

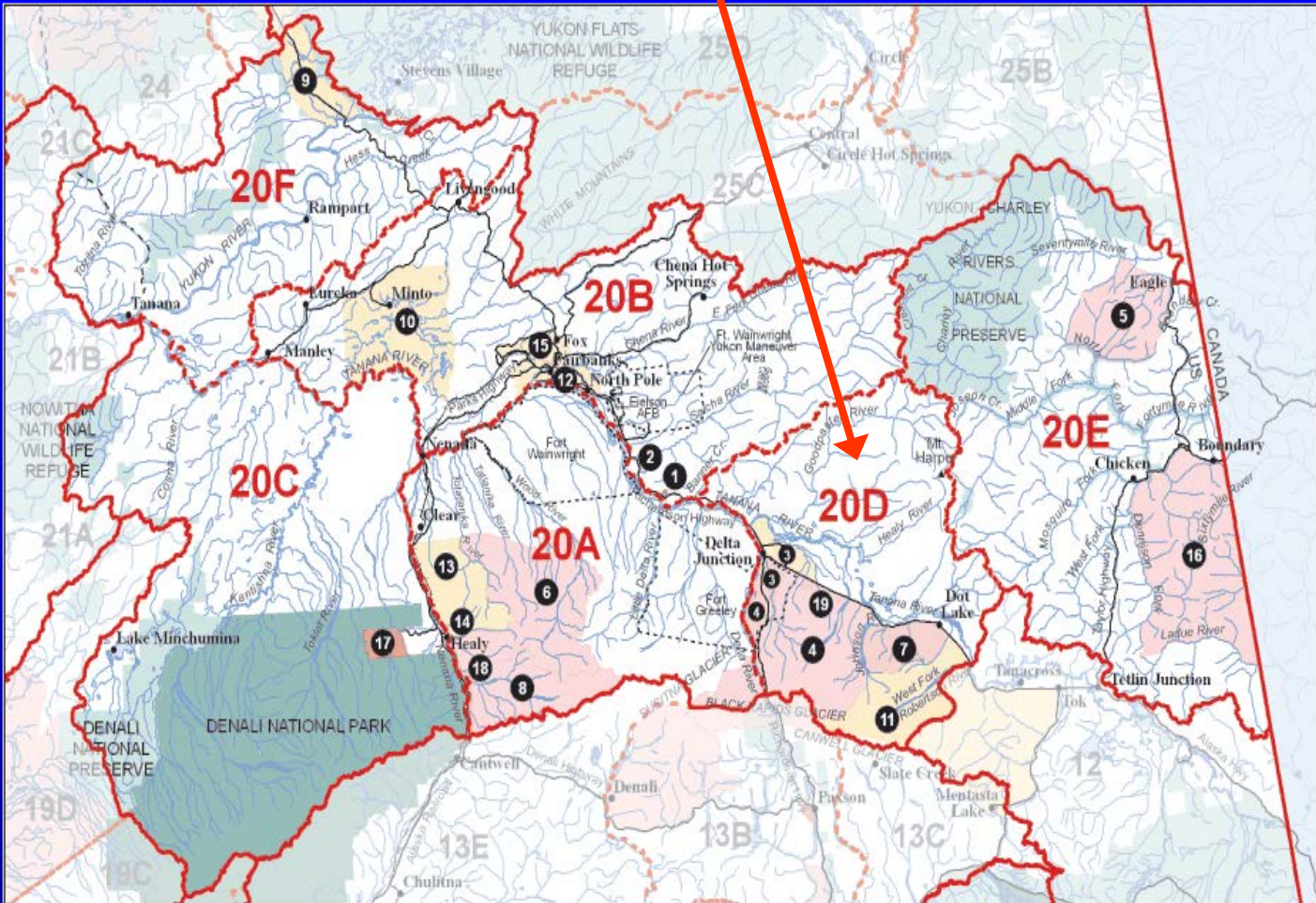
# 2014 Unit 20D



## Delta Area Overview



# Unit 20D



## Unit 20 Fairbanks - Central Tanana

Region 3



### Game Management Units / Special Management Areas

Game Area	Other State Lands	Unit Boundaries
State of Lands	National Parks	Unit Sub-Boundaries
Management Area	National Preserve & Other Federal Lands	Road
State Routes, Highways & Other Federal Areas		Pipeline



**Unit 20D**  
**Delta Junction**  
**Area Office**





# **Delta Staff**



**Darren L.  
Bruning  
Area Biologist**

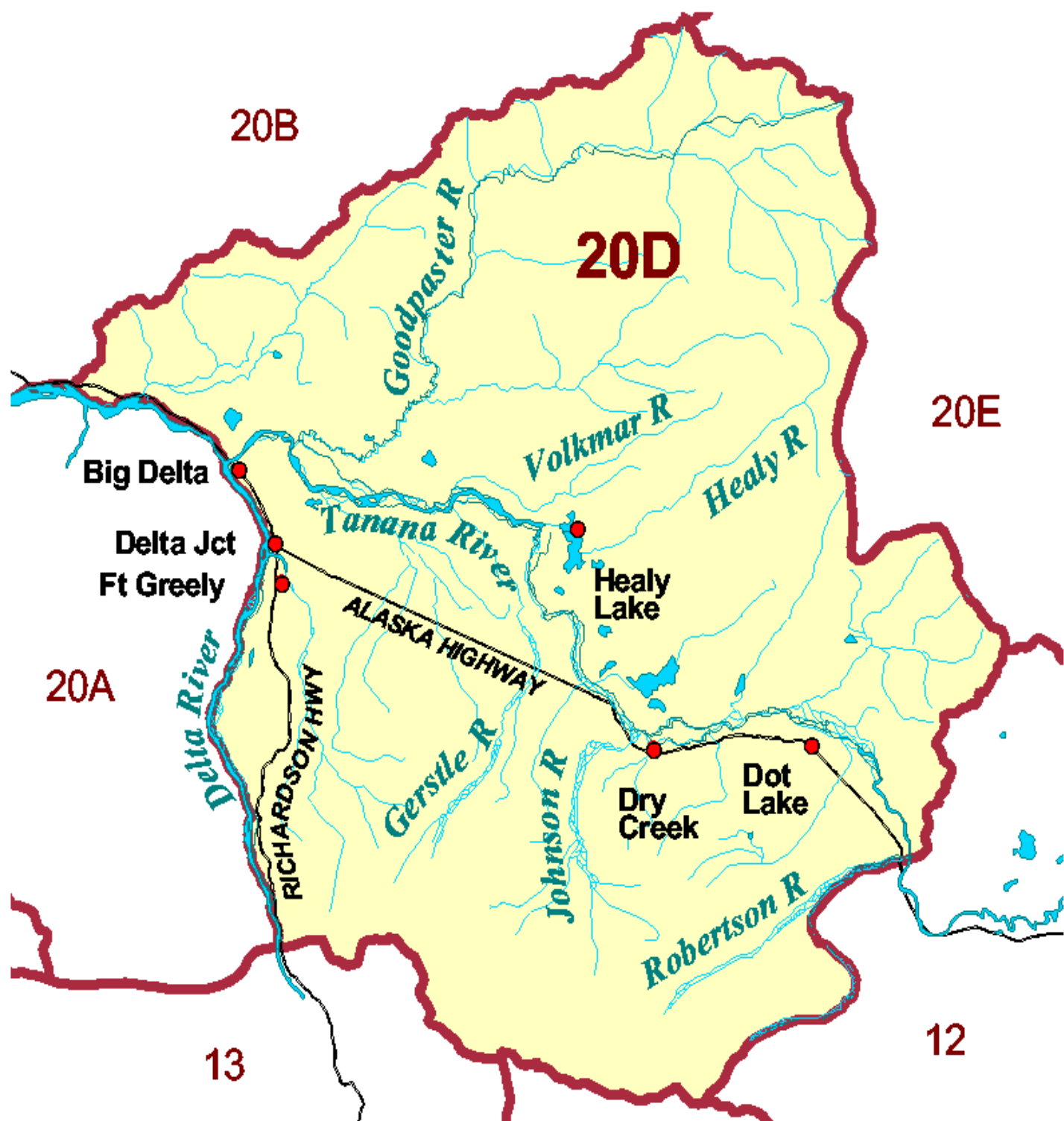
**Robert Schmidt,  
PS FWT 4, Bison  
Range Manager**



**Ellie Mason, PS  
FWT 3**



# Game Management Unit 20D





# **Southern Unit 20D**

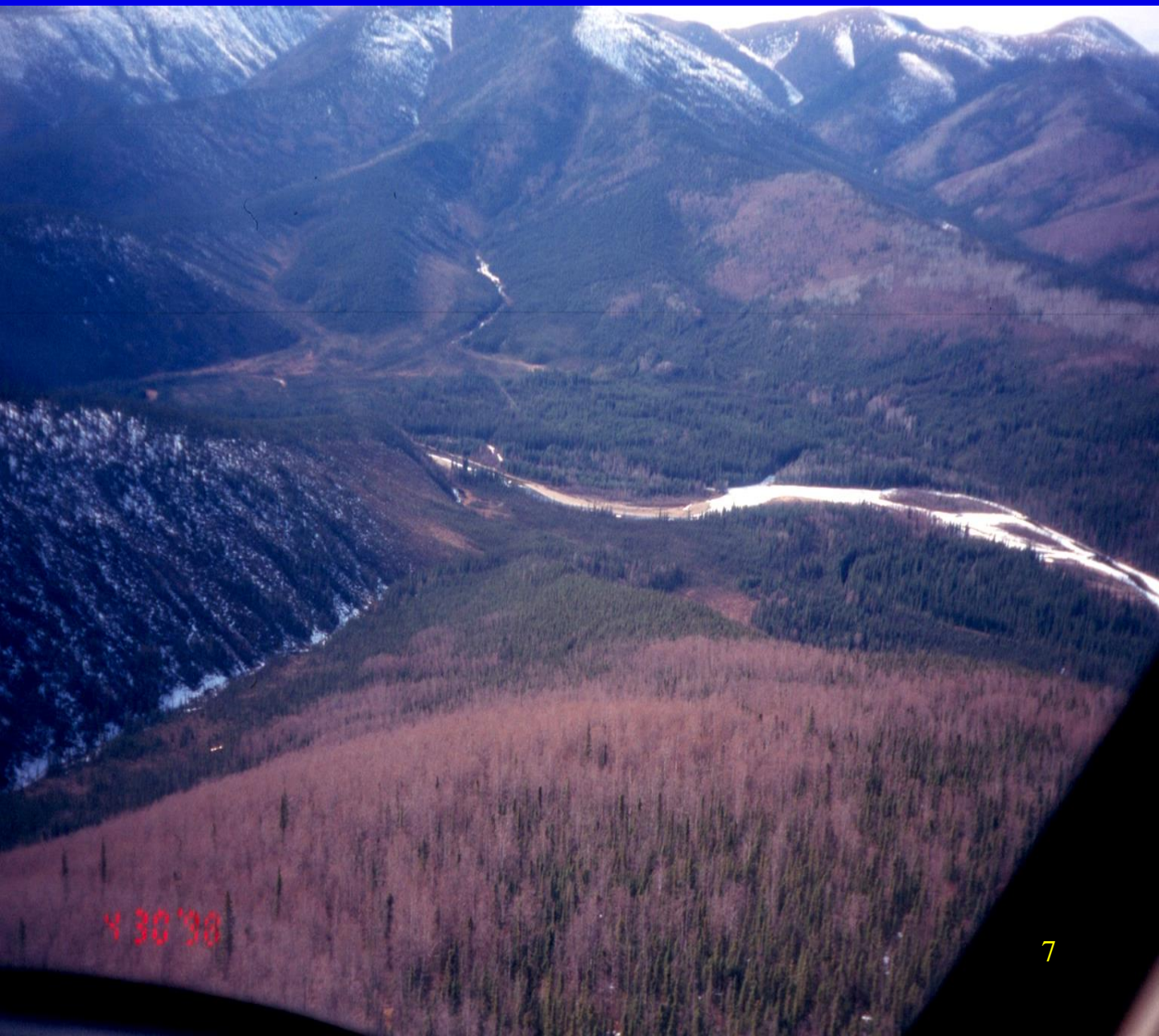
- **Mountains of eastern Alaska Range**
- **Lowlands of Tanana River valley**





# **Northern Unit 20D**

- Hills of Tanana uplands
- Lowlands of major river valleys



4 30 '98



# **Delta Junction,** **Big Delta, Deltana**



**Population ~3,200**

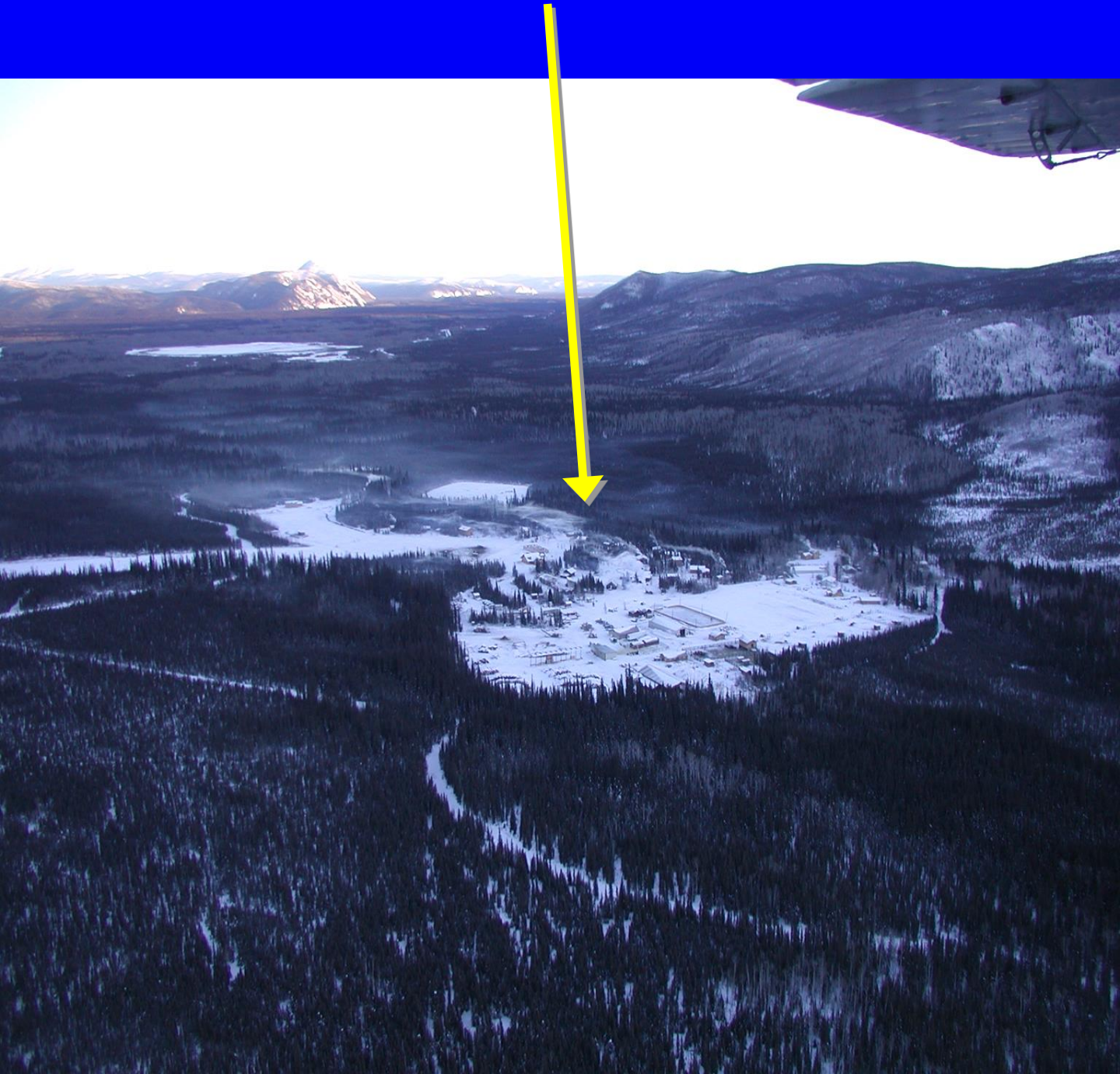


**Ft. Greely,**  
**Donnelly Training Area,**  
**National Missile**  
**Defense Site,**  
**Population ~500**





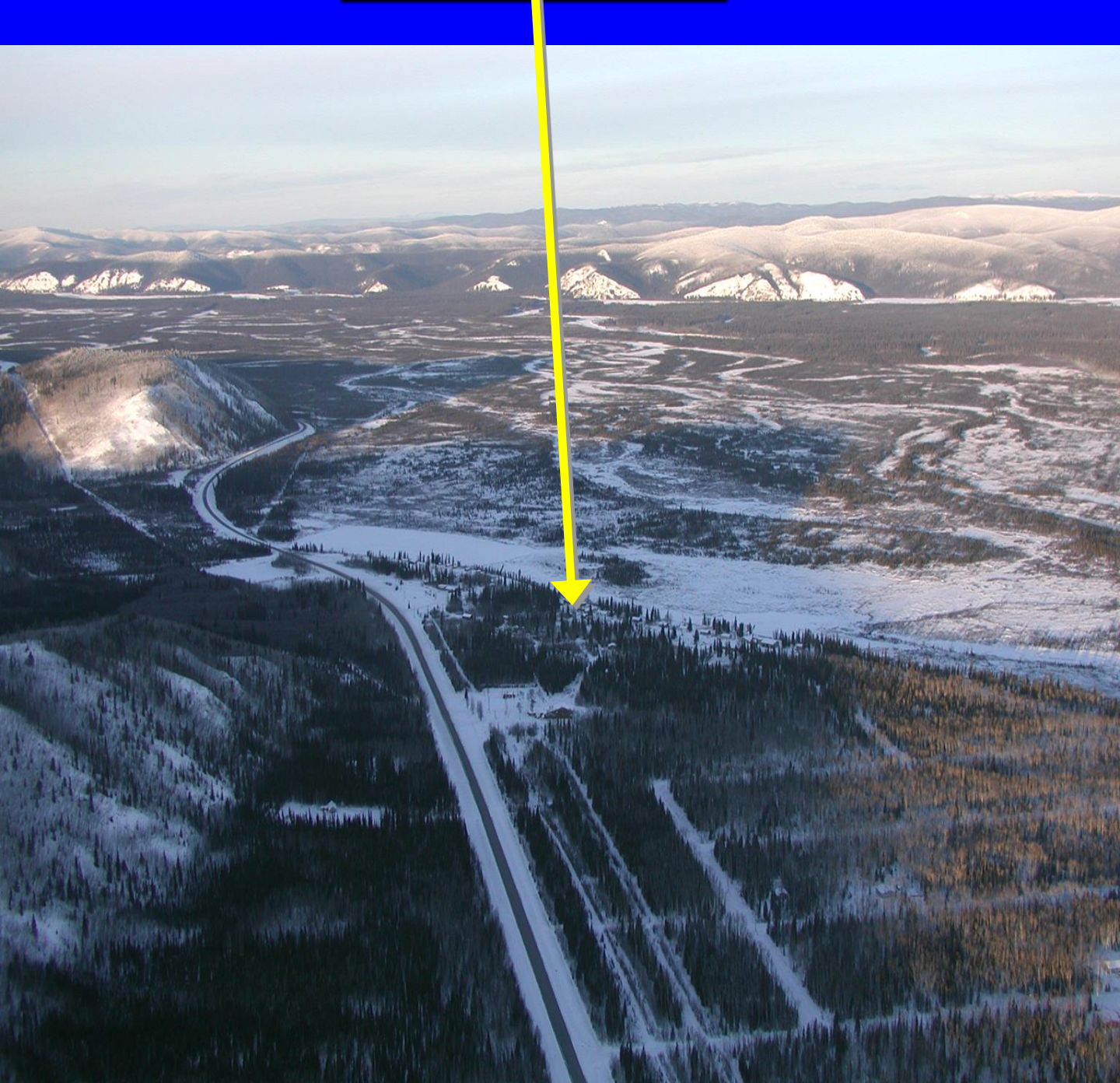
# *Dry Creek*



**Population ~100**



# *Dot Lake*



**Population ~80**



# **Healy Lake**



**Population ~25**



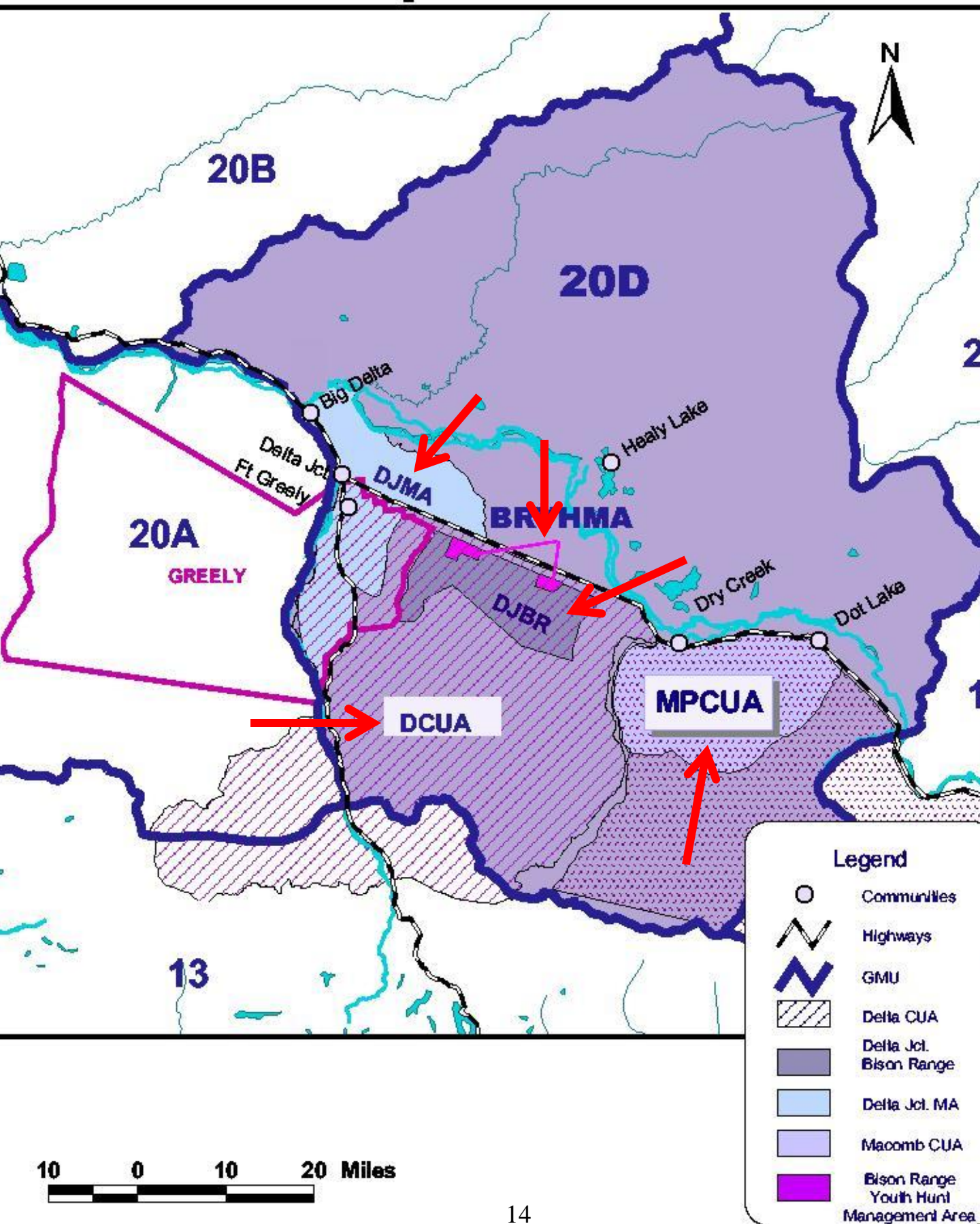
# *Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee*

