- Effects of bear and wolf predation
- Harvest of cow moose
- Local harvest reporting
- Developing Intensive Management Plan

Harvest Surveys:

Completed household harvest surveys in 25D



Units 26B & 26C

- Limited distribution
- Severe decline 1992 1995
- Season closed in 1996
- Opened season in 26B in 2006

Management Issues

- 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

<u>Wolf</u>

- Low density population
- Low harvests
- Effects of wolf predation on moose in Unit 25D

Predation Rate Study:

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

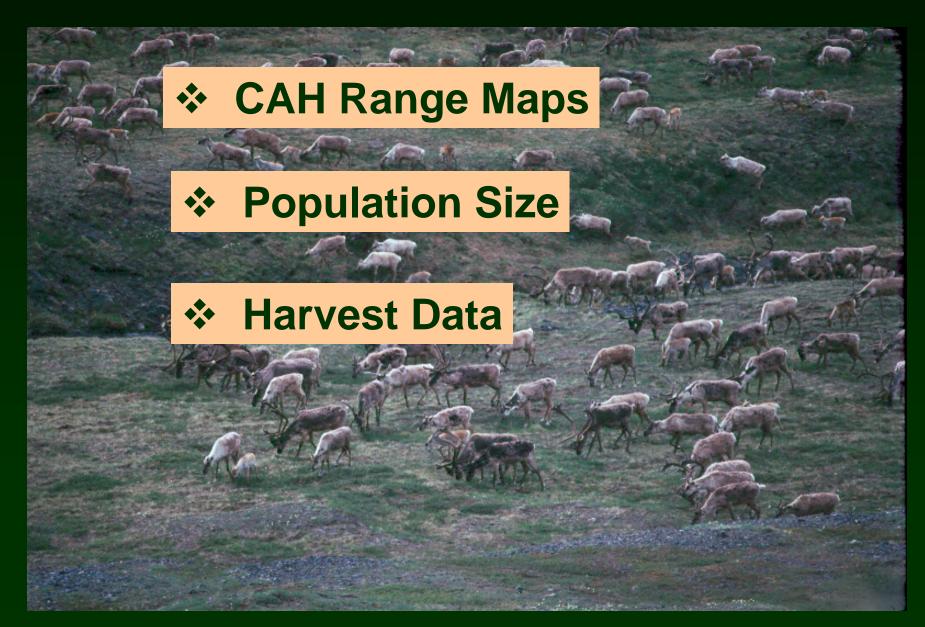
1. Increasing harvest on the CAH

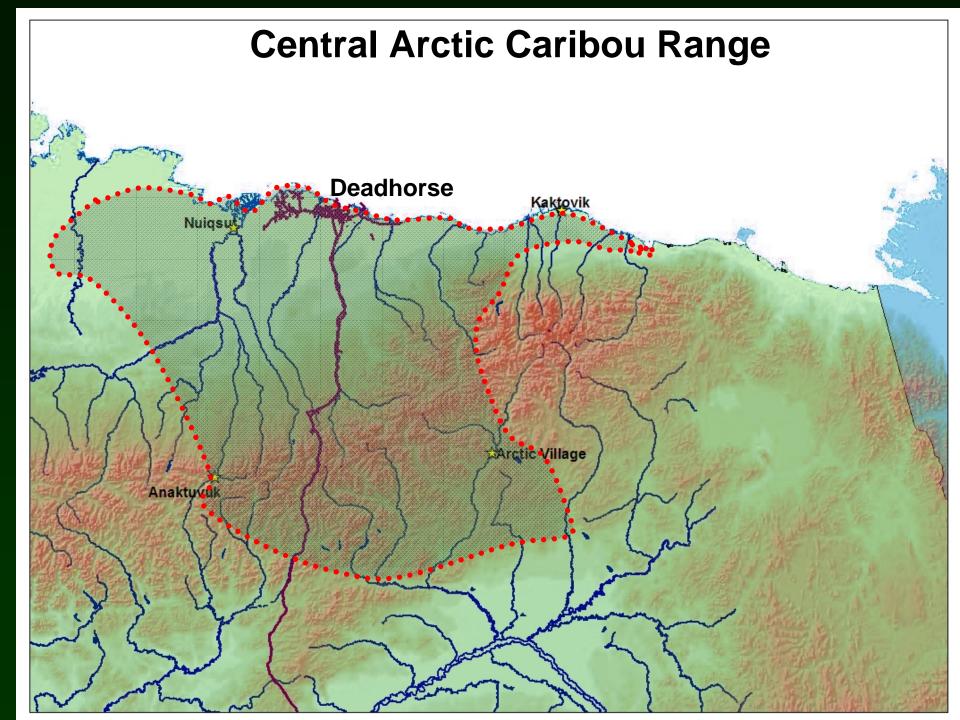
- > Limited access
- > 6 proposals

2. Declining PCH herd

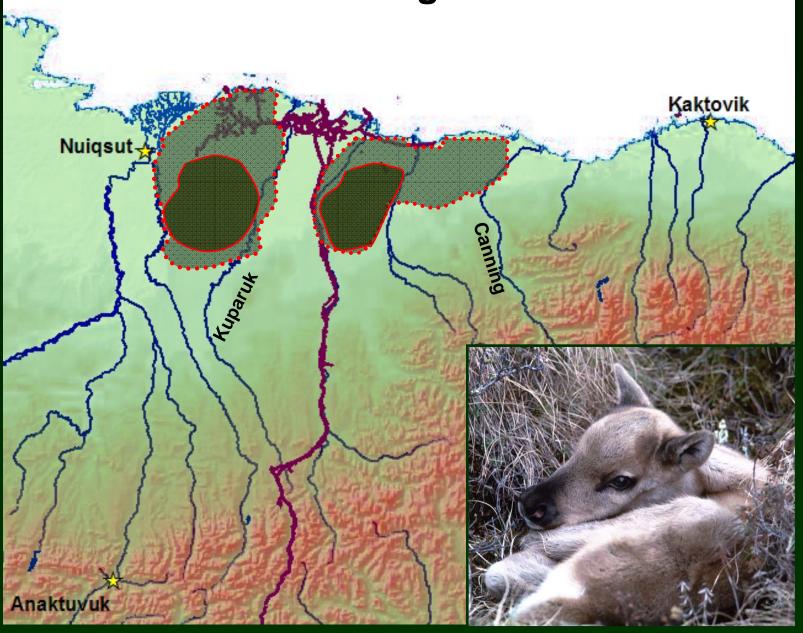
- Developing harvest strategies with Alaskans and Canada
- Estimating population size
- > 1 proposal

Central Arctic Caribou Herd

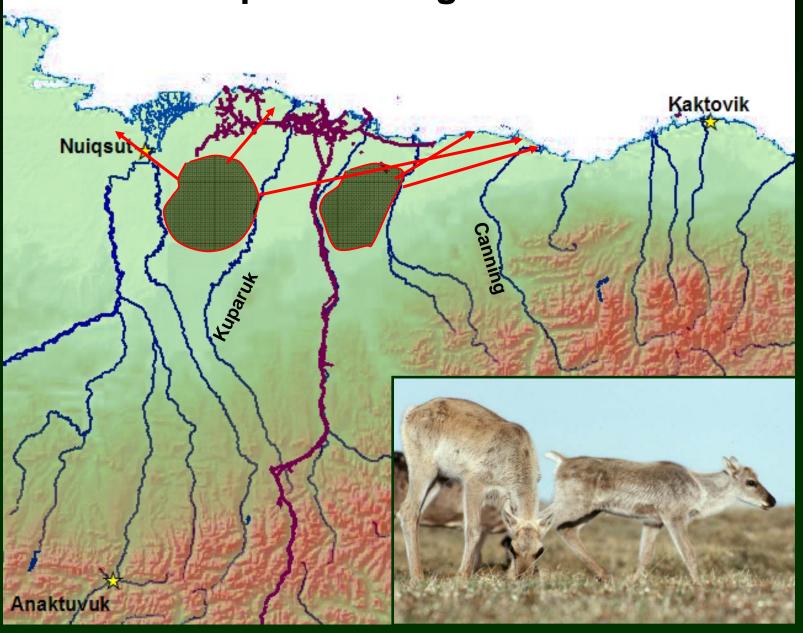


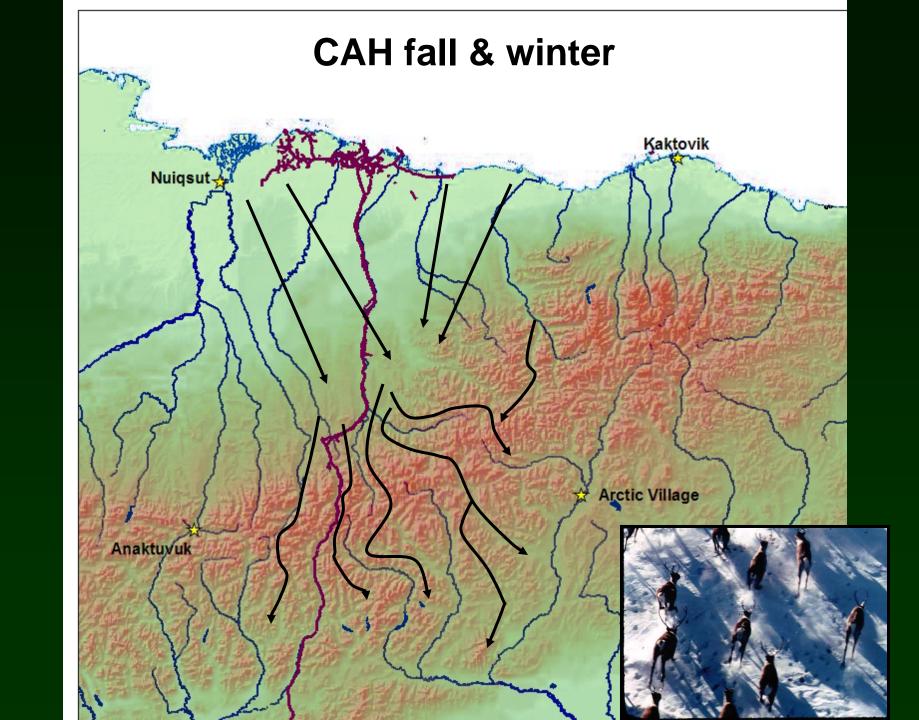


CAH Calving

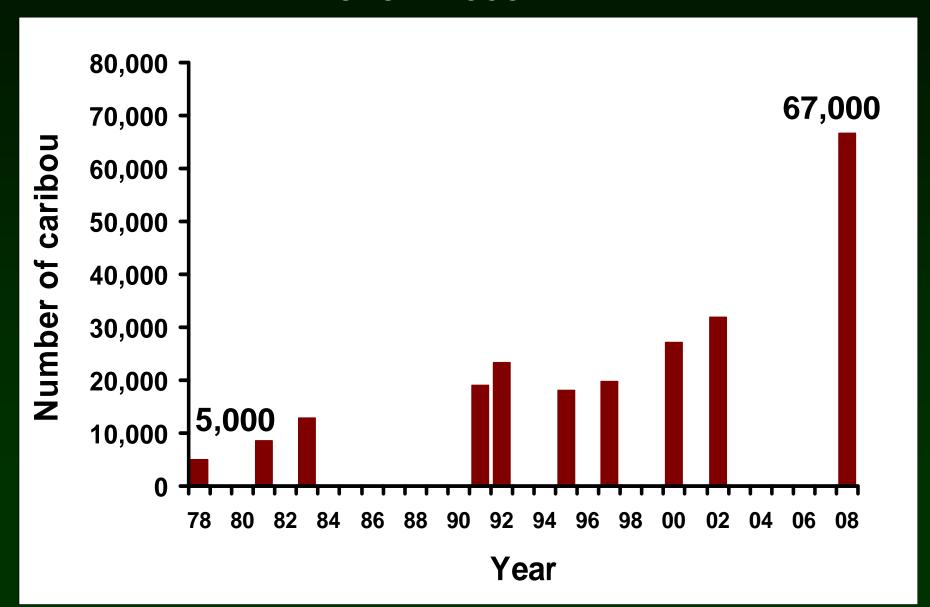


CAH post calving & summer

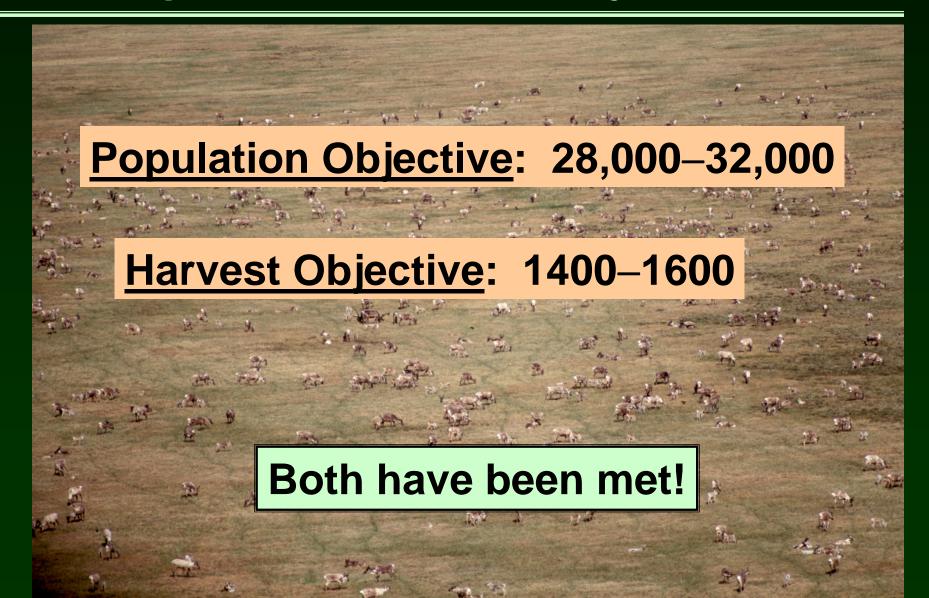




Central Arctic Caribou Population Size 1978 – 2008



Intensive Management Population & Harvest Objectives



Harvest of CAH

- ❖ 1400–1600 caribou harvested annually
 - < 3% harvest rate</p>

- ❖ 5% harvest rate = 3,350 caribou
 - 1,750 additional caribou

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

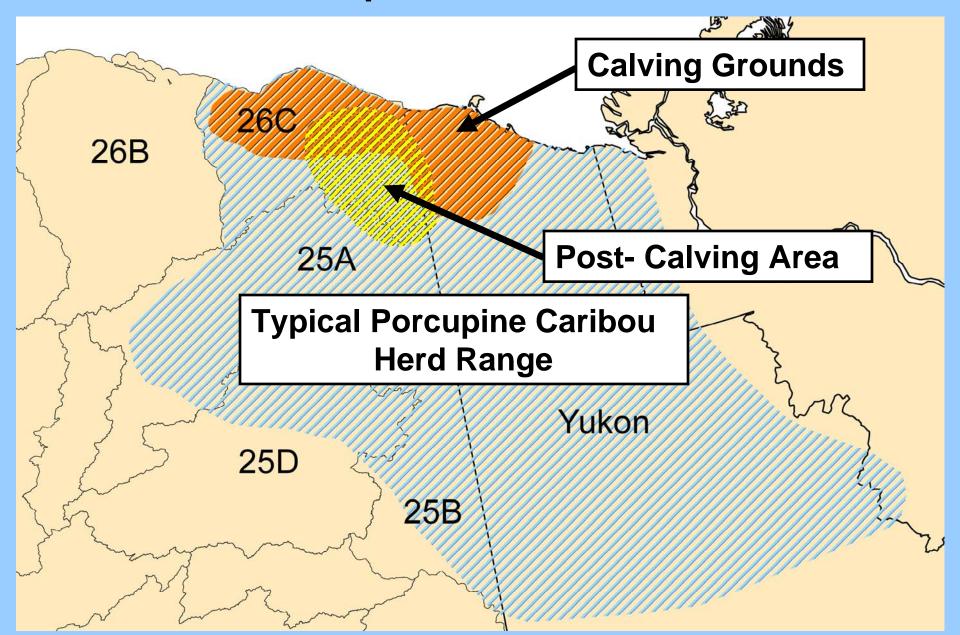
Conclusion

The CAH has increased substantially

❖ Harvest rate < 3%</p>

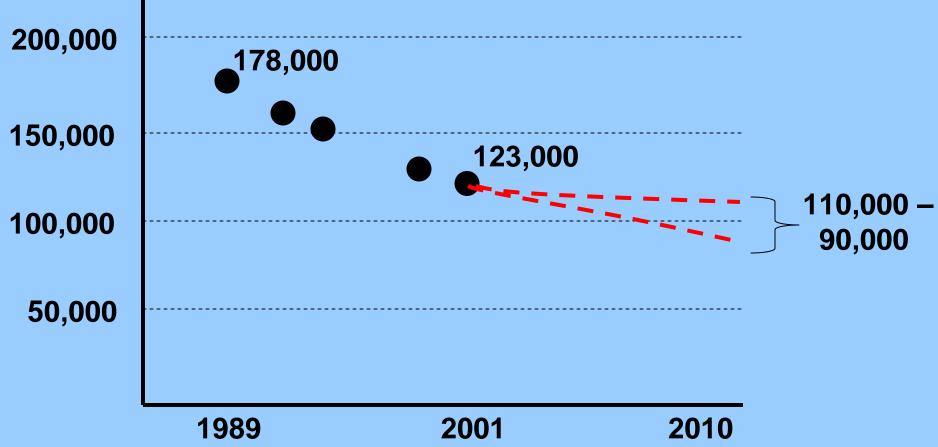
The herd can withstand more harvest

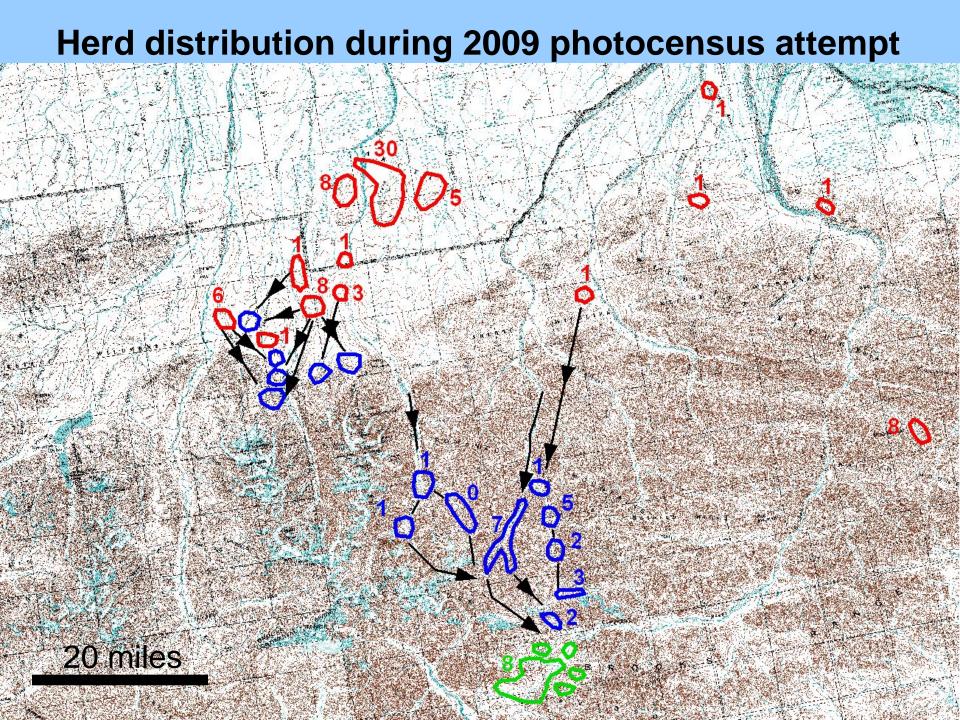
The Board will review 6 proposals related to the CAH



