

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Unit 14A and 14B and increase permit levels in Unit 14A

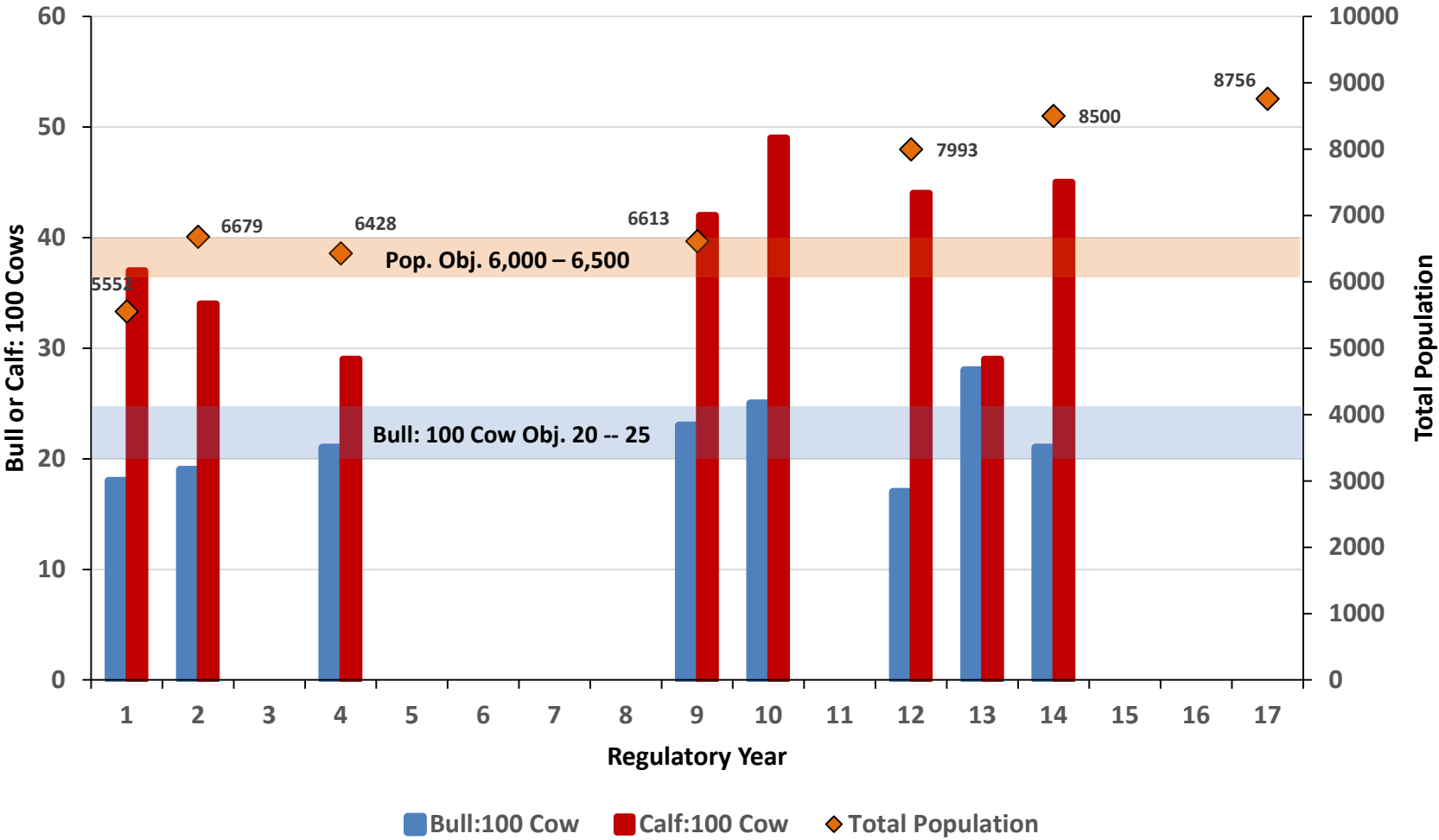
Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Mat Valley AC
Anchorage AC

Support (15-0)
Support (0-0)

GMU 14A Moose Population and Ratios, 2000 – 2016



Proposal 77

Moose / Unit 14A & 14B

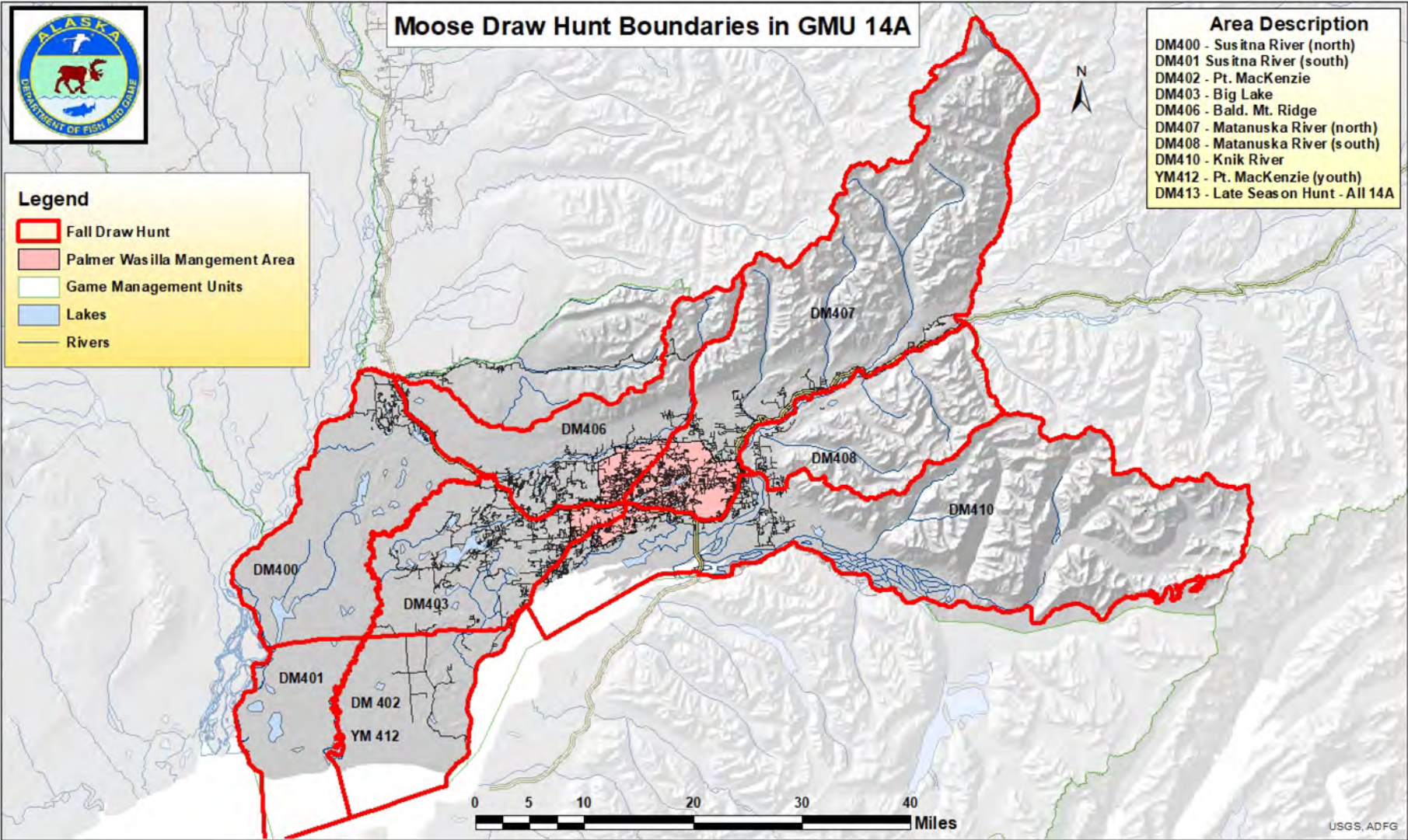


Moose Draw Hunt Boundaries in GMU 14A

Legend

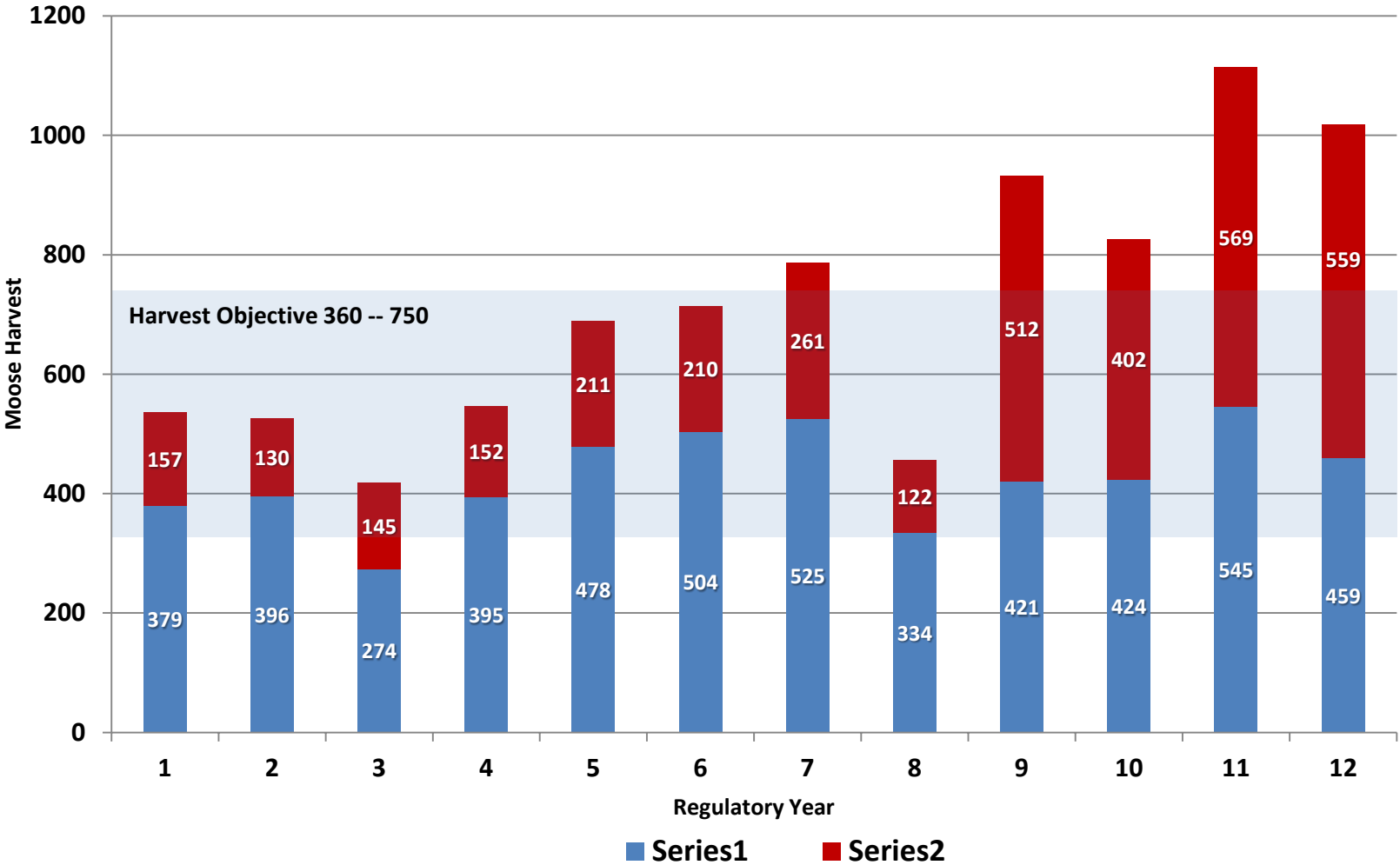
- Fall Draw Hunt
- Palmer Wasilla Mangement Area
- Game Management Units
- Lakes
- Rivers

- ### Area Description
- DM400 - Susitna River (north)
 - DM401 - Susitna River (south)
 - DM402 - Pt. MacKenzie
 - DM403 - Big Lake
 - DM406 - Bald. Mt. Ridge
 - DM407 - Matanuska River (north)
 - DM408 - Matanuska River (south)
 - DM410 - Knik River
 - YM412 - Pt. MacKenzie (youth)
 - DM413 - Late Season Hunt - All 14A