- Delta AC serves Delta Jct. & Dry Creek
- Dot Lake & Healy Lake served by Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC





# GMU 20D Special Use Areas



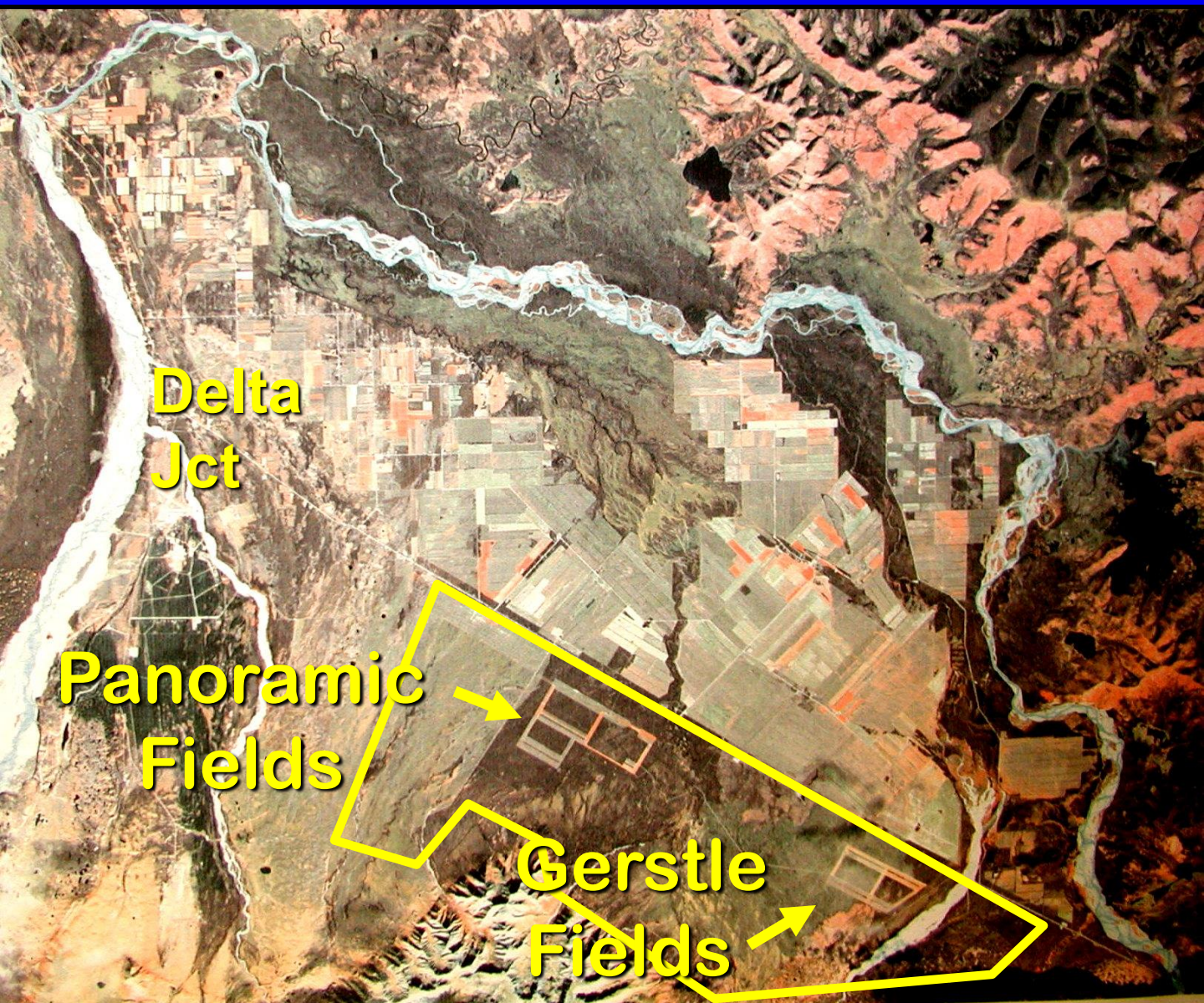


# **Delta Junction Bison** **Range**

- **Created 1979 by AK Legislature to:**
  - **Perpetuate free-ranging bison**
  - **Diminish agricultural damage from bison**
- **~90,000 acres**
- **Annual management of ~2,700 acres bison forage**



# *Delta Junction Bison Range*

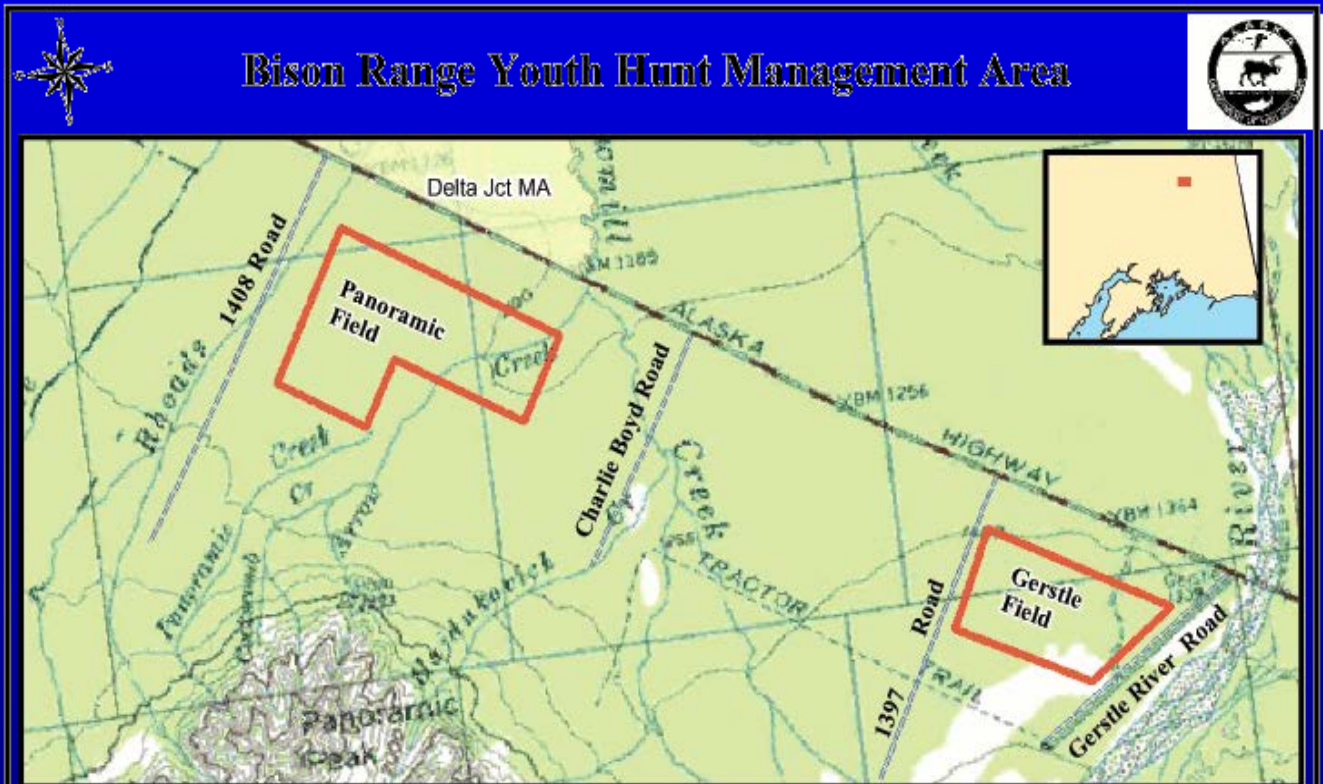




# Bison Range Youth Hunt

## Management Area

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

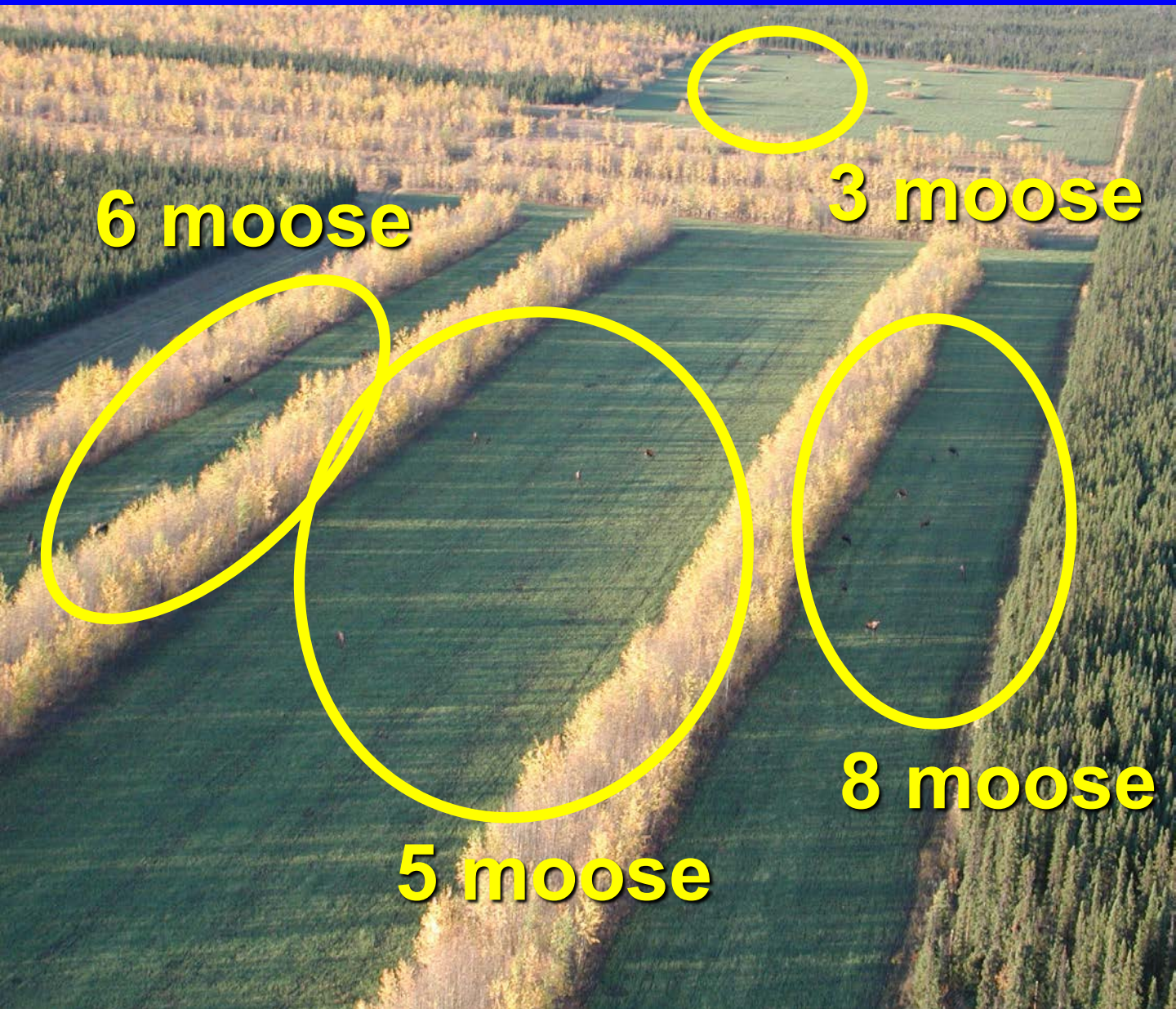


### Area Description

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**



# **BRYHMA**

- **Goals were to:**
  - **1) Improve ADFG's ability to meet**
    - **DJBR legislative mandates**
    - **Bison Management Plan objectives**
  - **2) Benefit farmers by improving bison use of DJBR**

# **BRYHMA**

- **Goals (cont.)**
  - 3) **Reduce damage to bison forage caused by moose hunters**
  - 4) **Provide safer work environment for ADFG staff**



# **BRYHMA**

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





# **BRYHMA**

- **10 draw permits for DM792**
  - **bull moose (spike-fork or 50 in. antlers or 4 or more brow tines on 1 side**
  - **cow w/o calf**
- **Hunting season = Sept 1-20**
- **Hunt Friday-Monday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**three weekends in Sept.**
  - **Each hunter has 4 days**
- **No motorized vehicles**



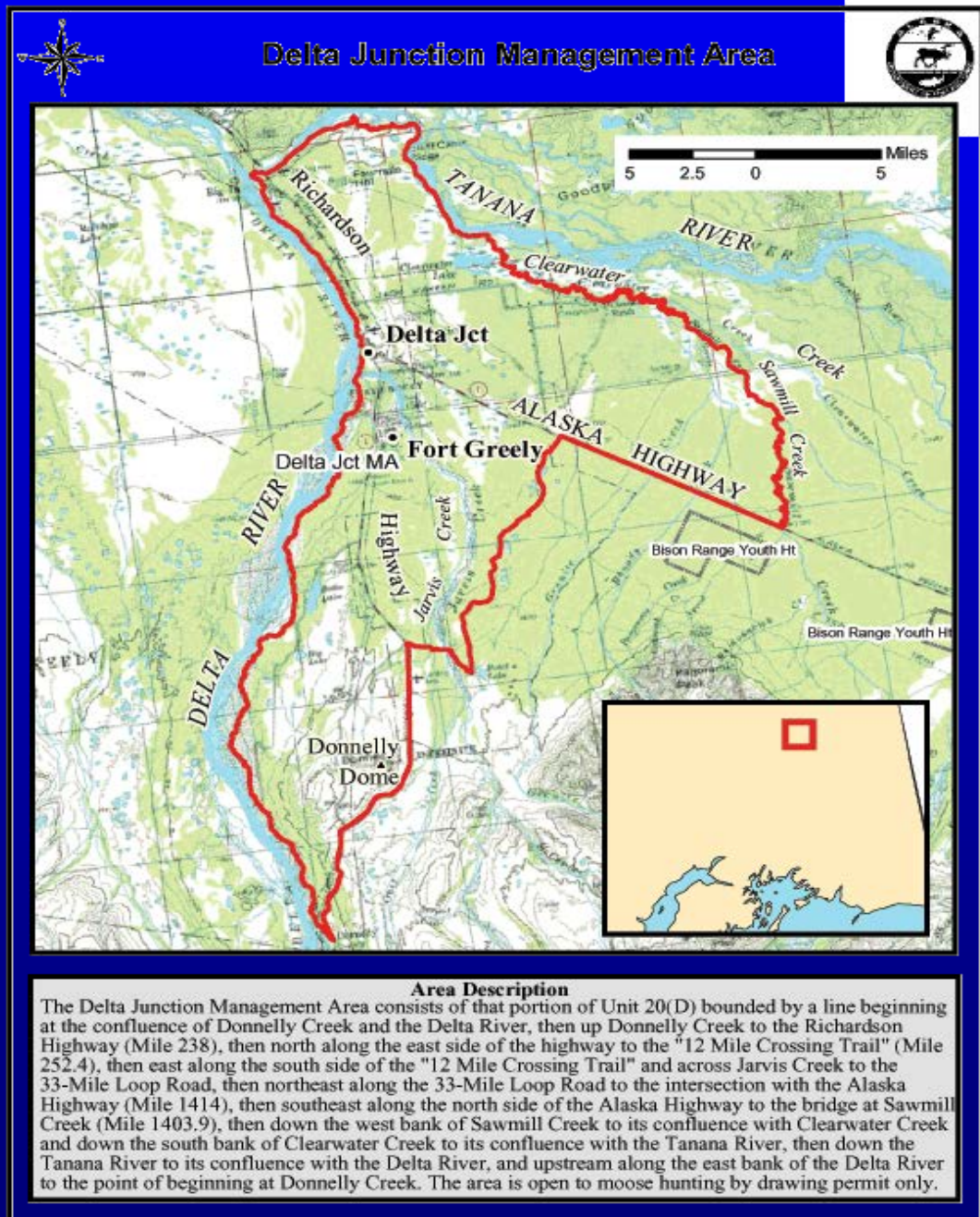
# **BRYHMA**

- **BRYHMA hunt goals are being met:**
  - **Reduction in bison forage damage**
  - **Improved workplace safety resulting in more field work**
  - **Minimizing disturbance to bison during moose hunting season**
  - **Successful hunt**
    - **2013 = 91% success**



# *Delta Junction Management Area*

278 mi<sup>2</sup> proximate to Delta Jct



# **Delta Junction** **Management Area**

- **Estab. 1974 at request of Delta AC to close hunting around Delta Jct. when moose population low**
  - **Delta Junction Closed Area**
- **Reduced in size in 1991**
- **Renamed DJMA in 1996**
  - **19 permits for DM790 bull moose**
  - **6 permits for DM795 (Disabled Veterans)**
- **2013 harvest = 11**