- 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)







- 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

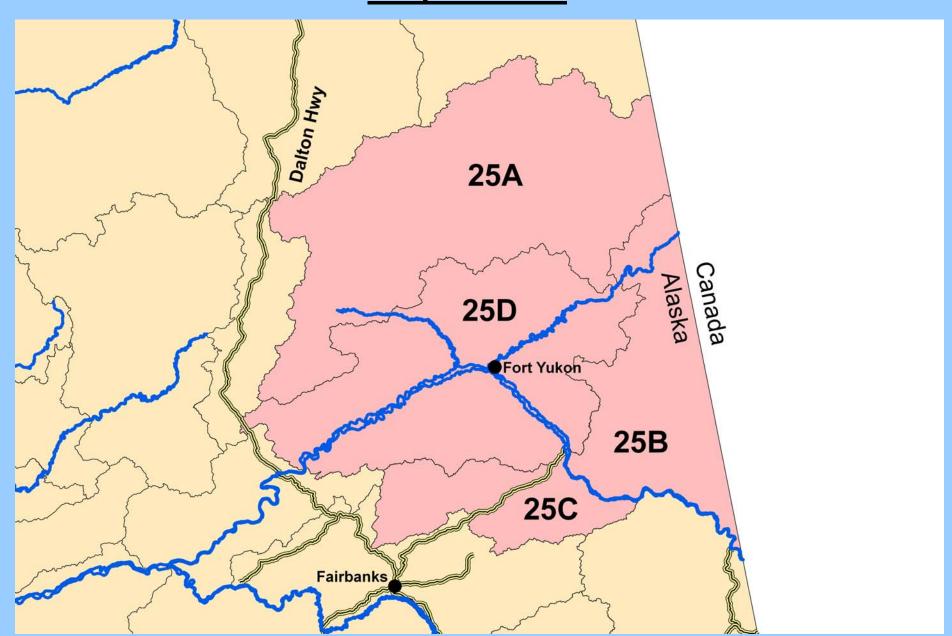
- Canada is in the process of regulating harvest through a harvest management plan
- Implemented interim season and bag limits for 2009-2010
 Licensed hunters limited to 1 bull
 Subsistence hunters limited to bulls only
 Mandatory harvest reporting
- Harvest management in Canada is a contentious issue 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

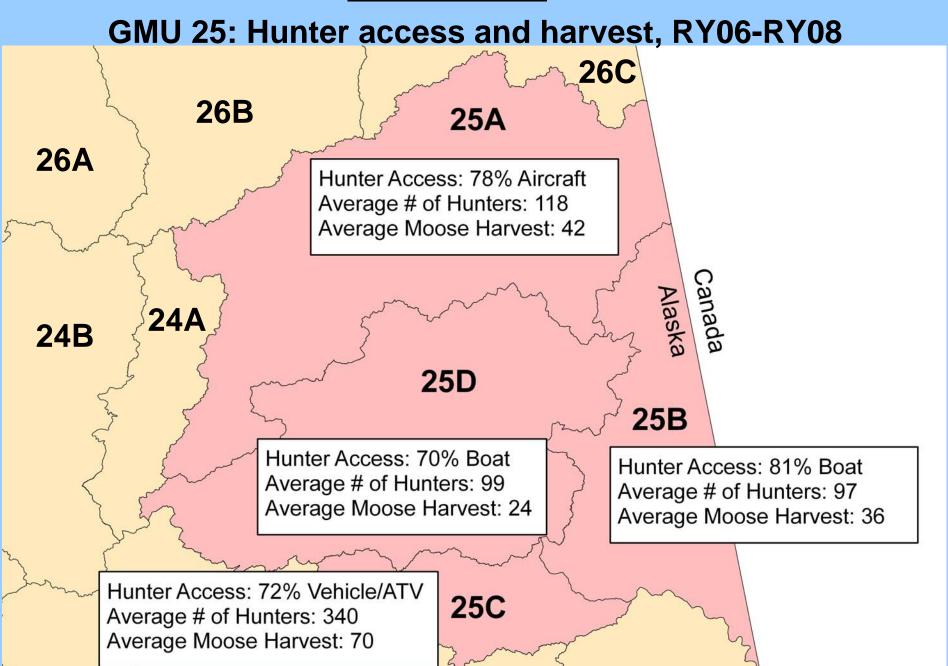
1 Proposal

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





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

Effect: 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

Proposed by: Anchorage AC

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt





26C Moose Regulations

NO open season in state regulations (Closed since 1996)

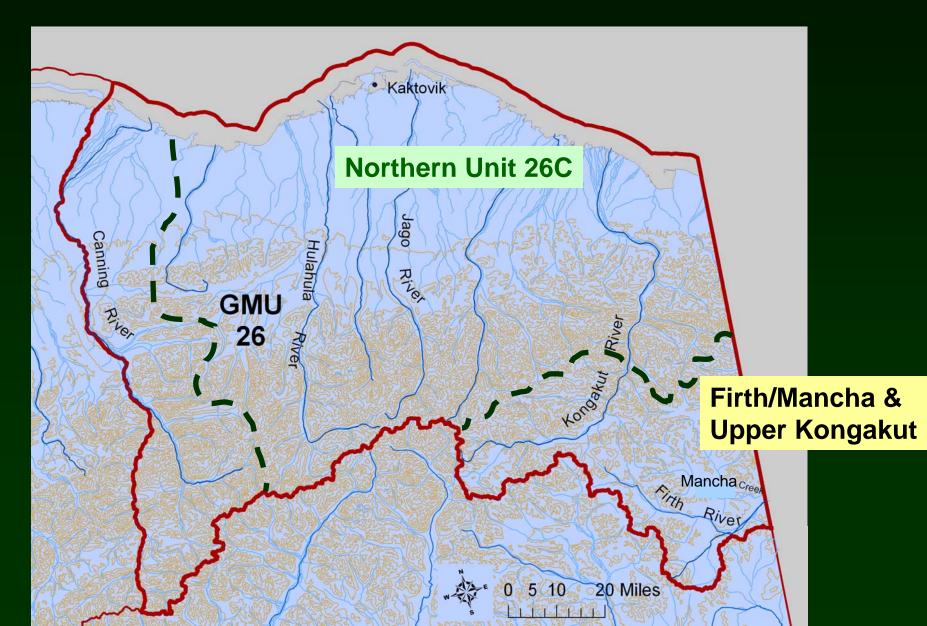
Open in Federal regulations (2 bulls total harvest quota)

26C Background

- 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



26C Moose survey areas





Northern 26C Spring Moose Surveys

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 Fall Moose Surveys

Year		Upper Kongakut	Total
1991	245	163	408
2000	87	70	157
2002	132	95	227

Moose movement - Eastern Unit 26C/Northern 25A **Fall Moose Movements** Winter in Firth -Spring Moose Movements ---Mancha, Kongakut, Coleen, Sheenjek Kongakut Firth-Mancha Unit **25A** Old Crow **Flats** °2005 Google Streaming ||||||| 100% Eye alt 83.84 m

Firth/Mancha/Upper Kongakut cont'd

Historical reported harvest was 2 to 4usually 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

EFFECT: Develop management plan for the Central Arctic caribou herd

Proposed by: Public

Recommendation: Take No Action

EFFECT: Increase bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B

Proposed by: ADF&G

Recommendation: AMEND & ADOPT

Original proposal 104 regulations

Unit & Bag Limit

Northwest 26B

day Resid:-10-caribou/year

Nonresid: 5 caribou/year

Remainder 26B

Resident & Noresident:

5 caribou/year; however, cow caribou may be taken

1 Oct—30 Apr

1 Sep

Resident **Open Season**

1 July-30 Apr

1 July-30 Apr

1 July-30 Apr

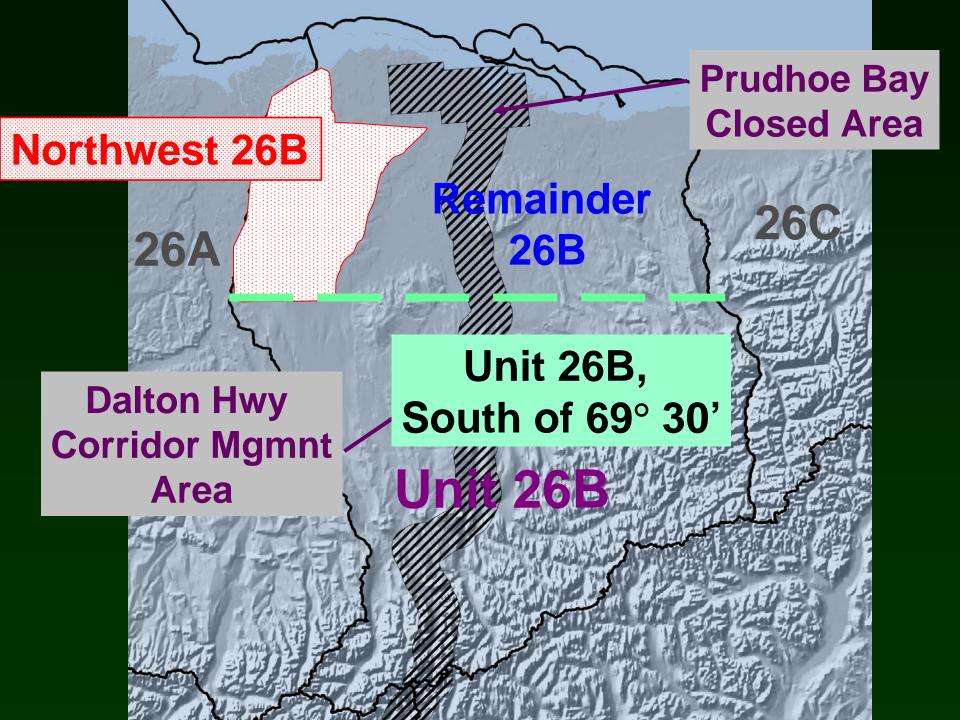
1 July-30 Apr

Nonresident

Open Season

Amended 104 regulations

- Extends the season & eliminates restriction on cow harvest
- Results in 3 areas different regulations
 - Northwest Unit 26B
 - > Unit 26B, South of 69° 30' N. lat.
 - Remainder Unit 26B (new)
 - The amendment incorporates elements of public proposal 103



Amended 104 regulations

Unit & Bag Limit

Resident
Open Season

Nonresident

Open Season

Northwest 26B

5 day <u>Resid</u>: 10 caribou/year

However, only bulls may be taken May 16–June 30

June 1 July–30-Apr

Nonresid: 5 caribou/year

1 July-30 Apr

Amended 104 regulations cont'd

Unit & Bag Limit

Resident
Open Season

Nonresident

Open Season

Unit 26B, South of 69° 30'

Resident & Noresident:

5 caribou/year

However, only bulls may be taken May 16-June 30

1 July-30 June

1 July-30 June

Amended 104 regulations cont'd

Unit & Bag Limit

Resident
Open Season

Nonresident

Open Season

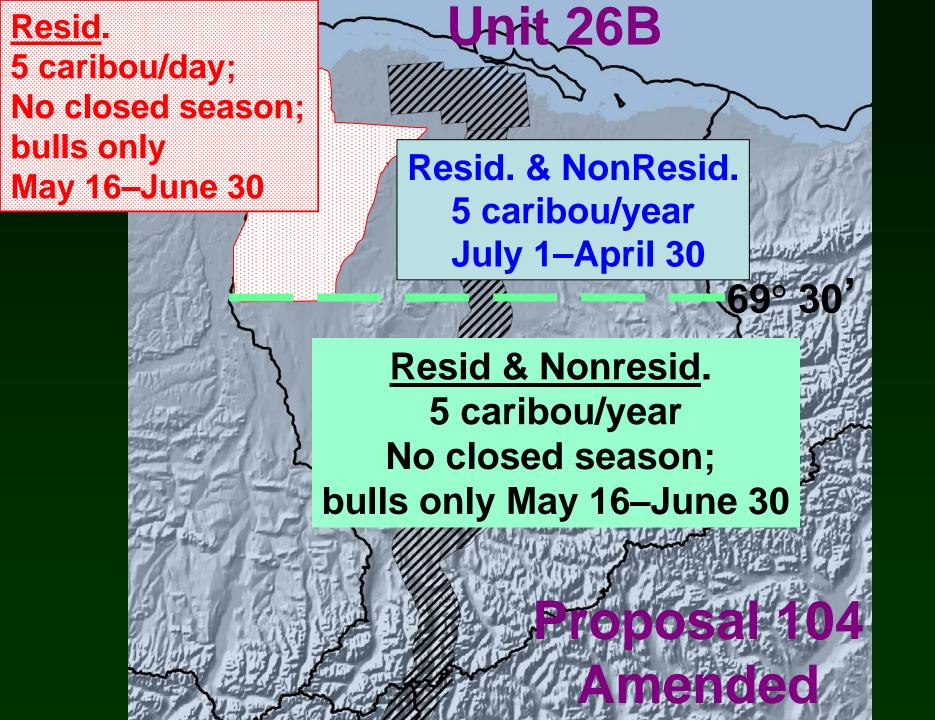
Remainder Unit 26B

Resident & Noresident:

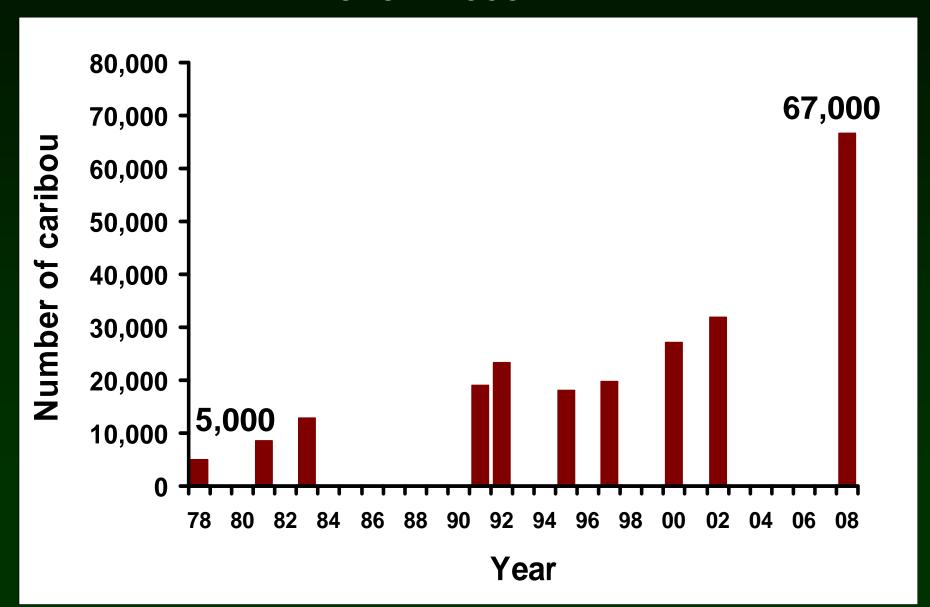
5 caribou/year; however, cow caribou may be taken

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% Nonresidents75% 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