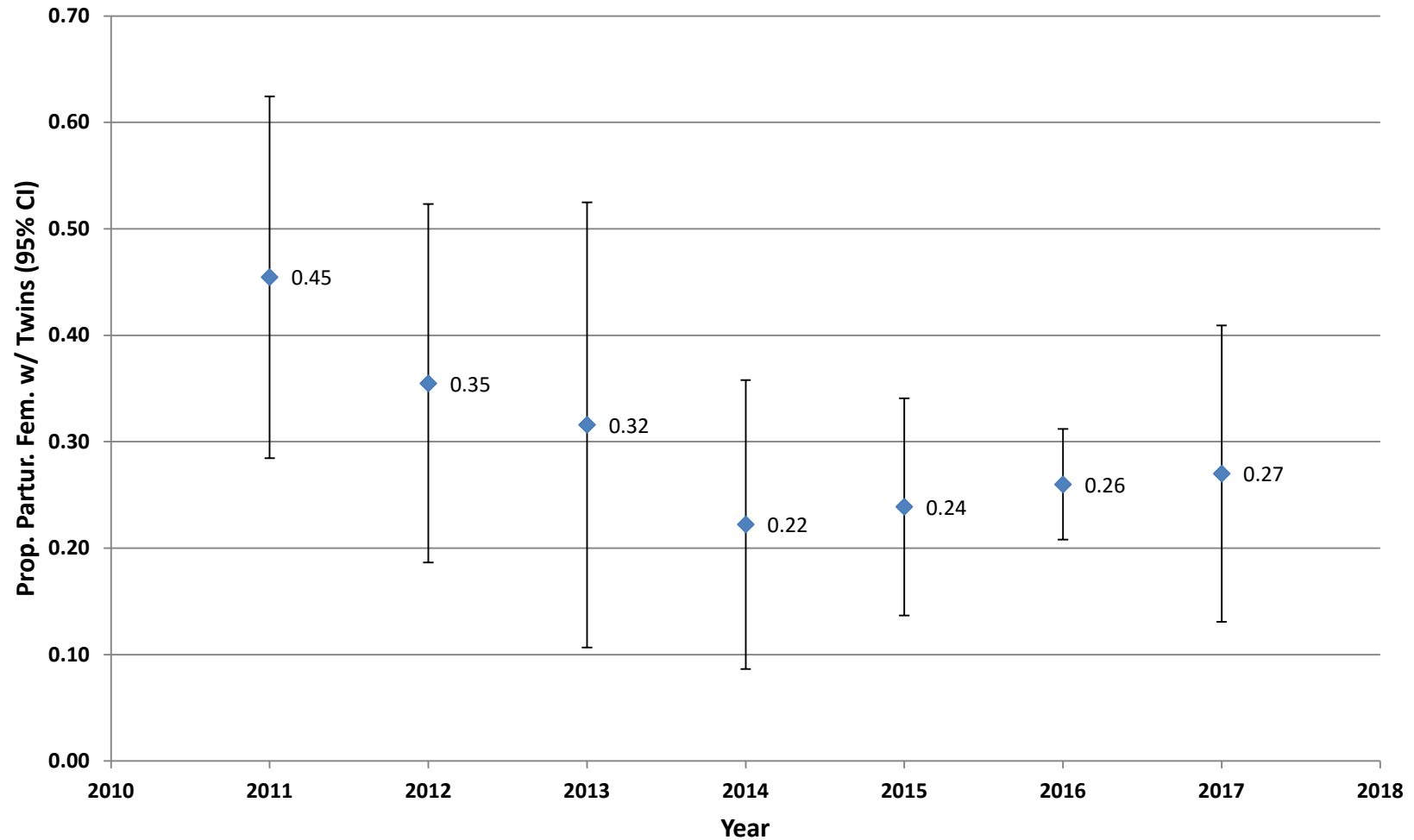


USGS, ADFG

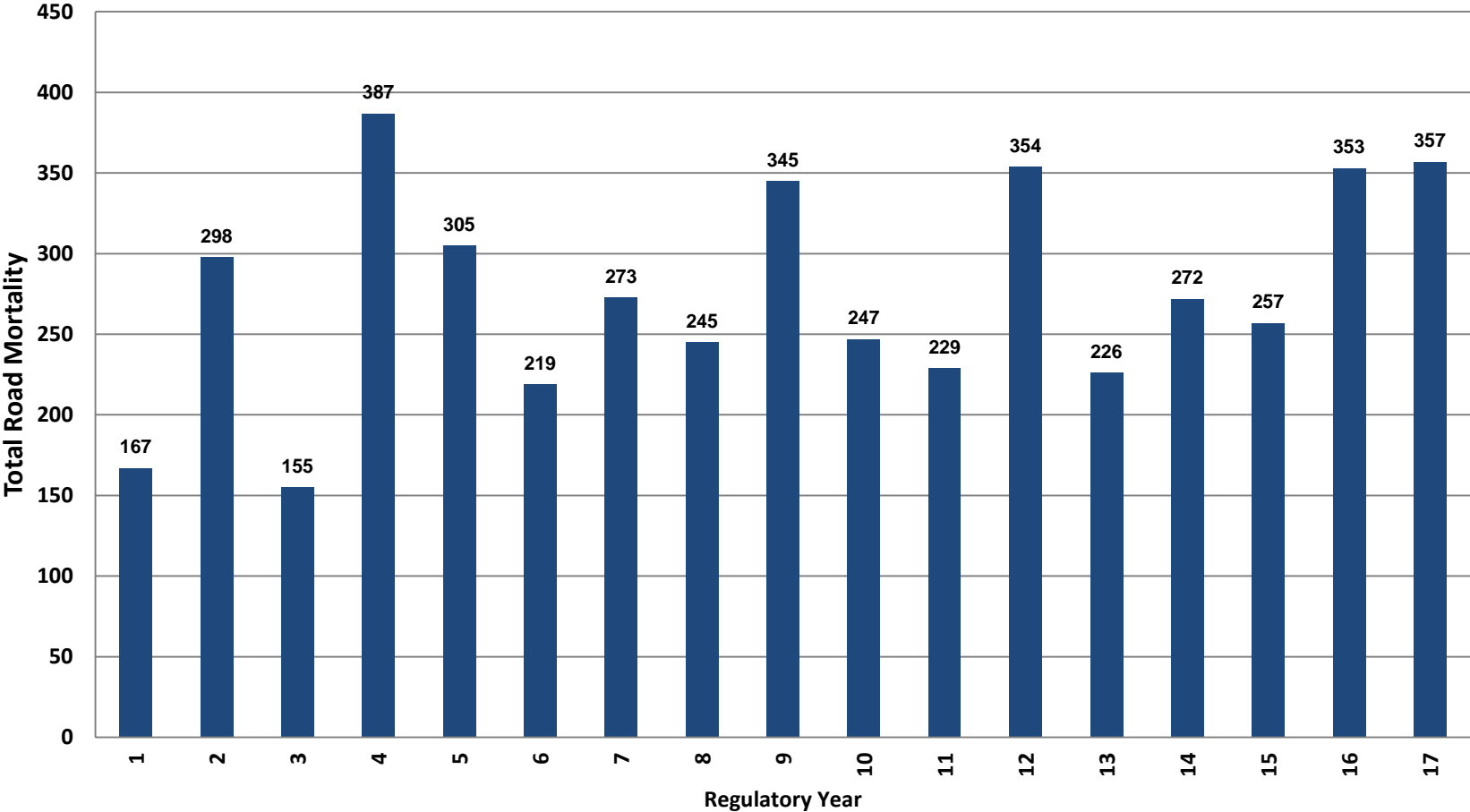
GMU 14A Moose Harvest, 2005 – 2016



Unit 14A Twinning Surveys, 2011 – 2017

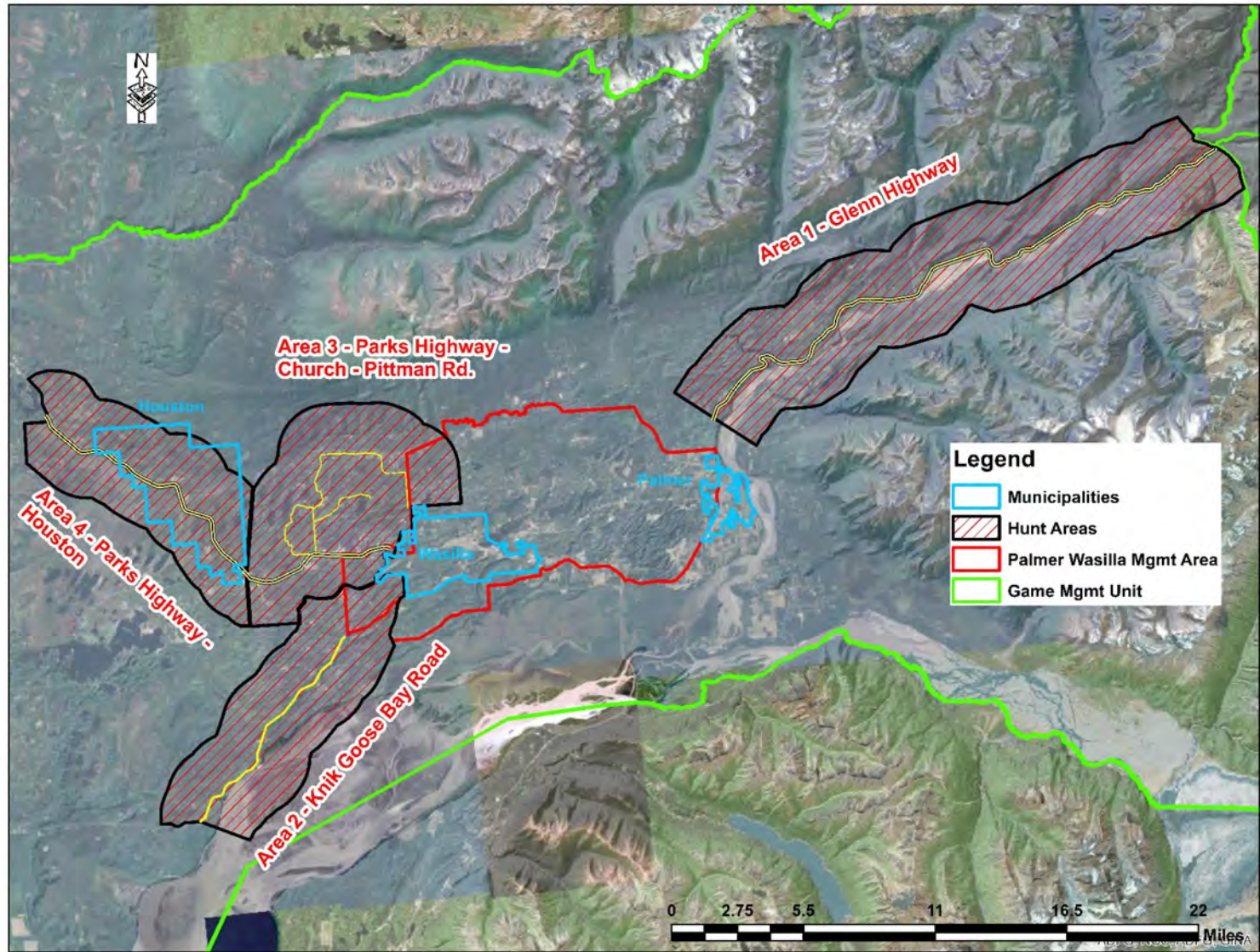


Moose-Vehicle Collisions by Year in GMU 14A & 14B, 2000 – 2016



Proposal 77

Moose / Unit 14A & 14B



Summary

- Increase permits from 1,000 to 1,500
- Population estimate is at 8,700
- Harvest avg. 974 annually RY13-RY16
- Twinning rate 27%
- Browse surveys in 2016 show a large amount of browse removal
- Population is believed to be stable at current harvest levels.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Unit 14A and 14B and increase permit levels in Unit 14A

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Mat Valley AC
Anchorage AC

Support (15-0)
Support (10-0)

Authorize an any bull draw permit hunt in Unit 14B

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

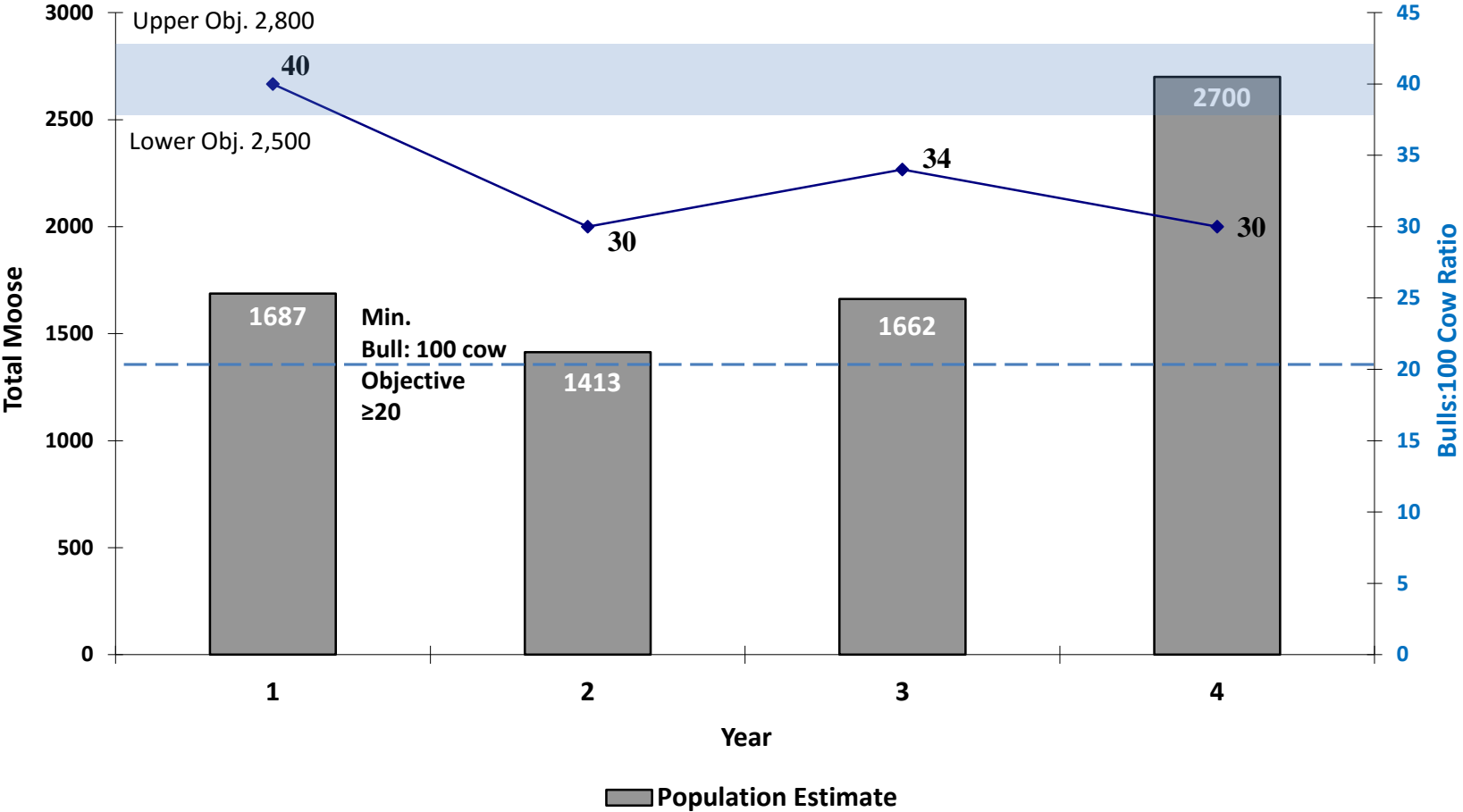
Current Regulation

- Spike /Fork, 50-inch or ≥ 3 brow tines on at least one side
- Aug. 10–17: Archery season for residents and non-residents
- Aug. 25–Sept. 25: General harvest for residents and non-residents
- AM415 Targeted hunt; up to 100 permits may be issued

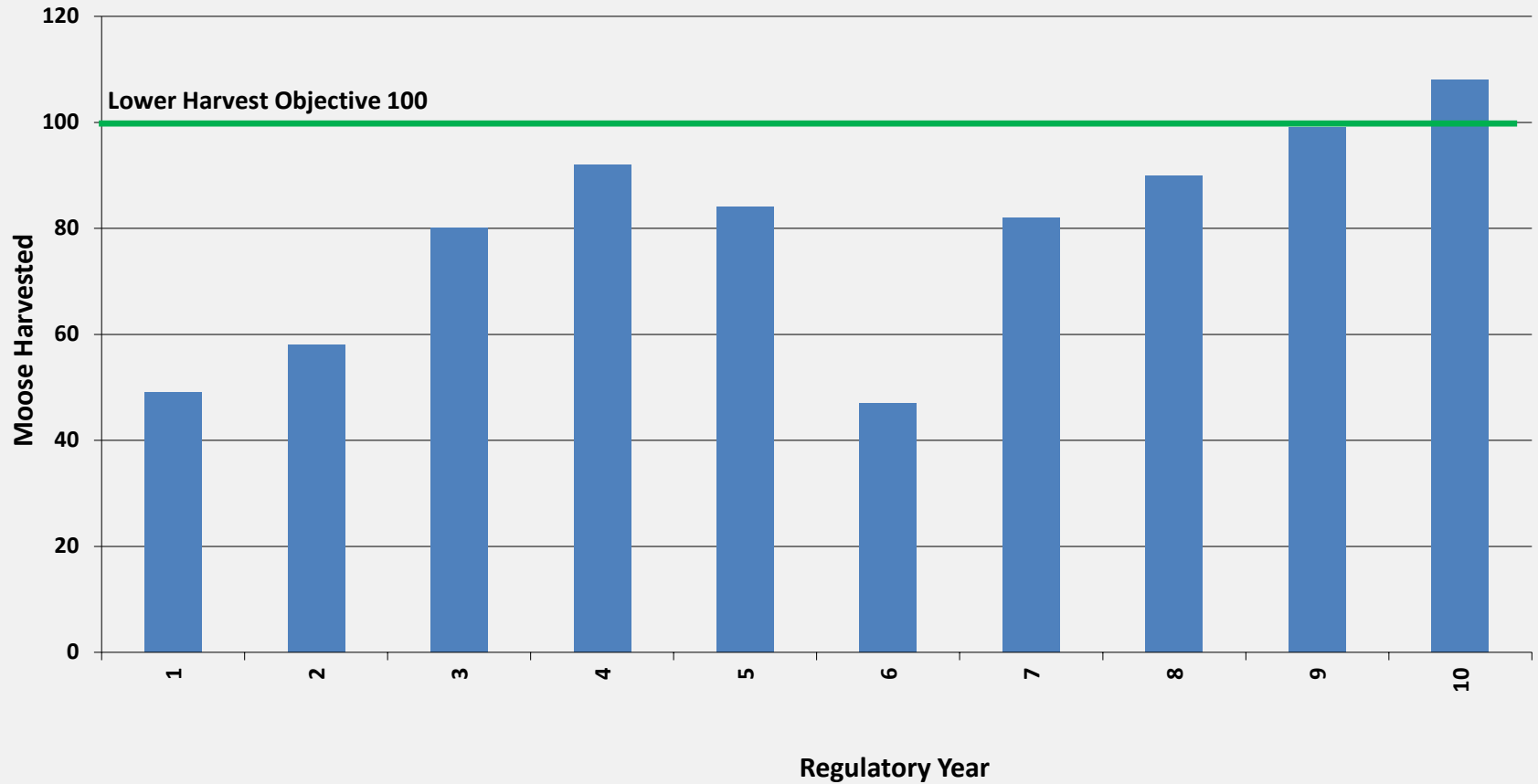
Considerations

- 2013 GSPE 2,700 (pop object. 2,500–2,800)
- 30 Bull: 100 Cows (mgmt. goal >20:100)
- 2013-2016 avg. harvest = 91 (Obj. 100–200)
- 100 permits requested
- Neutral on allocation between residents and non-residents