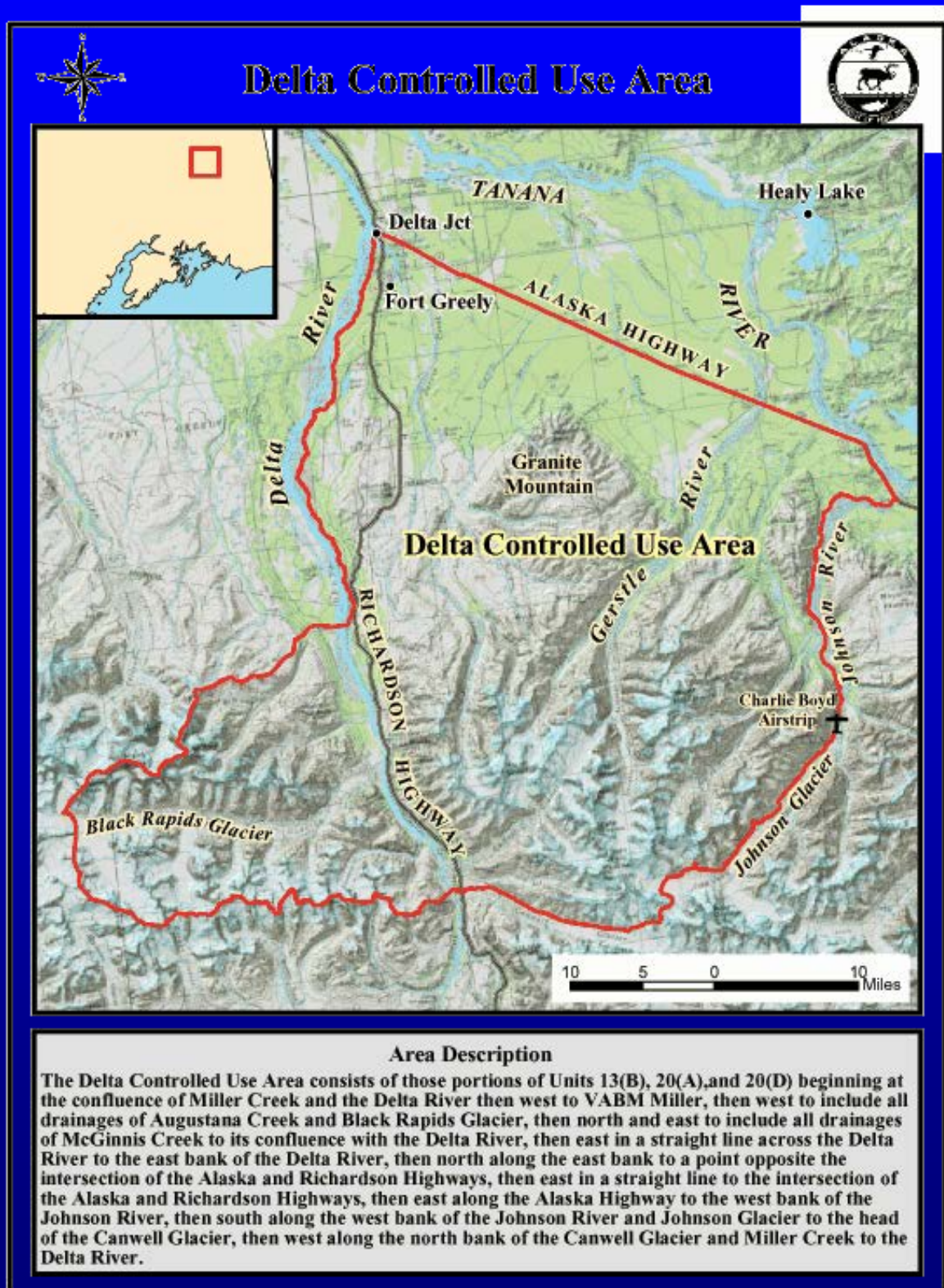
# **Delta Controlled Use Area** **(DCUA)**

- **Estab. 1971 to meet sheep hunter interest/request for walk-in hunting, uncrowded area**
- **1,680 mi<sup>2</sup> in 20D, 20A, & 13B**





# DCUA map





# *Delta CUA*

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

# *Delta CUA*

- **Sheep hunting in the DCUA is conducted as 2 drawing permit hunts**
- **DS203 = Aug 10 – 25**
  - **Non-motorized/No Pack Animals**
  - **75 permits**
- **DS204 = Aug 26 – Sept 20**
  - **No motor vehicle/pack animal restrictions**
  - **75 permits**
- **2013 harvest**
  - **DS203 = 20**
  - **DS204 = 17**
- **3 yr mean horn length**  
**= 35 3/16 in.**
- **3 yr mean age = 8.3 yrs**



# **Delta CUA**

- **Goals are being met?:**
  - Aesthetically pleasing hunt conditions
  - Address conflicts between hunters using different transportation
- **Hunter Questionnaire RY03**
  - 96% (n = 74) agreed w/aesthetic goals of area
  - 81% were satisfied with hunt
  - Ongoing communication w/hunters suggests high level of satisfaction
- **DCUA contributes to ADFG Dall sheep management plan**
  - Diversified recreational uses
  - Address increased hunting pressure in eastern Alaska Range

# **Delta CUA**

- **Significance of the DCUA**
  - **Loss of high-quality walk-in Dall sheep hunting experience**
    - **Requested by hunters in early 1970's**
  - **Re-emergence of conflicts between different means of transportation**



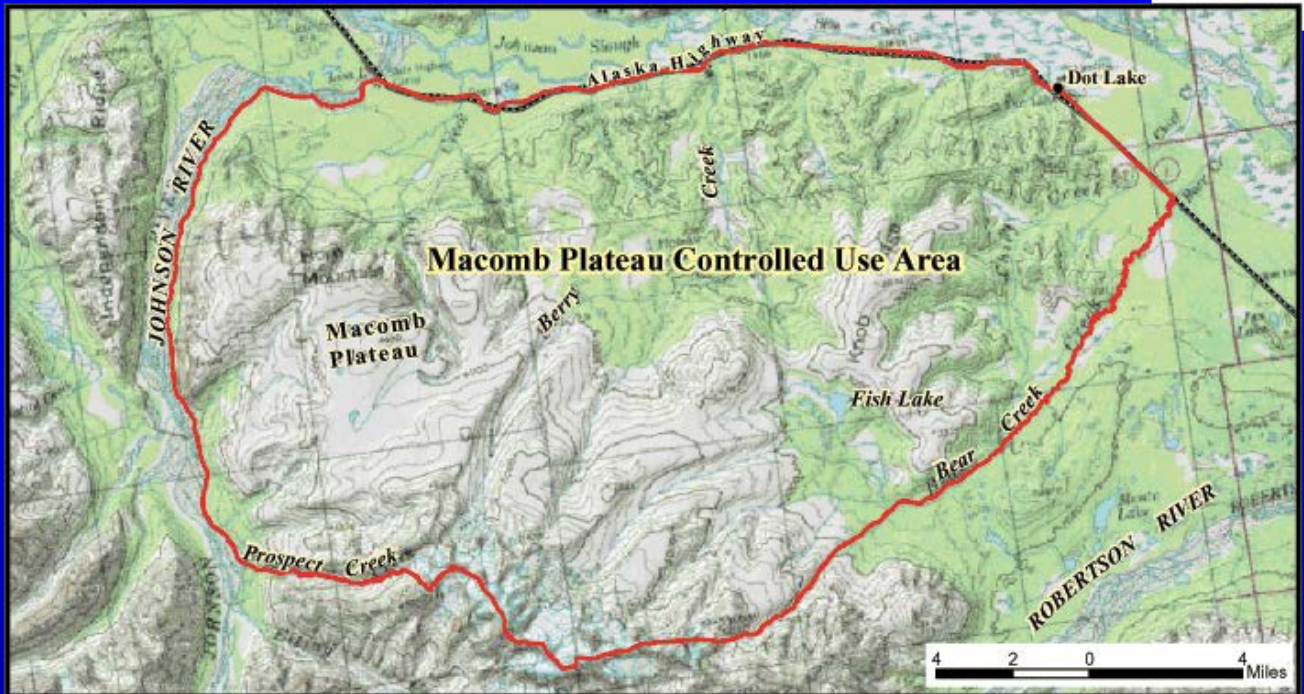
# **Macomb Plateau**

## **Controlled Use Area**

- Created 1974 to:
  - Protect critical MCH calving habitat by restricting motorized vehicles from Aug 10 - Sept 30
  - Regulate MCH harvest
- 304 mi<sup>2</sup>



## Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area



The Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area consists of that portion of Unit 20(D) south of the Alaska Highway, draining into the south side of the Tanana River between the east bank of the Johnson River upstream to Prospect Creek, and the east bank of Bear Creek at mile 1357.3 of the Alaska Highway. The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, from August 10 through September 30, except for a floatplane on Fish Lake and motorized vehicles, including aircraft, to, from, and on the Dry Creek Airstrip at mile 1379 of the Alaska Highway.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



# **Macomb Plateau CUA**

- **Core calving grounds**
- **Meeting objectives to:**
  - **Prevent habitat degradation from motorized vehicles**
  - **Control harvest**

# **Macomb Plateau CUA**

- Increasing trend for herd since creation
- 1,800 caribou in 2010
  - Highest number documented
- 1,500+ min. count in 2013
- Harvest quota and harvest has increased
  - 30-70
- Has contributed to IM Obj.
  - 600-800 caribou
  - 30-50/yr. harvest goal



# **Macomb Plateau CUA**

- **Significance of the MPCUA**
  - **Motor vehicle disturbance to core rutting and calving habitat**
  - **Increased rate of harvest during RC835**
    - **Quota reached earlier in the season**
    - **Reduction in hunting opportunity**

# *Private Agricultural Lands*



**~100,000 acre (156 mi<sup>2</sup>)**

**Hunting for bison (70%),  
waterfowl, sharp-tailed  
grouse, moose, & trapping**

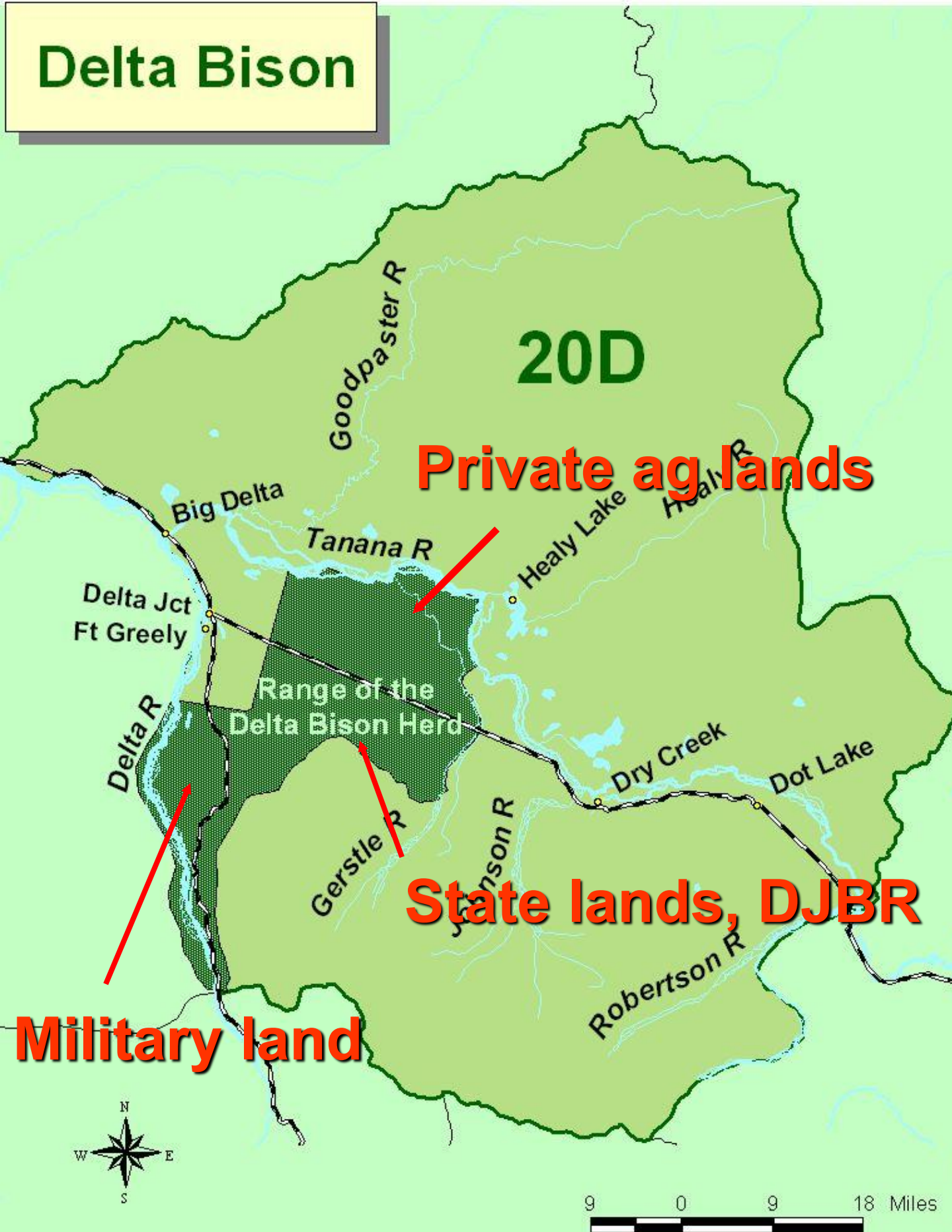


# **Delta Bison** **Herd**



- Herd ranges in SW 20D

# Delta Bison





# *Delta Bison*

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



# *Delta Bison*

- DJBR managed to reduce bison-agriculture conflicts
- Herd size managed by drawing permit hunt
- 18,000+ applications/yr
- 100 permits/yr
- Season July 1- June 30
- Permits issued for Oct 1 – March 31
- Avg. hunter success for past 13 years = 68%





# **Delta Bison**

- **Management Activities**
  - **Aerial surveys**
  - **Ground based sex-age composition counts**
  - **Radio collars**
  - **Serologic survey**
  - **Manage bison forage on DJBR**
  - **Administer drawing permit hunt**
  - **Genetics investigations**

# **Delta Bison**

- **Issues:**
- **Minimize damage to private agricultural crops**
  - **Addressed with DJBR & forage management**
- **Military training on bison summer & calving range**
  - **Cooperating with military to minimize conflicts**



# **Delta Bison**

- **Issues:**

- Retain access to private land for hunters
- Escape of domestic bison
- Conservation of genetic purity
- Exposure to livestock diseases

- **Other :**

- The Delta Bison Interim Mgmt. Plan was completed in 2012

# **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
- 2013 Harvest = 8
- Management Activities
  - Harvest tickets
  - Sealing not required
  - Register bait stations
  - Nuisance bears
- Issues = None



# *Brown Bear*

- Extrapolated population = 181-210 bears
- Harvest obj. = 5-15/yr
- Current Regulations:
  - No resident tag fees
  - Season = Aug 10-Jun 30
  - Bag limit = 1/yr
- Avg. mortality = 12/yr
- 2013 Harvest = 6

# **Brown Bear**

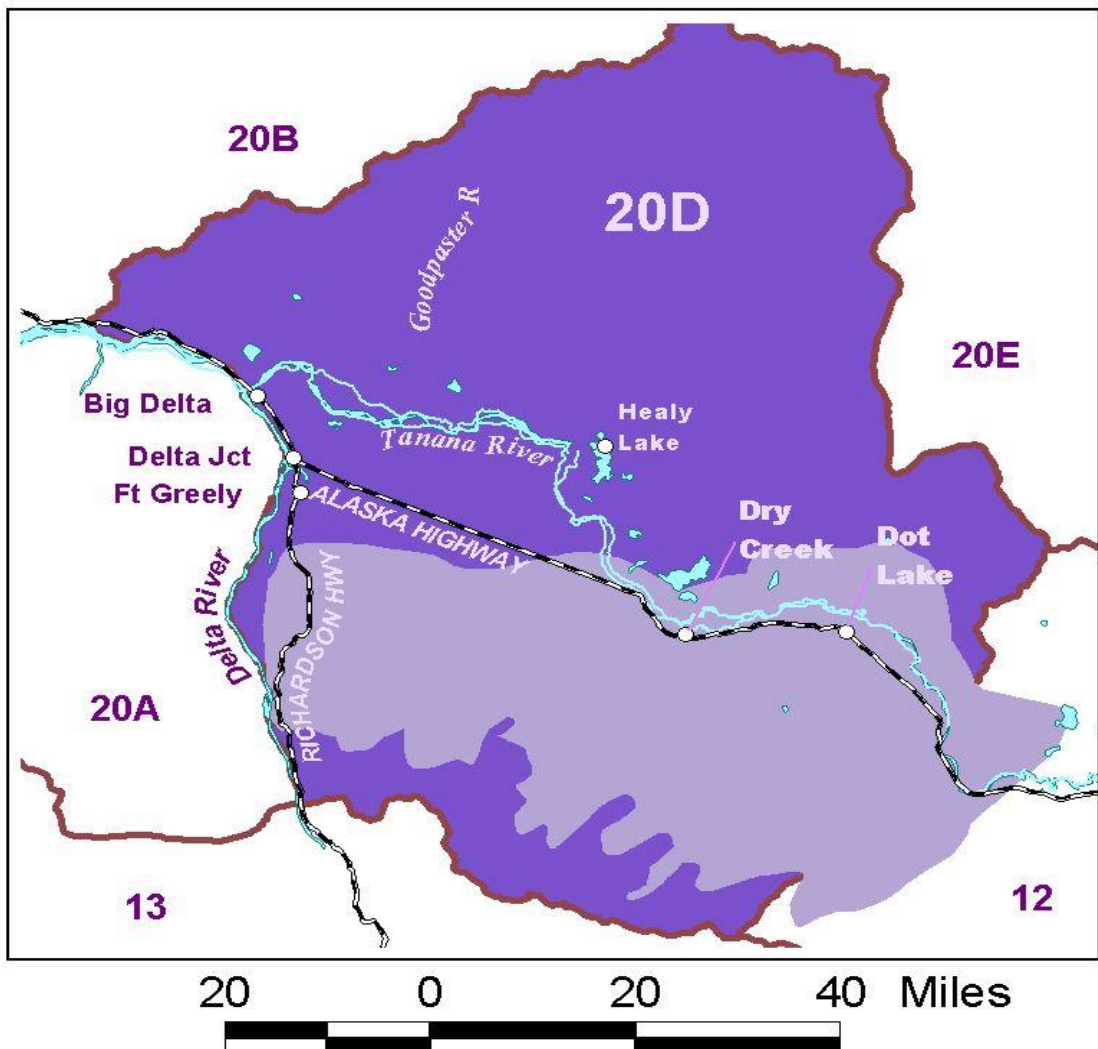
- **Management Activities**
  - **Seal bears**
  - **Nuisance bears**
- **Issues**
  - **Role in Intensive Management**



# Macomb Caribou Herd

- **MACH** - small herd in southern Unit 20D

## Macomb Caribou Herd Range



# **Macomb Caribou Herd**

- **Issue**
  - **Avoiding overharvest of small, road accessible herd**



# **Furbearers**

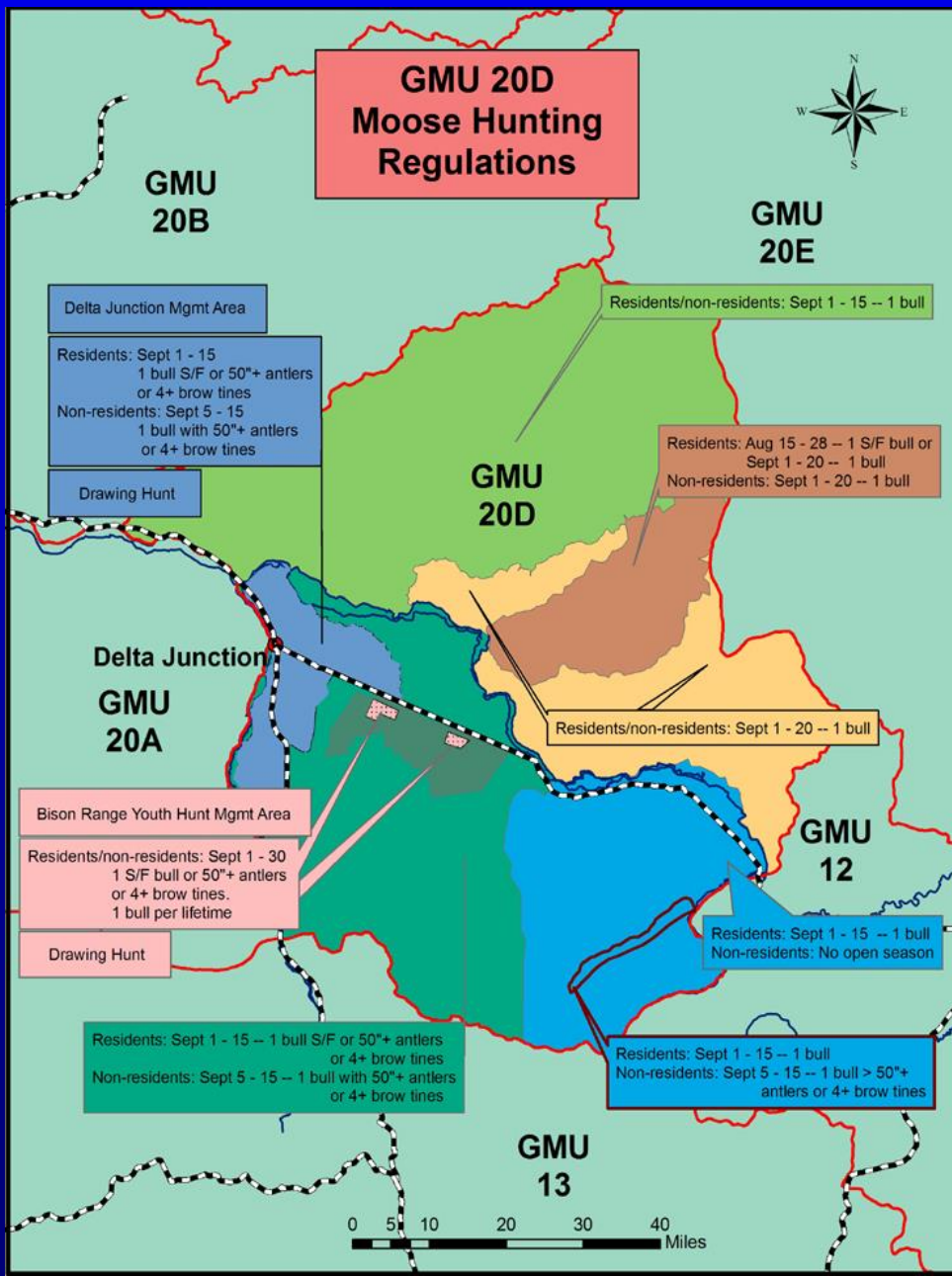
- **Emphasized species in fur harvest:**
  - **Beaver**
  - **Coyote**
  - **Lynx**
  - **Marten**
  - **Red fox**
  - **Wolverine**

