Delta Area ADF&G

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Unit 20D Communities

Ft. Greely, Pop.~500

Delta Jct., Big Delta, Deltana, pop.~3,200

Dry Creek, pop.~100

Dot Lake, pop.~80

Healy Lake, pop.~25
Southern Unit 20D

- Mountains of eastern Alaska Range
- Lowlands of Tanana River valley
- Private Agricultural Land ~100,000 acres

Northern Unit 20D

- Hills of Tanana uplands
- Lowlands of major river valleys
Unit 20D – Partially Within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area
Delta AC serves Delta Jct., Ft. Greely, & Dry Creek

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC serves Dot Lake & Healy Lake
Delta Bison

Private ag lands

State lands, DJBR

Military land

Range of the Delta Bison Herd

Delta R

Big Delta

Goodpaster R

Tanana R

Healy Lake

Healy

Dry Creek

Dot Lake

Robertson R

Gerstle R

Johnson R

Delta Jct Ft Greely
Delta Bison

- Mgmt. based on plan developed with Delta Bison Working Group; Interim mgmt. plan completed in 2012
- Herd size managed by drawing hunt
- Population objective of 360 animals (pre-calving)
- 18,000+ applications per year
- 80-120 permits per year
Delta Bison

• Avg. hunter success for past 15 years = 70%
• No Proposals regarding Delta Bison

Bison Issues

• Conflict with private Ag. Lands on the Delta Agricultural Project
• Exposure to domestic bison & other livestock
• Military training on bison calving range
Delta Bison

- Management Activities
  - Aerial surveys
  - Sex-age composition counts
  - Radio collars
  - Disease surveillance
  - Manage bison forage on DJBR
  - Administer drawing permit hunt
  - Genetics investigations
  - Working with Delta Ag community
Black Bear

• Accurate pop. est. not available, extrapolated to 750

• Harvest objective; not to exceed 15 bears south of the Tanana & 35 bears north of the Tanana

• 2015 Harvest = 35 bears

• Management activities include registering bait stations, issuing harvest tickets, and responding to nuisance bear complaints

• No proposals regarding black bears

• Issues include lack of biological data on population estimates
Brown Bear

- Extrapolated pop. est. of 181–210 bears
- Harvest objective = 5–15 per year
  - Harvest obj. is being met
- Current Regulations:
  - No resident tag fees
  - Season = Aug 10–Jun 30
  - Baiting not allowed
  - Bag limit = 1 per year
- Management activities include sealing bears and responding to nuisance bear complaints
- 5 similar proposals regarding brown bear baiting in Unit 20D
- Issues include lack of biological data on population estimates
- **IM Pop. Obj. = 600 – 800 caribou**
  - 2010 = 1,800
  - 2013 = 1,500
  - 2015 = 800
  - 2016 = 1,300
- **ANS = 10 – 40**
- IM Harvest obj. = 30–50 per year
- Hunt by registration permit (RC 835)
  - Overlaps DCUA & MPCUA access restrictions
  - Last two days of hunt allows motorized access within the DCUA
- Harvest quota has ranged from 30–70 over past 10 years
Macomb Caribou

- Management Activities
  - Aerial population & composition surveys
  - Hunting season distribution survey
  - Radio collars
  - Registration permits

- No proposals regarding Macomb Caribou

- Issues include avoiding overharvest of a small, road accessible herd & protecting habitat
Moose

Hunt structure:

• Harvest Ticket
  – Any bull (north), SF/50 (south)
• DM 790 - DJMA
• DM 795 - Purple heart / disabled vet.
• YM 792 - Bison Range Youth Hunt
• DM 791 - Antlerless
Moose

- Human consumption identified as highest use
- Intensive Mgmt adopted 1995
- Pop. objective = 8,000-10,000
  - 8,916 estimated moose in Unit 20D
- Harvest obj. = 500-700 moose
  - 248 avg. harvest (25% success)
Moose

• Management Activities
  – General hunting, drawing & registration permit hunts
  – Annual GSPE population estimates
  – Annual aerial twinning surveys
  – Periodic browse surveys
  – Disease surveillance
  – Public meetings

• 3 proposals regarding moose

• Moose Issues
  – Balancing high moose population densities with high hunting pressure & controversial antler restrictions
  – Developing new survey techniques
  – Exposure to livestock diseases
  – Nuisance moose
Dall Sheep in DCUA

- Divided into 2 permit hunts, DS203 & DS204
- Average harvest = 38 per year
- 2015 minimum count = 1,328 sheep
- 2016 minimum count = 1,260 sheep
- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, and 20E
- ~240 mi² of sheep habitat
- 2016 minimum count = 104 sheep
- 4 drawing permits for full-curl ram
- 2016 Harvest = 4; 100% success, avg. 50%
Dall Sheep

• Management Activities
  – Seal horns
  – Conduct aerial surveys
  – Disease surveillance

• No proposals regarding sheep

• Issues
  – Protecting habitat
  – Disease concern between domestic goats and sheep and Dall Sheep
Small Game

- **Species:**
  - Ruffed grouse
  - Sharp-tailed grouse
  - Spruce grouse
  - Snowshoe hares
  - Ptarmigan

- Popular hunting area for hunters from across the state
Small Game

- Sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse populations monitored annually
  - RUGR Near peak of 10-year cycle
- RUGR habitat management on DJBR; more planned in other areas
- Small populations of willow and rock ptarmigan monitored annually
- Hare numbers are in upward trend of there cycle
- 1 proposal regarding ruffed grouse
- Issues include high hunting pressure coupled with ease of access
Wolf

- Unit 20D pop. objective = 15-125
- 2011 pop. est. ~ 115 in 12 packs
- Harvest average = 29 per year
  - Hunting season = Aug 10 – May 31; average of 4 wolves
  - Trapping season = Oct 15 – Apr 30; average of 25 wolves
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon – Tanana wolf control area
Wolf

• Management Activities
  – Seal pelts
  – Annual aerial surveys
  – Trapper interviews to estimate population size & distribution

• No proposals regarding wolves

• Issues
  – Role of wolves in Unit 20D intensive management
**Unit 20D Wolf Harvest**

**Wolf Harvest Percent by Month**

- Hunting season: Aug 10 – May 31
- Trapping season: Oct 15 – April 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Monthly Wolf Harvest</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**5 yr avg. % harv.**
Furbearers

• Emphasized species in fur harvest: beaver, coyote, lynx, marten, red fox, & wolverine

• Management Activities
  – sealing furs
  – trapper questionnaire
  – responding to nuisance furbearers (beaver)

• 1 regional proposal regarding coyotes

• No issues regarding furbearers
Unit 20D Summary

• Bison
  – Slightly above population objective
  – Continue to work with Ag producers to address concerns
  – Delta Junction Bison Range

• Caribou
  – Population and harvest objectives met

• Moose
  – Low end of population objective
  – Below harvest objective

• Dall Sheep
  – Harvest objectives met or slightly below (horn size and age)
Unit 20D Summary

• Bears
  – Harvest objective met for brown bears
  – Harvest slightly below objective for black bears
  – High public interest for brown bear baiting
    • Over-harvest likely if baiting is allowed because of developed access
  – Limited data on bear populations

• Wolf
  – Population and harvest objectives met

• Furbearers
  – Populations are stable to increasing

• Small game
  – Populations are stable to increasing
The End

Questions?