Unit 14B Moose Population Parameters, 1999 – 2013



Unit 14B Moose Harvest, 2007 – 2016



Authorize an any bull draw permit hunt in Unit 14B

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

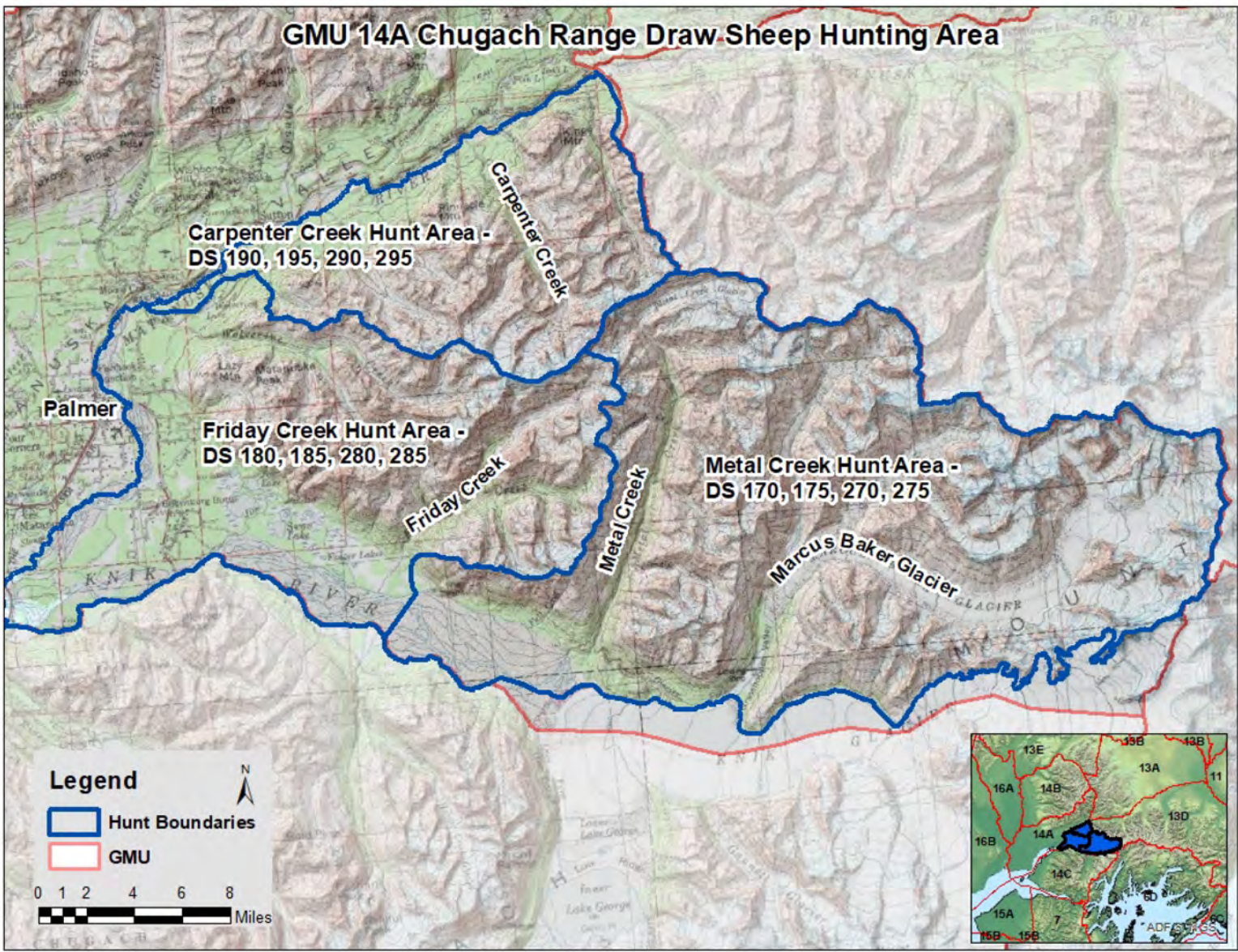
Modify the hunt structure for Dall sheep in Unit 14A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (3-12)



Current Regulation

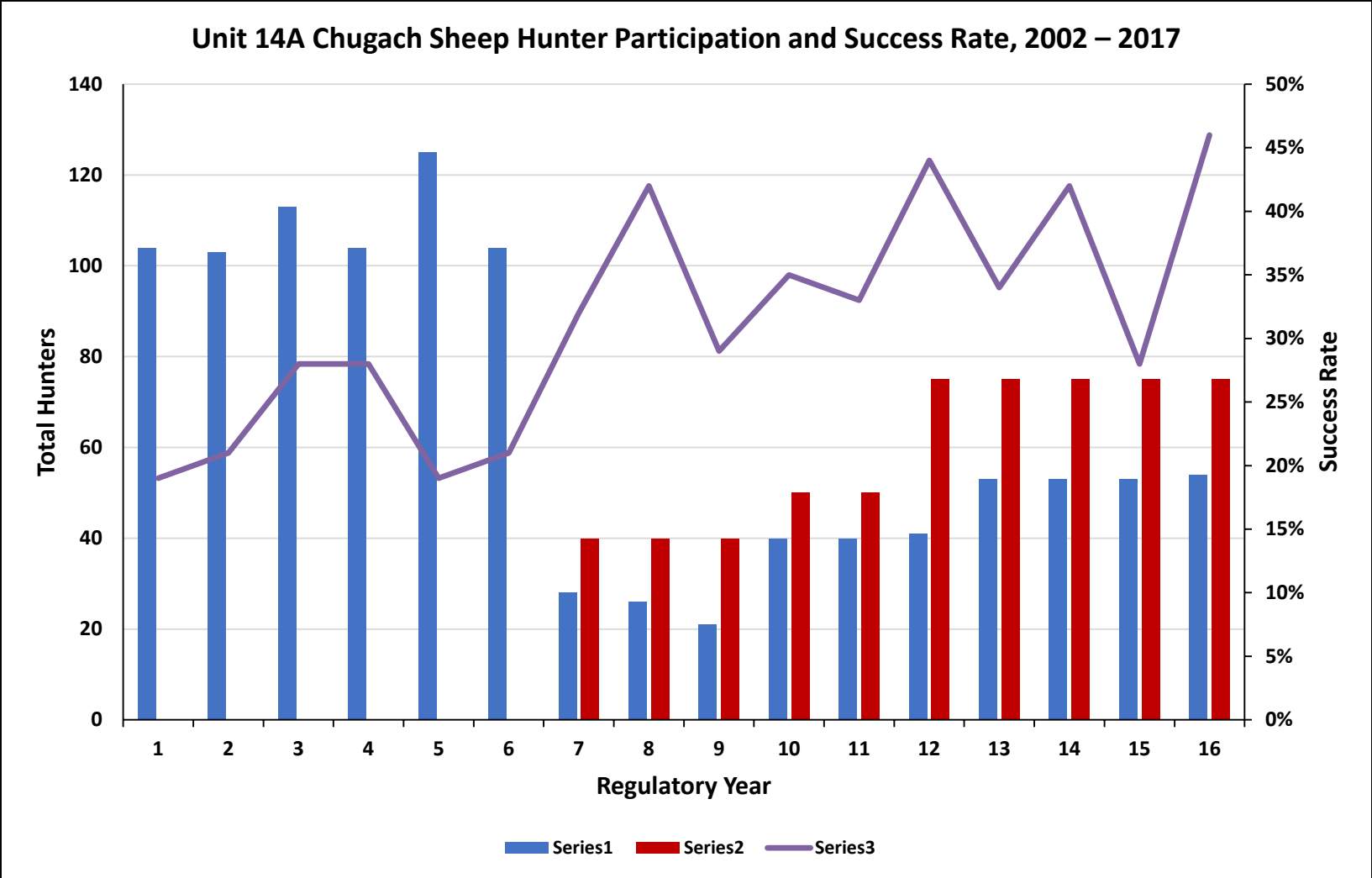
- Bag Limit is any ram
- Area split into 3 sub-areas
- Season dates Aug. 10–25 or Aug. 26–Sept. 20
- Up to 100 Permits available (currently 75 permits annually)
- 10% of permits allocated to non-residents

What this proposal would do:

- Revert bag limit to full-curl
- Retain draw hunt and increase non-resident from 10% to 20% (RY 2019)
- Set these permits at 4 resident and 1 non-resident for the early and late seasons (30 permits in total)
- Aircraft are not allowed to be used for sheep hunting after Aug. 26th
- After 2 years change late season resident draw hunt to registration hunt and keep non-resident at draw (RY 2021)
- 2 years after that change non-resident draw hunt to registration hunt as well (RY 2023)

Benefits of an 'Any ram' draw hunt

- Good for new sheep hunters and any one concerned with judging a legal ram
- Reduces enforcement issues and prevents sheep being left on the mountain
- Current structure very popular, RY17 – 4,953 applications for 75 permits; 2nd only to Tok Management Area
- The initial reason for going to a draw hunt in 2007 was to address crowding. Draw hunt with split seasons and split hunt areas reduced complaints.



Proposal 79

Dall Sheep / Unit 14A

Survey Year	Total Rams Observed	≥ Full curl Rams Observed	≥ Full curl Harvested	% Full curl Harvested*	Sub-full curl Observed	Sub-full curl Harvested	% Sub-full curl Harvested
1998	218	28	38	136%	190	0	0%
2002	276	19	32	168%	257	0	0%
2006	167	26	35	135%	141	0	0%
2007	145	18	34	189%	127	0	0%
2009	134	8	0	0%	126	11	9%
2010	167	14	3	21%	153	3	2%
2012	177	16	5	31%	161	8	5%
2013	168	11	7	64%	157	11	7%
2014	172	13	9	69%	155	9	6%
2017	254	14	7	50%	240	18	8%

*Percent full curl harvested is based on the number of full-curls seen during surveys prior to the hunting season

Modify the hunt structure for Dall sheep in Unit 14A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (3-12)

Open a resident registration hunt for mountain goat in Unit 14A

Public Proposal

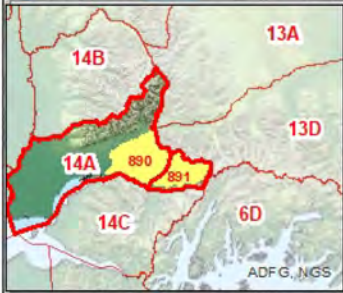
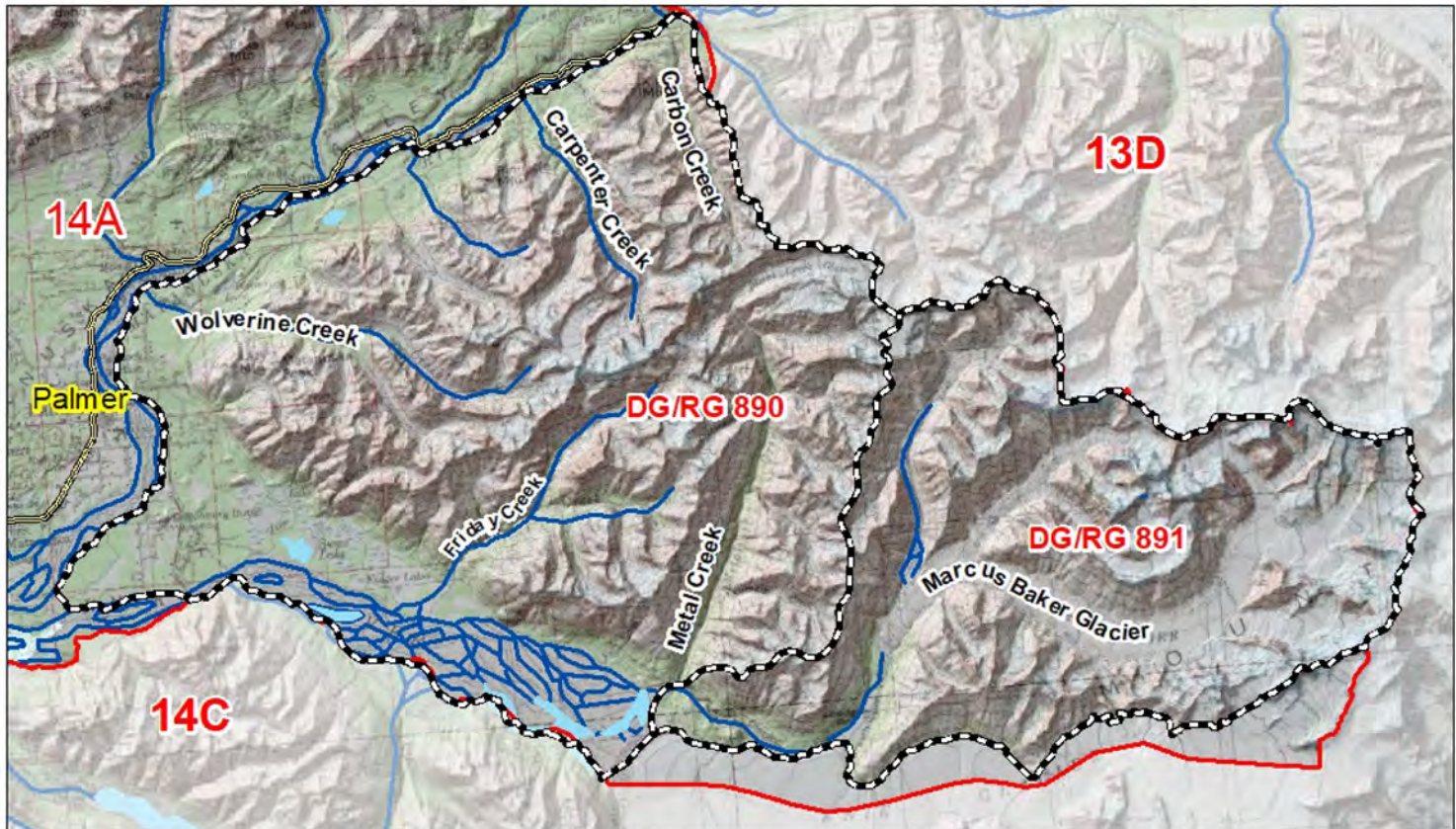
Department Recommendation: Neutral