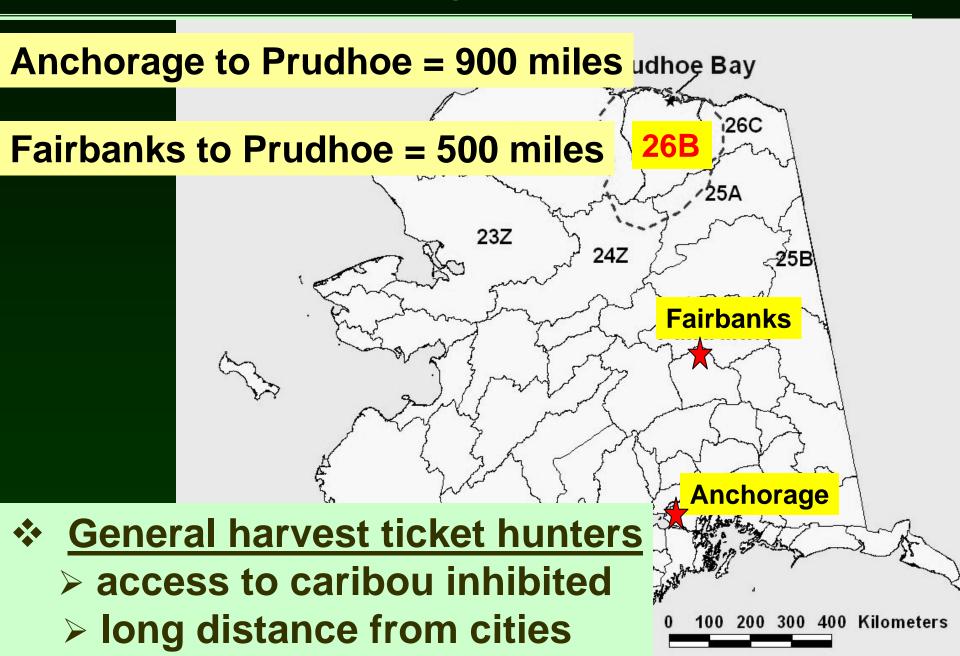
1,750 additional caribou

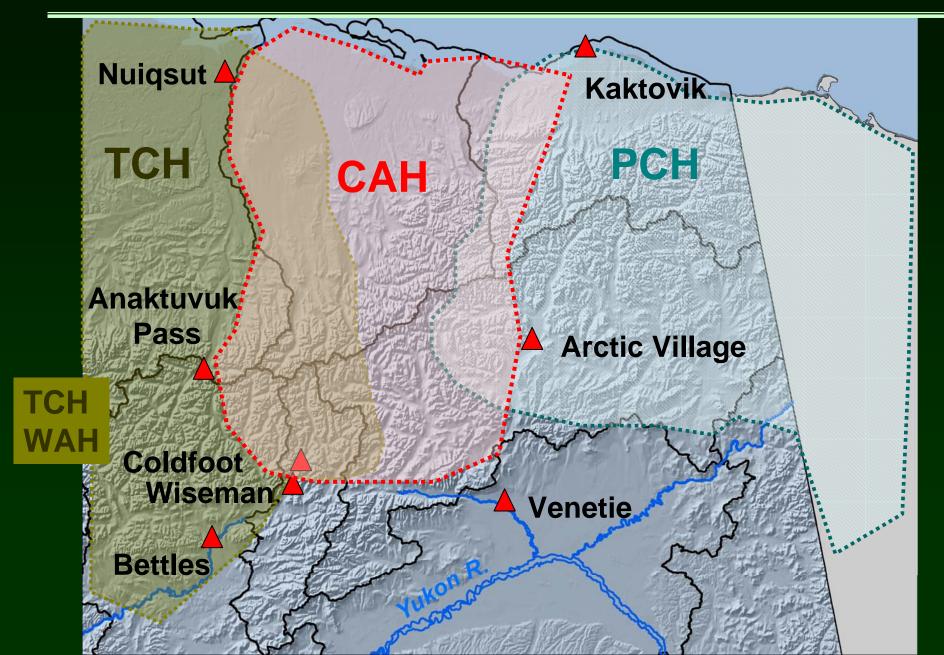




- General harvest ticket hunters
 - > access to caribou inhibited

50 % access by vehicle 15–30% access by airplane 20% by boat & airboat





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

Proposal 104 Conclusion

The CAH has increased substantially

❖ Harvest rate < 3%</p>

❖ The herd can withstand more harvest

Proposal 104 Conclusion cont'd

EFFECT: 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

EFFECT: 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

EFFECT: 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

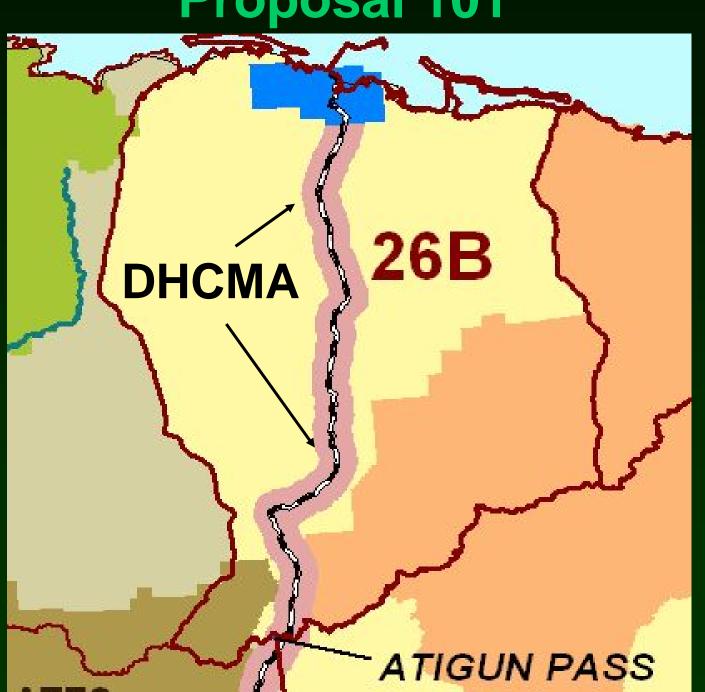
Recommendation: Take No Action

EFFECT: 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

Proposed by: Public

Recommendation: 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, skiing w/ sleds/polks, and canoes

EFFECT: 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

Proposed by: Public

Recommendation: No Recommendation

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

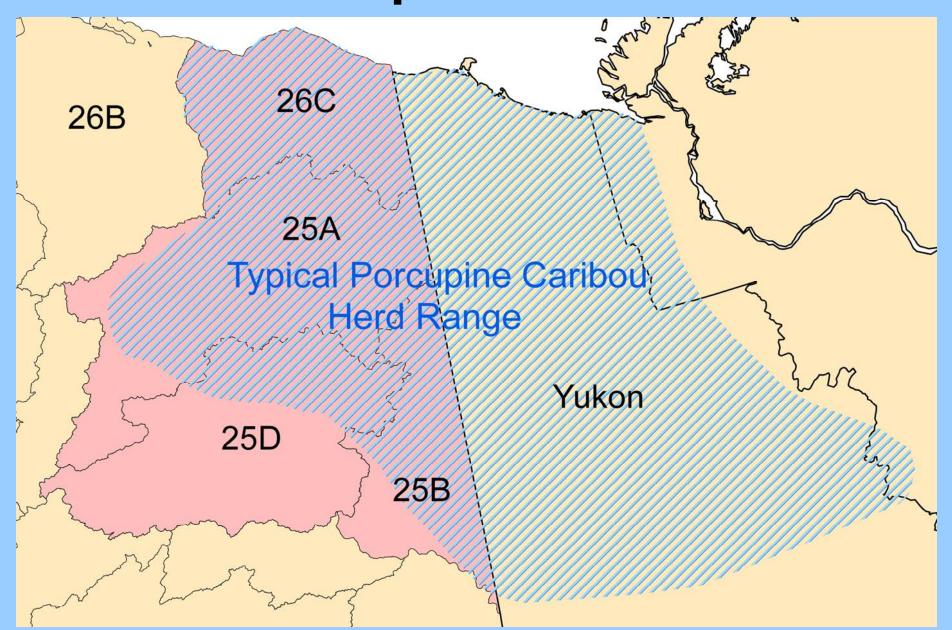
Bag Limit: From 5 caribou to 1 bull

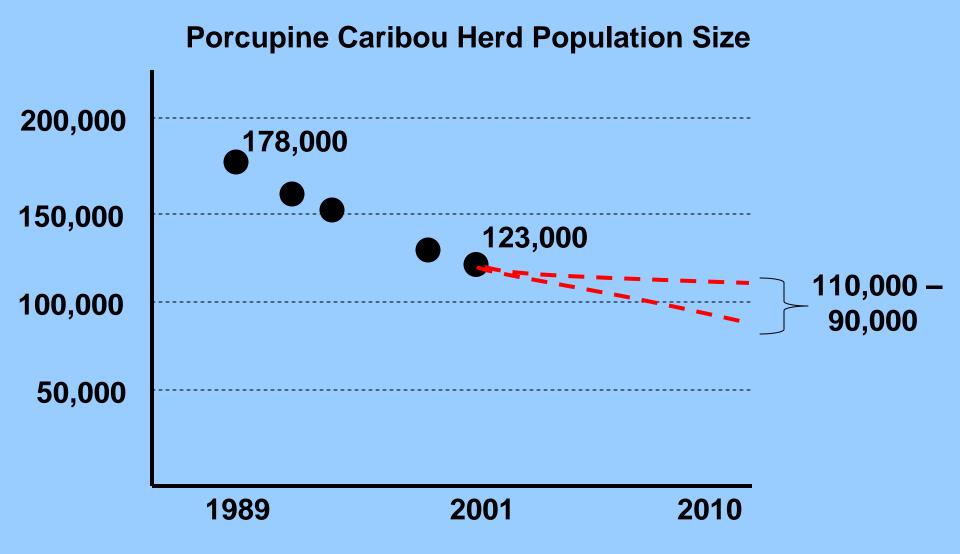
Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

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 16 – June 30.

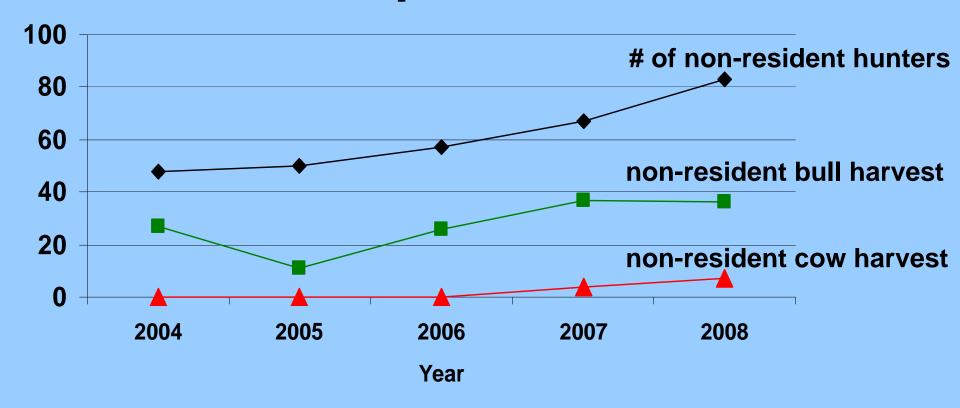
This amendment incorporates elements of public Proposal 100 and Department Proposal 104, liberalizing seasons and bag limits for Central Arctic Caribou.



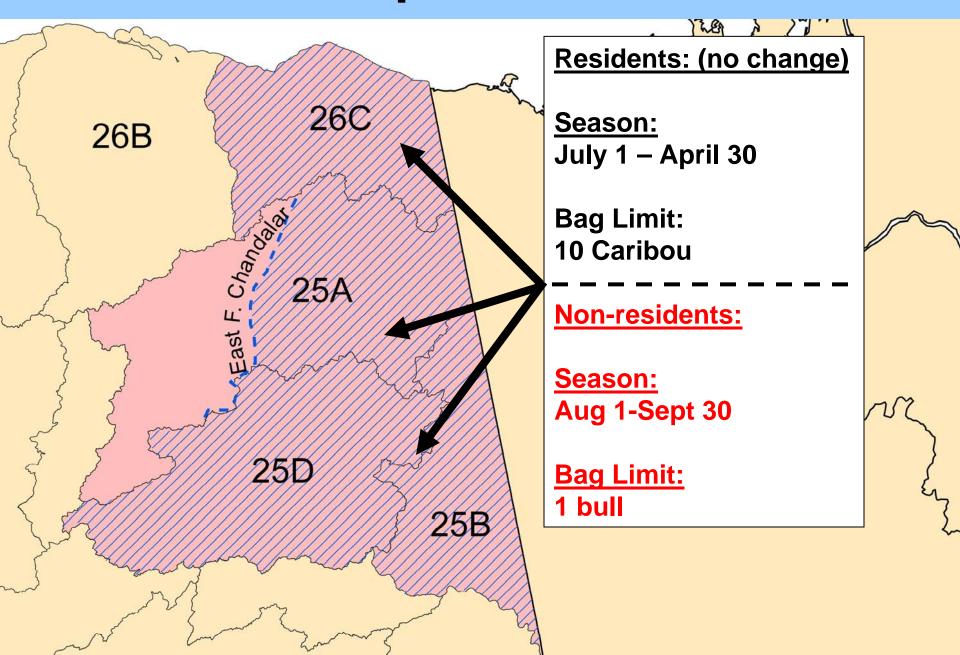


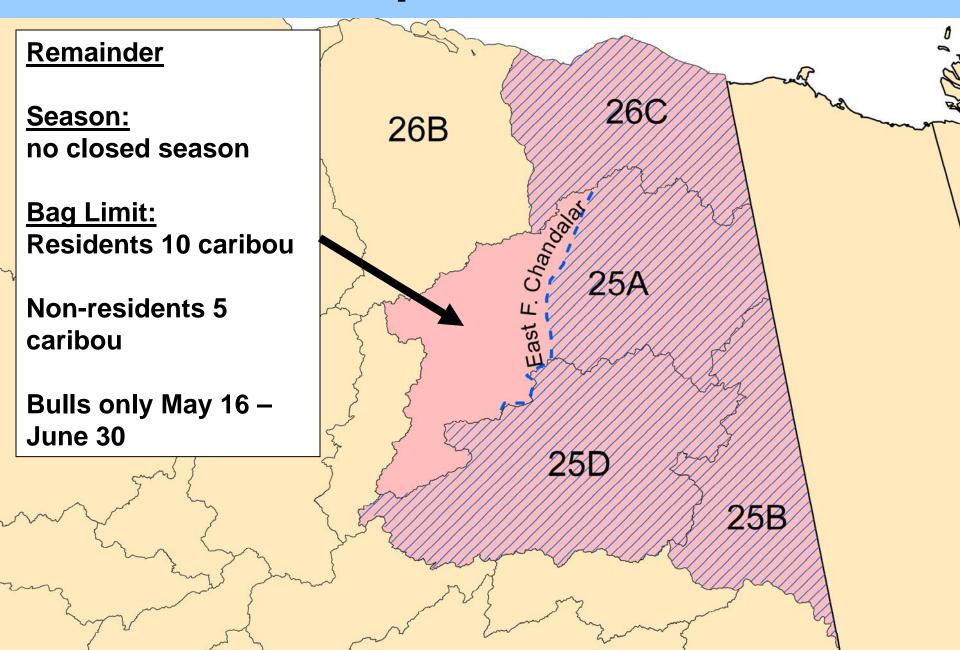
- Current harvest is poorly documented
- Past harvest was estimated at 4,000- 6,000 annually
- About 85% of harvest occurs in Canada (most by subsistence hunters)
- About 15% of harvest occurs in Alaska (most by local Alaskan resident hunters)
- Non-resident Alaska harvest accounts for less than 1% of total harvest

- 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



- Slight increasing trend in the total number of non-resident hunters, bull harvest, and cow harvest
- > 99% of non-resident hunting occurs in Aug-Sep
- < 1% of non-resident harvest more than 1 caribou





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

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 16 – June 30.

Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

EFFECT: Extends the caribou hunting season for residents in a portion of western Unit 25A from July 1-April 30 to no closed season, however, only velvet antiered bulls may be taken from May 1-June 30.

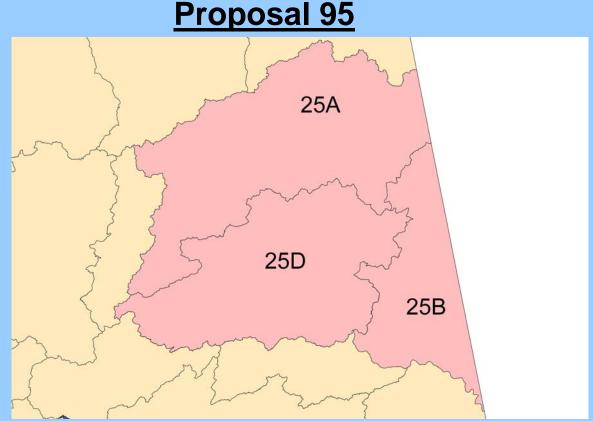
Proposed by: Public

Recommendation: Take No Action

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



- 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

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.

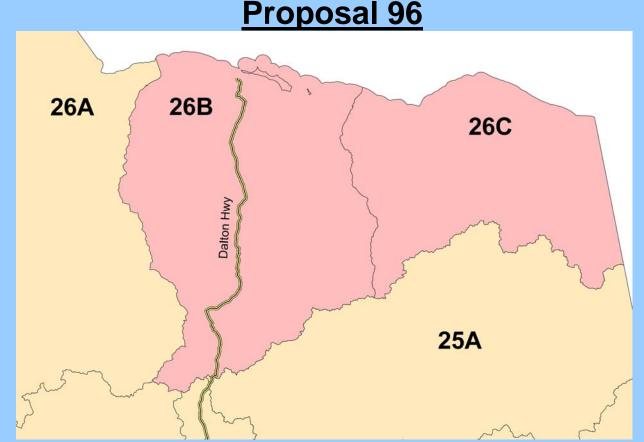
Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

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



- 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 conservations concerns associated with extended trapping season

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

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

. . .

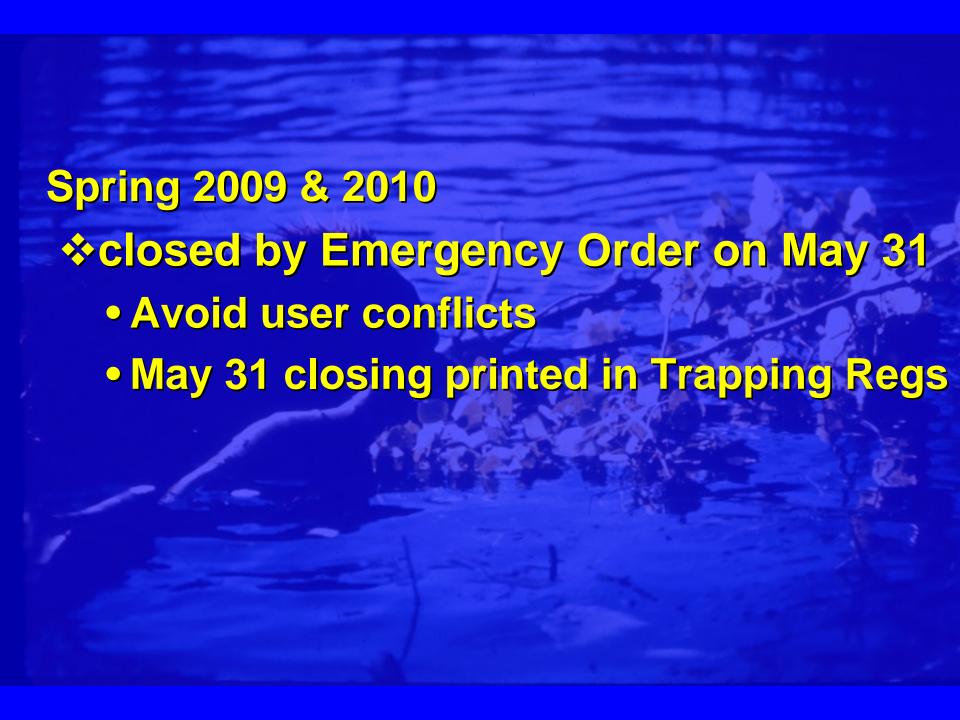
Remainder of Unit 20B, and Unit 20D

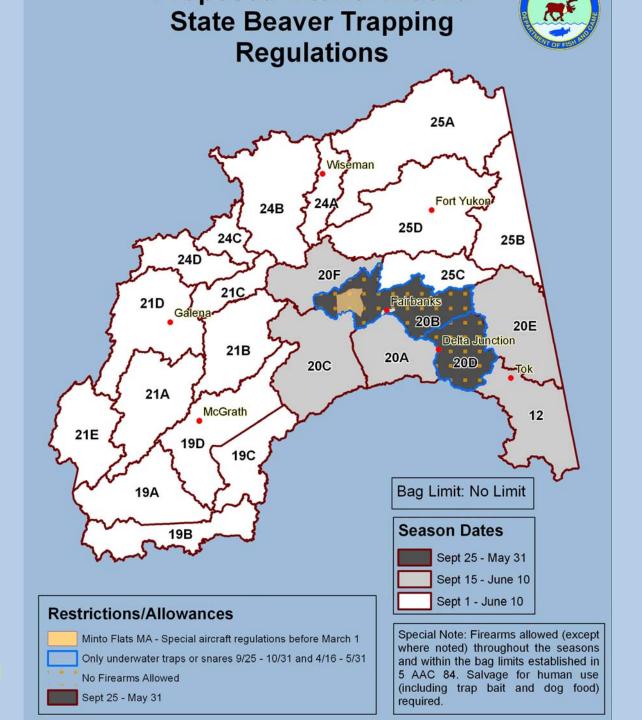
Sept. 25-May 31 No limit.