# **Furbearers**

- **Management Activities**
  - **Seal furs**
  - **Trapper questionnaire**
  - **Annual snowshoe hare population survey**
- **Issues**
  - **Incidental catch of moose & caribou**

# Moose

- Human consumption identified as highest use
- Intensive Mgmt adopted 1995
- Pop. objective = 8,000-10,000





# **Moose**

- **Issues**

- **High density in SW Unit  
20D & antlerless hunt**

- **Antler restrictions  
unpopular**

- **Motor vehicle/moose  
collisions**

- **Nuisance moose**

# **Dall Sheep in** **Delta CUA**

- **2012 minimum count = 1,600 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 = 42/yr. last 3 yrs.**

# ***Dall Sheep***

## ***Mt. Harper- Goodpaster Rv***



- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, and 20E
- ~240 mi<sup>2</sup> of sheep habitat
- 2011 pop est. = 105 sheep
- 4 drawing permits for full-curl ram
  - Hunting can occur outside the drawing permit area with harvest ticket
- 2013 Harvest = 1



# **Dall Sheep**

- **Management Activities**
  - Seal horns
  - Conduct aerial surveys
- **Issues**
  - Protecting habitat from development
  - Disease surveillance

# *Small Game*

- **Species:**
  - Sharp-tailed grouse
  - Ruffed grouse
  - Spruce grouse
  - Snowshoe hares
- Popular hunting area for hunters from across the state
- Sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse populations monitored annually
- Hare numbers in low portion of cycle

# **Small Game**

- **Management Activities**
  - **Ruffed grouse drumming surveys**
  - **Monitor sharp-tailed grouse leks**
  - **Ruffed grouse habitat management area on DJBR**
- **Issues**
  - **Developing habitat mgmt. techniques**

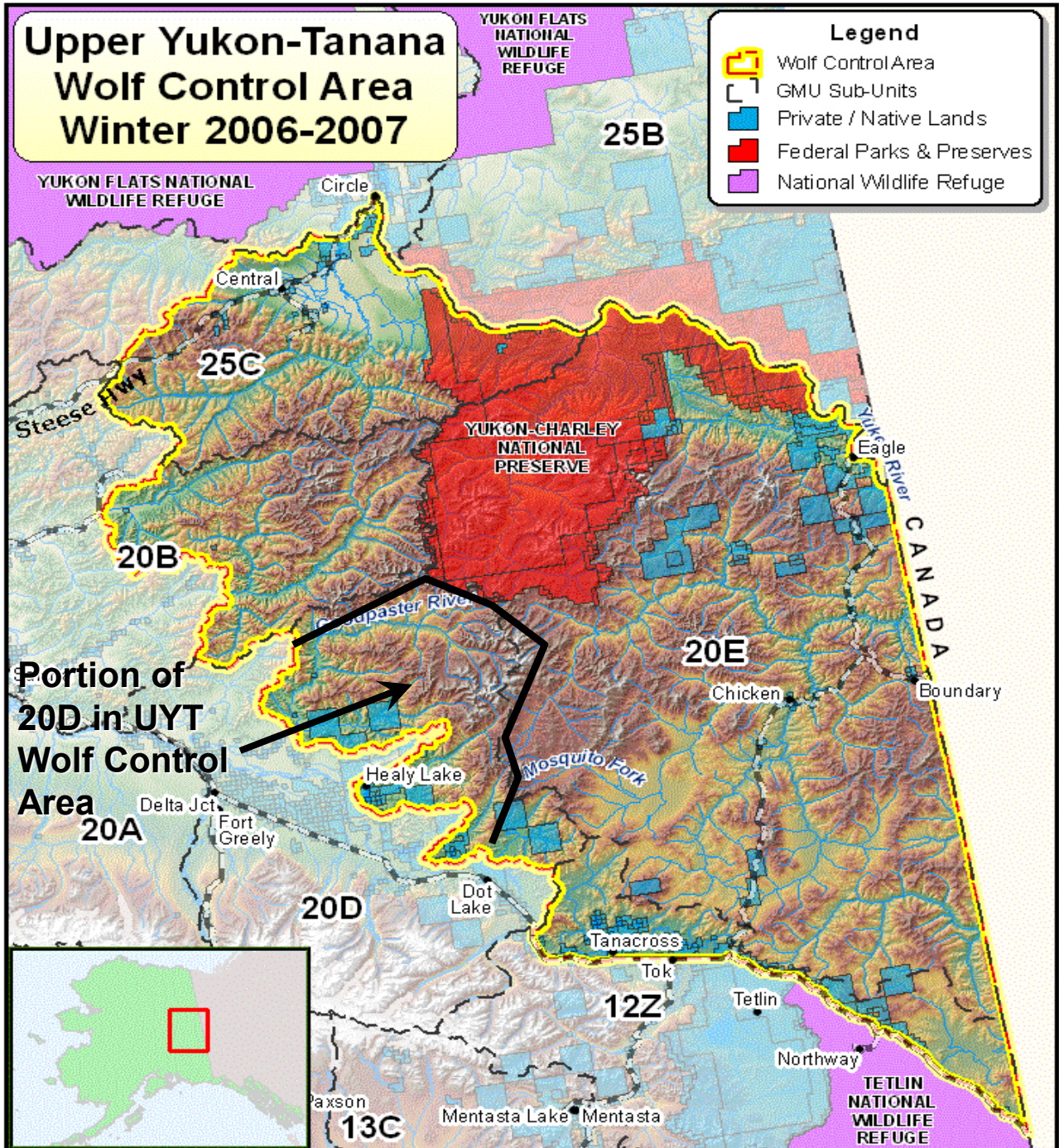


# *Wolf*

- Unit 20D pop. objective = 15-125
- Fall 2011 pop est ~ 115 in 12 packs
- Hunting season = Aug 10 – Apr 30; 5 wolves
- Trapping season = Oct 15 – Apr 30
- Harvest averaged 47/yr last 3 years
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon – Tanana wolf control area

# Wolf

## Upper Yukon-Tanana Wolf Control Area Winter 2006-2007



# *Wolf*

- **Management Activities**
  - **Seal pelts**
  - **Annual aerial surveys & trapper interviews to estimate population size**
- **Issues**
  - **Role of wolves in Unit 20D intensive mgmt.**



# **Other Issues**

- **Forestry: Cooperating to improve wildlife habitat**
  - **Timber sales, wildfire**
- **Big game ranching: bison, elk, yak, reindeer**
- **Impacts of fencing on private land**
- **Domestic livestock & disease**
- **Enforcement: poaching**

# **Unit 20D Summary**

- **Bison**
  - Continue to work with Ag Producers to address concerns
  - Delta Junction Bison Range
  - Slightly above population objective
- **Black Bear**
  - Harvest objective met
- **Brown Bear**
  - Harvest objective met
- **Macomb Caribou Herd**
  - Population objective met
  - Harvest objective met
  - Harvest falls within ANS ranges

# **Summary**

- **Moose**
  - Population slightly below objective
  - Harvest below objective
- **Dall sheep**
  - Population slightly below objective
  - Harvest objective
    - Horn size slightly below obj.
    - Age objective achieved
- **Wolf**
  - Population objective met



***The End***



**Questions?**

# 2014 BOG Regulation Proposals

## Unit 20D



# ***Proposal 90***

- **Proposal:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D
- **Submitted by:** ADF&G
- **Issue:** The Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually
- **ADF&G Position:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal
- **Rationale:**
  - Allow continuation of Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt
  - No plans to issue antlerless permits for RY14. Reauthorization is requested in the event that new data indicate a hunt is preferable.
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** **SUPPORT**



# ***Proposal 90***

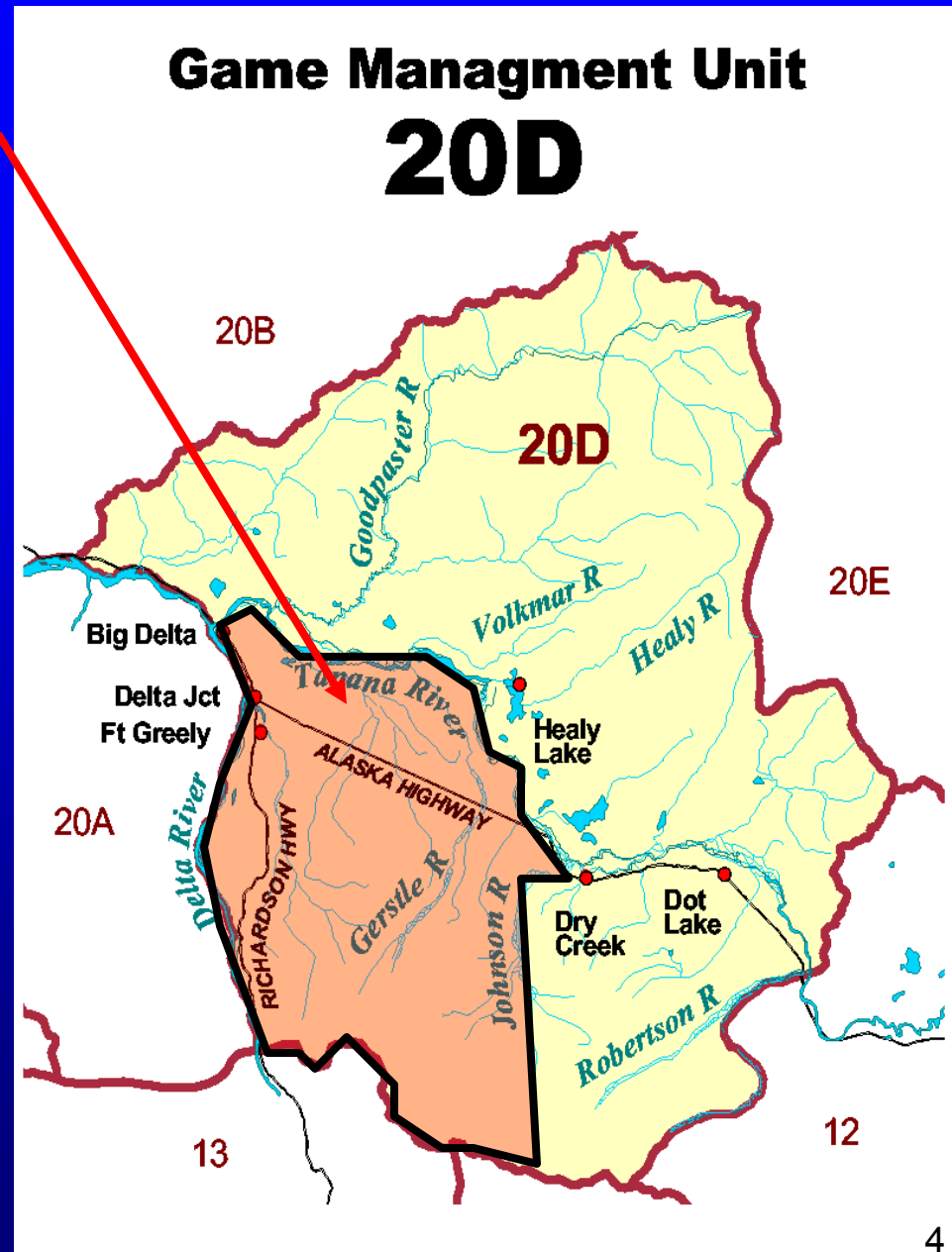
## **Background:**

- **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/mi<sup>2</sup>**
  - **Moderately low twinning rate**
  - **Moderately high browse utilization**

# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

- **Southwest Unit 20D**
  - South of Tanana River
  - West of Johnson River
- 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

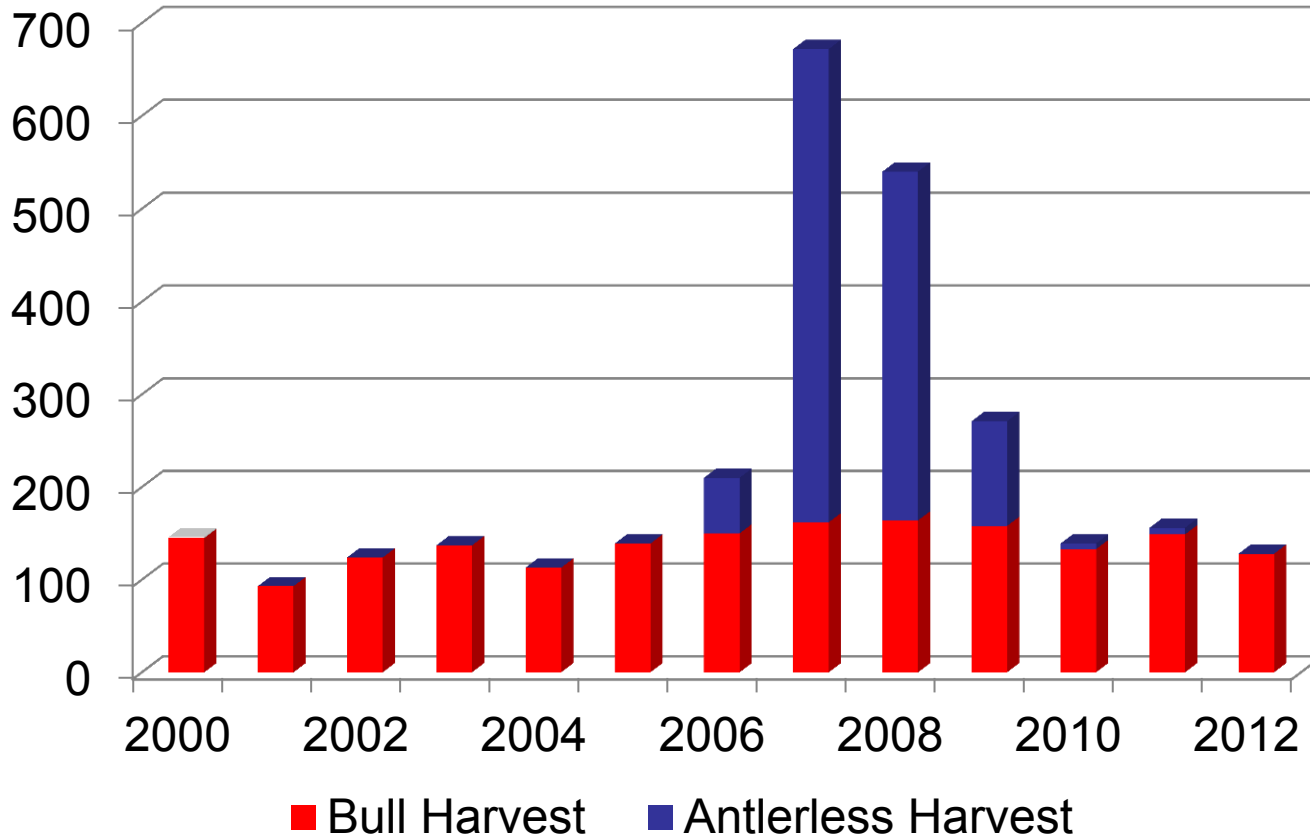


# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

- Unit 20D antlerless moose harvest (cow not accompanied by a calf)
  - 2006 = 52 cows

SW Unit 20D Bull & Cow Moose Harvest 2000-2012



- 2007 = 507 cows

- 2008 = 382 cows

- 2009 = 113 cows

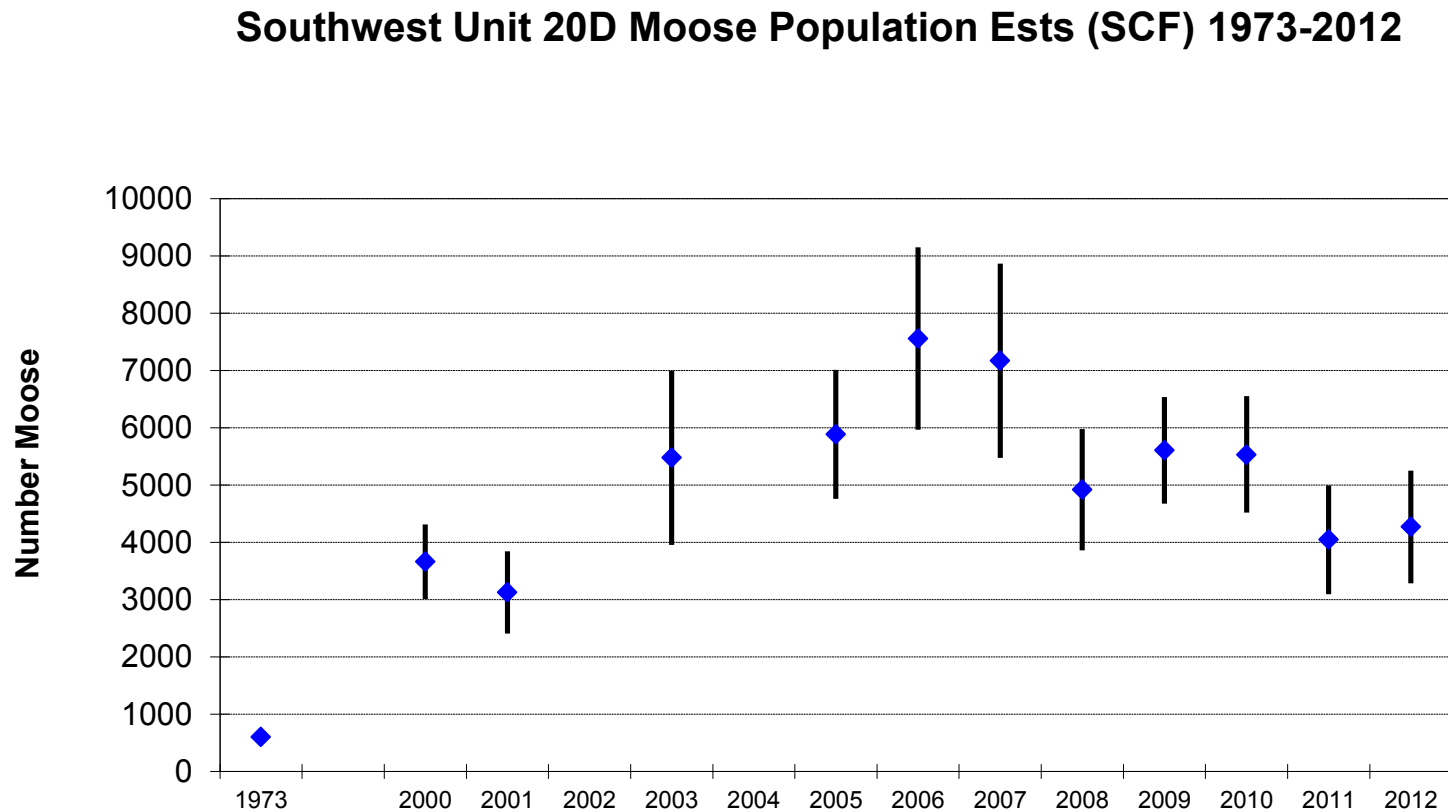
**Total = 1,054**



# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

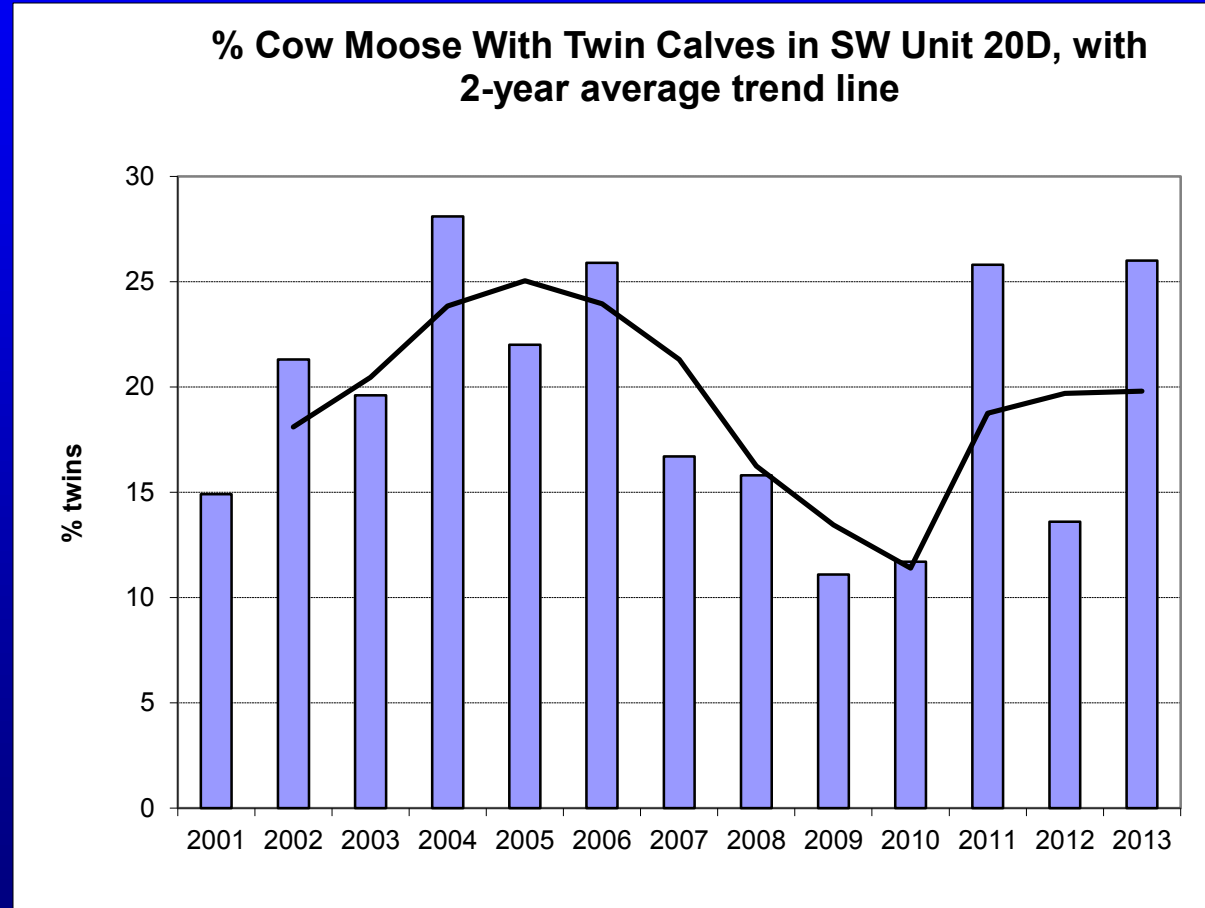
- SW Unit 20D cow hunts have reduced moose population density:
- 2006: 7,559 moose = 5.6 moose/ mi<sup>2</sup>
- 2012: 4,268 moose = 3.2 moose/ mi<sup>2</sup>



# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

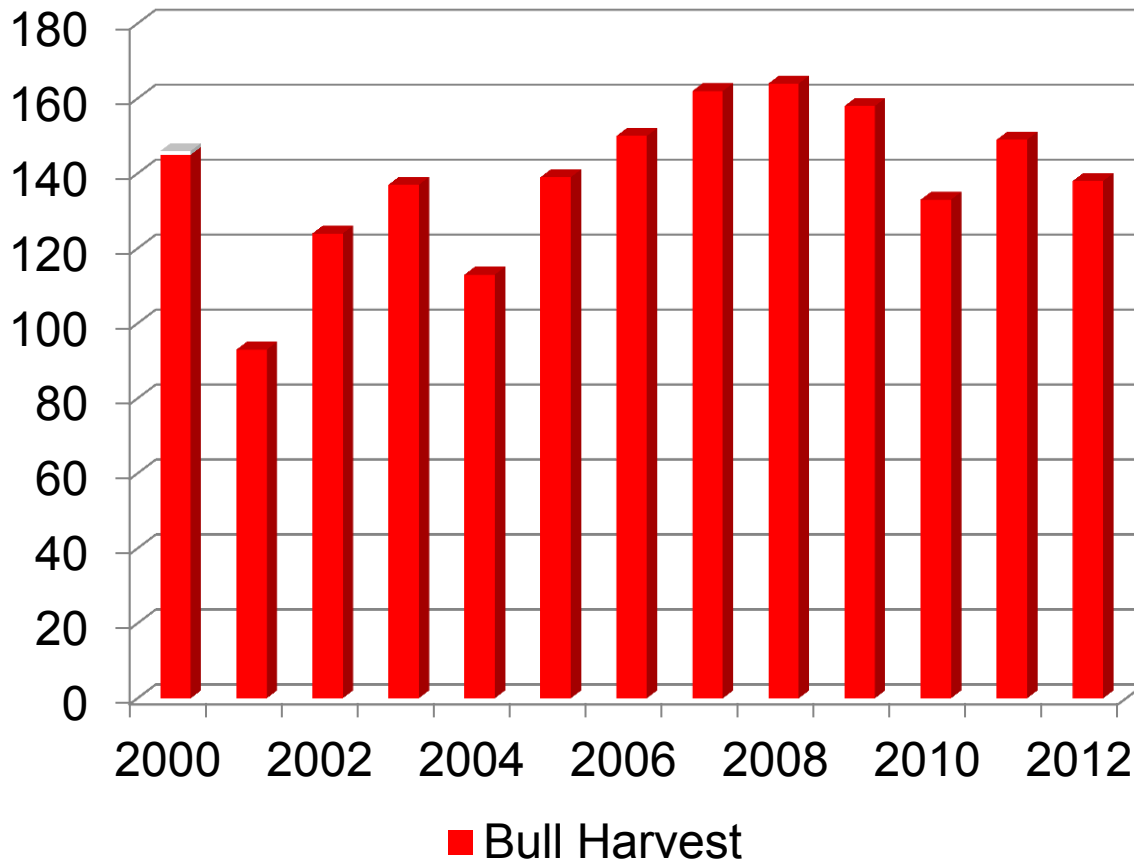
- Decreasing trend in 20D twinning rates from 2005 - 2010
- 2013 - SW Unit 20D twinning rates have increased to 26%



# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

**SW Unit 20D Bull Moose Harvest  
2000-2012**



- SW Unit 20D bull harvest is stable
- Harvest 2000-2012: 139/yr. (avg.)
- 2012 bull:cow ratio = 30:100
- 2012 calf:cow ratio = 36:100



# Proposal 90

## Background cont'd:

- Calf (approx. 9 months of age) weights have increased:
  - 2010 = 340 lbs.
  - 2012 = 366 lbs.
- Winter browse removal (%) decreased:
  - 2007 = 25%
  - 2010 = 15%





# Proposal 90

- Data from research in SW Unit 20D will help guide the decision on when antlerless hunts may be utilized to manage the moose population
- No immediate plans, but measurements of density-dependent nutritional condition indices remain a tool
- Data to be collected:
  - Movement & population identity
  - Aerial survey sightability
  - Weights of 9 month old calves
  - Overwinter browse utilization



# ***Proposal 90***

## **Summary:**

- **SW20D had very high density moose population = 5.6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>**
- **1,054 cow moose harvested from 2006-2009**
- **Moose density reduced to 3.2 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>**
- **No more antlerless moose permits issued until data collection suggests there is a need**



# ***Proposal 90***

## **Summary, cont'd:**

- **Keep antlerless moose hunt authorized:**
  - **Allow continuation of Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt**
  - **No plans to issue antlerless permits for RY14, but requesting reauthorization as management tool**

# ***Proposal 90***

**Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting  
season in Unit 20D**

**The department SUPPORTS this proposal**

**Questions?**

# ***Proposal 91***

- **Proposal:**
  - Change DM795 bag limit for residents and nonresidents to 1 moose every 4 years (except calf or cow accompanied by calf)
  - Align DM795 season dates for residents and nonresidents
  - Change eligibility qualifications for DM795 applicants to “recipient of the Purple Heart Medal”
- **Submitted by:** Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Fort Greely Garrison
- **Issue:** Development of a hunt for disabled military personnel with qualification criteria that meets public acceptance, increases opportunity, and contributes to moose management in Unit 20D



# ***Proposal 91***

- **ADF&G Position:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal
- **Rationale:** ADFG has no biological concerns
  - Allocative proposal
  - The board may wish to consider whether proxy hunting should be allowed
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** **SUPPORT**

# ***Proposal 91***

## **Background:**

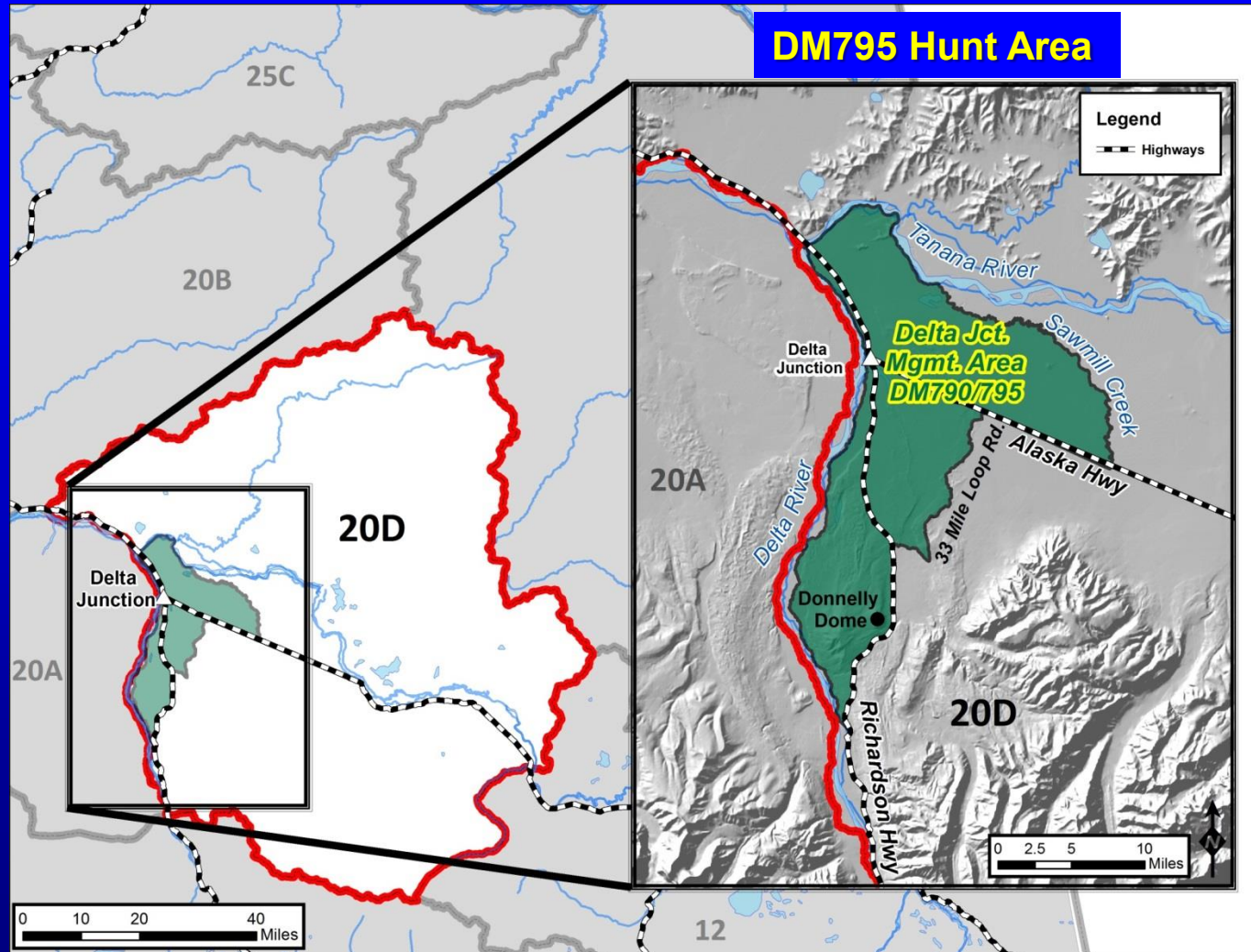
- **The Delta Junction community - long term interest in a hunt for disabled military individuals**
- **Concerns have existed about DM795**
  - **Disabled Veterans and Active-Duty Military Personnel**
  - **50% or greater service-connected disability**
- **Limited community acceptance**
- **Ft. Greely joined efforts w/Delta AC**
- **Sought input/collaboration**
- **Focused on vision of accommodating those who had lost ability to participate in hunting**
- **“Purple Heart Recipient” and 100% disabled eligibility criteria to reflect the vision**

# Proposal 91

## Background continued:

- Attempt to accomplish goals but not add to regulations or create a special hunt area

- Utilize the existing DM795



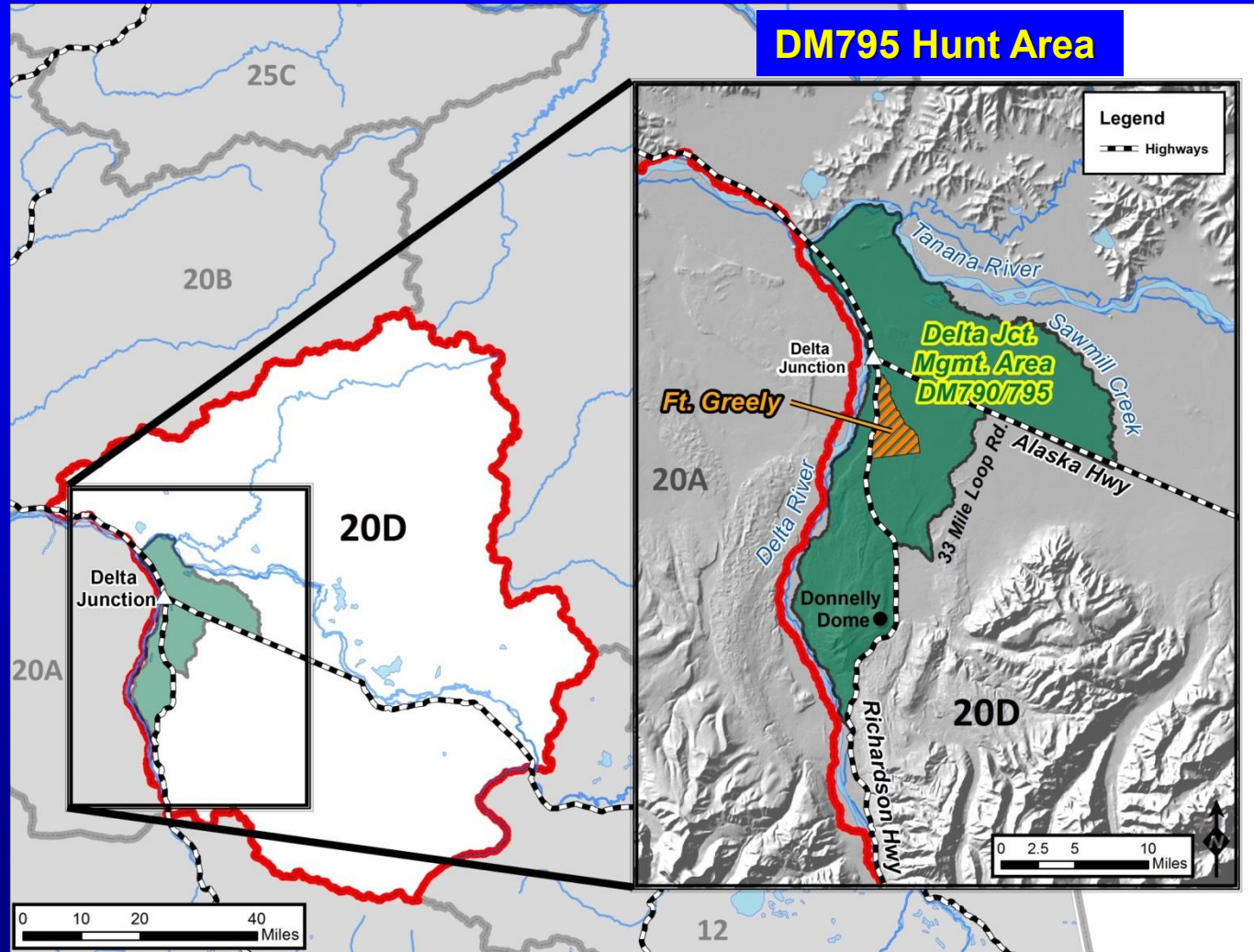


# Proposal 91

## Background continued:

- Attempt to accomplish goals but not add to regulations or create a special hunt area

- Utilize the existing DM795



# ***Proposal 91***

## **Background continued:**

- **Joint effort to fit the vision and goals with DM795**
- **Change the bag limit to 1 moose (except calf or cow accompanied by calf) every 4 years**
  - **Increase probability of success**
  - **Attempt to distribute the opportunity for a permit to as many different eligible applicants as possible**
- **Align resident and nonresident seasons**
  - **Focus on participants who have service-connected disability, not their residency**
- **Provide management tool with small, consistent antlerless harvest**

# Proposal 91

## Regulation Comparison:

### Existing DM795

### Proposed DM795

#### - Hunt Area

Same

Same

#### - Eligibility

Disabled veterans & disabled active-duty military personnel w/50% or greater service-connected disability

Recipient of the Purple Heart Medal to be certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs as having 100% service-connected disability

#### - Bag Limit

Bull w/50 in. antlers or antlers w/4 or more brow tines on at least 1 side

1 moose every 4 yrs. (except calf or cow accompanied by calf)

#### - Season

Resident: Sept. 1-15  
Nonresident: Sept. 5-15

Residents &  
Nonresidents: Sept. 1-15



# ***Proposal 91***

## **Background continued:**

- **DM795**
  - **In existence since 2010**
  - **6 Permits/Year**
  - **7 bulls harvested since 2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b># Permits</b>	<b>Harvest (bulls)</b>
2010	6	2
2011	6	2
2012	6	0
2013	6	3

# ***Proposal 91***

## **Background continued:**

- **If approved, potential take of 6 cow moose/year**
- **DM792 (Bison Range Youth Hunt) : avg. 5 antlerless moose/year since 2003**
- **Provides small, consistent antlerless harvest**
  - **Biologically sound**
  - **Contributes to managing the stable to slowly increasing moose population in SW Unit 20D**
  - **Community Pulse:**
    - **Small Scale Antlerless Hunts = palatable**
    - **Larger Scale Antlerless Hunts = less palatable**

# ***Proposal 91***

## **Issues:**

- **Some past applicants will no longer be eligible for this hunt**
  - **Avg. 62 applicants per year since 2010**
- **Proxy hunting:**
  - **legal in all antlerless moose hunts**
  - **Does not meet intent of proposal for providing opportunity to disabled military personnel to actively participate in hunting**



# ***Proposal 91***

## **Summary:**

- **Broad collaboration**
- **Seeking opportunity for a specific group**
- **Public acceptance**
- **Provide best chance for success**
- **Provide equal hunting opportunity for residents and nonresidents**
- **Work with existing hunt (DM795)**
- **Antlerless harvest = management tool**
- **Proxy hunting not the intent of this proposal**

# ***Proposal 91***

## **Summary continued:**

- **Change DM795 eligibility**
  - **Purple Heart Recipient with 100% service-connected disability**
- **Change DM795 bag limit**
  - **1 moose every 4 years (except calf or cow accompanied by a calf)**
- **Change DM795 season**
  - **Align resident and nonresident seasons**

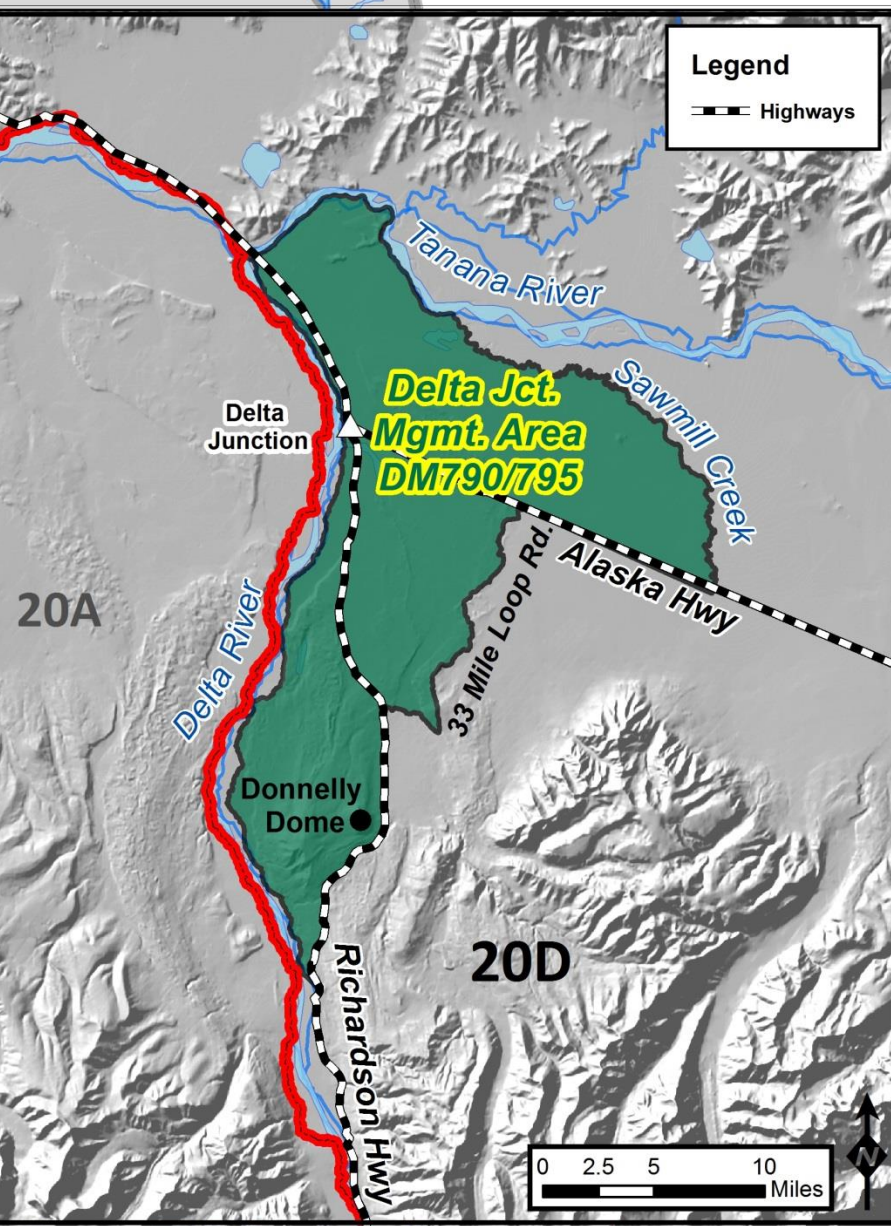
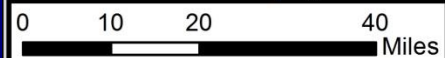
# DM795 Hunt Area