Current Regulation

- Goat Draw Hunts DG890 (20 Permits) and DG891 (30 Permits)
- Season Dates Sept. 1–Oct. 15
- RG890 and RG891 (same areas) Oct. 1–Oct. 31 may be announced
 - Last registration hunt was in RY13

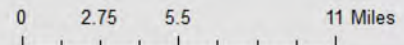
What this proposal would do:

- Retain draw goat hunts for non-residents only
- Issue 2 permits for DG890 and 3 permits for DG891
- Use RG890 and RG891 for residents only
- Set harvest goal at 6% of the total count of the latest aerial survey

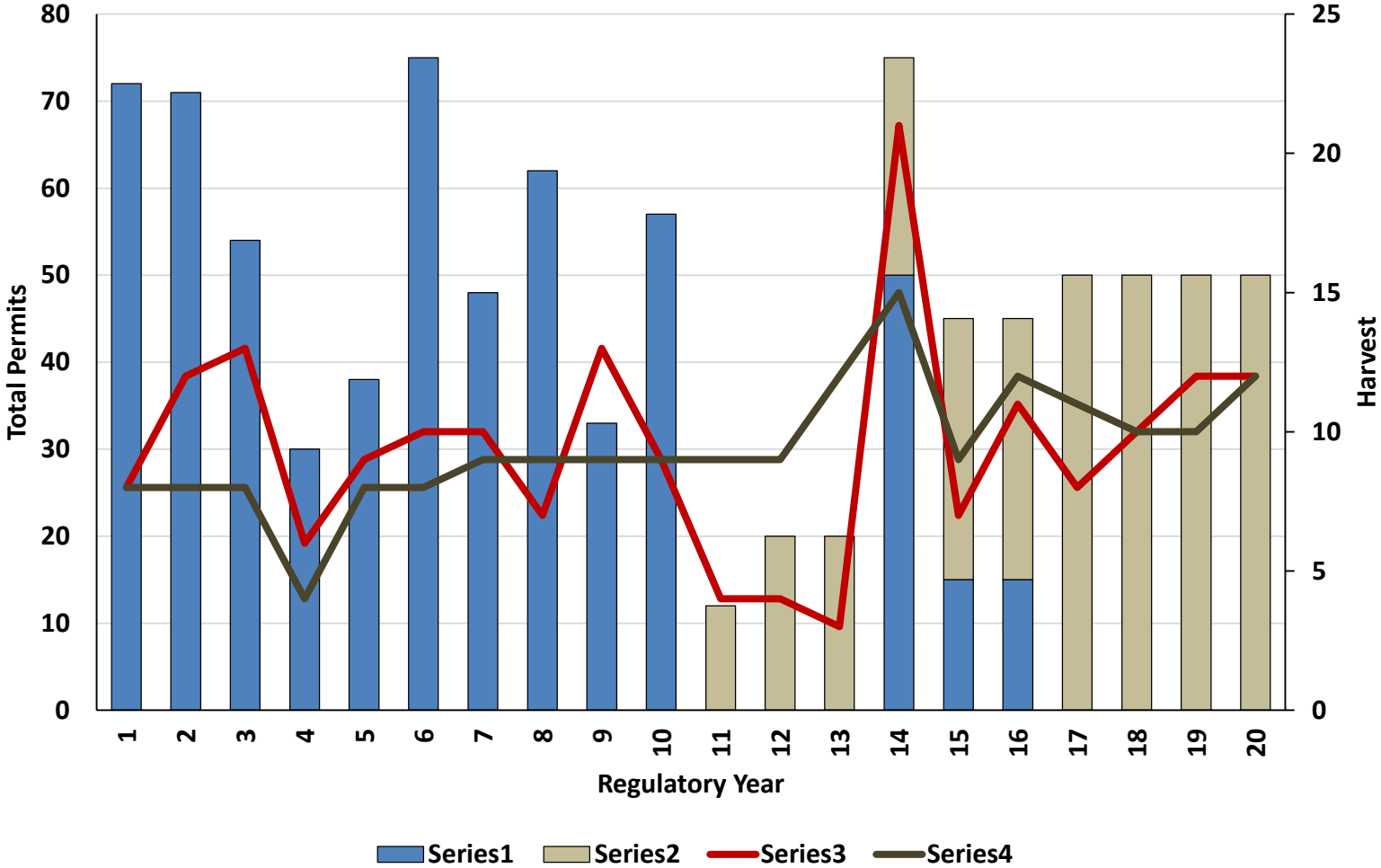


**GMU 14A
DG/RG 890 & DG/RG 891
Drawing Goat Hunt
Boundaries**

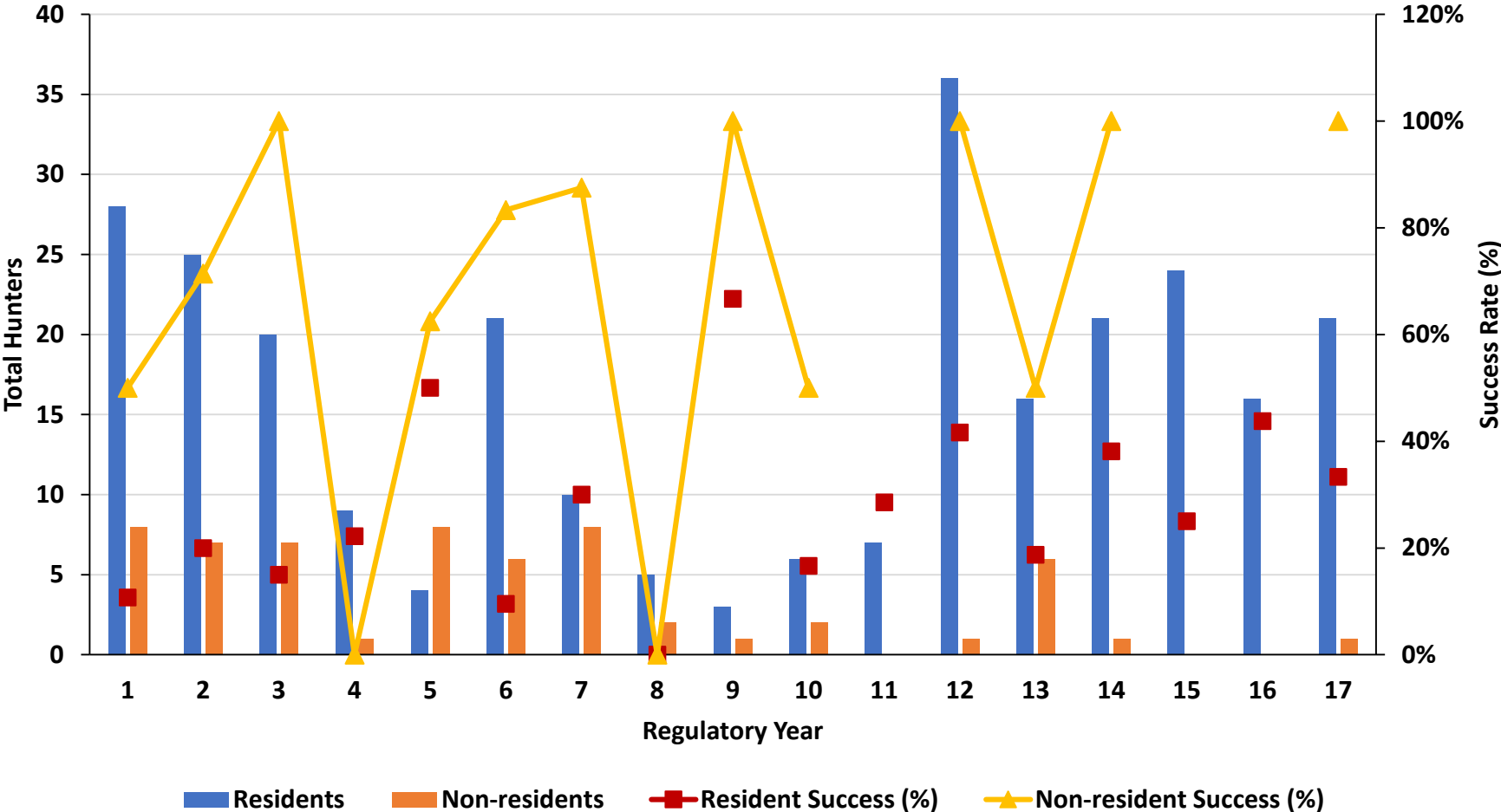
- Legend**
- Boundaries
 - Rivers
 - GMU

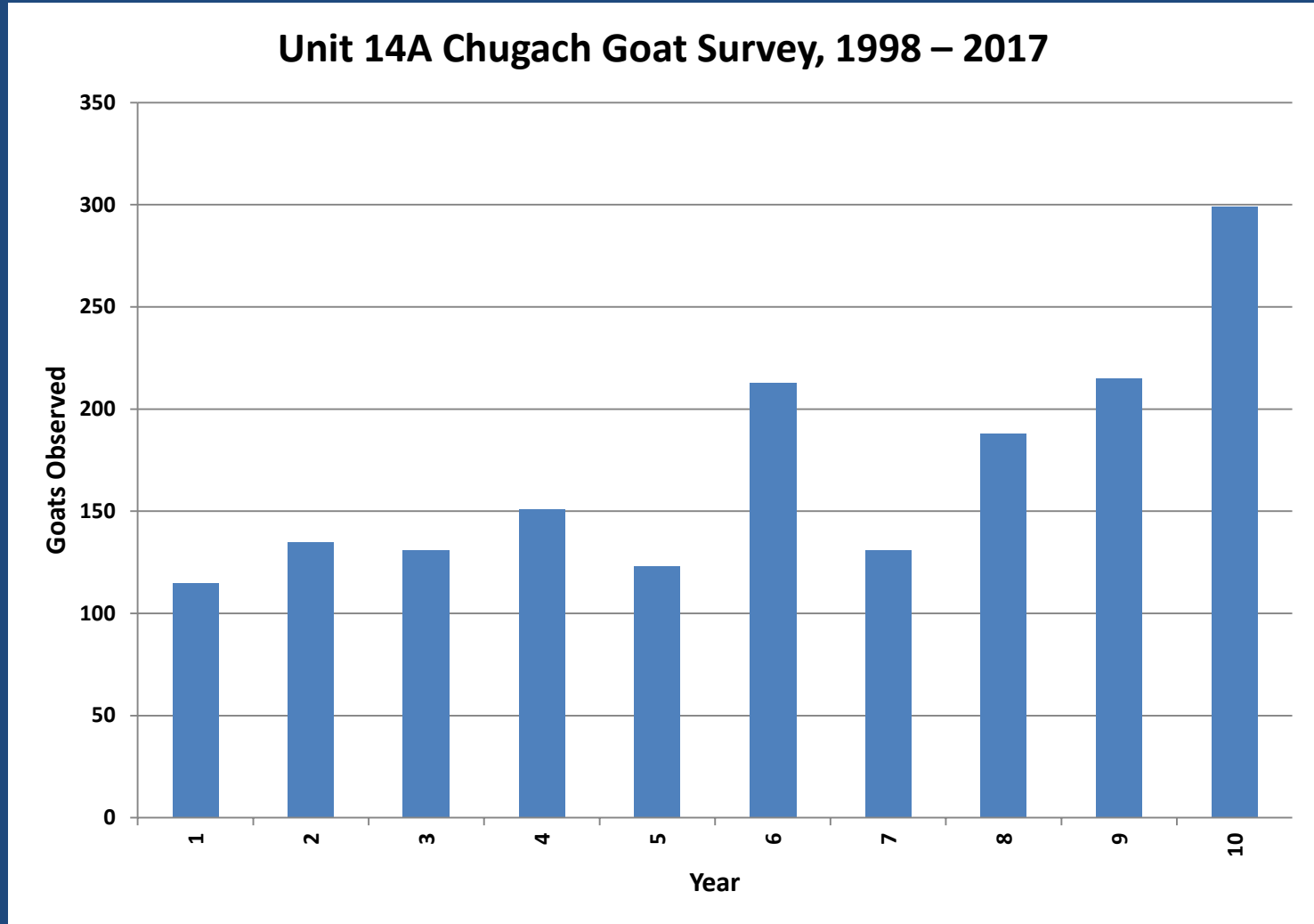


GMU 14A Permit Levels and Harvest, 1998 – 2017



GMU 14A Goat Hunters and Success Rate, 1998 – 2016





Considerations

- Original draw proposal in 2007 was from going over quota when general season sheep hunters were getting reg. permits (not as much of an issue now).
- Already has registration hunt back up which hasn't been used lately.
- Almost 300 goats counted this year shows growing pop and not much conservation concern provided harvest stays reasonable.

Recommendation: Neutral; Allocative.