[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**



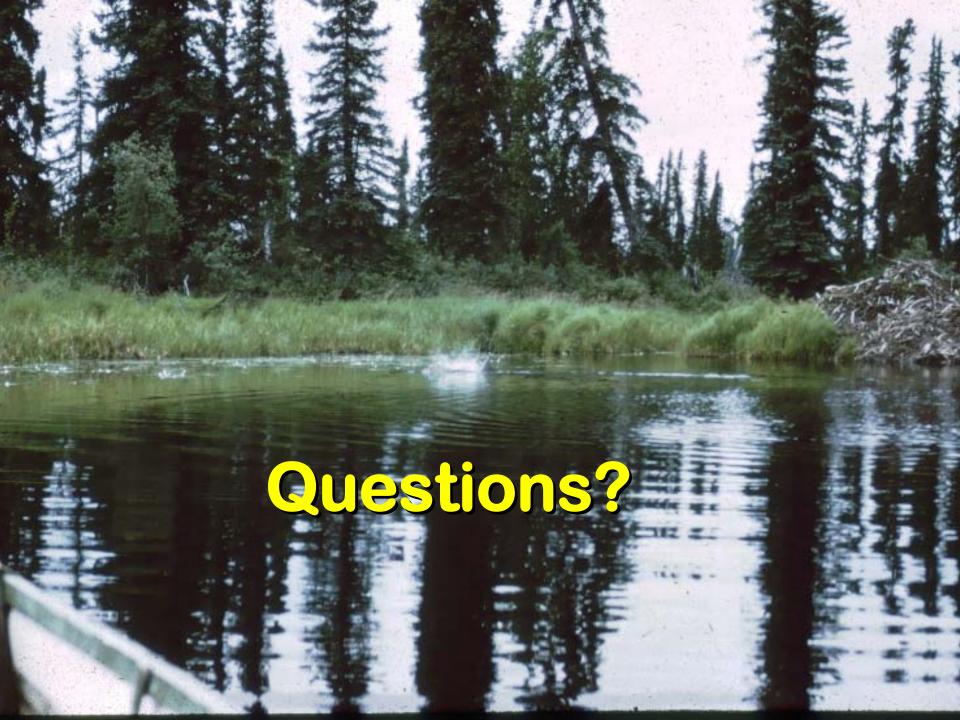


Proposal #1 — Correct error in Beaver Trapping Regulations

Remainder of Unit 20B and Unit 20D

Department Recommendation

Adopt





Species and Units Open Season Bag Limit

(1) Beaver

...

Remainder of

Unit 20B,

and Unit 20D limit.

Sept. 25-May 31

No

[SEPT. 25-JUNE 10]

Effects of the Proposal: Establish a no closed hunting season for coyotes in Unit 20.

Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

- 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.

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

- 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.

Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

Effects of the proposal: Shorten the trapping season for lynx in Unit 20 and 25C to December 1- February 28.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

This proposal is an allocation issue.

 The Department has no biological concerns with the proposal associated with lynx harvest or management.

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.

 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

 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.

- 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.

- 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.

Recommendation: No recommendation

 Effects of the Proposal: Require a 72 hour trap check for all trappers in Region III.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

- 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.

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.

 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 92.080 (artificial light) & 5AAC 92.260 (cubs and sows with cubs)
When harvesting black bears at dens Oct 15 – April 30

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

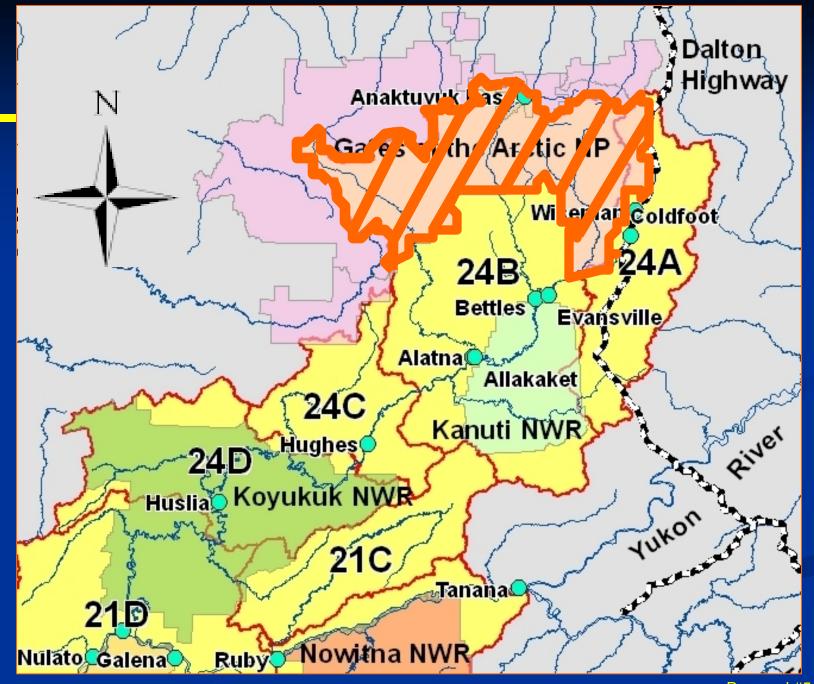
- Method History
 - > Ongoing but illegal many years
 - Customary & Traditional Use
 - >C&T Worksheets
 - Found in RC 3
 - **Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24**
 - **♦Unit 25**

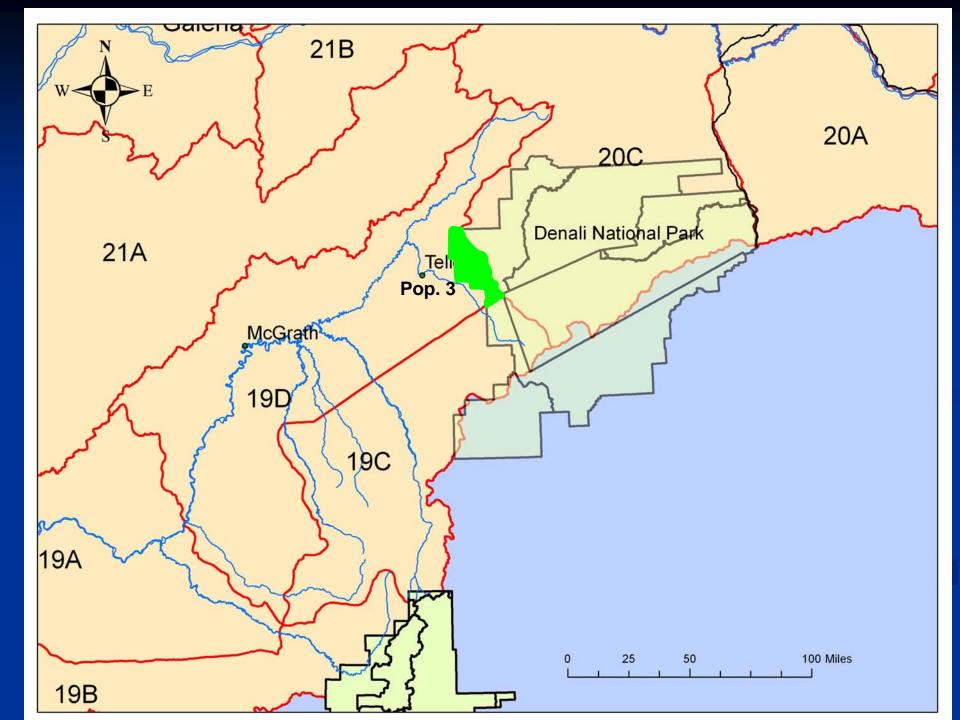
- Method History cont.
 - > 2008 Board
 - legalized denning by residents only
 - October 15 April 30
 - -Artificial lights at black bear dens *5AAC 92.080
 - -Take of cubs and sows with cubs *5AAC 92.260

- Method History cont.
 - >2008 Board
 - **Locations:**
 - >Units 24, 21B, 21C, 21D, 24, 25D,
 - ➤ Units 19A, 19D East (upstream of Selatna & Black drainages)

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





- 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

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

- Black Bear Denning
 - Customary & Traditional
 - Provides resident hunter opportunity
 - >Low harvest
 - No risk to black bear populations



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

5AAC 92.080 (artificial light) & 5AAC 92.260 (cubs and sows w/ cubs) When denning during Oct 15–Apr 30

Questions?



— Proposal #7 Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 5AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting black bear with bait

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt



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

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

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 Mar 25 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

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

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**

— Proposal #7 Longer spring black bear baiting season, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 5AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting black bear with bait

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

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 #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



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 — 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



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



Proposal #8 — Allow guides to maintain clients' bait stations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Proposed Regulations:

Legal Responsibility?



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 #10 — Allow black bear hunters in Unit 20 to salvage either hide or meat during June 1— Dec. 31

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation Allocation issue



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

- 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

- 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

- 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





- 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 <u>or</u> the edible meat
 - of a black bear taken in a unit where sealing is <u>not</u> required



- 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



(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

- 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

- 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

- If proposal 11 passed
 - > board may wish to consider whether to
 - ◆ Allow meat or hide salvage in Unit 20B &
 - ◆ Add Unit 20B change to 92.220OR
 - 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

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

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

Allocation issue

- 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

Department Recommendation

Adopt

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

Current Regulations

- No Sealing required
- No Harvest Ticket required
 - Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C
 - very low harvest

Current Regulations

- Black bear sealing
 - > required if hide goes out of state
 - All hides
 - **All units**
 - Any length of time
 - Tanned out of state

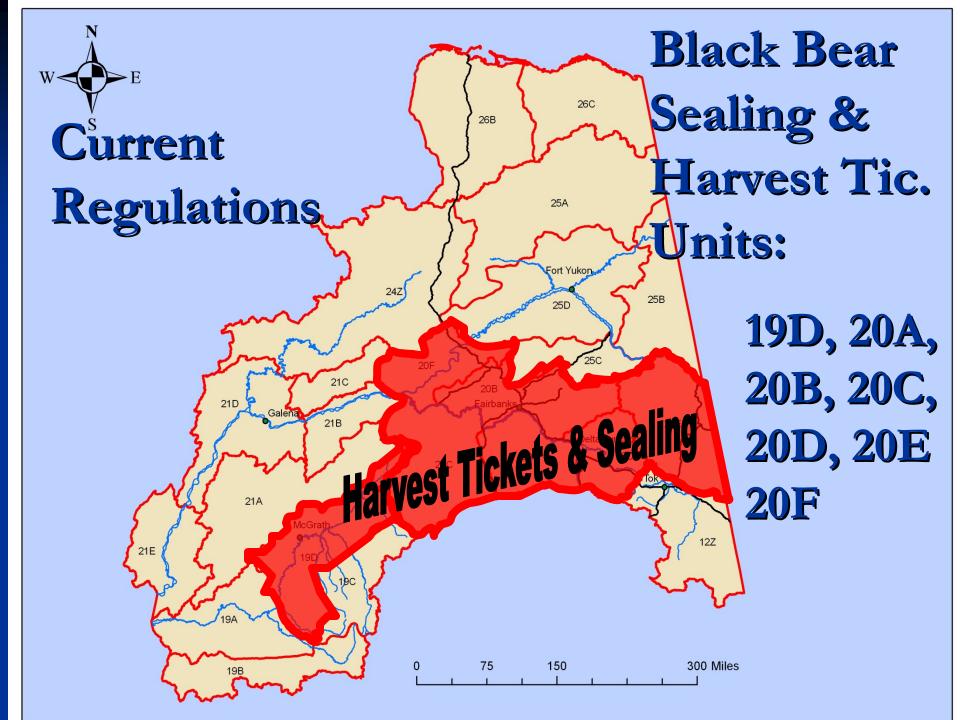
Proposed Regulations

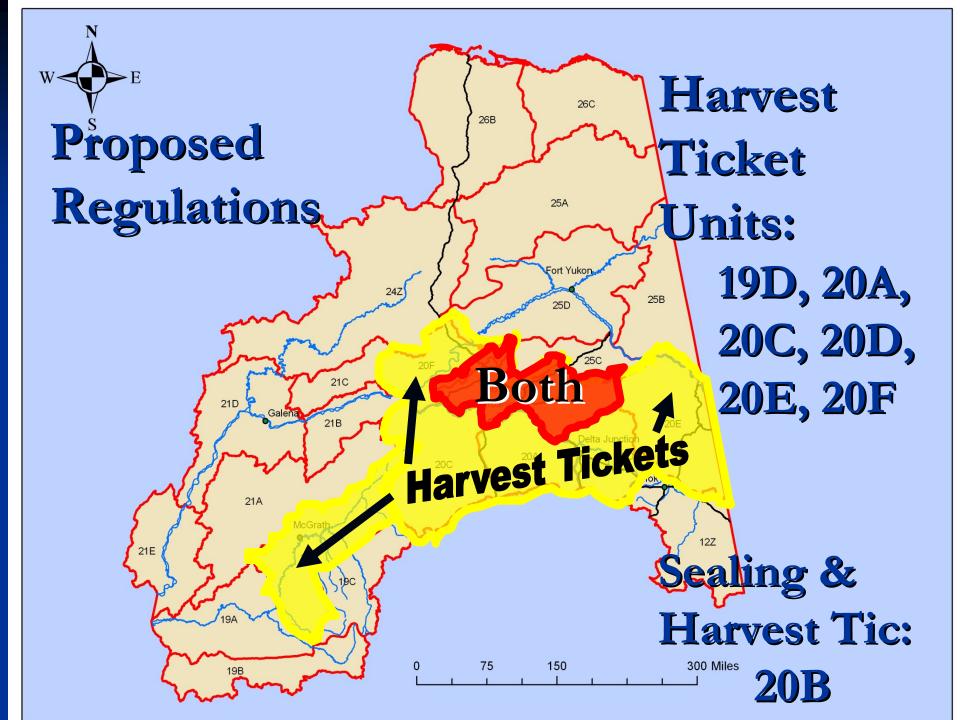
- Black bear Sealing & Harvest Tickets
 - > **Unit 20B**
- Harvest Tickets only
 - > Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20C, 20D, 20E, 20F
- No Sealing Harvest Ticket
 Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C

Current Regulations

- Black bear sealing > required if h a sealing sout of state

 - All bides AIGS ANGE
 - Any length of time
 - Tanned out of state





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

Harvest Tickets

Easy to get

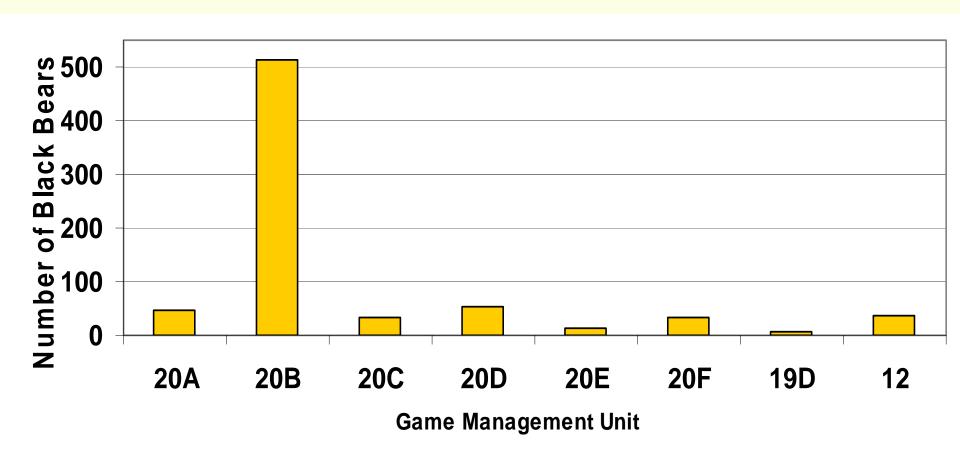
- ***ADF&G offices**
- License Vendors
- Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)

Harvest Tickets

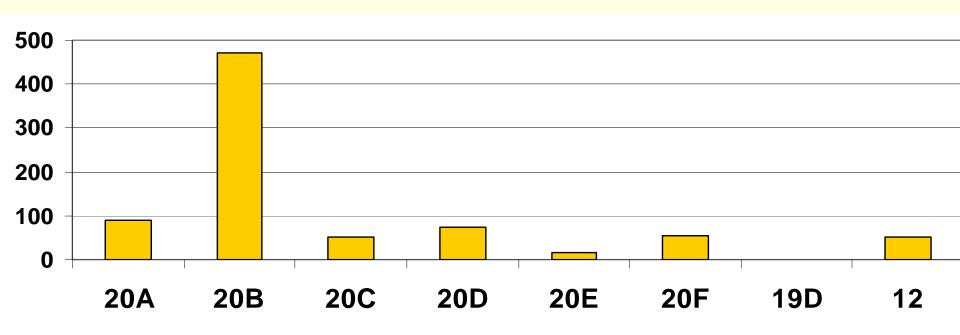
- Easy to report
 - ***ADF&G** offices
 - ***Mail**
 - Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)
 - No penalty for failure to report