20B

20D

Delta Junction

20A





# ***Proposal 91***

## **Changes to DM795**

- **Bag limit**
- **Season dates**
- **Eligibility = Purple Heart/100% Service-connected disability**

**The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal**

## **Questions?**

# ***Proposal 92***

- **Proposal:**
  - Change resident bag limit for bison in Unit 20D to 1 bison per lifetime
  - Place restriction on household eligibility for 20D bison permits. Eliminate party applications from a single household for Unit 20D bison
- **Issue:** Concern about inequity that some individuals may never draw a permit for Delta bison while others may draw multiple permits.
- **ADF&G Position:** The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal
- **Rationale:** Allocation issue. The department has no conservation concerns regarding this proposal.
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** ***OPPOSE***

# ***Proposal 92***

## **Background:**

- **Delta bison hunts have been conducted since 1950**
- **Very popular/high demand hunt**
  - **9,414 avg. applicants/yr. since 1989**
  - **18,042 avg. applicants/yr. past 5 years**
    - **(0.6% drawing success)**
- **Electronic records for bison permits go back to 1982**
- **Since 1982:**
  - **103 individuals have drawn >1 permit**
  - **3 individuals may have drawn 3 permits**
  - **58 party permits have possibly been drawn by members of the same household**



# *Proposal 92*

## Background:

- **Since 2003:**
  - **10 individuals among 1,775 permit winners (0.9%) have drawn a permit more than once**
- **January 2008 BOG approved changes for bison permit eligibility:**
  - **Residents:**
    - **from 1 bison every 5 years**
    - **to 1 permit every 10 years**
  - **Nonresidents: 1 permit in a lifetime**
- **Therefore, no one has won a bison permit more than once since the change went into effect in RY09**

# Proposal 92

## Regulation Comparison:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
-Eligibility for 20D bison permits	<b>RESIDENTS:</b> 1 permit every 10 years	<b>RESIDENTS:</b> 1 permit in a lifetime
	<b>NONRESIDENTS:</b> 1 permit in a lifetime	<b>NONRESIDENTS:</b> No change
		<b>HOUSEHOLDS:</b> Restricted to 1 bison permit/household/ regulatory year

# ***Proposal 92***

- **Issues:**
  - **Allocative proposal**
  - **Increased complexity for administration of bison hunts:**
    - **Eligibility for 20D bison hunts would be different than other bison hunts**
    - **Determination of members from same household**



# ***Proposal 92***

## **Summary:**

- **Eliminates eligibility of a resident to win more than 1 Unit 20D bison permit in a lifetime (aligning resident & nonresident eligibility)**
- **Eliminates possibility of 2 members from the same household being drawn for individual permits or together on a party permit application**
- **Requires department to adjust admin. of drawing process for Unit 20D bison permits to accommodate difference in eligibility**

# ***Proposal 92***

The department is NEUTRAL on this  
proposal

## **Questions?**

# ***Proposal 93***

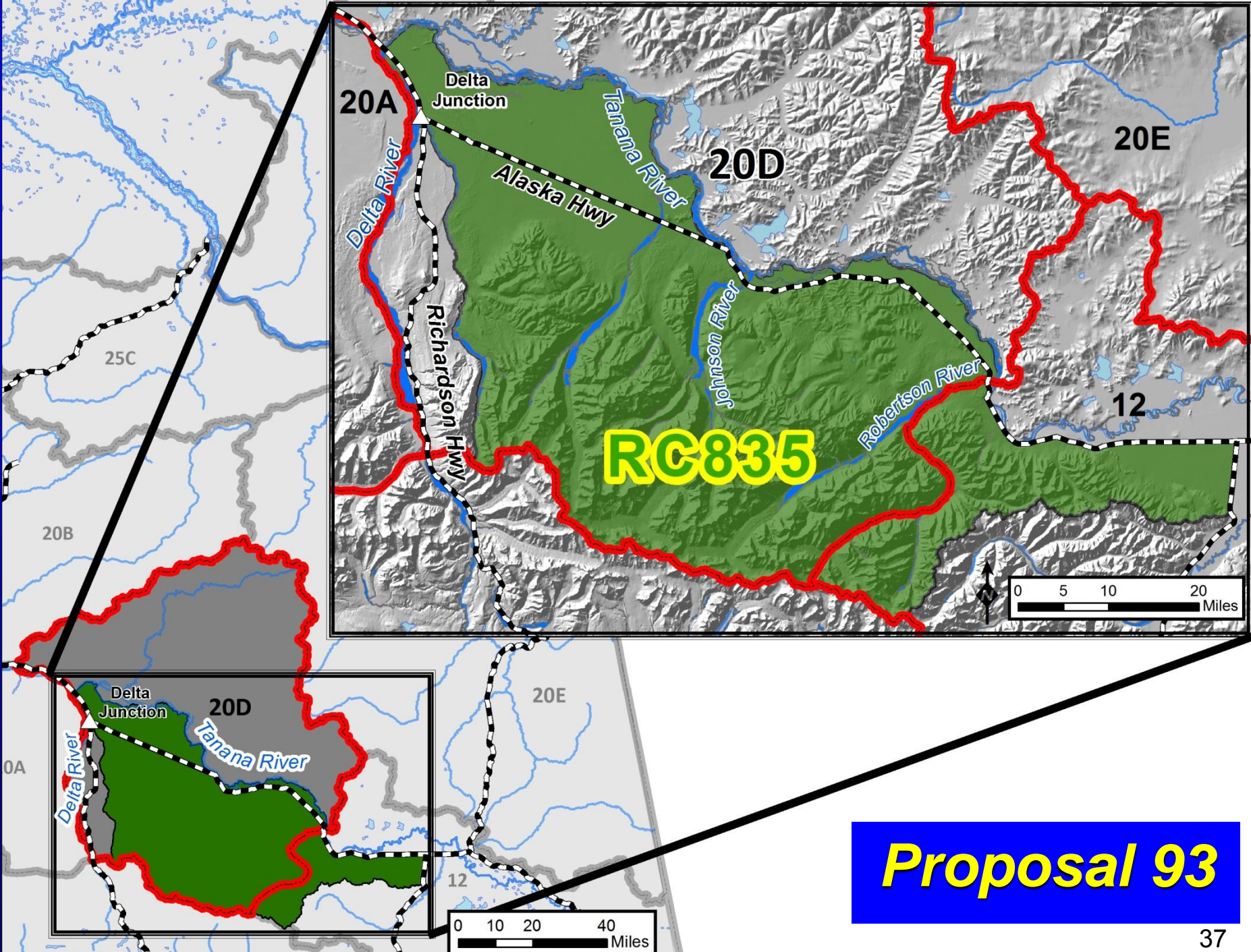
- **Proposal:** Allow the take of up to 100 bulls from the Macomb caribou herd in Unit 12, in combination with Unit 20D, to correct a discrepancy in the regulations by aligning the harvest quota for both units
- **Submitted by:** ADF&G
- **Issue:** Housekeeping proposal to correct an inadvertent discrepancy in the hunting regulations
- **ADF&G Position:** The department SUPPORTS this proposal
- **Rationale:** Benefit the public and AK Wildlife Troopers
  - instilling confidence in accuracy & reliability of the regulations
  - aid in understanding of the department's management of the Macomb caribou herd
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** ***SUPPORT***

# ***Proposal 93***

## **Background:**

- **The Macomb caribou herd is harvested in portions of Units 12 and 20D**
- **BOG increased the harvest quota from 50 to 100 caribou for the Unit 20D portion of the hunt in 2008**
- **Department overlooked requesting the same quota increase for the Unit 12 portion of the hunt area**



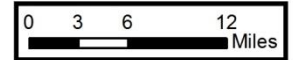


**Proposal 93**



# Proposal 93

## Legend



- Game Management Units
- RC835
- RC835 Unit 12
- RC835 Unit 20D
- Delta Controlled Use Area
- Maccomb Plateau Controlled Use Area

**RC835 Harvest quota (Unit 20D) -  
Up to 100 bulls in combination  
w/Unit 12**

**RC835 Harvest quota (Unit 12) -  
Up to 50 bulls in  
combination w/Unit 20D**

# ***Proposal 93***

## **Background continued:**

- The harvest quota was 50 bulls during RY08–RY10
- The harvest quota was 70 bulls during RY11–RY13
- Annual harvest ranged between 48–73 bulls during RY08–RY13

# ***Proposal 93***

## **Background continued:**

- **Minimum counts of Macomb caribou herd since RY06 were the highest documented**
- **Minimum counts have been stable since RY11**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Minimum Count</b>	<b>Bulls:100 Cows</b>	<b>Calves:100 Cows</b>
2011	1,373	No Data	No Data
2012	1,173	39	10
2013	1,510	37	15



# ***Proposal 93***

## **Summary:**

- **Macomb caribou herd is at a high population level**
- **Housekeeping proposal to correct discrepancy and to align harvest quotas within the hunt area**
- **Improve accuracy and instill confidence in the reliability of the regulations and aid in the understanding of the department's management of the Macomb caribou herd**

# ***Proposal 93***

**Correcting a discrepancy in the harvest quota  
for Macomb caribou herd in Unit 12**

**The department SUPPORTS this proposal**

**Questions?**

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

## **Background:**

- **The Macomb caribou herd is harvested in portions of Units 12 and 20D**
- **BOG made a positive C&T finding for the Macomb caribou herd**
- **BOG set an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 10–40 caribou**
- **Efforts to balance subsistence opportunity & management for sustained yield harvest have been a long, ongoing challenge**

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

## **Management Actions & Notable Events in the Macomb caribou herd history, 1970s–2000s:**

- **1970s-1980s: Population decline was documented**
- **Beginning of 40 year effort to address the decline & stabilize the hunt structure & harvest to balance subsistence opportunity with sustained yield harvest**
- **1971: Delta Controlled Use Area established**
- **1974: Macomb Plateau Mgmt Area (renamed Controlled Use Area) established**
- **1977: Emergency Order closure**
- **Late 1980s: Customary and Traditional (C&T) Use Determination**



# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

## **Management Actions & Notable Events in the Macomb caribou herd history, 1970s–2000s:**

- **1990s:**
  - Hunt changed from drawing permit to resident-only registration to accommodate C&T use finding
  - BOG determined the ANS to be 10–40 caribou
  - Hunting season in September (overlap w/moose season 1997-98)
  - Hunting season closed 6 years in the 1990s because herd below population objective
- **2002:** Season dates changed to August 15–25 to separate from moose season & revision to DCUA boundary (highway corridor)
- **2002 & 2003:** Emergency Order closures after short duration seasons

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

## **Management Actions & Notable Events in the Macomb caribou herd history, 1970s–2000s:**

- **2004: Hunt area boundary adjustment (Jarvis Creek) to address rate of harvest**
- **2006: Season dates changed to August 10–25 w/harvest quota of 25**
- **2008: Season dates of August 10–28 to include 3 days of motorized access in western part of hunt area w/harvest quota of 50**
- **2008: BOG approved increase in Regulatory harvest quota from 50 to 100**
- **2009-2013:**
  - **Season dates of August 10–27 to include 2 days of motorized access in western part of hunt area**
  - **Permitting authority quota increases from 50 (2009) to 70 (2010–2013)**

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

- **Focus & goals of ADF&G's management efforts:**
  - **provide subsistence harvest opportunity w/out exceeding harvest quotas**
  - **ensuring adequate opportunity for subsistence**
  - **meeting Intensive Management population and harvest objectives**
- **Most goals have been consistently met since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
- **Reasons for core season dates of August 10–27:**
  - **slow rate of harvest by utilizing DCUA and MPCUA**
  - **provide some motorized access opportunity**
  - **conduct the hunt outside of moose season**

## ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

- **Since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
  - **Harvest has been within ANS ranges of 10–40 caribou and 15 days of subsistence hunting opportunity have been provided every year**
  - **No emergency closures of the hunting season**
  - **Reported harvest and quotas have increased**


<b>Year</b>	<b>Harvest Quota</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2006	25	21
2007	25	27
2008	50	48
2009	50	56
2010	70	68
2011	70	73
2012	70	72
2013	70	64



# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

- **Since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
  - **Harvest quota was exceeded in 4 of the 8 years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Harvest Quota</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Illegal Kills</b>
2006	25	21	-
2007	25	27	2
2008	50	48	-
2009	50	56	3
2010	70	68	-
2011	70	73	5
2012	70	72	3
2013	70	64	3

 - Quota exceeded

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

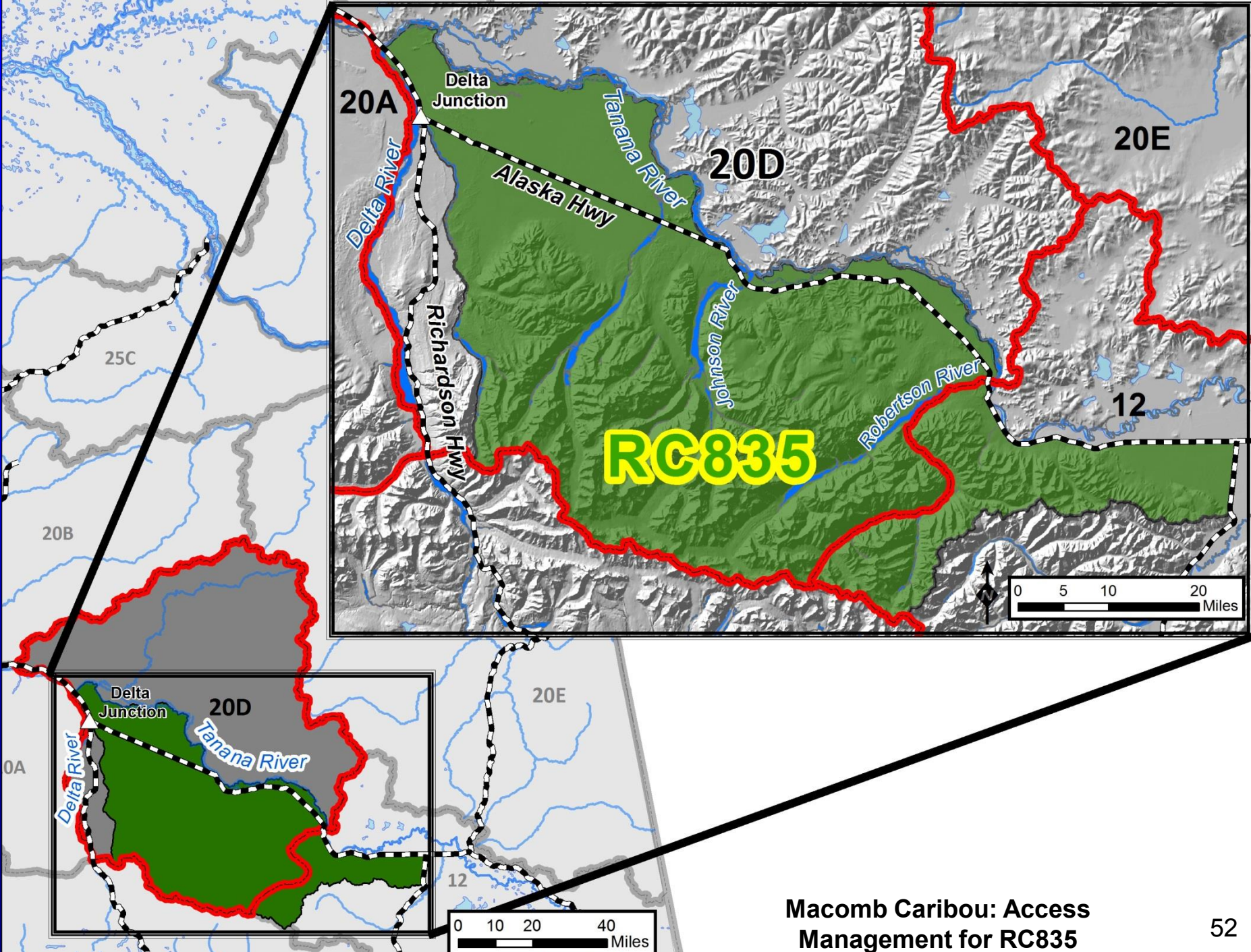
- **Since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
  - **The IM harvest objective of 30–50 caribou has been met 6 of the 8 years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Harvest Quota</b>	<b>IM Harvest Objective</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2006	25	30–50	21
2007	25	30–50	27
2008	50	30–50	48
2009	50	30–50	56
2010	70	30–50	68
2011	70	30–50	73
2012	70	30–50	72
2013	70	30–50	64

# ***Macomb Caribou Herd Management History***

- **Since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
  - **The IM population objective of 600–800 caribou has been met or exceeded every year**
  - **Pop. estimates/minimum counts have been the highest documented**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Min. Count/Pop. Est.</b>	<b>Bulls:100 Cows</b>	<b>Calves:100 Cows</b>
2006	857	48	31
2007	1,305	68	29
2008	754	No Data	No Data
2009	959	32	26
2010	1,809	39	27
2011	1,373	No Data	No Data
2012	1,173	39	10
2013	1,510	37	15



Macomb Caribou: Access Management for RC835



# ***Macomb Caribou: Access Management for RC835***

- **Access Review**
  - A portion has no motorized vehicle or pack animal restrictions for the entire season (north of Alaska Highway, east of Bear Creek, south of Macomb Plateau, and east of the Johnson River)
  - A portion is closed to motorized vehicle use for the entire season (Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area), but open to pack animal use
  - A portion has motorized vehicle and pack animal restrictions for most of the season and no restrictions on the last 2 days of the season (Delta Controlled Use Area)



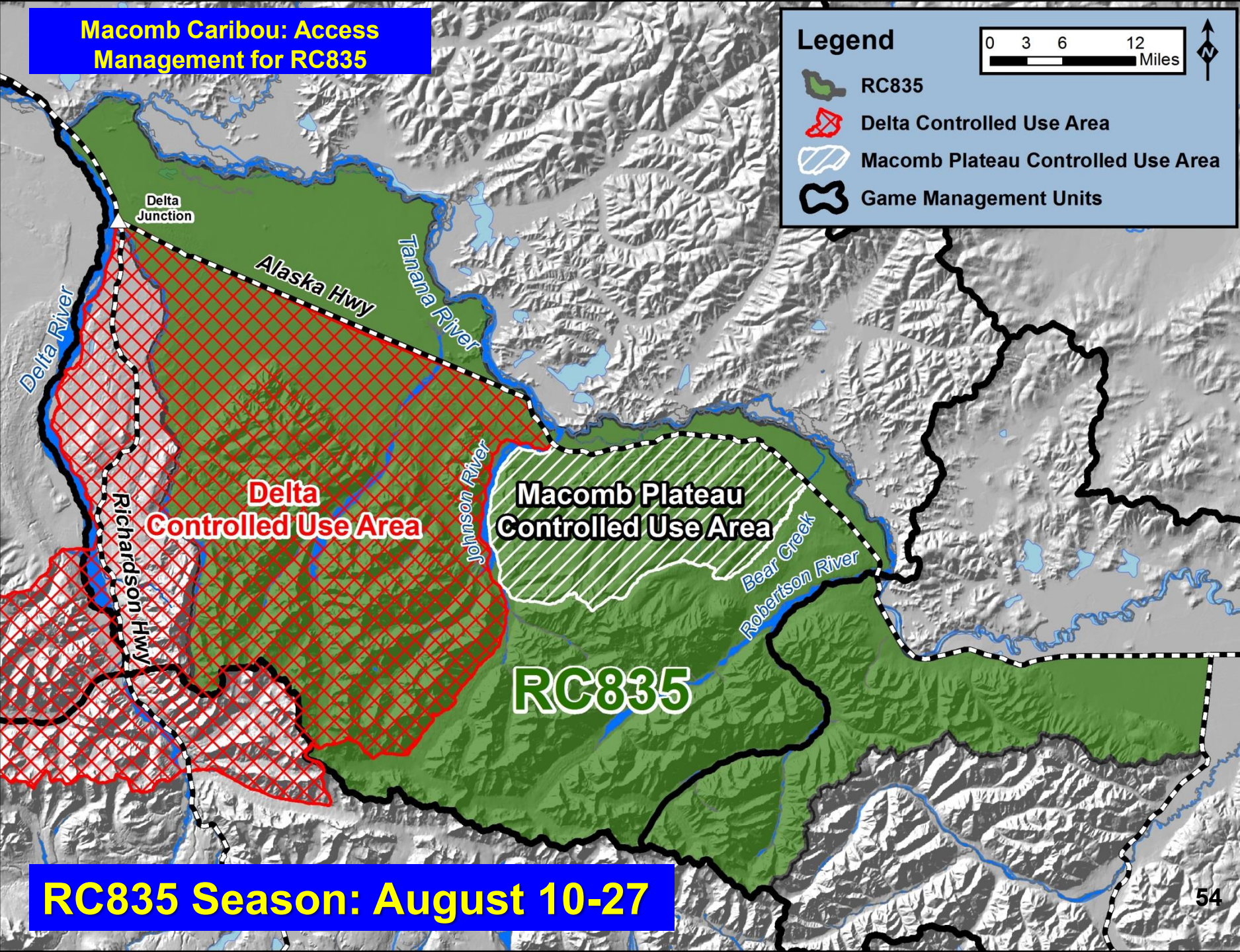
**Macomb Caribou: Access  
Management for RC835**