- Department is neutral on the allocative nature of this proposal. Recently the quota has been set to 12 goat points, giving 5 nonresident draw permits historically results in the harvest of 6 points in this hunt. This would effectively be a nonresident allocation over 50%.
- The Department prefers to set the harvest level based on trends and data available, not at a specific % of the most recent survey
- Nonresident draw and resident registration is in place in 14C

Open a resident registration hunt for mountain goat in Unit 14A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

**Increase the bag limit for brown bear and
allow the harvest of brown bear at black bear
bait stations in Unit 14A**

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

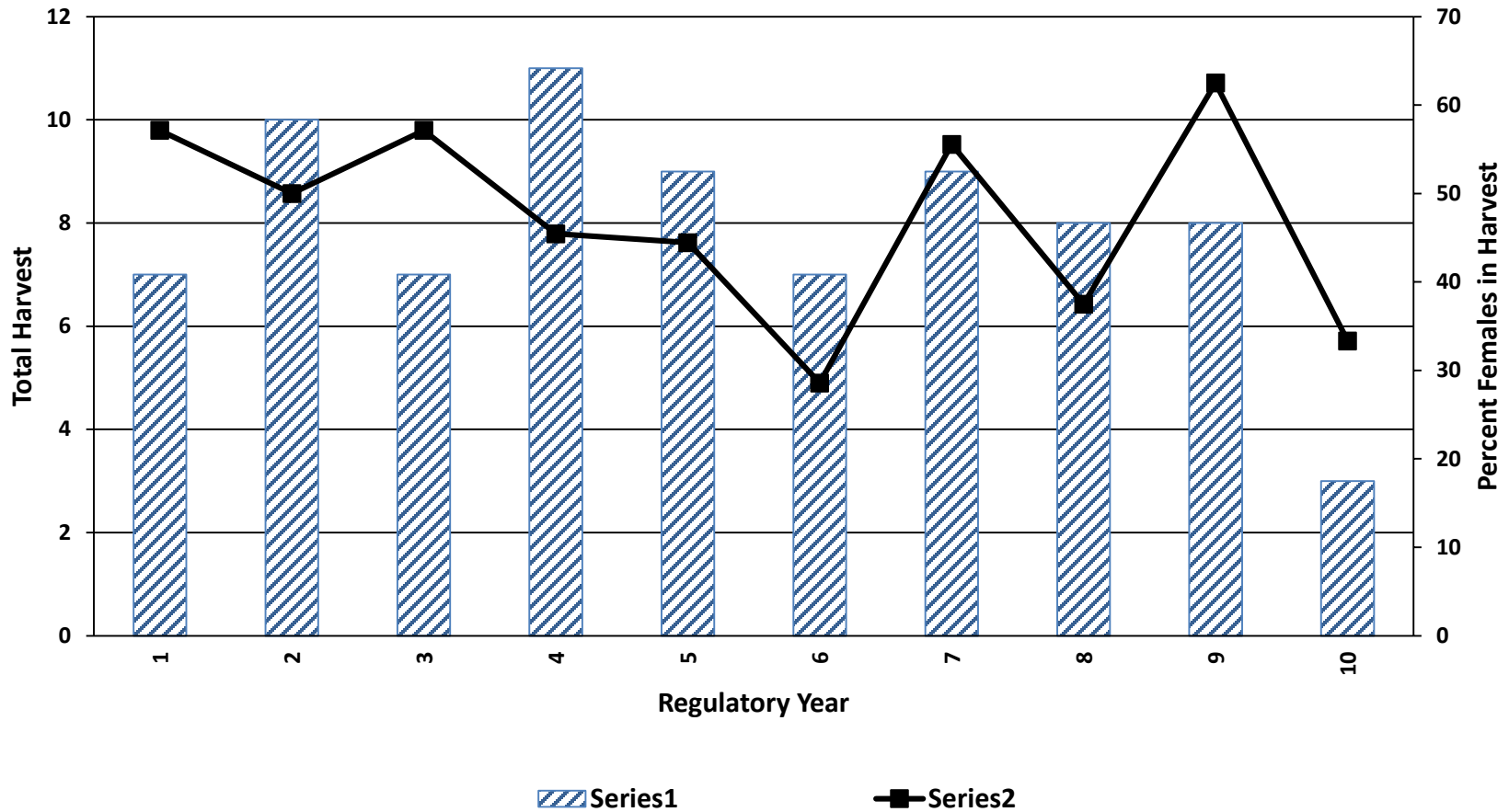
Current Regulation

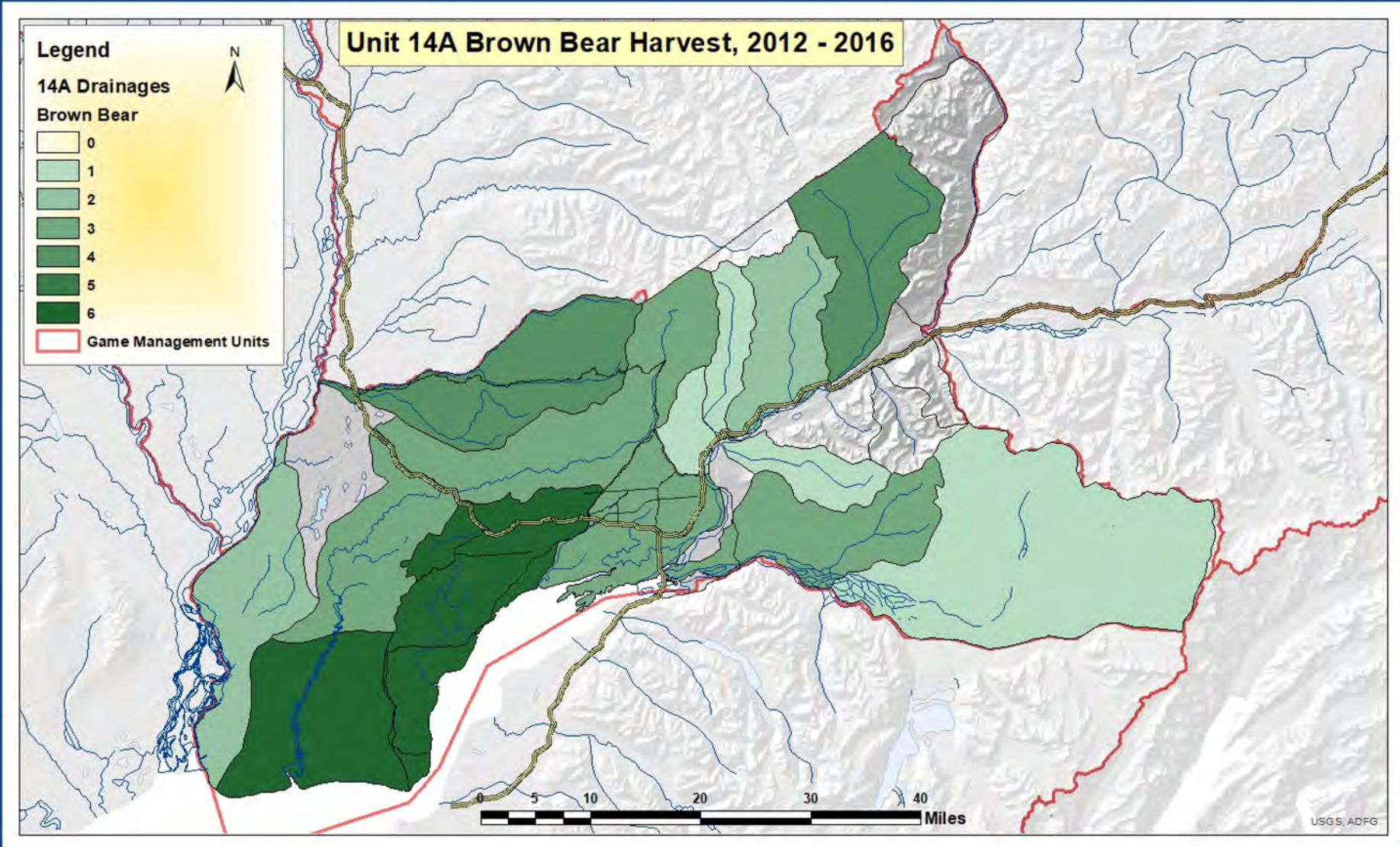
- 1 Brown bear every 4 years
- Season Dates: Sept. 1 to May 31
- No brown bears over black bear bait stations

Considerations

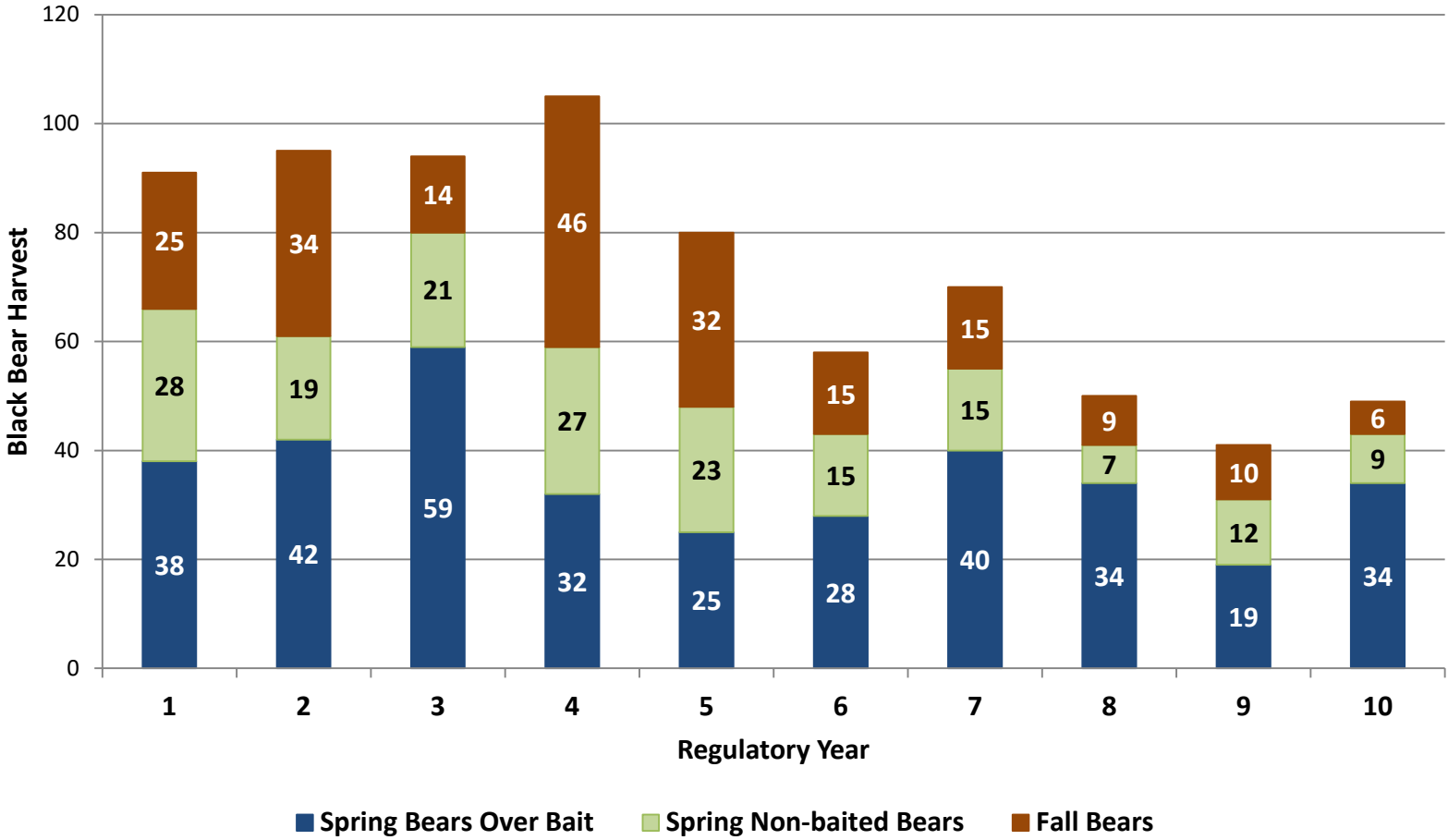
- Could be unitwide, could be just west of Little Su River
- Changes limit to 1 a year and allows brown bear over bait (harder to do if just a part of the unit)
- Writers perception is that there are too many brown bears at black bear bait stations
- Very few DLP's or nuisance complaints. No report of kill sites

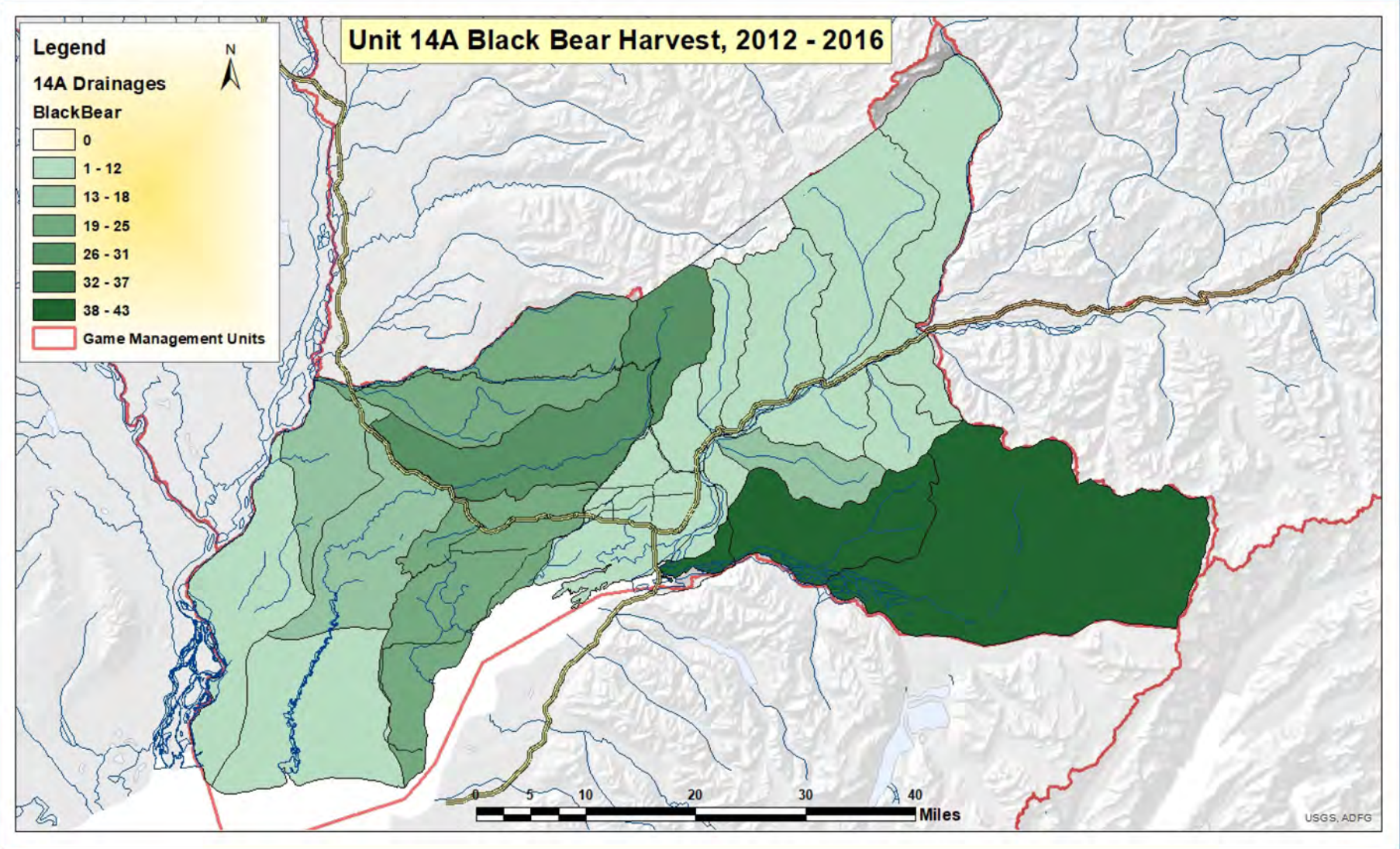
Unit 14A Brown Bear Harvest and Percent Females, 2007– 2016





Black Bear Harvest in GMU 14A, 2007 – 2016





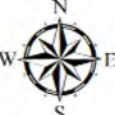
Proposal 81

Brown Bear / Unit 14A

Year	Number of Bait Stations
2012	225
2013	243
2014	277
2015	242
2016	161
Total	1148
Average	229.6

Year	Total Successful Hunters	Hunters with 2 bears	Hunters with 3 bears
2012	57	1	1
2013	72	4	0
2014	55	3	0
2015	41	2	0
2016	46	4	0
Total	271	14	1
Average	54.2	2.8	0.2