- 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

Average Annual Harvest RY88-RY08

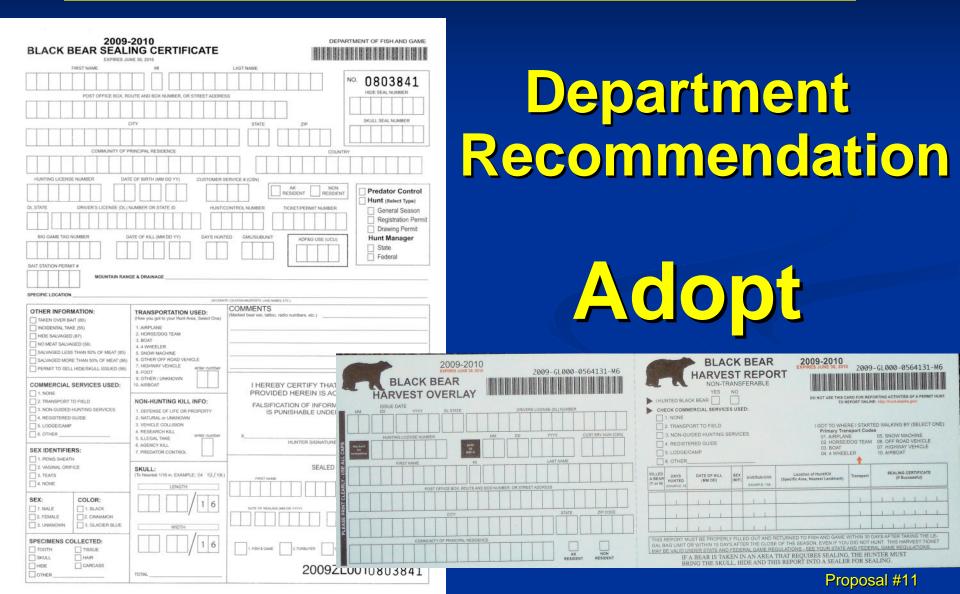


Average Annual Bait Stations Registered RY04-RY08



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



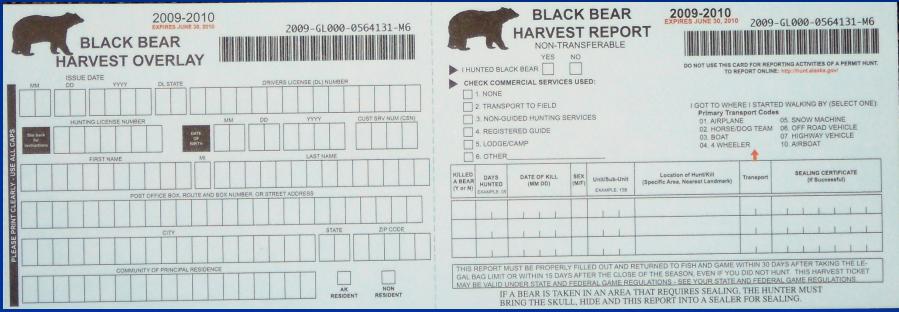
Department Recommendation

Adopt

- Sealing data
- Hunter Info
- Hunt type
- Tag numbers
- Days hunted
- Date of Kill
- Sex
- Location

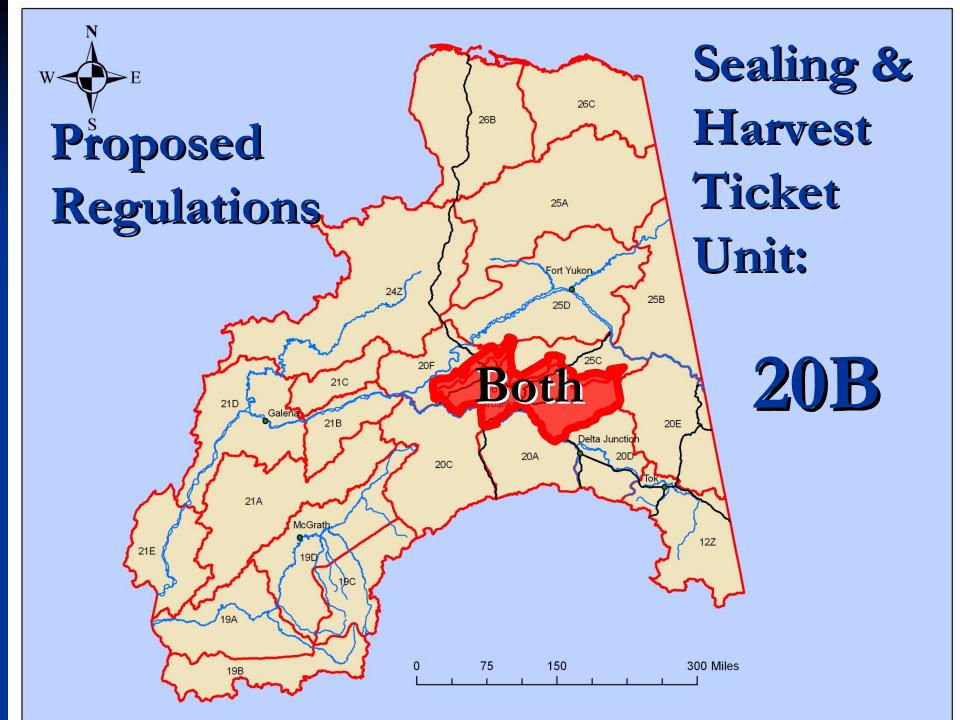


Harvest Ticket data collected



- Hunter info
- Commercial Service
- Transportation
- Hunted or not

- Days hunted (even if no kill)
- Date of Kill
- Sex
- Location



Proposal #12 5 AAC 92.015 Region 3 Grizzly bear tag fee exemptions

Department Recommendation

ADOPT

Proposal #12 — 5AAC 92.015 Region 3 Grizzly tag fee exemptions

Resident Hunter

Grizzly bear tag fee exemptions

- Part 1
 - **Reauthorize**
- Part 2
 - New Exemptions

Proposal #12 — 5AAC 92.015 Region 3 Grizzly tag fee exemptions

Resident Hunter

Grizzly bear tag fee exemptions

- Part 1
 - **Reauthorize**
- Part 2
 - snotiquex3 well *

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	∞	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

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

Proposal #12 — 5AAC 92.015 Region 3 Grizzly tag fee exemptions

Resident Hunter

Grizzly tag fee exemptions

- Part de Banzono
 - BAGBEAR 2010 Resultante
- Part 2
 - New 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**

- Region 3 grizzly populations healthy
 - Kill rate of at least 6% is sustainable
 - >Harvest is below 6%

- 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

- Region 3 Grizzly Objective
 - Manage for maximum opportunity
 - >Sustainable
 - >Opportunistic harvest is high
 - ► Manage harvest with seasons, bag limits, & permits

Simplify Current Resident regs

- Always need a grizzly bear tag
- Sometimes need a grizzly bear tag
- Never grizzly bear tag needed
- *Annual board reauthorization

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**

Simplify Current Resident regs

- Always
- Sometimes need a grizzly bear tag...

(unless hunter has subsistence pmt)

▶19B along Aniak river & downstream, & 24

Never

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

5 AAC 92.015

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

- (4) <u>Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C</u>
- (4) CNUT 19A AND UNIT 19D;
- (5) UNIT 20D;
- (6) UNIT 20E, THAT PORTION OUTSIDE OF YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE;
- (7) UNIT 215, UNIT 21D, AND UNIT 21E;









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- (6) UNIT 20E, THAT PORTION OUTSIDE OF YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE;
- (7) UNIT 215, UNIT 21D, AND UNIT 21E;

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



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.

<u>Upper Tanana–Fortymile & Eagle ACs:</u> Support <u>ADF&G Recommendation:</u> Adopt

- 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)

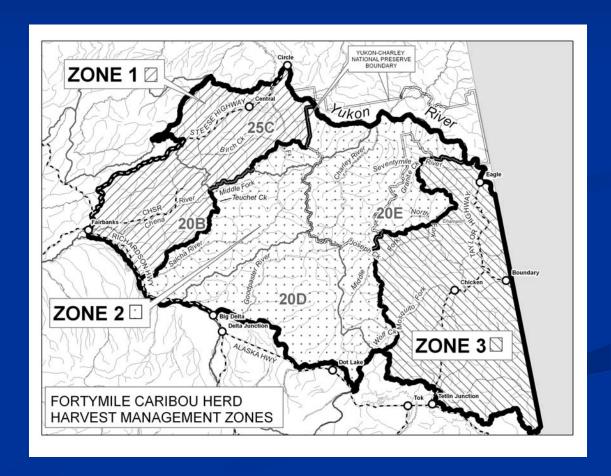
Purpose of Proposal 14

- 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 FCHHarvest Plan



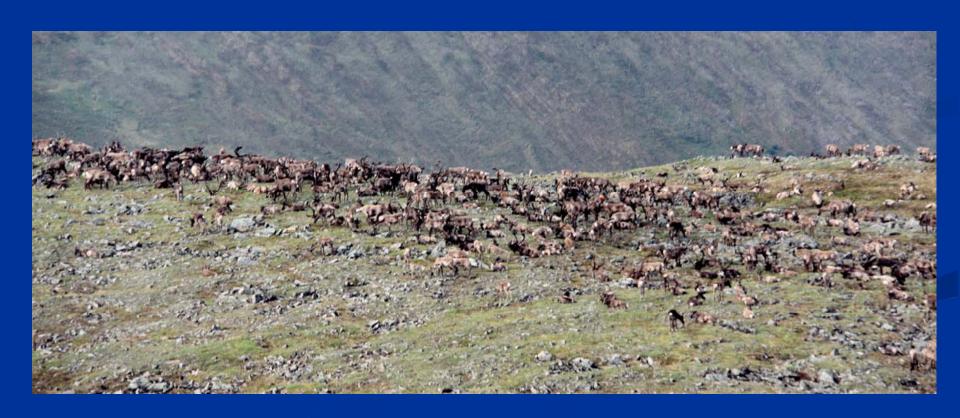
Purpose of Proposal 14

- FCH Hunt 3 Primary Issues Identified
 - 3) Short season length
 - Reasonable Opportunity for State Subsistence Hunters? (Subsistence Law)





- FCH Hunt 4 Recommended Changes
 - 1) Later season opening in Zones 1 & 3
 - > August 10th to August 29th



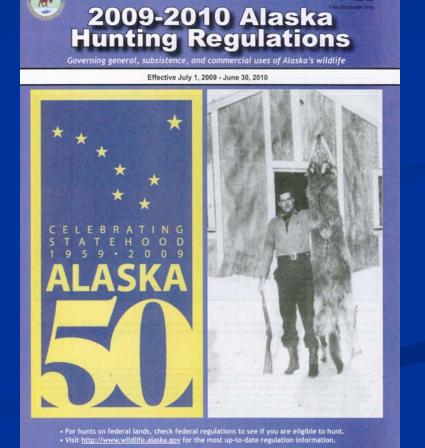
- FCH Hunt 4 Recommended Changes
 - 2) Resident bag limit fall hunt
 - > Change from either-sex bag to bulls only
 - Reduces flock shooting
 - > Cow harvest reserved for winter subsistence hunt



- FCH Hunt 4 Recommended Changes
- 3) Temporary
 Closures and
 Weapons
 Restrictions
 - Specific problems
 - Roadside harvest



- 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.

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

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.

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)

4. Geographic Areas

- 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.

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.

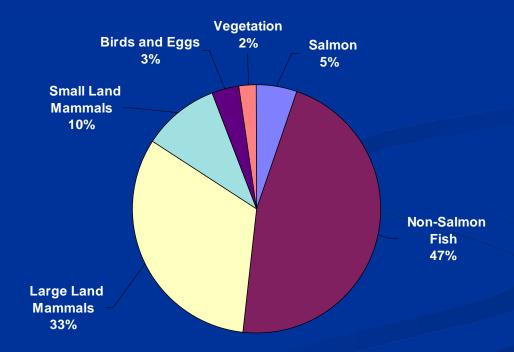
6. Intergenerational transmission of knowledge

- 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

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. Diversity of resources in an area



Reported Harvest Fortymile Caribou 1996 – 2009, Fall hunt

FALL	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	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	68	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 ~ <u>142 days</u>, 1 caribou; closed by E.O. when harvest quota reached.

Hunting Opportunity, 1996 - 2009

	3 zones Remote and Total Fa	dents seases: Steese (20B and Taylor (20B all Quota bulls Remote of 52 day	e (20E), d 20D), 25C) a of 100 Taylor		AK resident only hunt, Total Winter Quota of 50 bulls Steese Taylor (out of 90 days of					
YEAR	•	pportunity			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		2 ²	7				
2002	52	52	29		7	2				
2003	48	42	52		2 ³	90¹				
2004	52	52	52		3	90¹				
2005	52	34	10		90	90¹				
2006	52	52	8		9	14 ¹				
2007	52	52	4		2	2 ¹				
2008	5	44	7		4	14¹				
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 Hyw										
3. Delayed	d hunt open	ing; EO - ⊦	lunt Opened	d 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

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

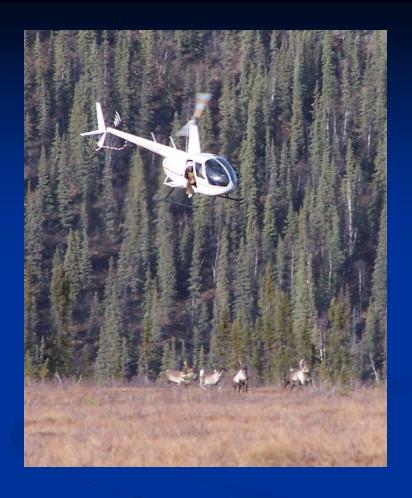
> Excessive population objectives

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



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

Proposal #16 Longer Sheep Hunting Season for Alaska Residents

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

Proposal #16 Allow Earlier Sheep Hunting for Alaska Residents

All of Region III:
Units 12, 19, 20, 21,
24, 25, 26B, & 26C

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

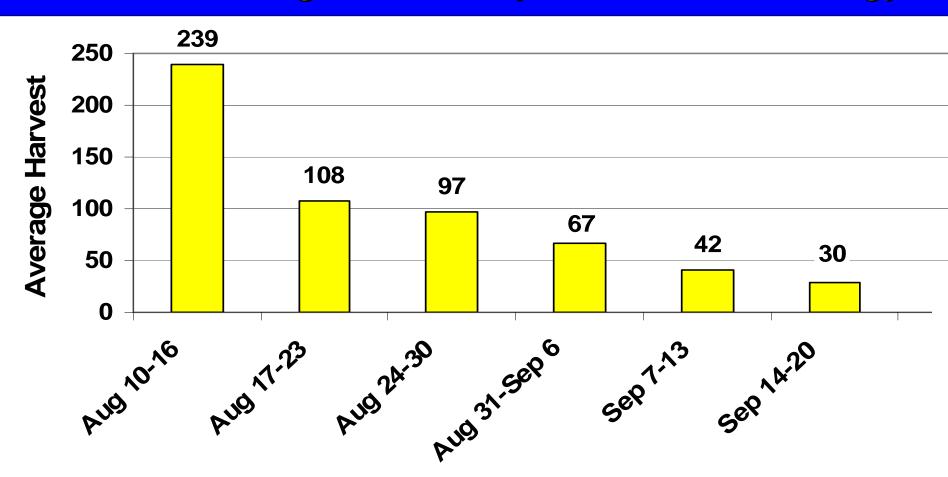
- Fall General Season only
- Drawing Hunts too?
 - -Delta Controlled Use Area
 - —Tok Management Area
 - Limited permits & hunt periods
 - Alleviate hunter crowding
 - Alleviate hunter competition
 - Maximize horn growth (trophy value)

Proposal #16 Allow Earlier Sheep Hunting by Alaska Residents

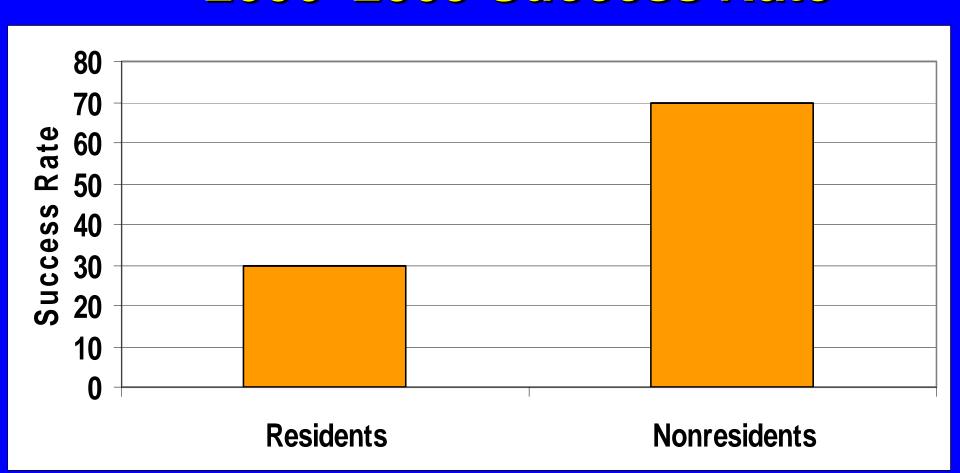
- Staggered Resident & Nonresident start dates are used elsewhere in regs.
 - -Separate resident & nonresident hunters
 - Several moose and caribou seasons
 - Might alleviate some user conflicts
 - More complex sheep regulations

Proposal #16 Biological Considerations

2006–2009 Region III Sheep Harvest Chronology



Proposal #16 <u>Biological Considerations</u> 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

Proposal #16 Longer Sheep Hunting Season for Alaska Residents

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

Proposal 16

QUESTIONS?

Dall sheep season

Residents: Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Aug. 5-Sept. 20

Nonres: Aug. 10-Sept. 20 Aug. 12-Sept. 20

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

Proposal 17 – Lynx - Unit 12 and 20E.

