Small Game Update:
Region IV

Region IV – Board of Game
Dillingham, Alaska
16-23 February, 2018

Rick Merizon
Small Game Program Coordinator
Small Game Proposals

Ptarmigan:
Prop 119, 121 - Extend season to March 31, Unit 13B

Prop 120 - Align season dates, reduce bag limit, Units 13B and 13E

Prop 134 - Shorten season to March 1, reduce bag limit, Unit 9

Grouse:
Prop 117 - Reduce bag limit, Unit 11

Prop 118 - Change season start to September 1, reduce bag limit, Unit 11

Alaska Hare:
Prop 135 - Create season, bag limit, reporting for Alaska hare, Unit 9
Small Game Program

Program Goals in Region 4

1. Breeding Surveys
2. Brood Surveys
3. Hunter Surveys
4. Harvest Composition
5. Research
Grouse: Harvest Composition

All Unit 11 ruffed, sharp-tailed, and spruce grouse wing samples, RY11-16
Ptarmigan Research

Denali Highway

Alphabet Hills

- Breeding / Brood Rearing (May-August)
- Winter (December-March)
- Federal Subsistence Hunt Areas
Breeding / Brood Rearing (May-August)

Winter (December-March)

Federal Subsistence Hunt Areas
Ptarmigan Research: Mortality

2.6 times higher ≤3km
Ptarmigan: Harvest Composition

Rock and Willow Ptarmigan wings contributed by hunters, RY11-16

- Subunit 13B closes November 30
- Harvest in 13A and 13E
Ptarmigan: Harvest Composition

Subunit 13B closes November 30

13B Mortality: FALL

13B Mortality: WINTER

Harvest in 13A and 13E
Ptarmigan: Harvest Composition

Rock and Willow Ptarmigan wings contributed by hunters, RY11-16

Subunit 13B closes November 30

13B Mortality: FALL

13B Mortality: WINTER

Harvest in 13A and 13E
Ptarmigan: Climate Effects

King Salmon – January 15, 2018
Ptarmigan:
Hunter Harvest

Ptarmigan harvest per hunt as reported through statewide small game hunter survey, RY2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percent Use</th>
<th>Average Harvest/Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snowmachine</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Vehicle</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ptarmigan: Management Continuum

**Shorter Seasons**
Closure: **BEFORE** mid-February

**Higher Density**
*Higher*
spring breeding abundance

**Longer Seasons**
Closure: **AFTER** mid-February

**Lower Density**
*Lower*
spring breeding abundance
Ptarmigan: Management Continuum

Opportunity vs. Harvest
Alaska hares
Alaska hares

*Lepus othus*:
- 8-15 pounds,
- 1 litter per year,
- Western Alaska
- Currently: no abundance, or survival data, very limited harvest data
Alaska hares

**ADF&G’s Efforts**

1. Education / Outreach
   a. PSAs
   b. Posters
   c. Web-portal
   d. Community Tour (Fall 2017)

2. Research
   a. Testing capture techniques
   b. Evaluating pellets (spring 2017)
   c. Developing Research Proposal
      i. Evaluate abundance survey methods
      ii. Movement, mortality - GPS collars
Small Game Proposals

Ptarmigan:
Prop 119, 121 - Extend season to March 31, Unit 13B
Prop 120 - Align season dates, reduce bag limit, Units 13B and 13E
Prop 134 - Shorten season to March 1, reduce bag limit, Unit 9

Grouse:
Prop 117 - Reduce bag limit, Unit 11
Prop 118 - Change season start to September 1, reduce bag limit, Unit 11

Alaska Hare:
Prop 135 - Create season, bag limit, reporting for Alaska hare, Unit 9
Questions?
Ptarmigan: 
International Regulations

* Iceland and Finland utilize a point / quota system in place of bag limits.
Ptarmigan: Breeding Surveys

Breeding Males / KM2

- 13B
- 13E

2014 2015 2016 2017