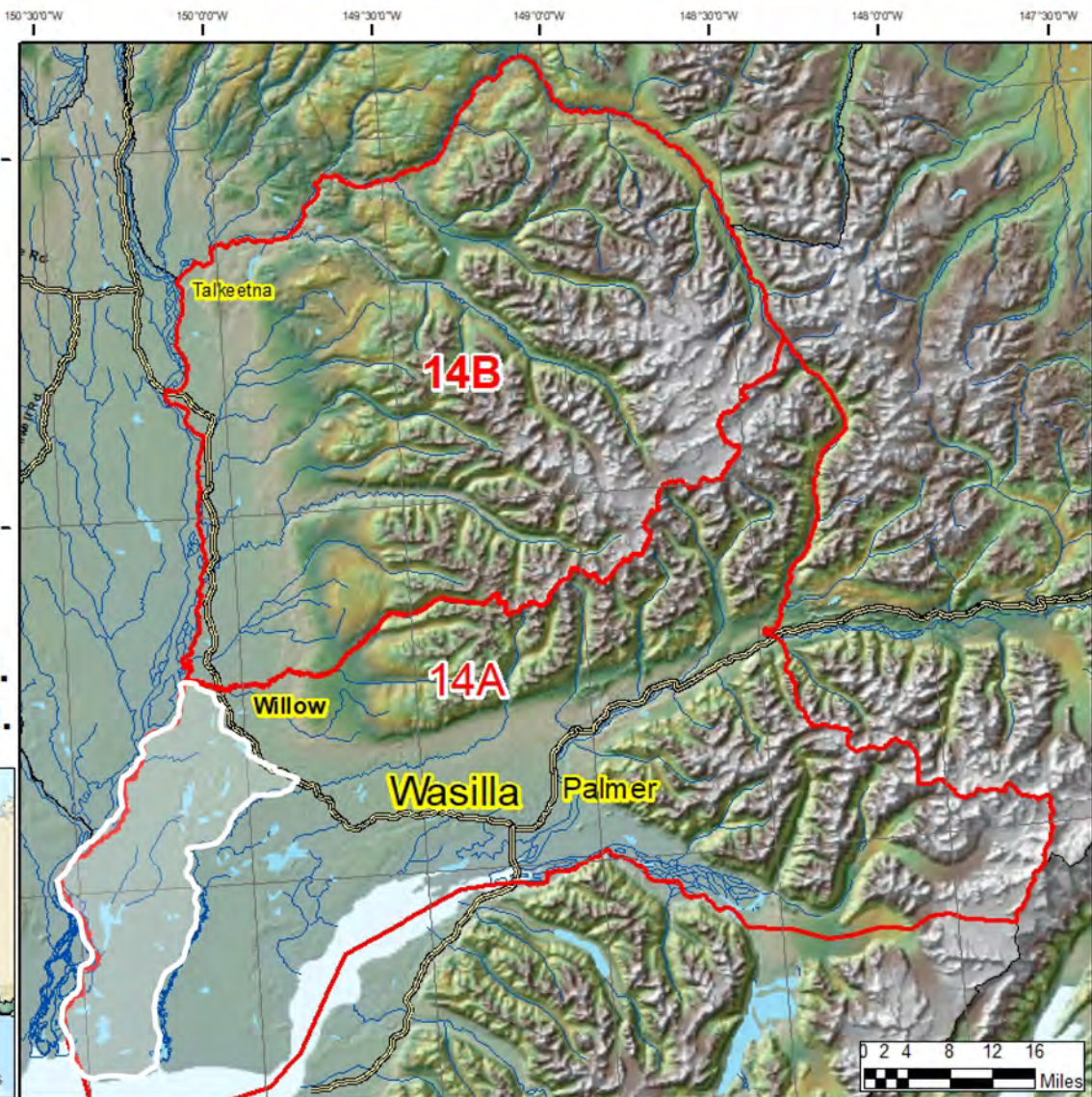
Game Management Units 14A & B



Legend

- Unit 14 Boundaries
- Roads
- Lakes
- Rivers

14A - 2,561sq. mi.
14B - 2,152sq. mi.



**Increase the bag limit for brown bear and
allow the harvest of brown bear at black bear
bait stations in Unit 14A**

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

Create a management area for the Mat-Su Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area in Unit 14A

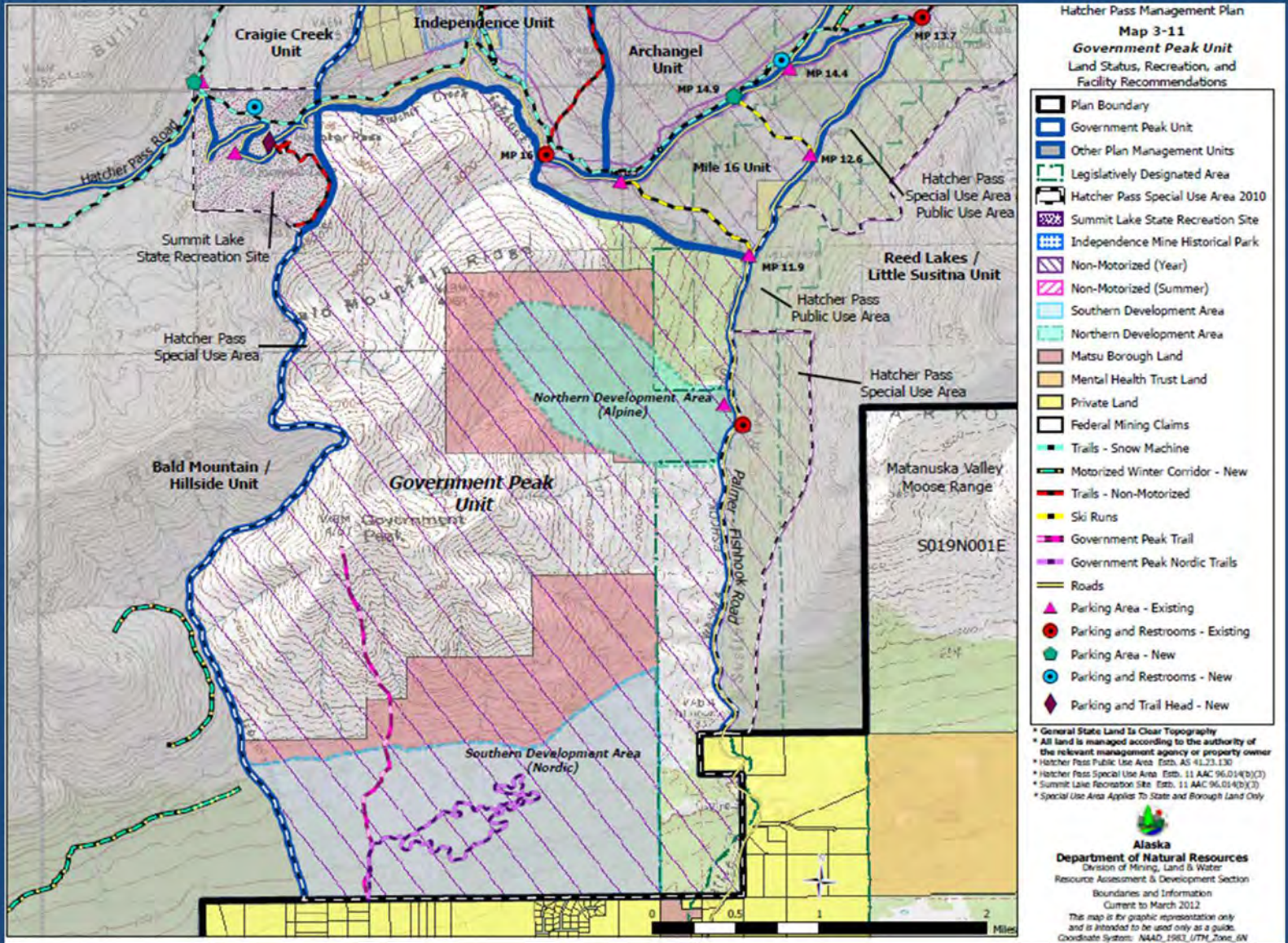
Public Proposal

Mat Valley AC

Take No Action (9-5)

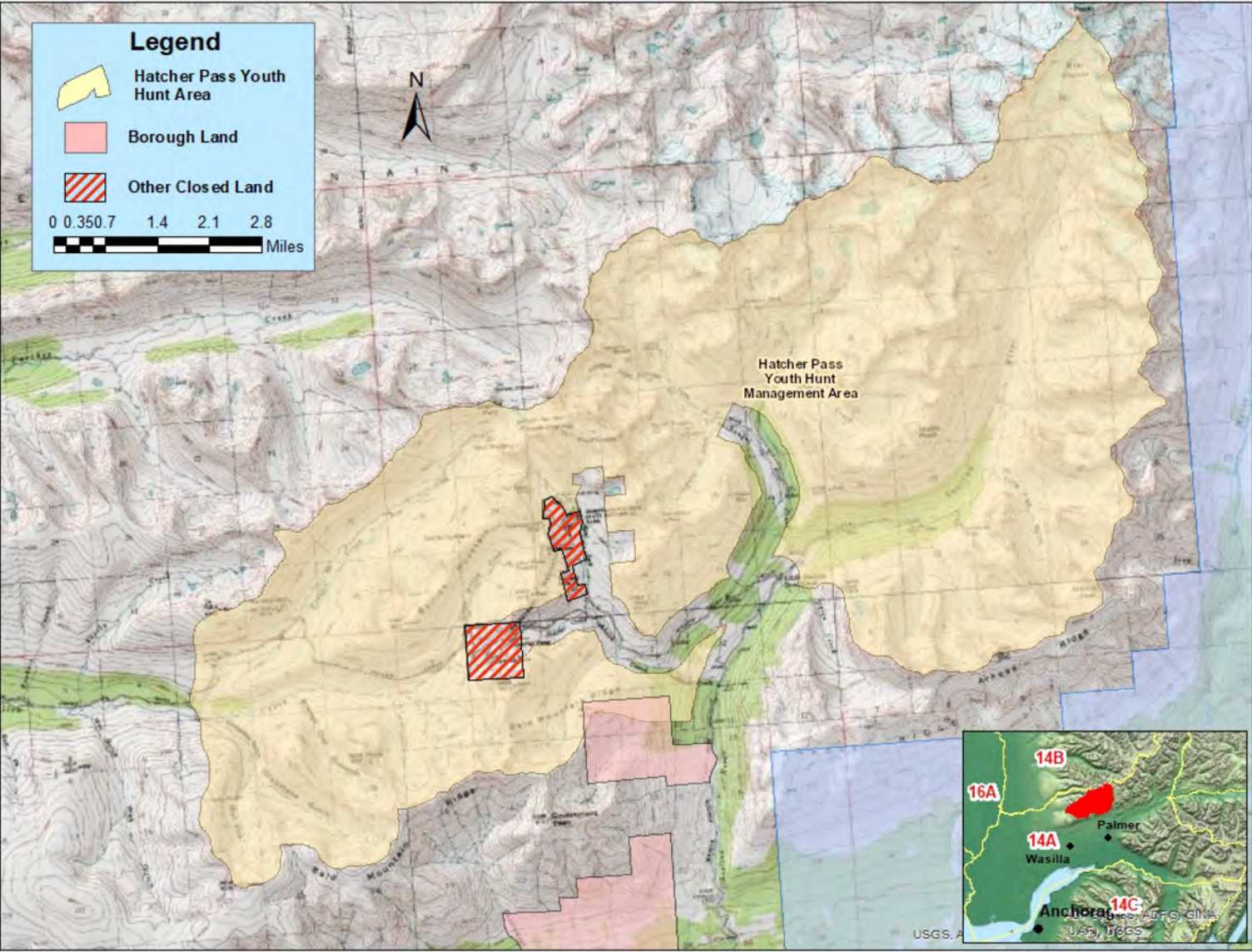
Proposal 82

Unit 14A



Considerations

- The area is currently closed to the discharge of firearms under 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3)(E)(i) as part of the Hatcher Pas Special Use Area Plan. Archery is allowed.
- The borough is concerned that people may not know the restriction exists and that hunters could endanger other recreation users.
- Writer seems to want these restrictions noted in the regulation booklet
- The department does not list non-F&G restrictions (i.e. Nancy Lakes)
- The Borough land which contains the northern and southern development areas does overlap with the Hatcher Pass Youth Hunt Area slightly.



Create a management area for the Mat-Su Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area in Unit 14A

Public Proposal

Mat Valley AC

Take No Action (9-5)

Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 16A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

*Mat Valley AC
Mt Yenlo AC*

*Support (13-1)
Support (8-0)*

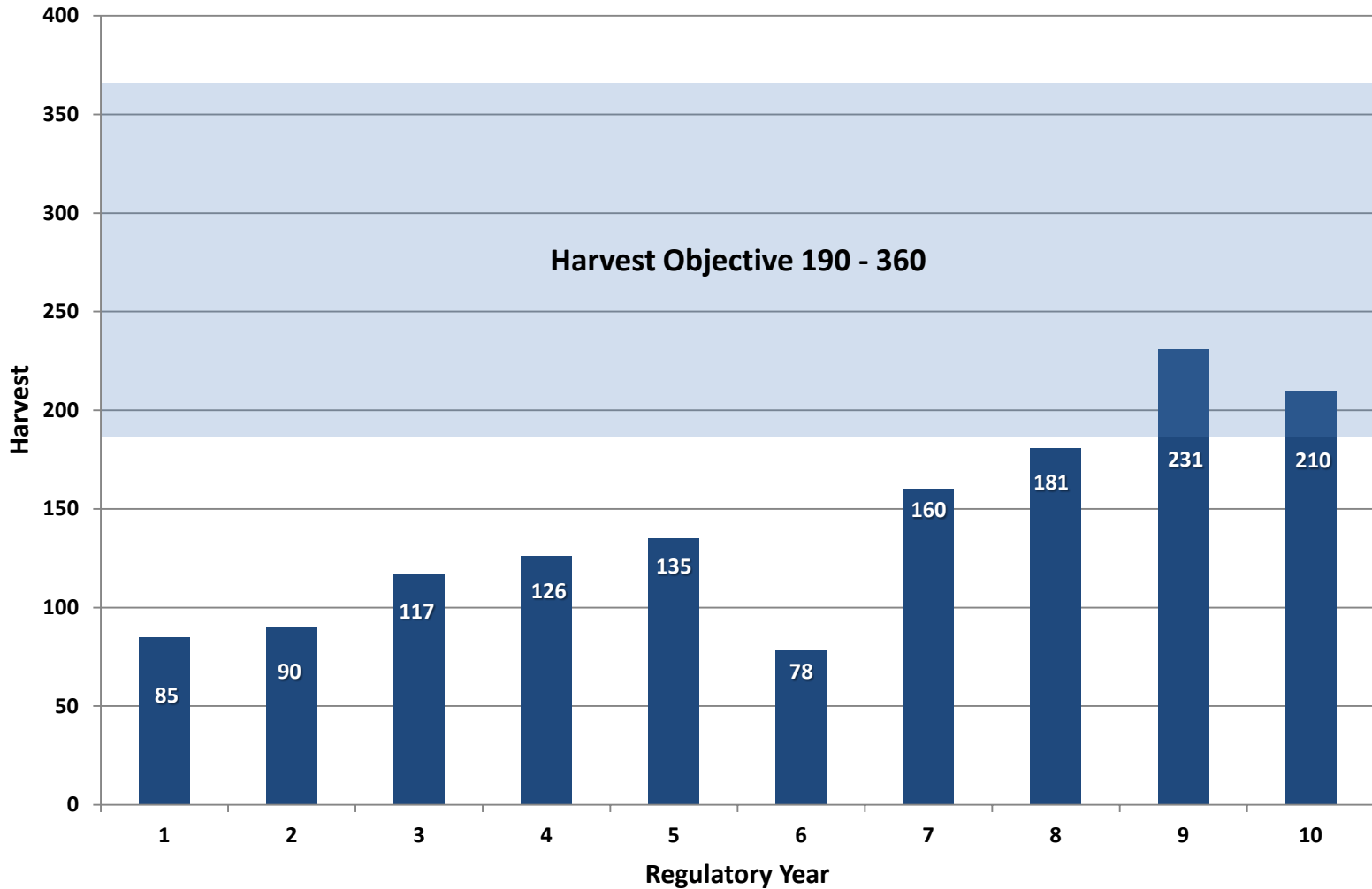
Current Regulations

- Bag Limit; General Harvest with Spike/Fork, 50", or ≥ 3 brow tines
- Aug. 10 – 17 Archery season
- Aug. – Sept. 25 General Season