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

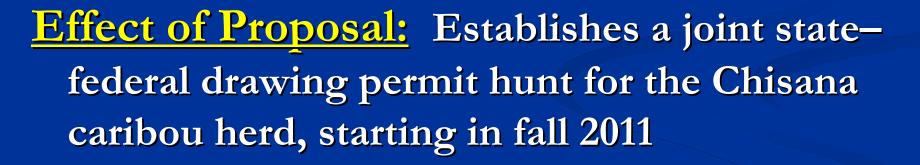
Recommendation:

- Eliminate November season No Recommendation
- Extend closing date to March 31 Do Not Adopt





Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC



ADF&G Recommendation: Adopt

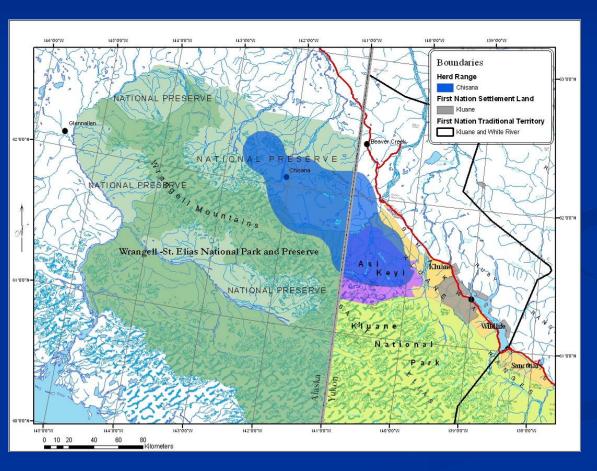
Eastern Interior RAC: Adopt



Chisana Caribou Herd (CCH)

Small International Herd

> 733 caribou in 2007



- **Range** \sim 5,100 mi²
- Upper Tanana and
 White River Drainages
 (Unit 12 Alaska)
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska
- Kluane WildlifeSanctuary 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



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 Quota2% Bulls-only harvest sustainable
- Quota Allocation50:50 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 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

	AKresident	AKresident	local hunters		non resident	
Year	hunters	harvest	(Unit 12)	local harvest	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.

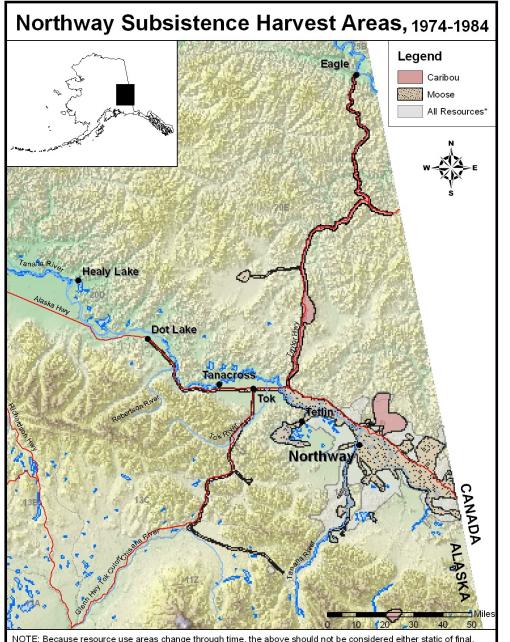
- Historically, the Chisana and Upper Nabesna bands of Athabascan Indians hunted caribou primarily in October - December and April -June (Guédon 1974; Marcotte 1991; McKennan 1959).
- 1980s ADF&G research documented caribou hunting areas by Northway residents from 1974 through 1984.
 - At this time, 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.



NOTE: Because resource use areas change through time, the above should not be considered either static of final.

Land outside these areas should not be assumed less important to community residents.

*All of the Northway subsistence related resources are combined into one overall region. These resources include

*All of the Northway subsistence related resources are combined into one overall region. These resources include; moose, caribou, sheep, furbear, waterfowl, plants, and fish.

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.

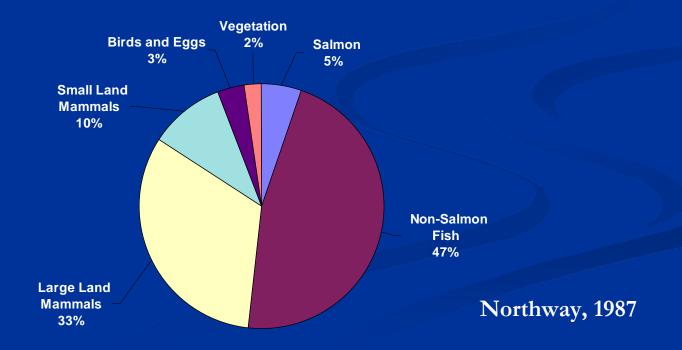
Criterion 7: Distribution and exchange

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.



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 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.

<u>Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC:</u> 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

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.

<u>Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC:</u> Opposed

ADF&G Recommendation: Take No Action



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



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

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).

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.



- 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.



Extends moose season on private land (Tetlin village corporation) in Unit 12 for both resident and nonresident hunters

Recommendation: No Recommendation Allocation Issue

Proposal 23 – Sheep – TMA (Tok Management Area).

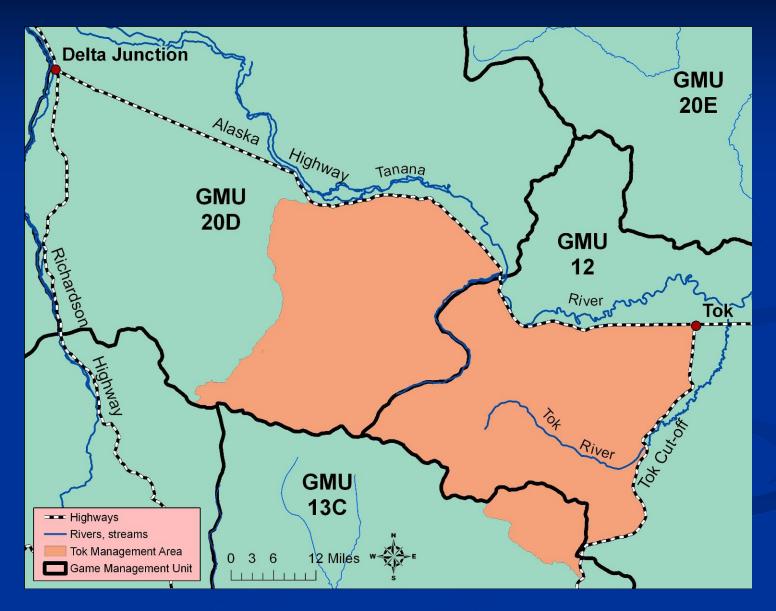


Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC

■ 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

■ <u>ADF&G Recommendation</u>: 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

Harvest of rams with horns >40 inches

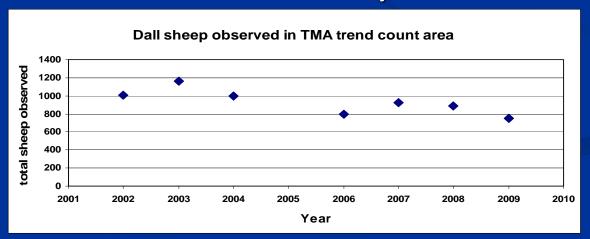
- > Guides hunters and transporters concerned with increasing difficulty of finding rams with horns >40 inches.
- > 7-22% >40 inches, 1974-2006
- > 5% >40 inches, 2007-2009

Hunter Effort and Success

> Since early 80s' average horn size, hunter effort, and age of rams harvested have been stable

TMA Dall Sheep Population <u>550 mi2 Trend Area 2002 – 2009</u>

- 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.



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



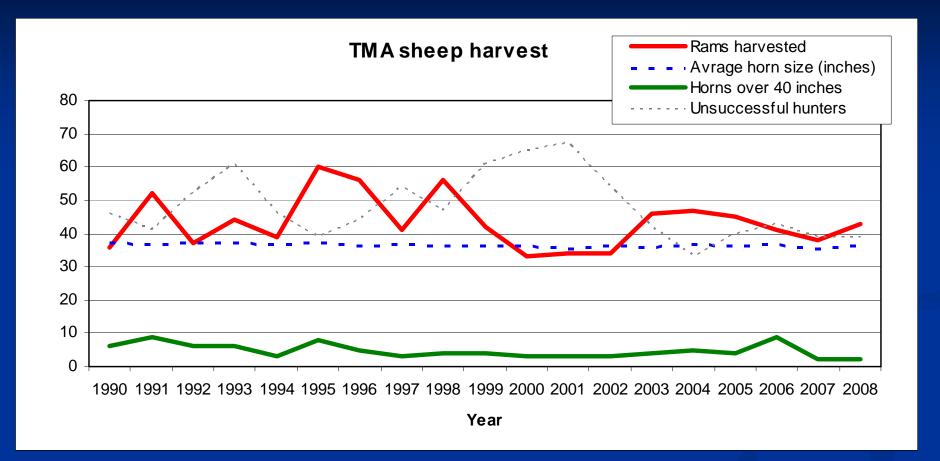
Likely Results of Reduction in Permits

- > Reduce Annual Harvest
- > Allow more rams to reach 40 inches
- > Allow harvest objective to be reached (7-10% of harvested rams over 40 inches)

- 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 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

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

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?

Moose Units 12 & 20E

- > Subsistence hunter opportunity?
 - Board may wish to review if reasonable opportunity exists for subsistence hunters

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?

Restrict Nonresident hunting for moose and caribou in the Upper Yukon Tanana Predation Control Area.

ADF&G Recommendation:

No Recommendation



Proposal 25 – Reduce the size of the Ladue Controlled River Use Area in Unit 20E.

Submitted by: Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC

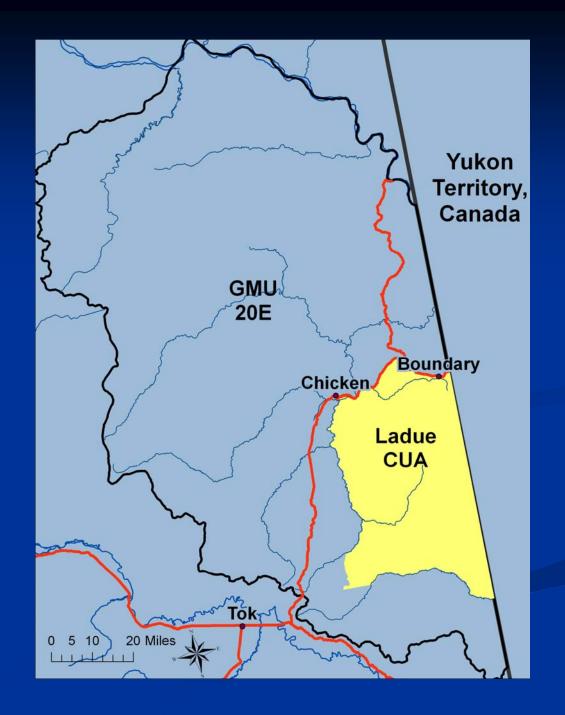
Effect of Proposal: Eliminate the northern portion of the LRCUA to allow hunters to use the network of mining trails south of Boundary.

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Supports

ADF&G Recommendation: No Recommendation

LRCUA

>1,375 mi²
area in
southwest
Unit 20E



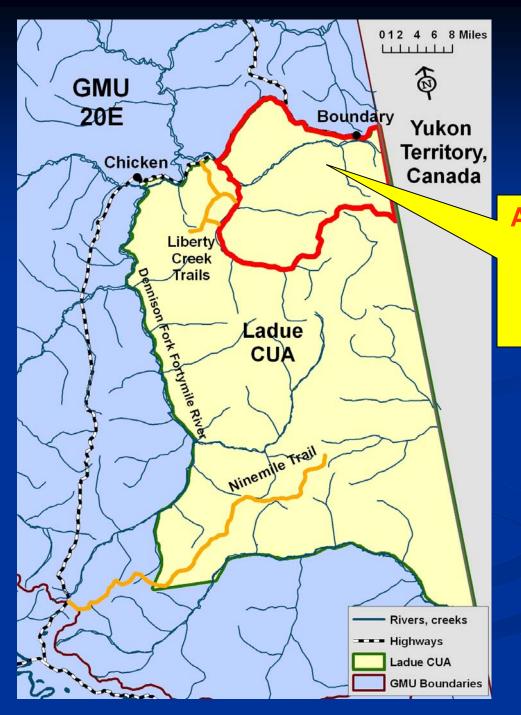
Additional Information - Background

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.



Area Proposed for Removal (Exclusion Area)

Moose Population and Harvest

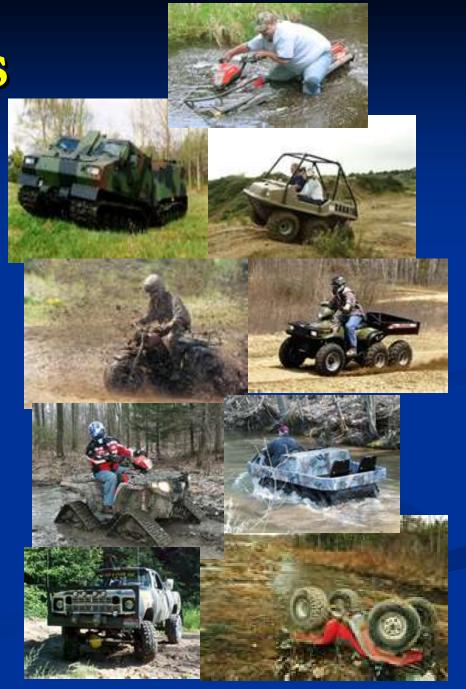
- > 2009 Moose Survey
 - > **51** Bulls:100 Cows
 - > Management Obj. 40 bulls:100 cows
- > 2003-2007 Moose Harvest (exclusion area)
 - > Avg. 2 bulls/year
- > 2008-2009 Moose Harvest (exclusion area)
 - > Avg. 2 bulls/year
- > No Biological Concerns

AC Comments

Retention of LRCUA

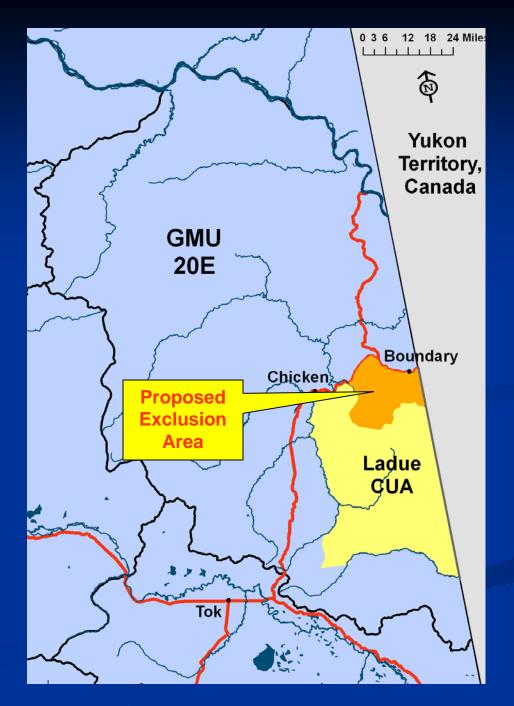
> Prevent trail pioneering.

- Reduce impact on moose population
- Ongoing predator control.



Conclusions

ADF&G
Recommendation: No
Recommendation



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

- 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

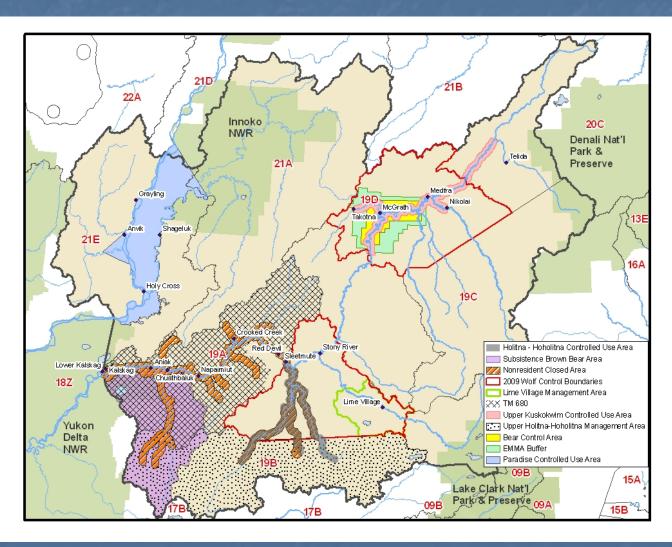
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

- Do not adopt (at this time)
- Incremental approach
- IM feasibility assessment to BOG in March 2012

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 | |
 - Aug 10 Sept 25 and Nov 20 – Mar 31
 - 2 bulls
- Aniak area Tier | | |
 - 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?