**Legend**

0 3 6 12  
Miles



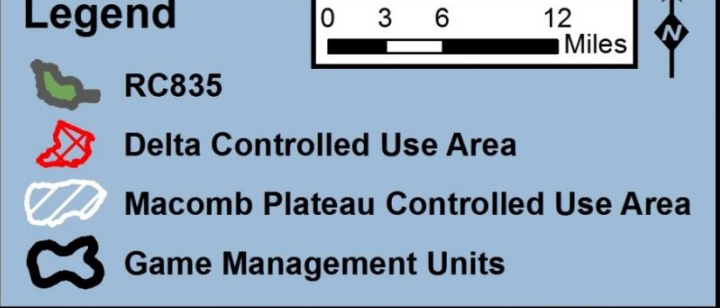
-  RC835
-  Delta Controlled Use Area
-  Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area
-  Game Management Units



**RC835 Season: August 10-27**



**No Motor Vehicle/Pack Animal Restrictions  
August 10-27**



**MPCUA: Closed  
to Motorized  
Vehicles August  
10-September 30**

**DCUA:- Closed to Motorized Vehicles  
& Pack Animals August 5-25  
- No Restrictions August 26-27**



**Macomb Caribou: Access  
Management for RC835**

# ***Proposal 94***

- **Proposal:** Create 2 hunt areas with different seasons for Macomb caribou (RC835) and extend the season
- **Issues:**
  - Concern that hunting in the eastern part of the RC835 hunt area is poor & caribou are inaccessible in August
  - Provide hunters in the eastern part of the hunt area a better opportunity to harvest a bull
  - Eliminate motorized access in the western part of the hunt area
  - Warm temperatures in August increase potential for meat spoilage



# ***Proposal 94***

- **ADF&G Position:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal
- **Rationale:** Allocation issue. The board should consider if the current regulatory approach & the proposed changes provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** **OPPOSE**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Existing Hunt Structure:**

- **RC835**
- **Registration Hunt**
- **Resident Hunters only**
- **August 10–September 30 framework (5 AAC 85.025)**
- **Season dates of August 10–27 under ADF&G's discretionary permit authority**
- **Harvest quota = 70 bulls**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Proposed Hunt Structure:**

- **Create 2 hunt areas with different seasons & extend the season for the portion of the hunt area in Units 12 and 20D east of the Johnson River**
  - **Unit 20D, west of the west bank of the Johnson River: August 5–25**
  - **Unit 20D, east of the west bank of the Johnson River, and Unit 12, west of the Glenn Hwy. and south of the AK Hwy: August 26–September 20**



# Proposal 94

## Legend



RC835



Delta Controlled Use Area



Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area



Game Management Units

0 3 6 12  
Miles



Delta Junction

Alaska Hwy

Tanana River

Delta  
Controlled Use Area

Macomb Plateau  
Controlled Use Area

RC835

Johnson River

Bear Creek  
Robertson River

RC835 Season: August 10-27

60



# Proposal 94

## Legend

0 3 6 12 Miles



RC835 West



RC835



Delta Controlled Use Area



Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area



Game Management Units

Delta Junction

20D

Alaska Hwy

Tanana River

**RC835  
West**

**August 5 – 25**

Johnson River

Macomb Plateau  
Controlled Use Area

12

Bear Creek  
Robertson River

Delta River

Jarvis Creek

Richardson Hwy

Delta  
Controlled  
Use Area

**RC835**

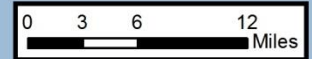
**Proposed Hunt Structure**

61

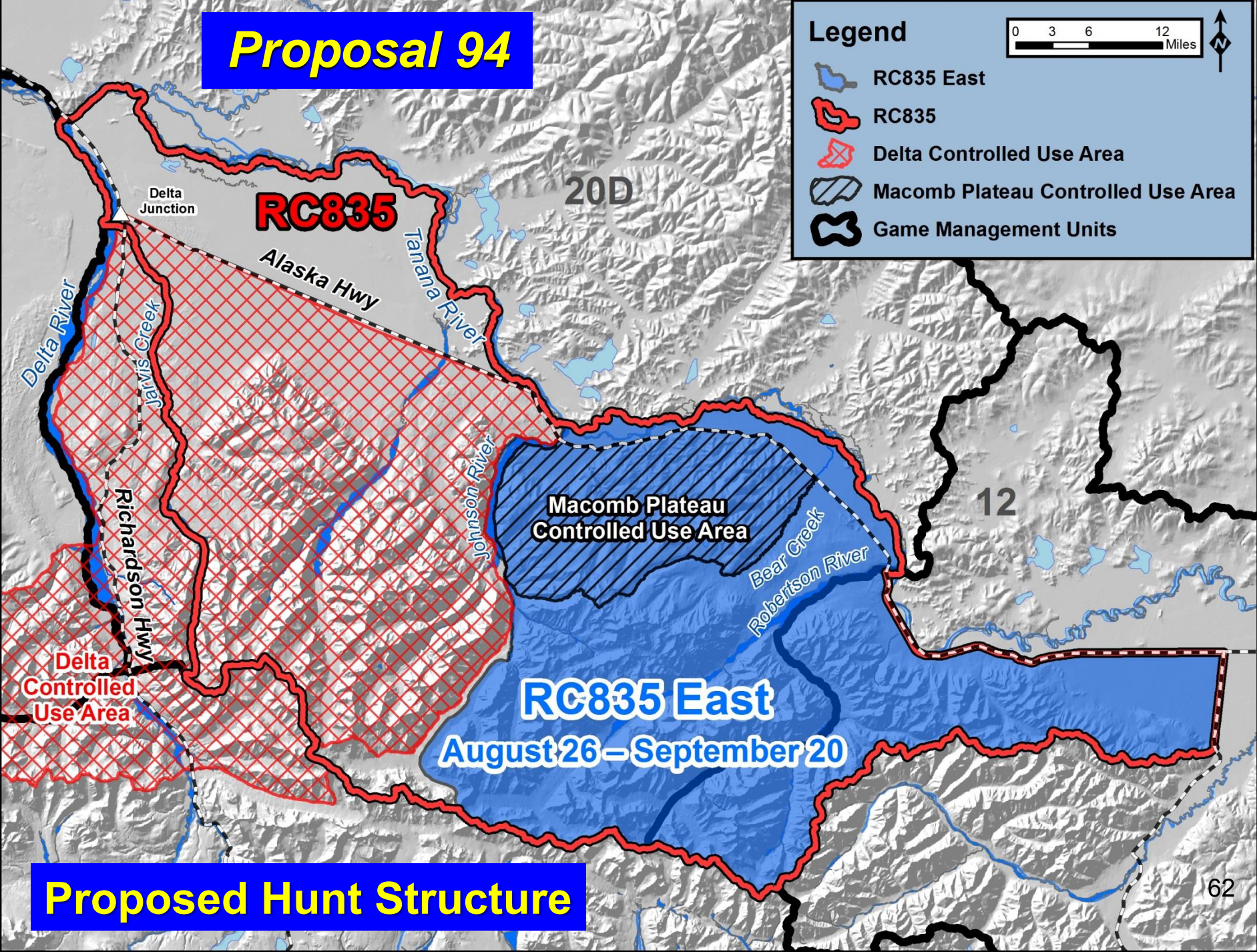


# Proposal 94

## Legend



- RC835 East
- RC835
- Delta Controlled Use Area
- Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area
- Game Management Units



## Proposed Hunt Structure



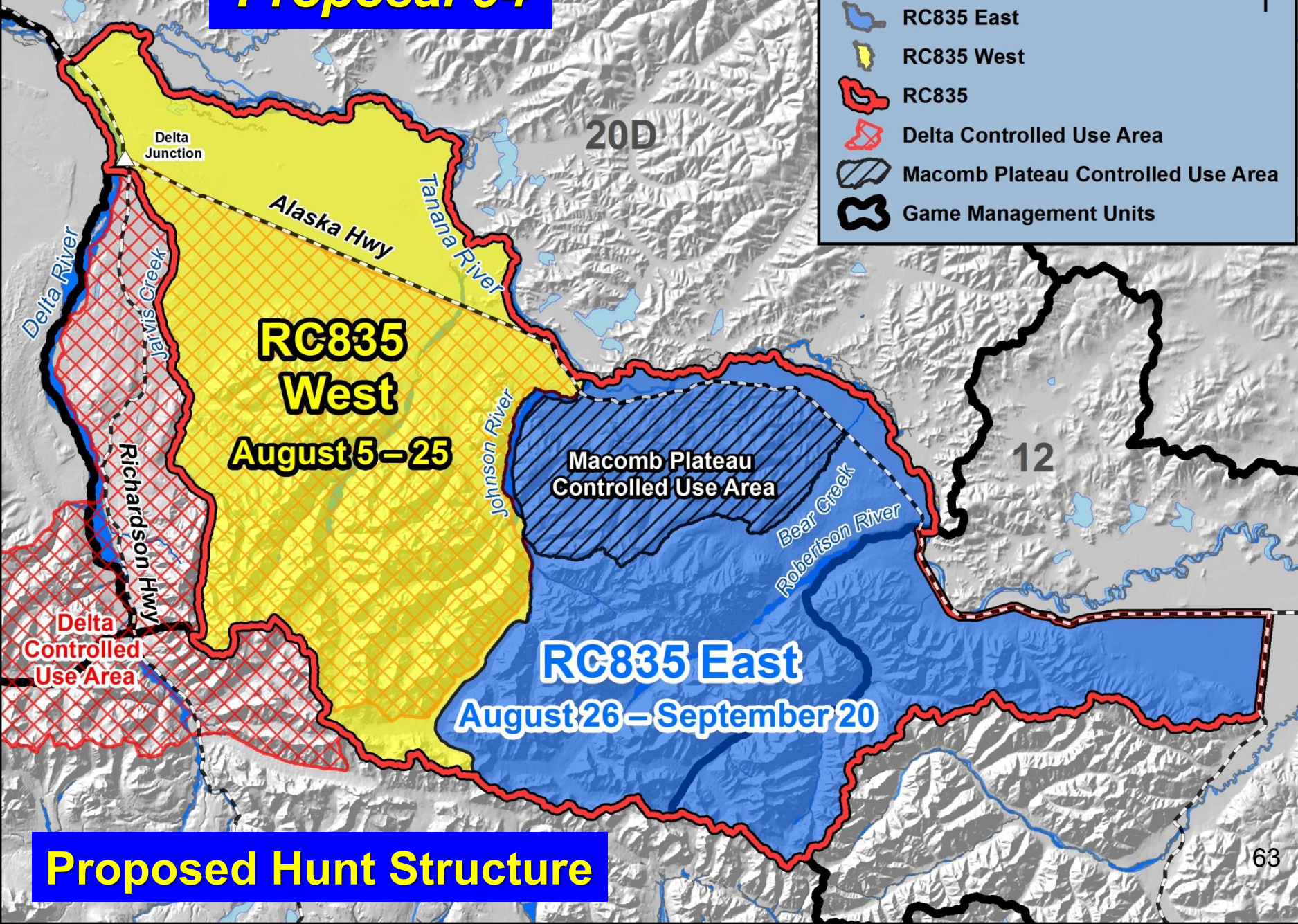
# Proposal 94

## Legend

0 3 6 12 Miles



- RC835 East
- RC835 West
- RC835
- Delta Controlled Use Area
- Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area
- Game Management Units



## Proposed Hunt Structure



# Proposal 94

## Hunt Structure Comparison – Discretionary Permit Authority:

### Existing RC835

### Proposed Macomb Hunt

-Motorized  
access west  
of Johnson

Yes-2 Days

No

River (within DCUA)

- Motorized  
access east of  
Johnson River

Yes-entire season  
(except MPCUA)

Yes-entire season  
(except MPCUA)

- Number of  
hunt days  
west of  
Johnson River

18 days

21 days

- Number of  
hunt days  
east of  
Johnson River

18 days

26 days



# ***Proposal 94***

## **Harvest History for Eastern part of Hunt Area:**

- **Since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
  - **Since RY06, the area east of the Johnson River (including the Macomb Plateau) has produced an average of 42% of the total annual harvest**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Effects of Proposal/Issues:**

- **24 days of potential hunting opportunity would be added to Macomb caribou season**
- **Additional season length in portion of hunt area increases LE complexity**
- **Regulations for the hunt would increase in complexity**
- **Reduced hunt area for early part of season- this could result in increased hunter density in early season**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Effects of Proposal/Issues:**

- **Potential loss of caribou hunting opportunity in eastern part of hunt area**
  - **Season date change & overlap with moose season**
- **Potential gain of caribou hunting opportunity due to overlap with moose season**
- **Division of harvest quota between hunt areas**
  - **Half of quota for each area**
  - **Leftover from 1<sup>st</sup> season**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Effects of Proposal/Issues:**

- **Increased potential for emergency closure and exceeding the harvest quota due to overlap with moose season**
  - **May be necessary to shorten hunt period w/discretionary permit authority (only after consultation with BOG)**
- **Unit 12 regulations will require revision**



# ***Proposal 94***

## **Summary:**

- **Efforts to balance subsistence opportunity & management for sustained yield harvest have been a long, ongoing challenge**
- **Most goals have been consistently met since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
- **More likely the season would need to be closed by emergency order and the harvest quota could be exceeded due to overlap with moose season**
  - **May be necessary to shorten hunt period w/discretionary permit authority (only after consultation with BOG)**
- **Unit 12 regulations will require revision**

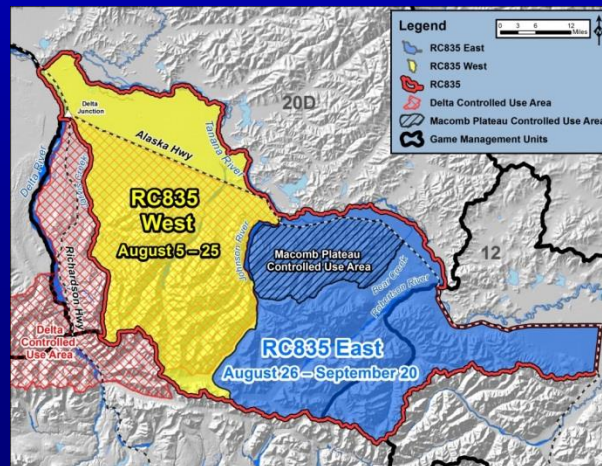
# Proposal 94

Create 2 hunt areas with different seasons for Macomb caribou (RC835) and extend the season

The department is NEUTRAL on this allocative proposal

The Board may wish to consider whether or not reasonable opportunity for subsistence is provided

## Questions?



# ***Proposal 95***

- **Proposal:**
  - Change the season dates of the Macomb caribou registration hunt (RC835) to August 10–25
    - exclude motorized vehicle access when Delta Controlled Use Area (DCUA) restrictions are lifted
  - Create a drawing permit hunt during August 26–September 10 for Macomb caribou herd
  - Require a locking tag for caribou harvested in the proposed drawing permit hunt
- **Issue:** Concern from some members of the Delta Junction community about issues associated with the 2 days (August 26–27) of motorized access hunting during RC835, particularly in Jarvis-McCumber Creek area



# ***Proposal 95***

- **ADF&G Position:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal
- **Issues:**
  - Proposal represents a significant reduction in subsistence opportunity while adding nonsubsistence opportunity; BOG should consider if the current regulatory approach & the proposed changes provide reasonable opportunity
  - Locking tag would assist AK Wildlife Troopers & hunters with identifying legally harvested c
  - ADF&G has no conservation concerns, harvest expected to remain stable and within sustained yield
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** **SUPPORT**

# ***Proposal 95***

## **Existing Hunt Structure:**

- **RC835**
- **Registration Hunt**
- **Resident Hunters only**
- **August 10–September 30 framework (5 AAC 85.025)**
- **Season dates of August 10–27 under ADF&G's discretionary permit authority**
- **Harvest quota = 70 bulls**

# ***Proposal 95***

## **Background:**

### **Motorized Season Information**

- **Jarvis Creek-McCumber Creek area (west side of hunt area) is easily accessed from the Richardson and Alaska highways**
- **This area experiences the highest use of motorized vehicles for caribou hunting in the Macomb hunt area**
- **2008 was first year in recent history during which the last days of the hunt occurred outside DCUA restriction (6 consecutive seasons of motor vehicle use during last days of hunt in western portion of hunt area)**
- **Average of 30 caribou harvested annually since 2008 during motorized access**



# ***Proposal 95***

## **Background continued:**

### **Motorized Season Information**

- **Annual avg. of 56 hunters reported using ATVs & other off road vehicles in Jarvis-McCumber Creek area since 2008**
  - **Increasing trend during 2008–2010 w/peak in 2010**
  - **Decreasing trend from 2010–2013**
- **Annual avg. of 83 hunters reported hunting Jarvis-McCumber Creek area since 2008**
  - **Reported hunter numbers peaked (101) in 2010**
  - **Numbers stabilized 2010-2012**
  - **Decreased in 2013**

# ***Proposal 95***

## **Proposed Hunt Structure:**

- **Registration Hunt (RC835 hunt area) for resident hunters only**
  - **Season dates of August 10–25**
- and**
- **Drawing Permit Hunt (same hunt area) up to 25 permits**
  - **Season dates of August 26–September 10**
  - **With requirement of a locking tag to ID caribou**



# Proposal 95

## Legend



RC835



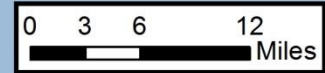
Delta Controlled Use Area



Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area



Game Management Units



Delta Junction

Alaska Hwy

Tanana River

Delta  
Controlled Use Area

Macomb Plateau  
Controlled Use Area

RC835

Johnson River

Bear Creek  
Robertson River

RC835 Season: August 10-25



# Proposal 95

## Legend

0 3 6 12  
Miles



Hunt Area



Delta Controlled Use Area



Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area



Game Management Units

Delta Junction

Alaska Hwy

Tanana River

Delta  
Controlled Use Area

Macomb Plateau  
Controlled Use Area

Johnson River

Bear Creek  
Robertson River

Drawing Permit Hunt  
Season: August 26-Sept. 10



# ***Proposal 95***

## **Effects of Proposal/Issues:**

- This proposal outlines a change in codified language (5 AAC 85.025) that would result in a 36 day reduction in subsistence opportunity**

	<b>Codified</b>	<b>Proposal 95</b>
<b>Season Dates (subsistence)</b>	<b>Aug. 10 –Sept. 30</b>	<b>Aug. 10 – Aug. 25</b>

- This proposal reduces subsistence opportunity and adds non-subsistence opportunity through a drawing permit hunt**

# ***Proposal 94***

## **Summary:**

- **Efforts to balance subsistence opportunity & management for sustained yield harvest have been a long, ongoing challenge**
- **Most goals have been consistently met since RY06 when core season dates in the middle of August were established**
- **2 days of subsistence hunting (Aug. 26–27) would be eliminated from RC835 (discretionary permit authority)**
- **36 day reduction in subsistence opportunity (codified regulation season dates)**



# ***Proposal 95***

## **Summary:**

- **The RC835 annual harvest will likely decrease**
- **ADF&G has no conservation concerns, harvest expected to remain stable and within sustained yield**
- **BOG should consider if the current regulatory approach & the proposed changes provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses**