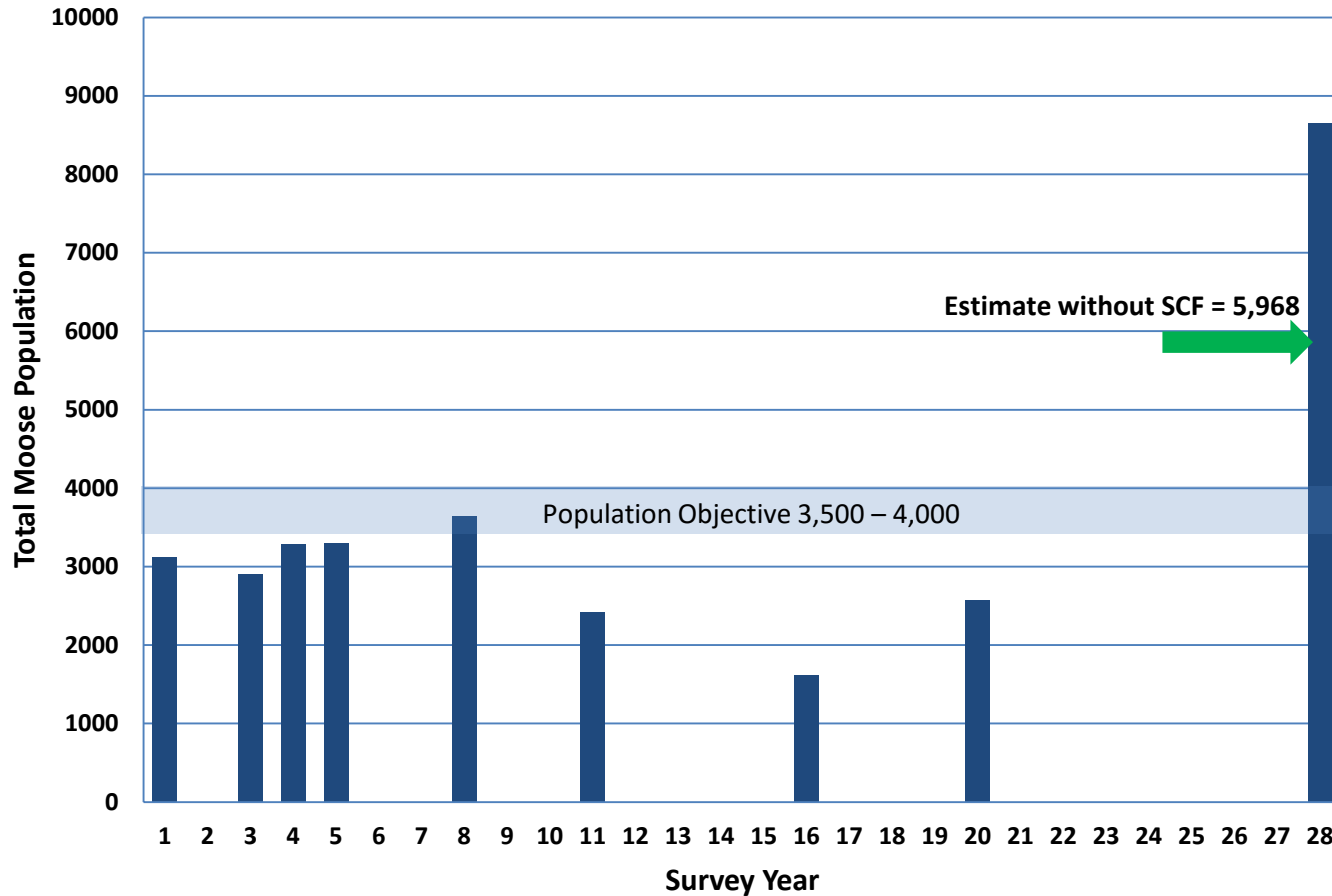
Considerations

- Proposer would like to remove the "50" of the spike fork 50 or 3 brow tine regulation
- Area went to Spike-Fork, 50-inch, or ≥ 3 brow tines in 1993
- 11.7% of moose taken in 16A over past 25 years were over 50" but did not have 3 or more brow tines on one side

Unit 16A Total Moose Harvest, 2007 – 2016



Unit 16A Moose Population, 1990 – 2017



Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 16A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

*Mat Valley AC
Mt Yenlo AC*

*Support (13-1)
Support (8-0)*

Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Tyonek AC

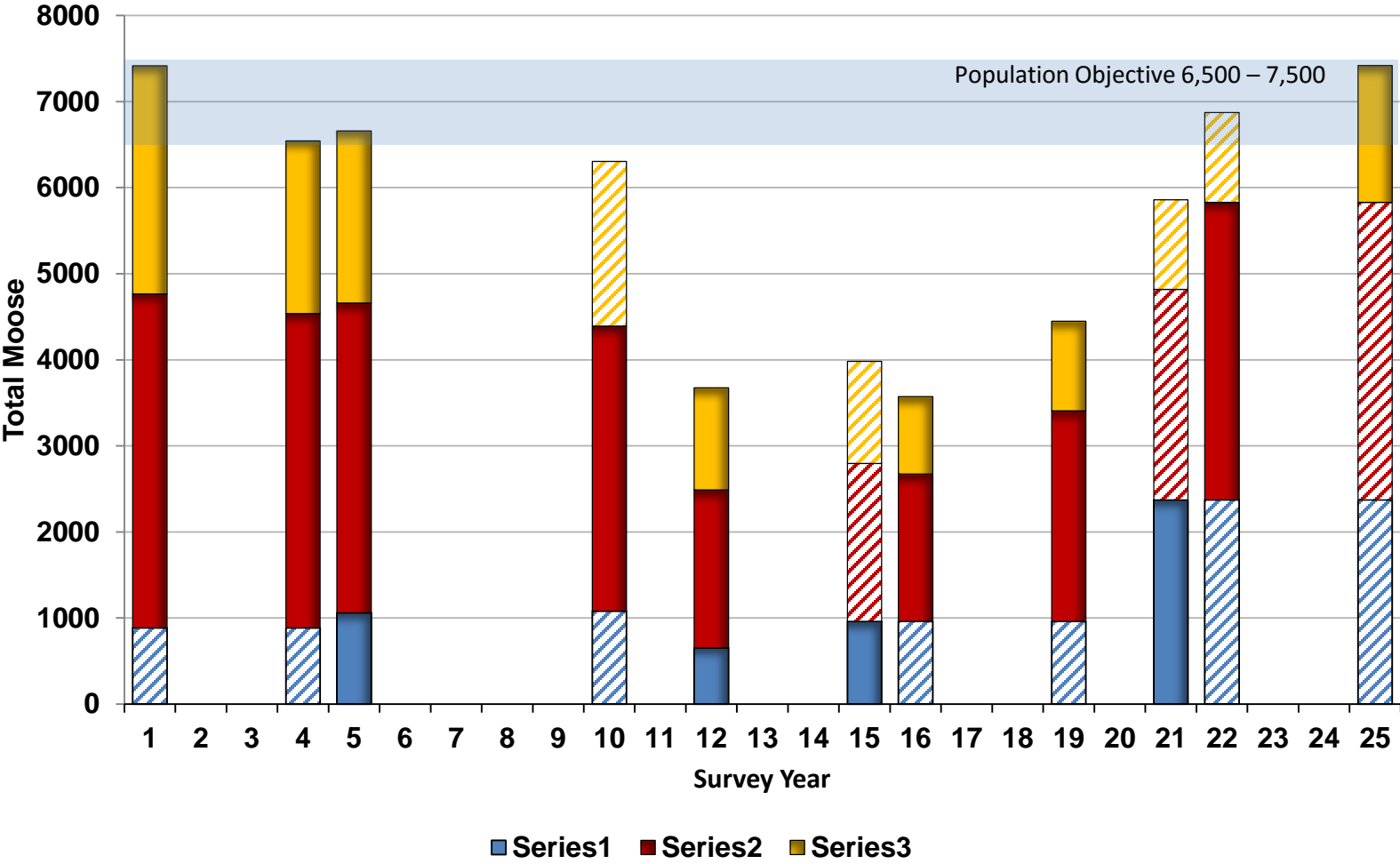
Oppose (0-5)

Considerations

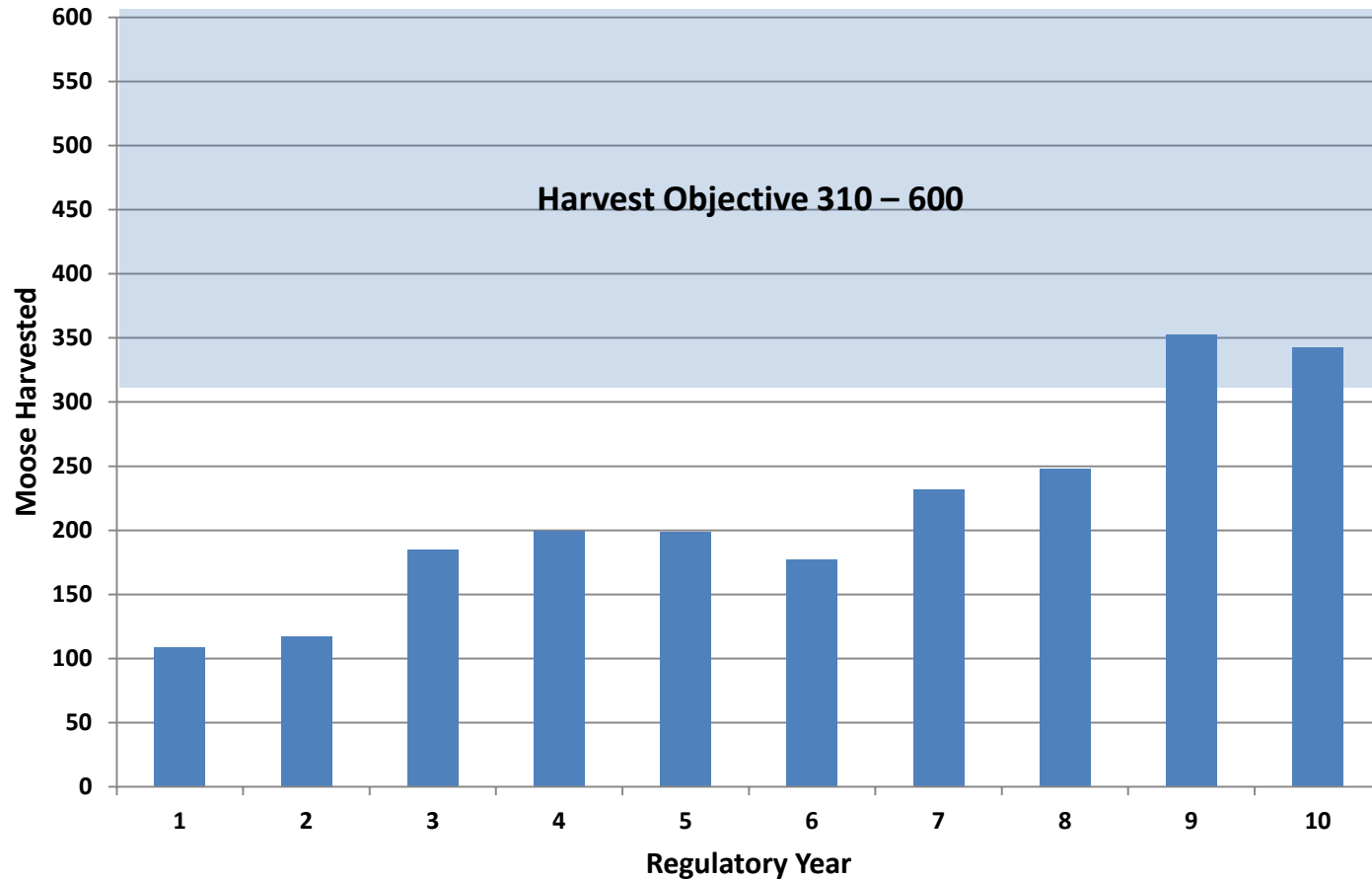
- **Current population objective: 6,500 – 7,500**
- **Proposed objective: 10,000 – 13,000**
- **Currently within population objective, calf survival is good**
- **Without habitat information it would be difficult to say what the actual pop objective should be, but twinning info supports a higher number**
- **Will the impact of a severe winter be greater if the population is higher? (6,500 – 3,500 in early 00's)**

Survey Unit	IM Population Objective proportional to area (midpoint)	2014 Moose Population Estimate	Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint
16B-North	1,820-2,100 (1,960)	1,587	81%
16B-Middle	3,120-3,600 (3,360)	3,458	103%
16B-South	1,560-1,800 (1,680)	2,372	141%
Unit 16B	6,500-7,500 (7,000)	7,418	106%

GMU 16B Moose Population, 1990 – 2014



Unit 16B Moose Harvest, 2007 – 2016



Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Mt Yenlo AC

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-11)

Support (8-0)

Oppose (0-5)

Change the bag limit and lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Support as Amended (7-4)

Tyonek AC

Support as Amended (5-0)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Current Regulations

Residents

Spike/Fork, 50", or 3 brow tines

Dates: Aug. 20 - Sept. 25

Any Bull Draw DM540 (Up to 300 permits)

Dates: Aug. 20 - Sept. 25

Youth Any Bull Draw YM541 (Up to 100)

Dates: Aug. 20 - Sept.25 and
Nov. 15 - Jan. 31

One bull Tier II (Up to 260 permits)

Dates: Dec. 15 – Mar. 31

Any Bull RM574 Registration Permit
Feb.

Dates: Dec. 15 – Last day of

Any Bull Draw Hunt (Up to 500 permits)
Feb.