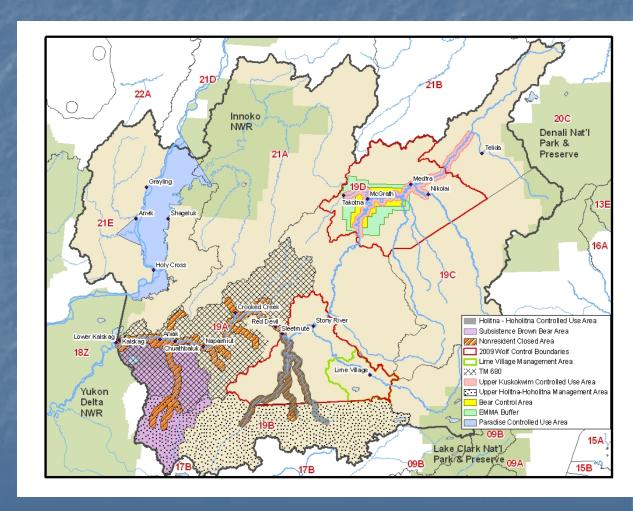
- POINTS IN FAVOR:
- Local support is still strong for the NR closed area
 - If lost, hard to get it back
- During the planning process, guides considered a corridor as a way to maintain access to areas away from the river

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

- <u>Department</u><u>recommendation:</u>
- 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

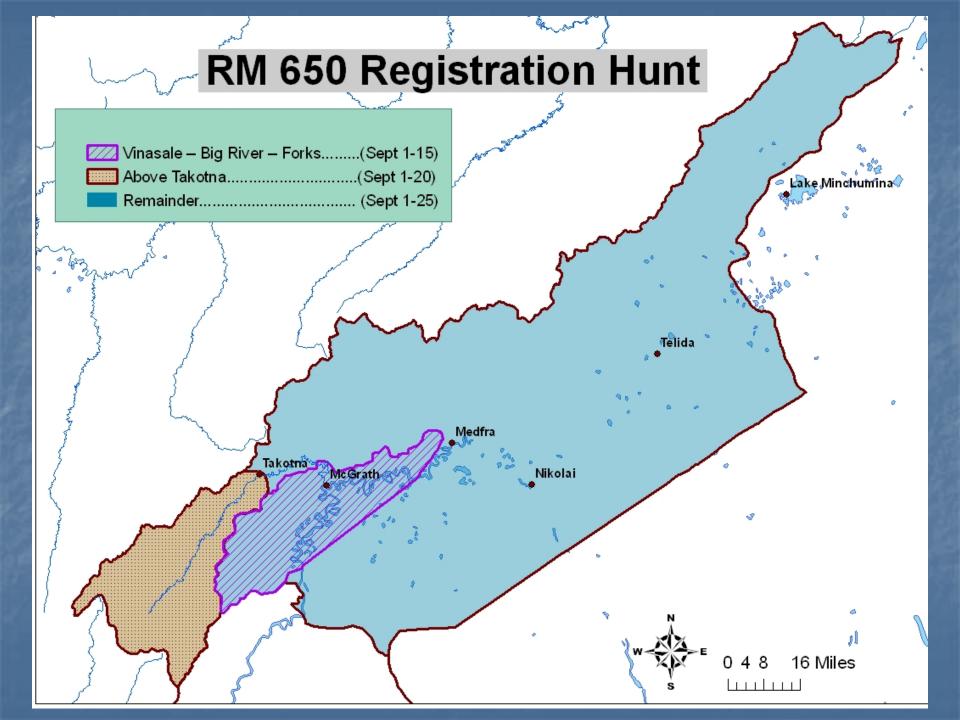
<u>Department</u> <u>recommendation:</u> Adopt

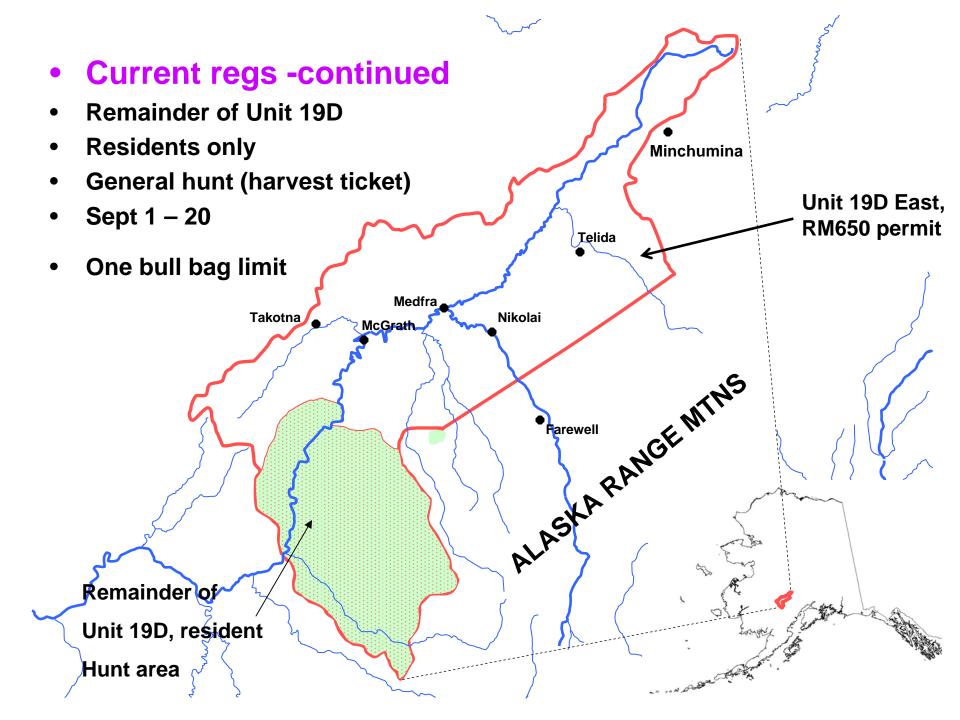


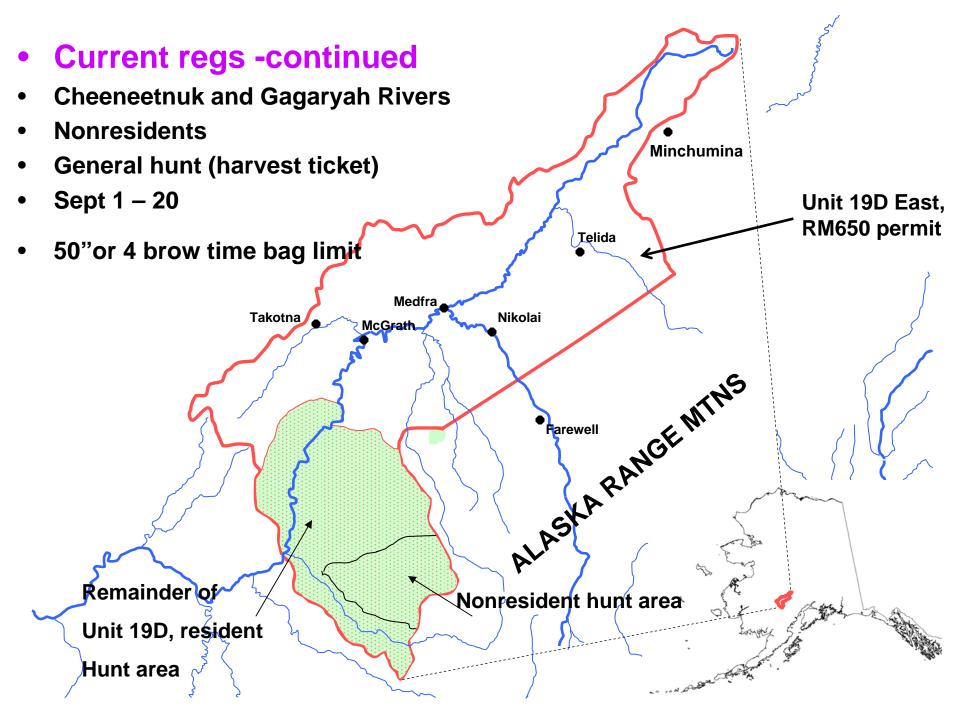
Current Unit 19D moose regs

- 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 tines





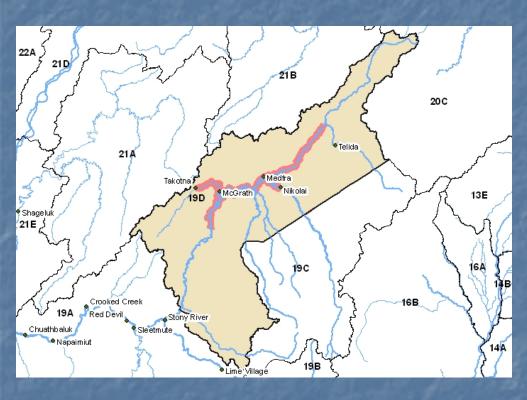


Proposed Unit 19D Fall regulations

- RIM650 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



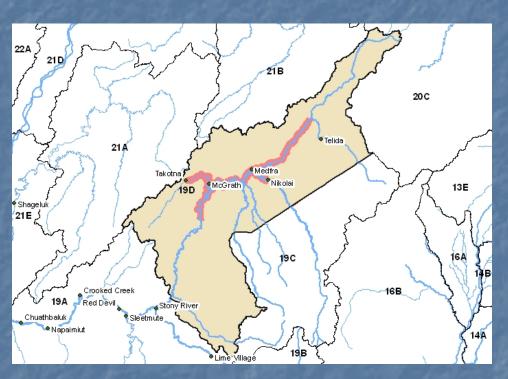
 The existing nonresident season would remain unchanged

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)

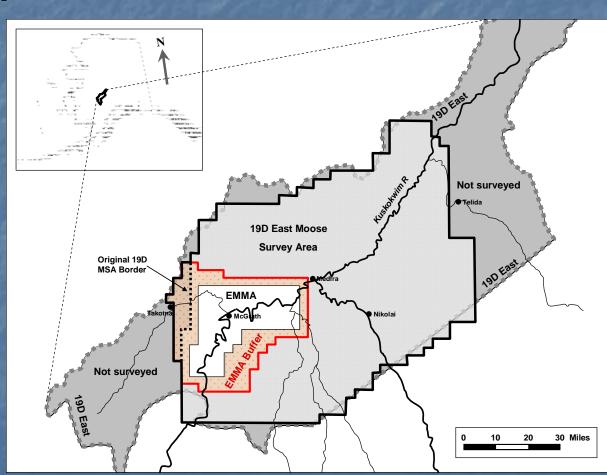
1) Moose numbers have increased -Areas and orientation

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	MSA
Company of the	Kuskokwim	SE MONTO
	Villages MMA	
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		~150	~70
surplus (4%)			
Harvestable	~110		
surplus (6%)			
2009 harvest	~65 – 75	~20 - 30	27
Unmet surplus	~35 — 45	~120 - 130	~43

Composition in expanded EMMA

Year	Calves:	Bulls:	Yearling
	100	100	bulls:
	cows	cows	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

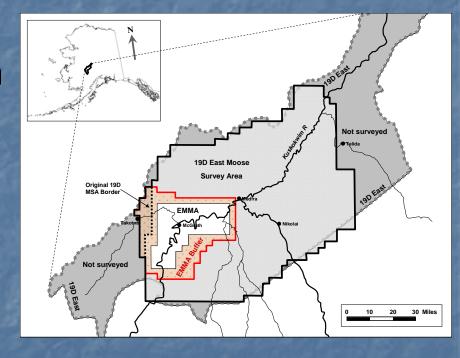


Population and harvest objectives for Upper Kuskokwim Villages MMA:

 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

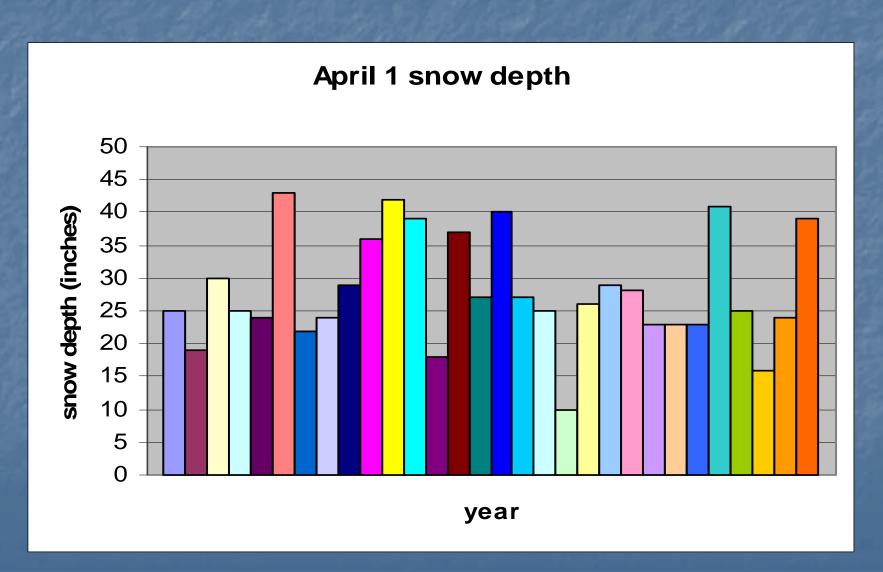
- Manage lower twinning rates through increased hunting pressure
- We need ability to take cows
 - That is the reason for the TBA registration permit hunt in this proposal

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
- <u>Department</u> <u>recommendation:</u> Adopt



EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

 Extend the nonresident moose season in Unit 21A.

Current Season:

Sept 5-Sept 20

Proposed Season:

Sept 5-Sept 25

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DO NOT ADOPT

McGrath AC

OPPOSED

GASH AC

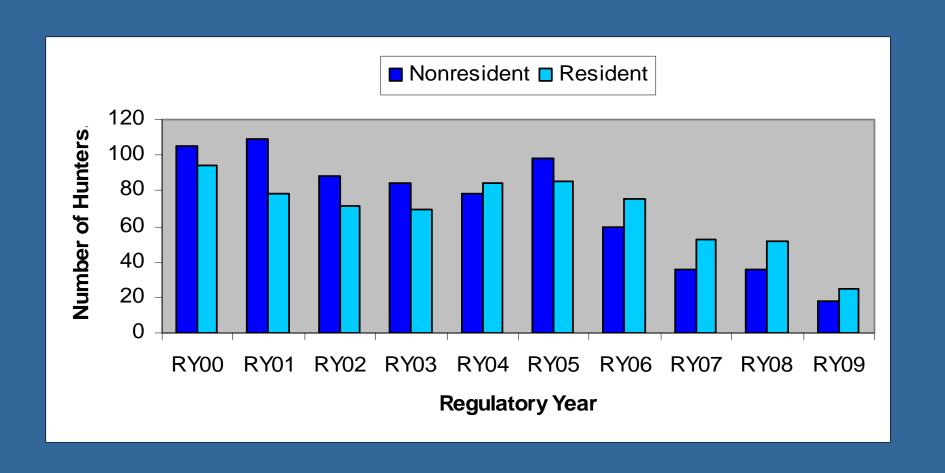
OPPOSED

 The YIMMP was endorsed by the Board in March 2006.

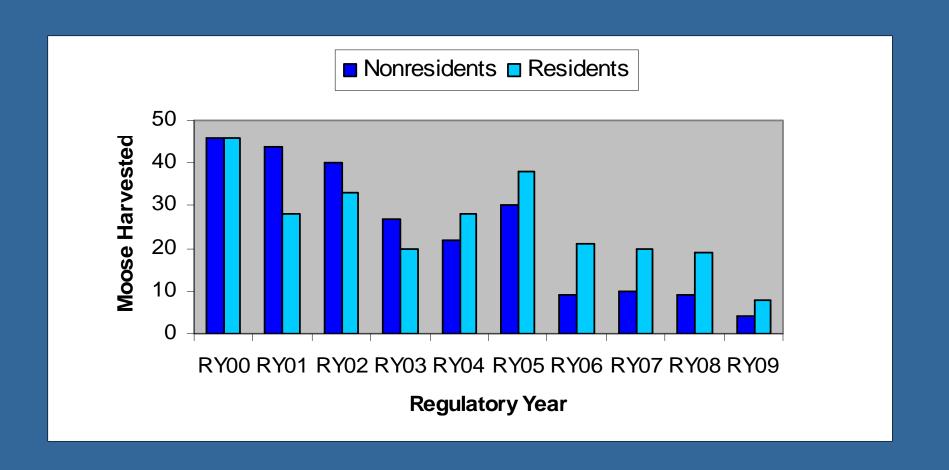
 The YIWG recommended no changes to the Unit 21A NR moose hunting season, which at that time was September 5–25.

- 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

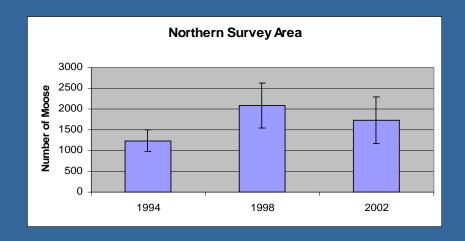


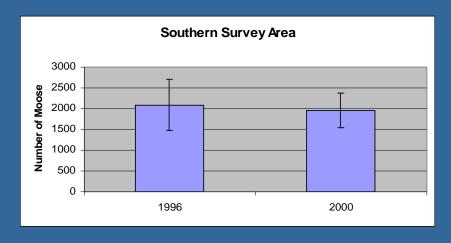
Unit 21A Harvest Data



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> 36:100 2008 54:100 2009 64:100

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DO NOT ADOPT

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

NO RECOMMENDATION

GASH AC

OPPOSED

WIRAC

OPPOSED



 The YIMMP recommended establishing a nonresident permit hunt.

 Recommended shortening the nonresident season by 5 days to end on Sept 20.

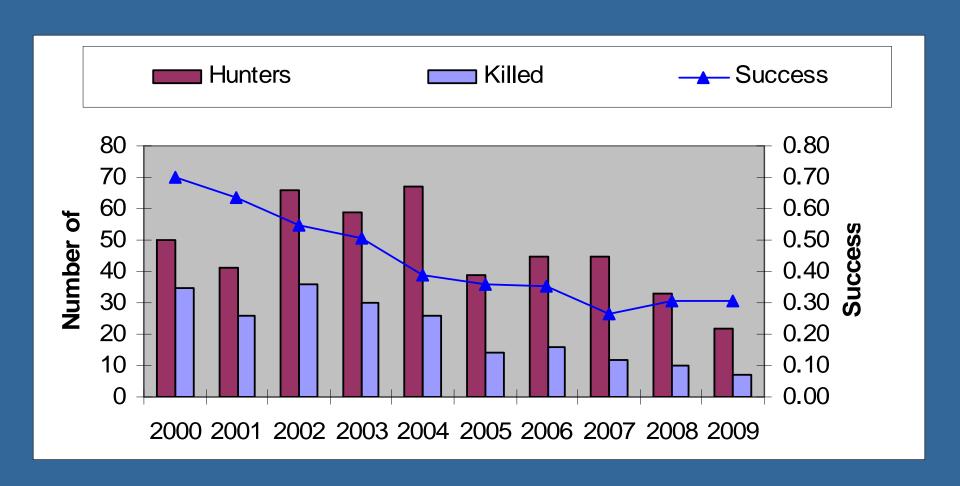
Meant to cap nonresident harvest at 30.

 The Board adopted both of these measures in 2006.

- Currently 60 permits are available.
 - 48 nonguided and 12 guided.

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....."



	DM837		DM839			
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	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

Issuing more permits is not an option.

- Returning the season to Sept 25 may:
 - Increase success rates.
 - Increase harvest.