# ***Proposal 95***

**Change the Macomb caribou (RC835) season**

**Develop drawing permit hunt for Macomb caribou**

**The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal**

## **Questions?**

# ***Proposal 96***

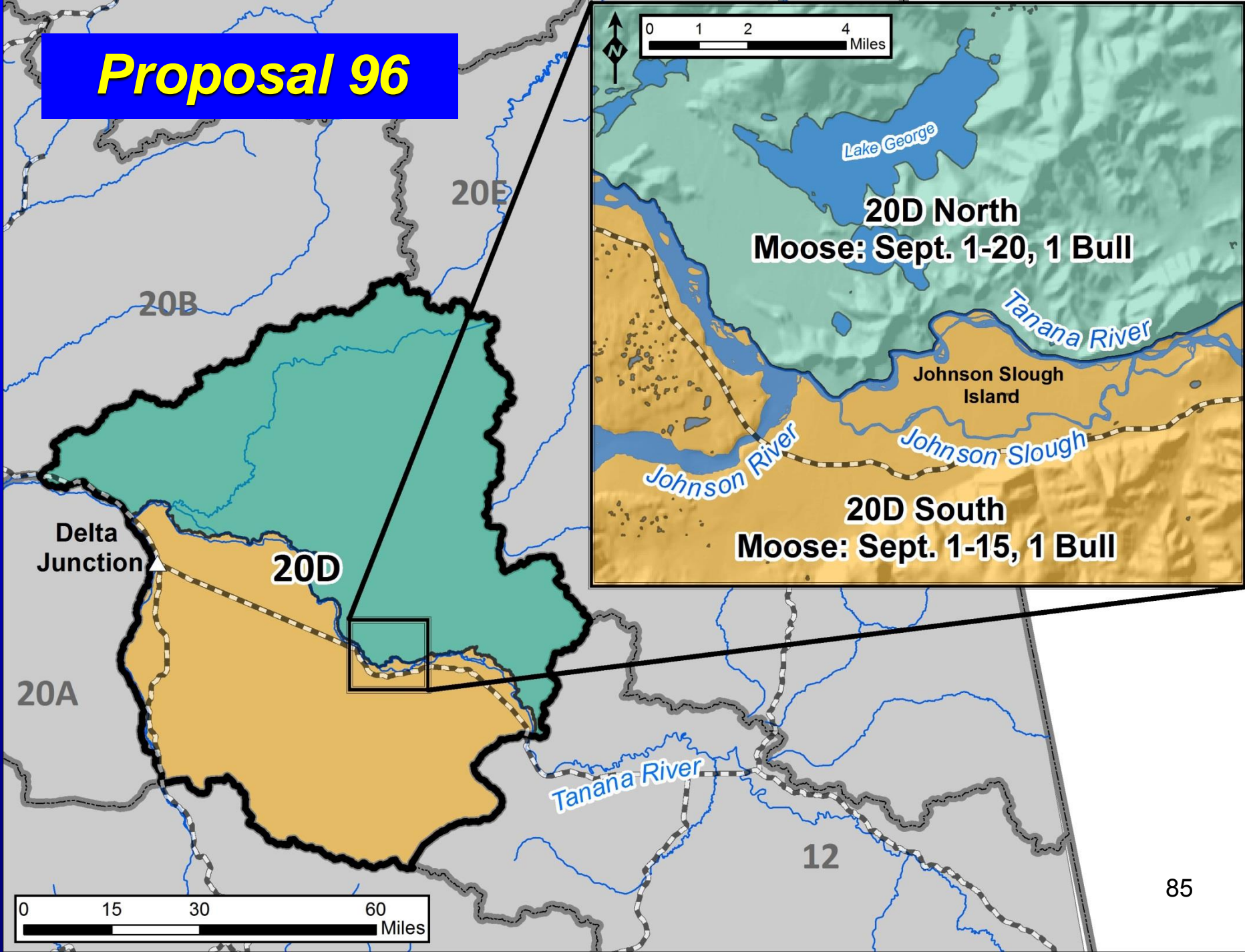
- **Proposal:** Change the general moose season dates for the area known as Johnson Slough Island in southern Unit 20D to September 1–20 by including it in the hunt area for the season in northern Unit 20D
- **Issue:**
  - Adding this small area south of the north bank of the Tanana River to the hunt area for the season north of the north bank of the Tanana River
  - Some residents who live proximate to the island are concerned about loss of opportunity to call bull moose on the island late in the season



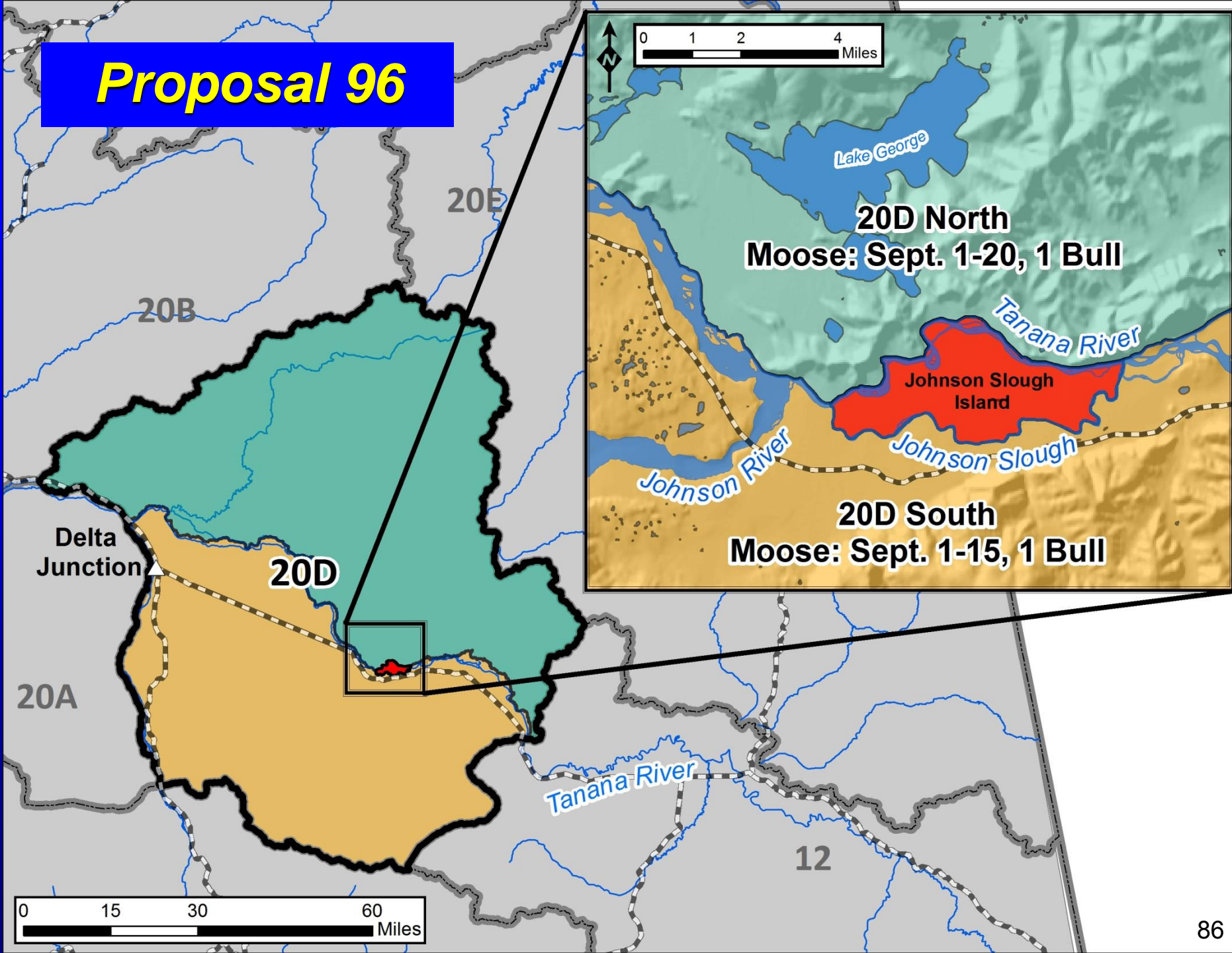
# ***Proposal 96***

- **ADF&G Position:** The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal
- **Rationale:**
  - Allocation issue
  - ADF&G has no conservation concerns
  - BOG may wish to consider the impact to law enforcement
- **Delta AC Recommendation:** **OPPOSE**

# Proposal 96



# Proposal 96

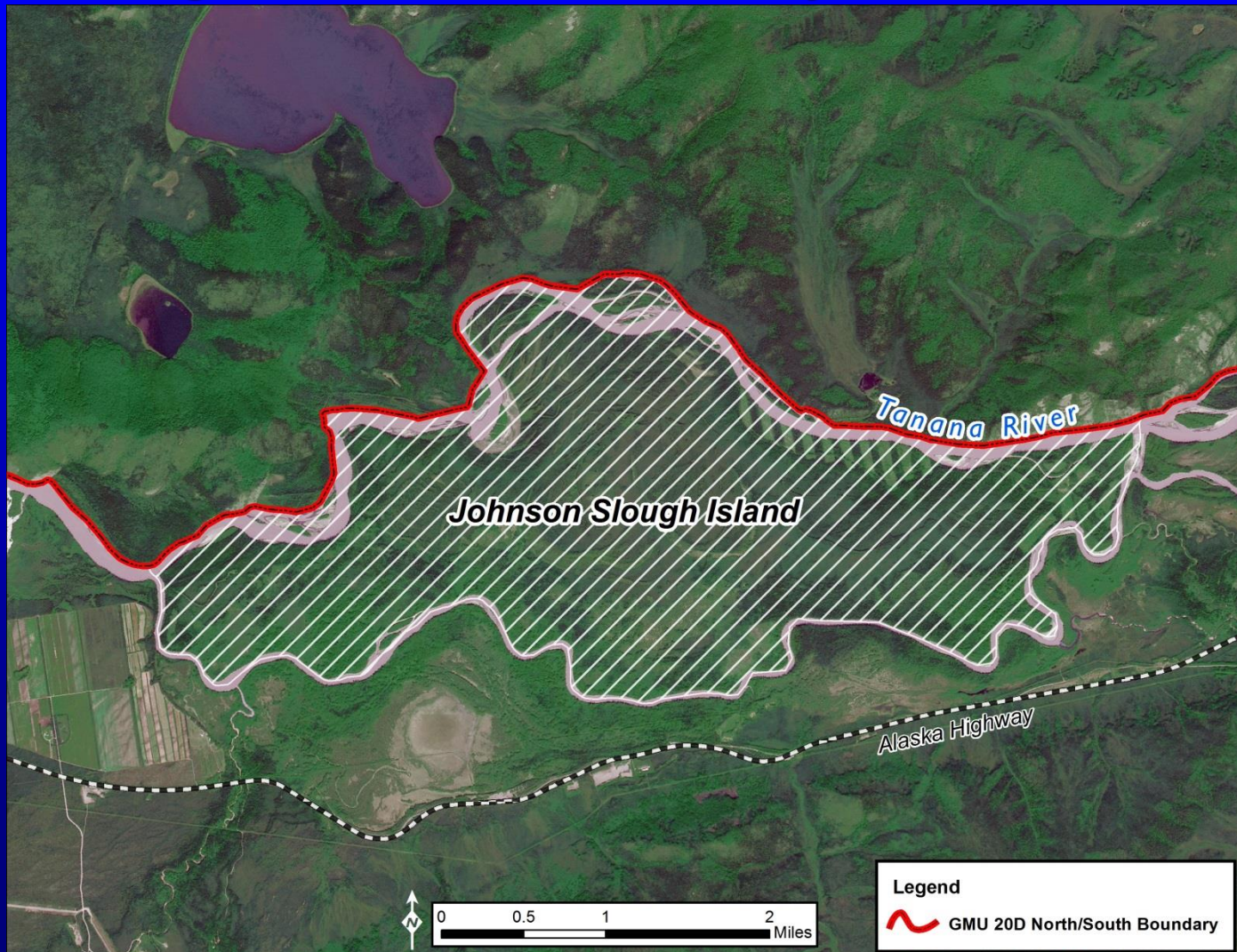




# Proposal 96

## Background:

- Johnson Slough Island is separated from southern Unit 20D by a narrow slough and from northern 20D by the Tanana River



# Proposal 96

## Existing Hunt Structure:

OPEN TO	UNIT/AREA	BAG LIMIT	PERMIT/ HUNT	OPEN SEASON
Residents only	Unit 20D south of the north bank of the Tanana River and east of the west bank of the Johnson River, except that portion within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of east and west forks. <i>(Applies to islands in the Tanana River, including Johnson Slough Island)</i>	One bull	Harvest Ticket	Sept 1–15
Residents and Nonresidents	Unit 20D north of the north bank of the Tanana River and draining into the Volkmar River east to and including the Billy Creek drainage, excluding the Healy River drainage	One bull	Harvest Ticket	Sept 1–20

# ***Proposal 96***

## **Background continued:**

- **Johnson Slough Island is separated from southern Unit 20D by a narrow slough and from northern 20D by the Tanana River**
- **8.7 square mile area**
- **Aligned with southern Unit 20D (like all islands in the Tanana River in Unit 20D)**
- **Within the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area**



# ***Proposal 96***

## **Background continued:**

- **In 2008, the BOG extended the moose season in eastern portion of Unit 20D north of the Tanana River to September 1–20**
- **In making this determination, the BOG considered the moose hunting regulations that identified the north bank of the Tanana River as separating Unit 20D for moose hunting**
- **Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) have stated the current boundary is an aid for law enforcement**
- **AWT report that this long-standing boundary is understood & recognized by hunters (all islands of the Tanana in Unit 20D are in southern Unit 20D)**

# ***Proposal 96***

## **Background continued:**

### **Moose Population**

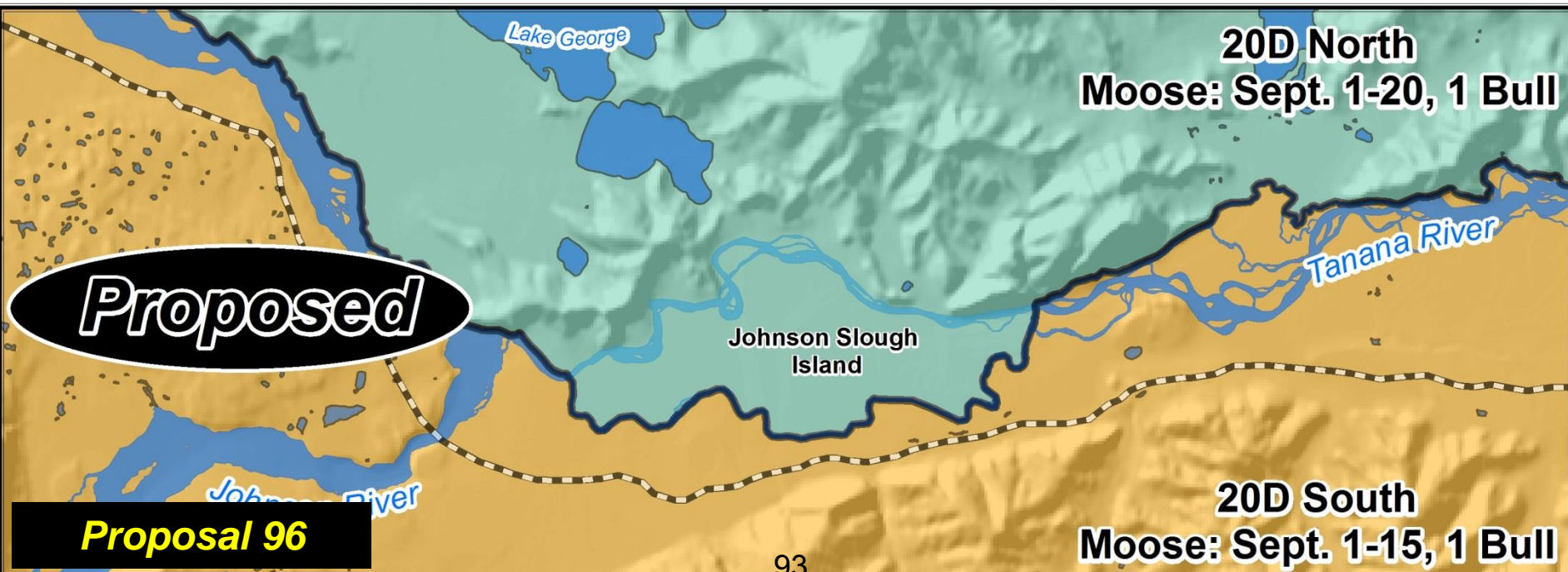
- **2012 northern 20D population estimate = 2,400**
  - 59 bulls:100 cows
  - 13 calves:100 cows
- **Southern 20D population was stable 2010 through 2011**
  - 4,200 to 4,500 observable moose
  - 30 bulls:100 cows (2011)
  - 35 calves:100 cows (2011)
- **Unit 20D bull moose harvest stable 2010 through 2012**
  - Range 245–261
- **Reported harvest in this area (including Johnson Slough Island) was 29 (103 hunters)**

# ***Proposal 96***

## **Effects of Proposal/Issues:**

- **An 8.7 square mile island in the Tanana River would be removed from southern Unit 20D moose hunt area and added to the northern Unit 20D moose hunt area**
- **The resident moose hunting season dates for this island would change from September 1–15 to September 1–20**
- **A September 1–20 nonresident moose season for 1 bull would be added for Johnson Slough Island**
- **Change to a clear and distinct, long-standing boundary between 2 moose hunt areas**
- **Harvest is not likely to significantly increase**

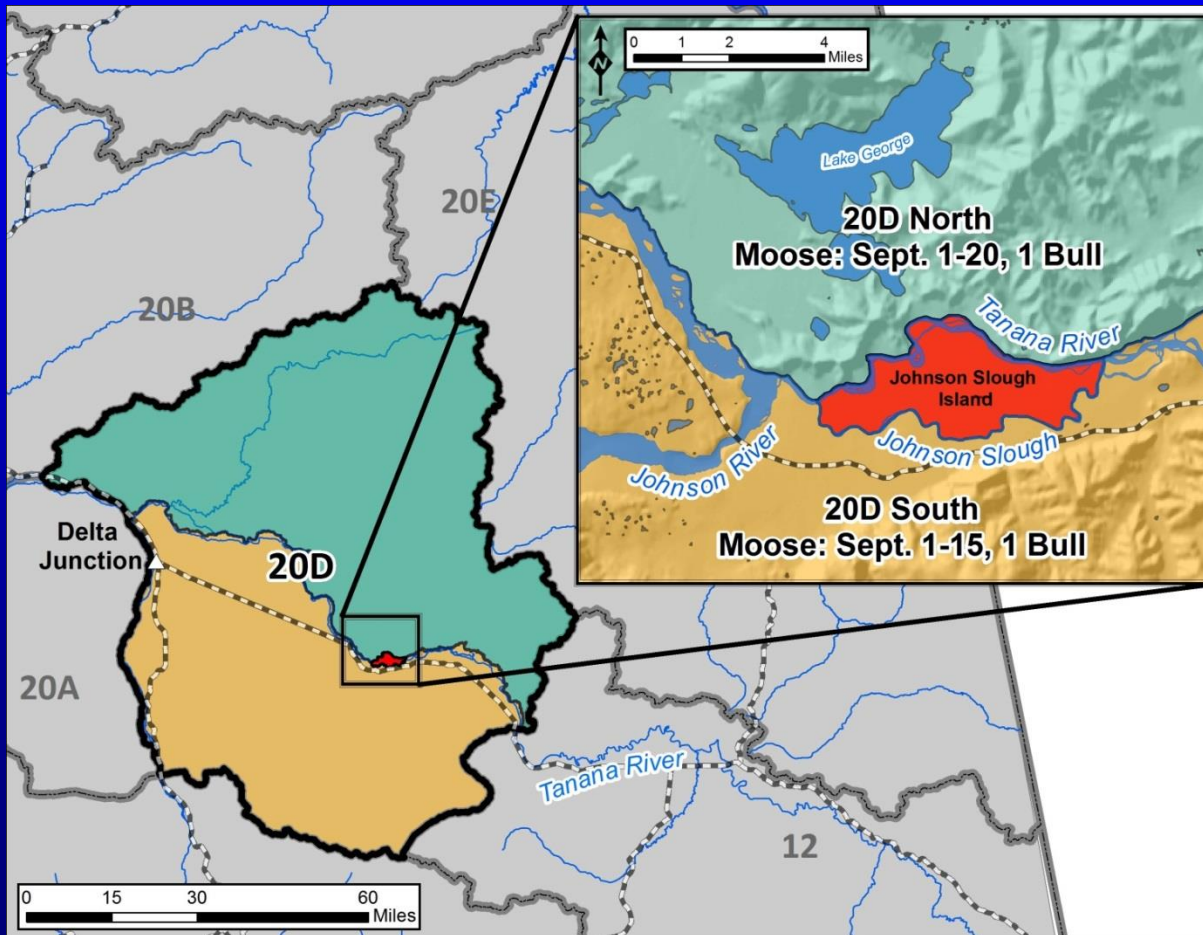




# Proposal 96

Change general moose season dates for Johnson Slough Island (move to northern Unit 20D)

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal



Questions?