2000

5151 Moose

1.0 moose/mile²

2005

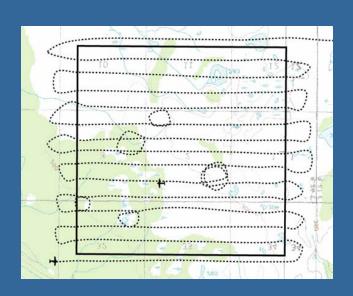
4673 Moose

0.9 moose/mile²

2009

6218 Moose

1.2 moose/mile²



<u>Year</u>	Twinning Rate
2000	38%
2002	20%
2003	30%
2004	32%
2007	28%
2008	47%
2009	50%

- 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 ± 17% (6205-8747)

Current estimated harvest 240

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

NO RECOMMENDATION

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

- 152	Number of	201 44 115
	sheep	Number of
Year	harvested	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

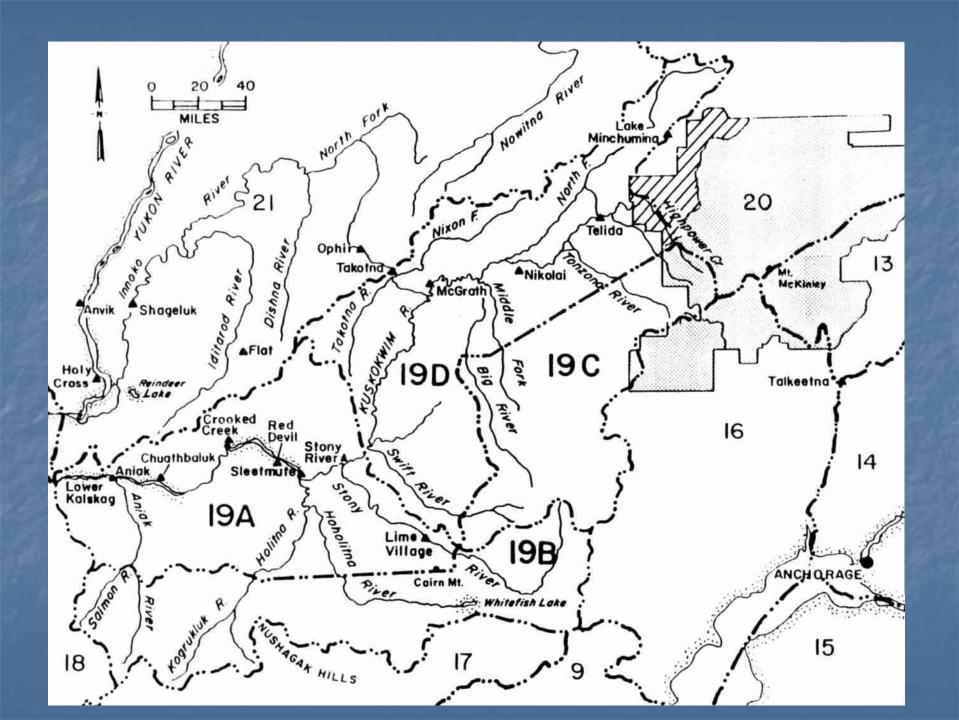
A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

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

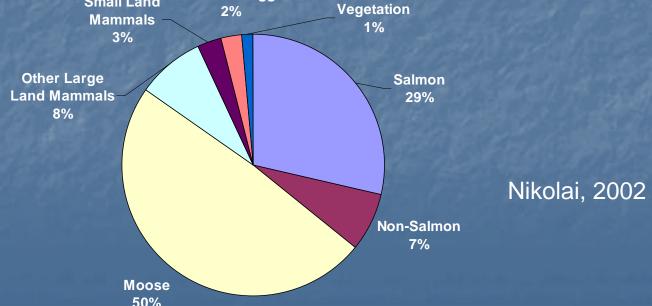
A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

- 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 Telida 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.

Small Land Birds and Eggs



Proposal 82

Effect of the proposal: Create a winter registration permit sheep hunt for sheep smaller than % curl in Unit 19C.

Department recommendation:
No recommendation



Current vs Proposed comparison:

- Current regulation:
- Residents and Nonresidents:
 - General hunt
 - Aug 10 Sept 20
 - □ 1 full curl ram

- Proposed regulation (additional season):
- Residents:
 - Registration permit
 - Oct 1 Mar 30 (31)
 - One sheep < 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

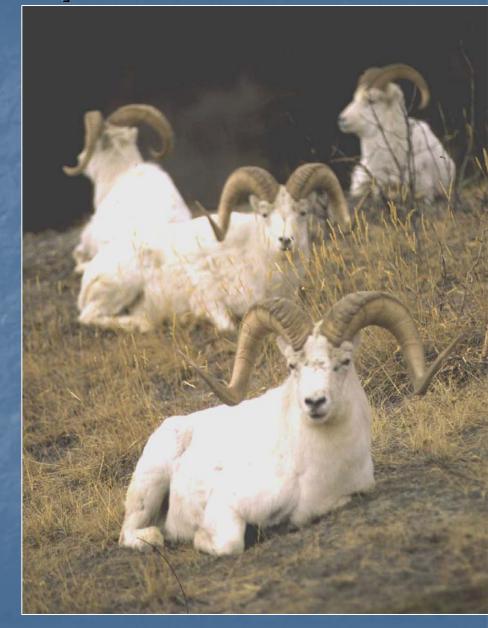
- Small harvest (5 10) sustainable
- If the Board chooses to provide for a hunt, we need to assure a very low harvest

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 190
- 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	51%	72.00
rate	HELDE!	19696



Unit 19C sheep hunting and harvest by Unit 19D residents

Year	Sheep	Total	Sheep	Unit 19D
		Hunters	35	Residents
2005	68	116	O	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	THE STATE OF THE	45 69% success	67	66	6 5	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.

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

- 152	Number of	201 44 115	
	sheep	Number of	
Year	harvested	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

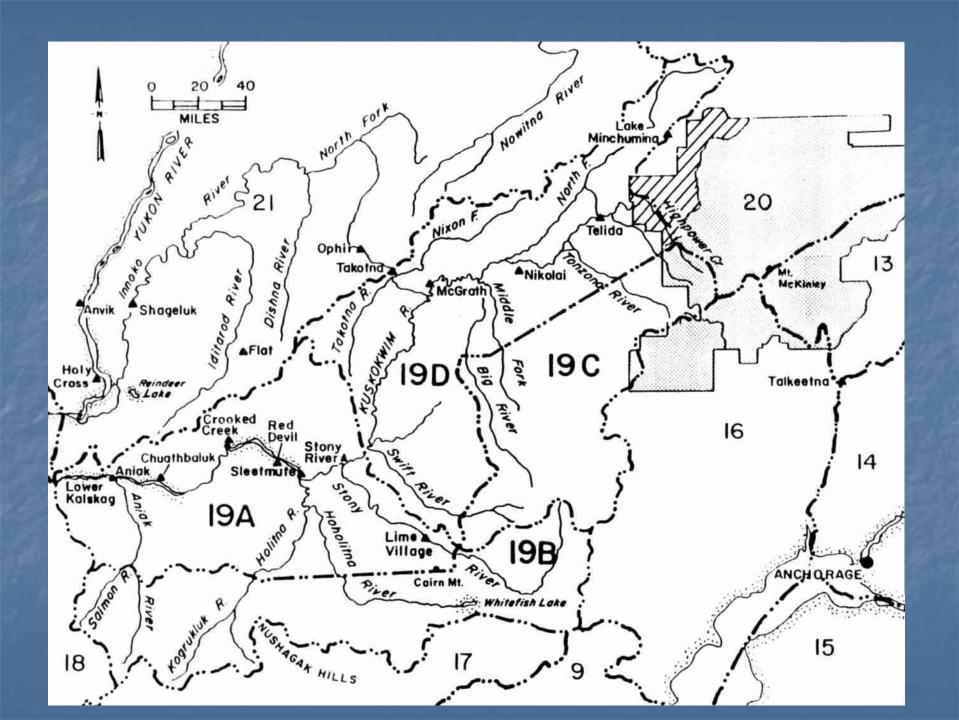
A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

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.
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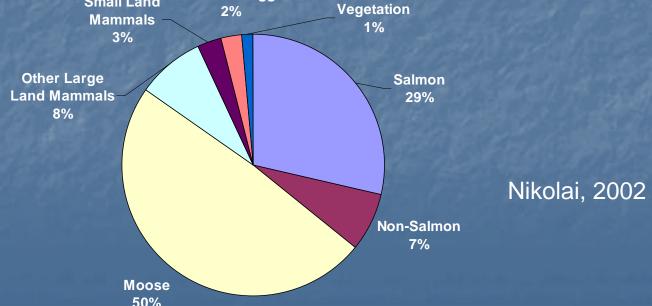
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Small Land Birds and Eggs



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.

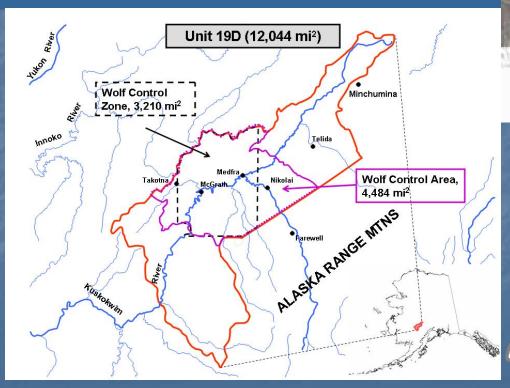


Original purpose of 10-day requirement: prevent exceeding harvest limits

- 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



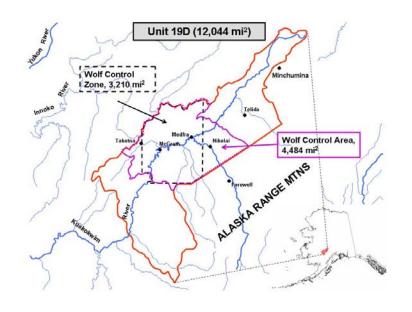
Wolf Pack size and distribution





Wolf population estimates and take objectives

Year	Fall	# removed for	Actual
	estimate	80% reduction (40 wolves)	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	<mark>55 – 65</mark>	~10 to date



Regulatory	Post season	% reduction from precontrol
Year	wolf estimate	% reduction from precontrol Estimate of 49 w/in 3,210 mi ² area
	w/in 3,210 mi ² 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 10day 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

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

 Establish a predation control implementation plan in Unit 21E.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

AMEND AND ADOPT

GASH AC

SUPPORT

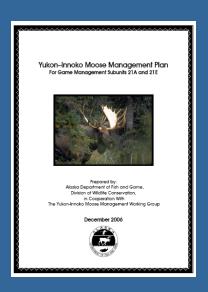
WIRAC

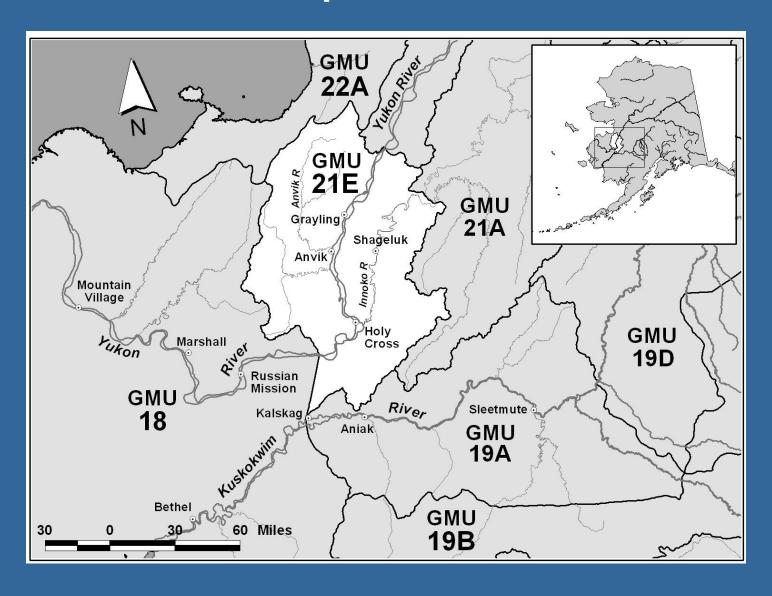
SUPPORT

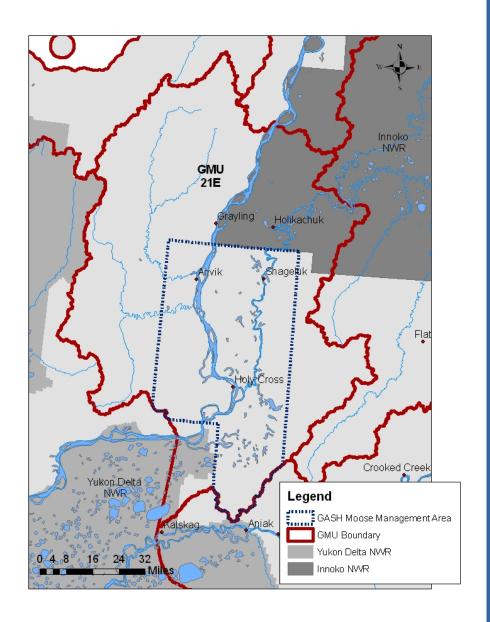


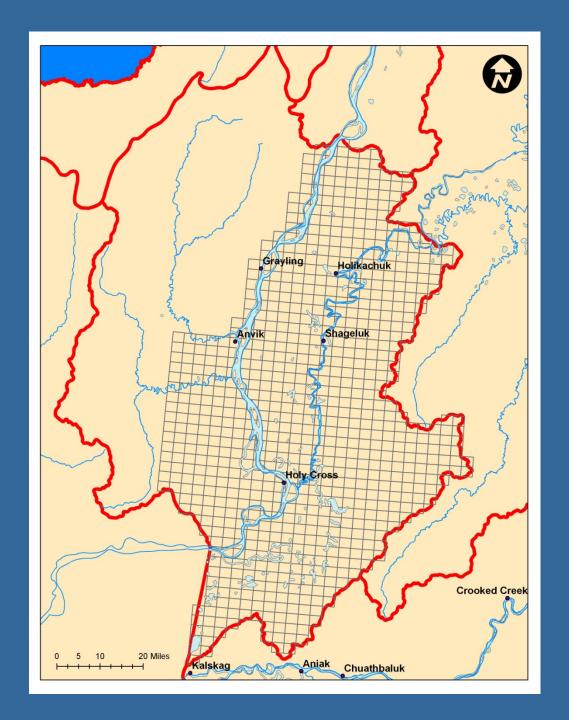
BOG endorsed the YIMMP in March 2006.

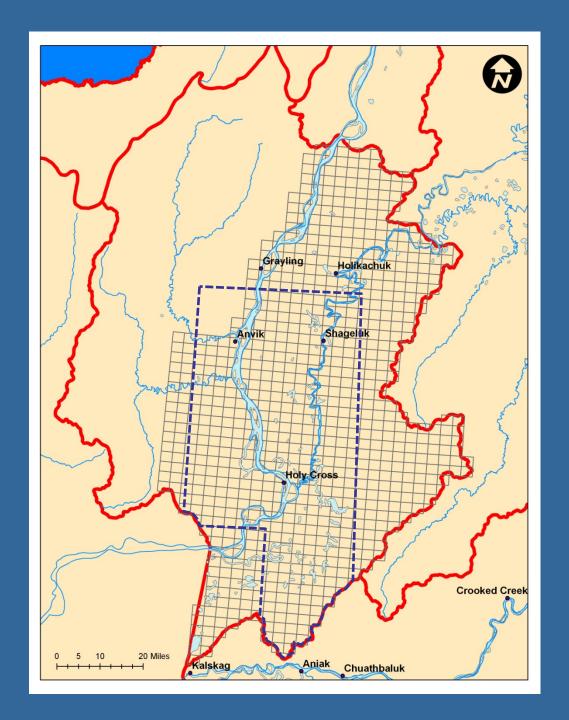
- Plans main tenets:
 - Establish a proactive management program.
 - Conservative harvest of moose.
 - Create an IM plan.











 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.

 Local hunters have reported a decline in the moose population since the mid 90's.

Few data are available prior to 2000.

2000

5151 Moose

1.0 moose/mile²

2005

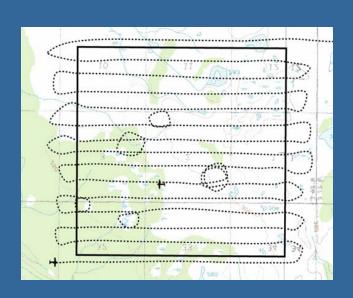
4673 Moose

0.9 moose/mile²

2009

6218 Moose

1.2 moose/mile²



 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.

 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.

Intensive Management Objectives for Moose in Unit 21E (5 AAC 92.108)	Current Estimated Moose Population and Harvest (reported and unreported) for Unit 21E
Population: 9,000 – 11,000 moose	Population: 6,205 – 8,747
Harvest: 550 – 1,100 moose	Estimated Harvest: 240

 The moose population objective in the MSA is 5070 or 1.0 moose/mi².

 The moose harvest objective from the MSA is 203.

- 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





<u>Year</u>	Twinning Rate
2000	38%
2002	20%
2003	30%
2004	32%
2007	28%
2008	47%
2009	50%

 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.

 The pre-control wolf population estimate for fall 2008 was 146–156 wolves.

18–20 wolves/1,000 miles²



 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.

• 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.

- 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.

 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.

 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.

- 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.

 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

AMEND AND ADOPT

- 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.

- 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.

Board of Game Meeting Cycles & Proposal Deadline

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	Region I Region II	Late January Late March
2013-2014	Statewide Region III	Late January Late March
2014-2015	Region V Region IV	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

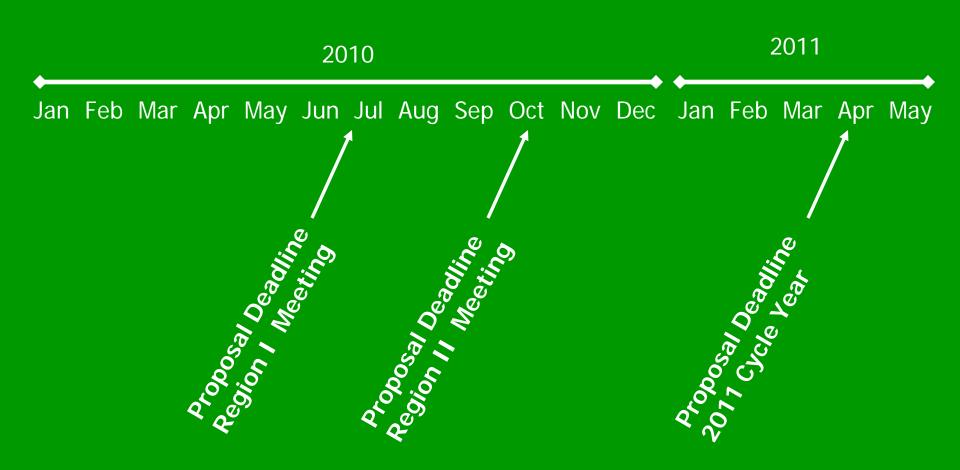
Timeline for Single Call for Proposals



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