Dates: Dec. 15 – Last day of

Non-residents

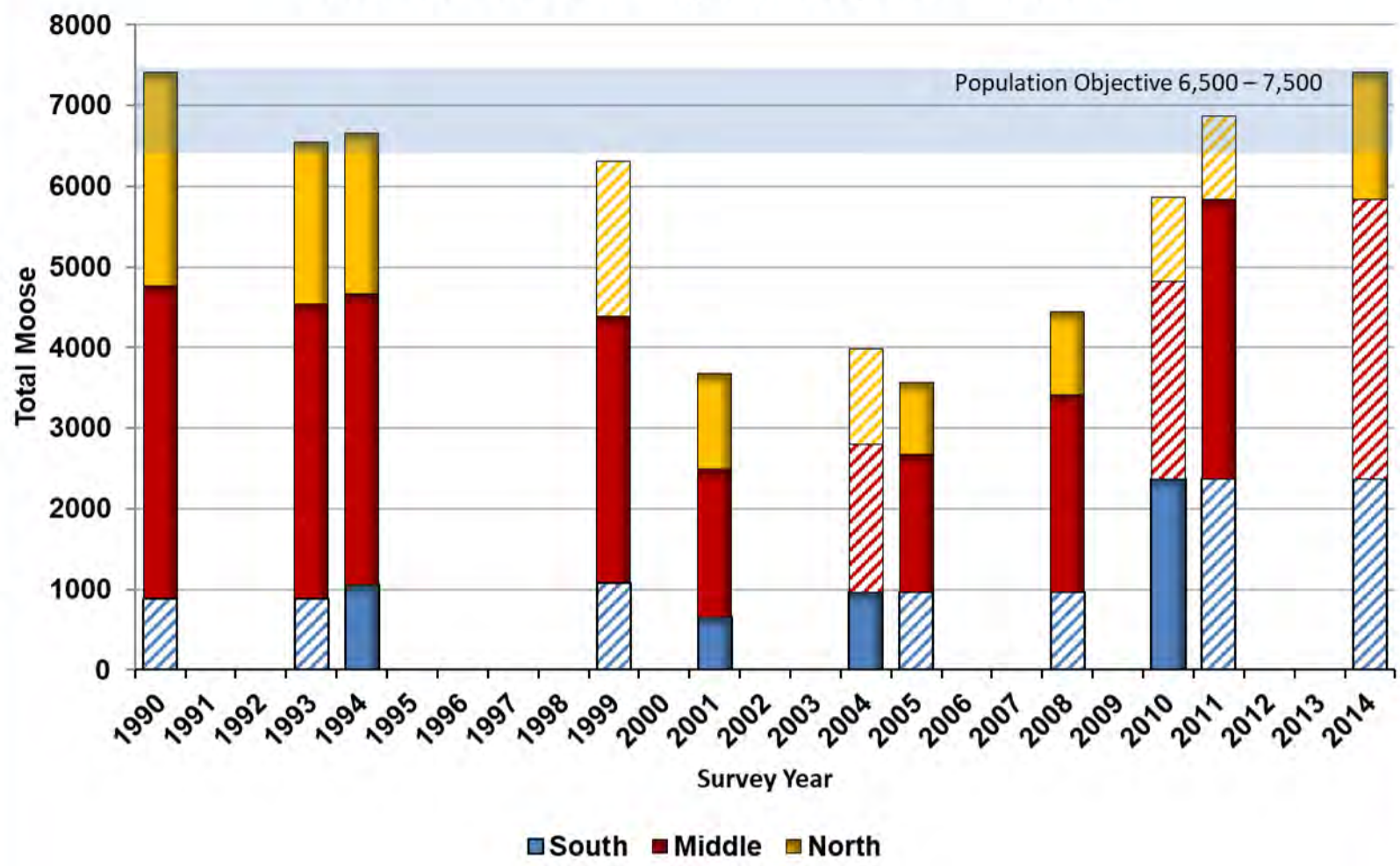
Spike/Fork, 50", or 3 brow tines

Dates: Aug 20 - Sept 25

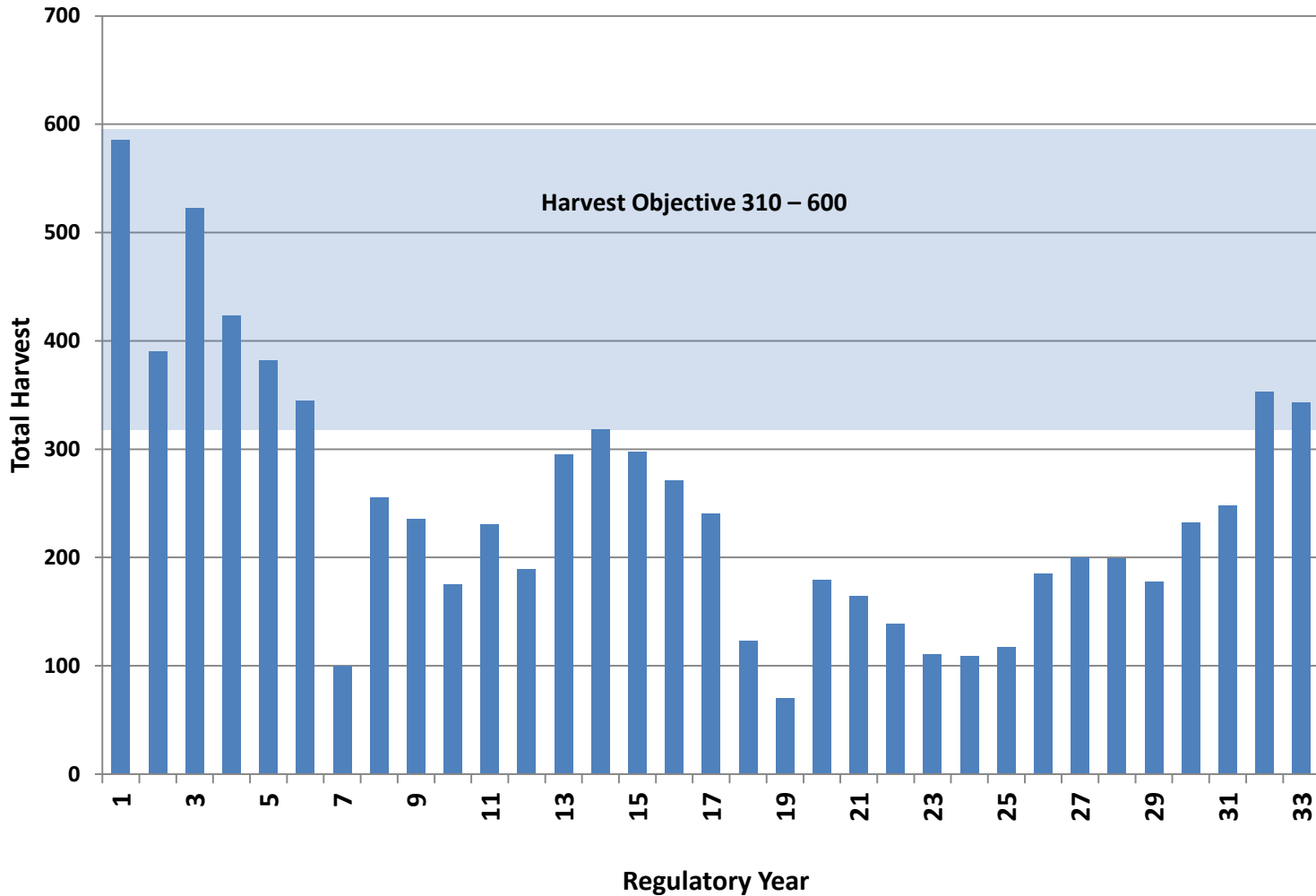
Proposal Summary

- Ends DM540, YM541, and RM574 any bull draw hunts and institutes an any bull season from Aug. 20 – Sept. 30 (+5 days)
- Retains Tier II and mid-winter Any-bull draw hunt
- Mid-winter Any-bull hunt not currently being used
- Harvest objective 310 – 700; Avg. 318 (RY13-RY16)
- There are concerns that a general harvest any bull season so close to the population center would be unmanageable and could quickly result in too much harvest

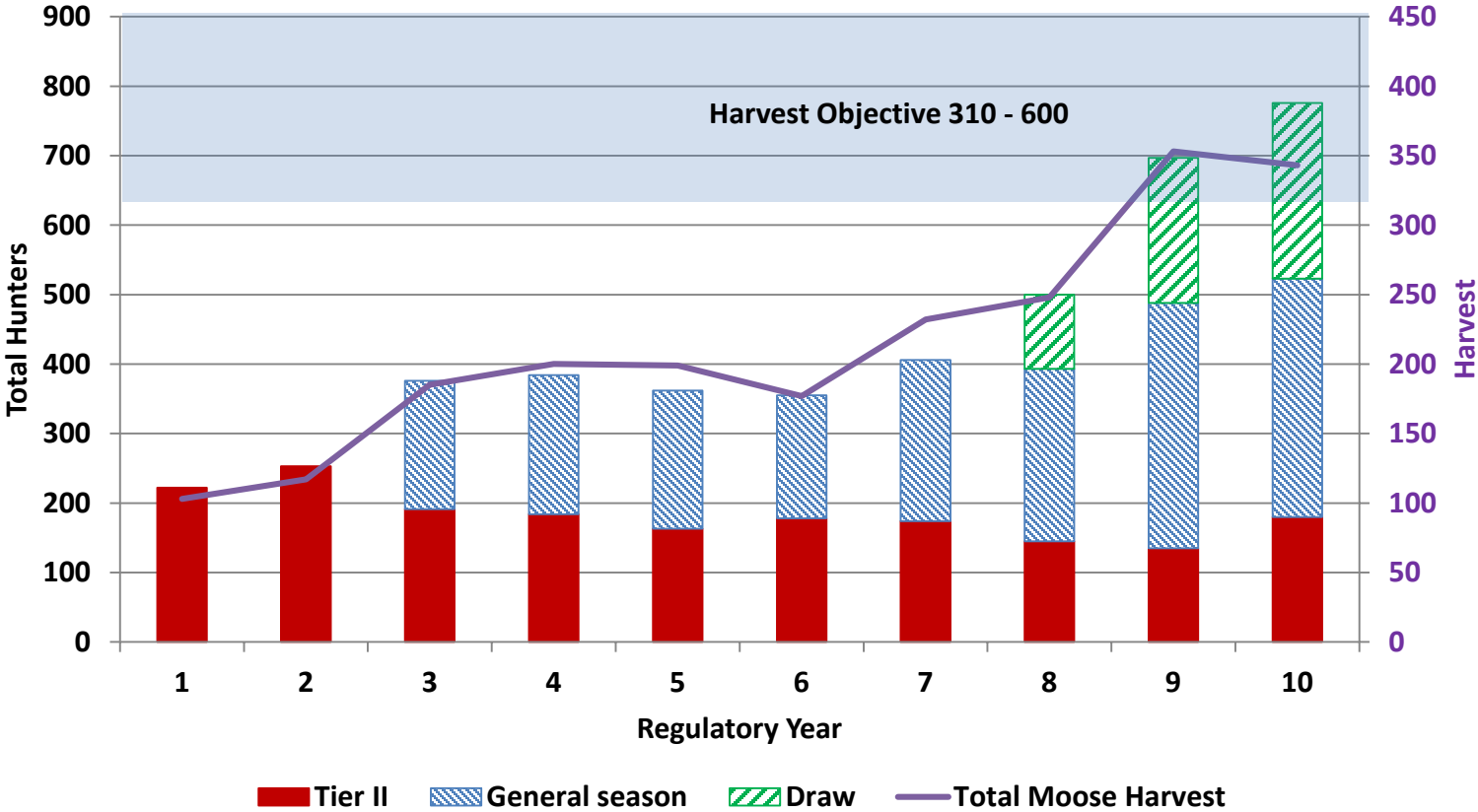
GMU 16B Moose Population, 1990 – 2014



Unit 16B Moose Harvest, 1984 – 2016



Unit 16B Hunters and Harvest, 2007 – 2016

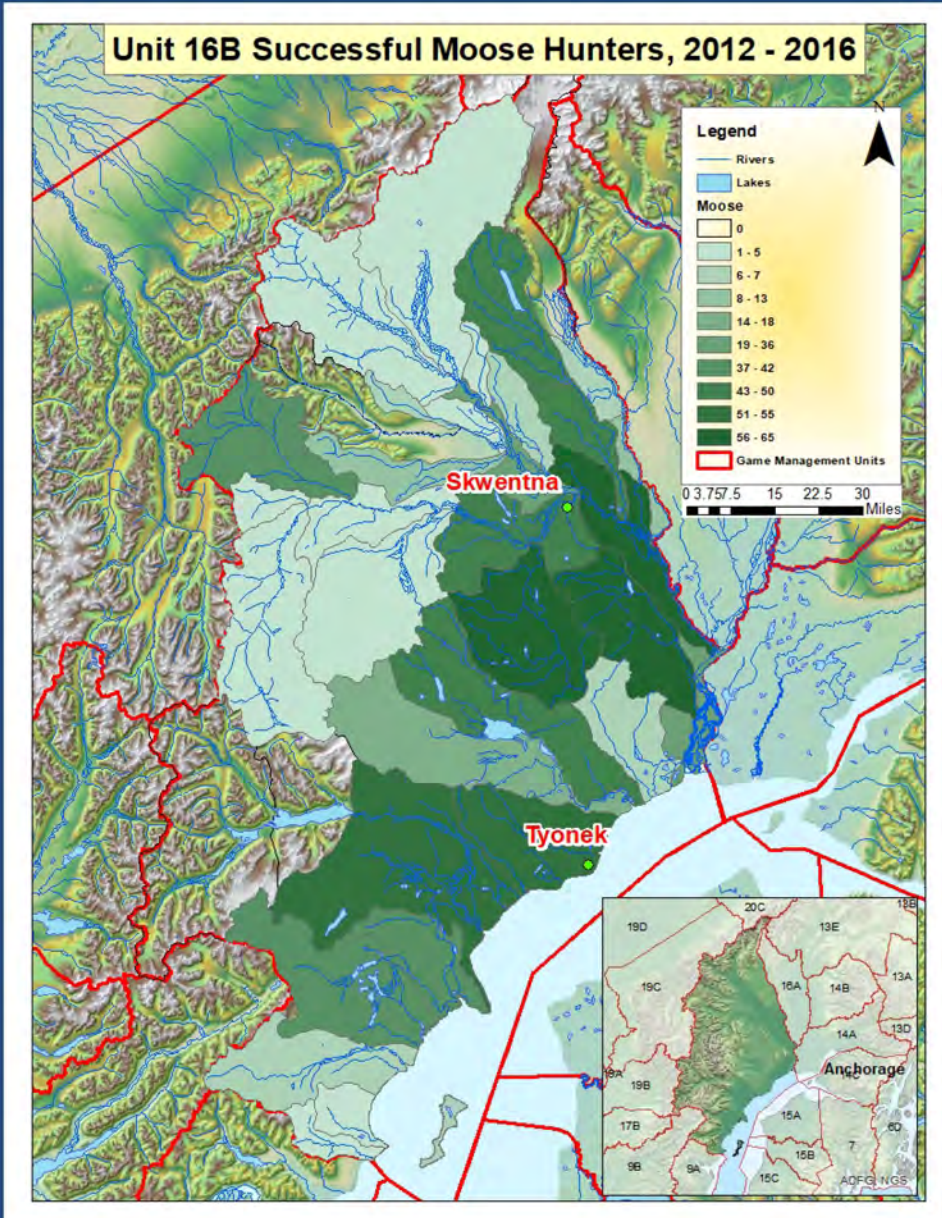


Proposal 85

Moose / Unit 16B

Year	Permit Number	Total Permits	Total Hunters	Total Harvest	Success Rate (%)	General Season Hunters
2014	DM540	150	84	35	42%	626
2015	DM540	300	196	72	37%	517
2016	DM540	300	203	77	38%	701
				$\mu=$	38%	615
2014*	YM541	50	23	8	35%	
2015*	YM541	100	49	16	33%	
2016	YM541	100	50	17	34%	
				$\mu=$	34%	

* Season Dates: Nov 15- Dec 15



Change the bag limit and lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Support as Amended (7-4)

Tyonek AC

Support as Amended (5-0)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-5)

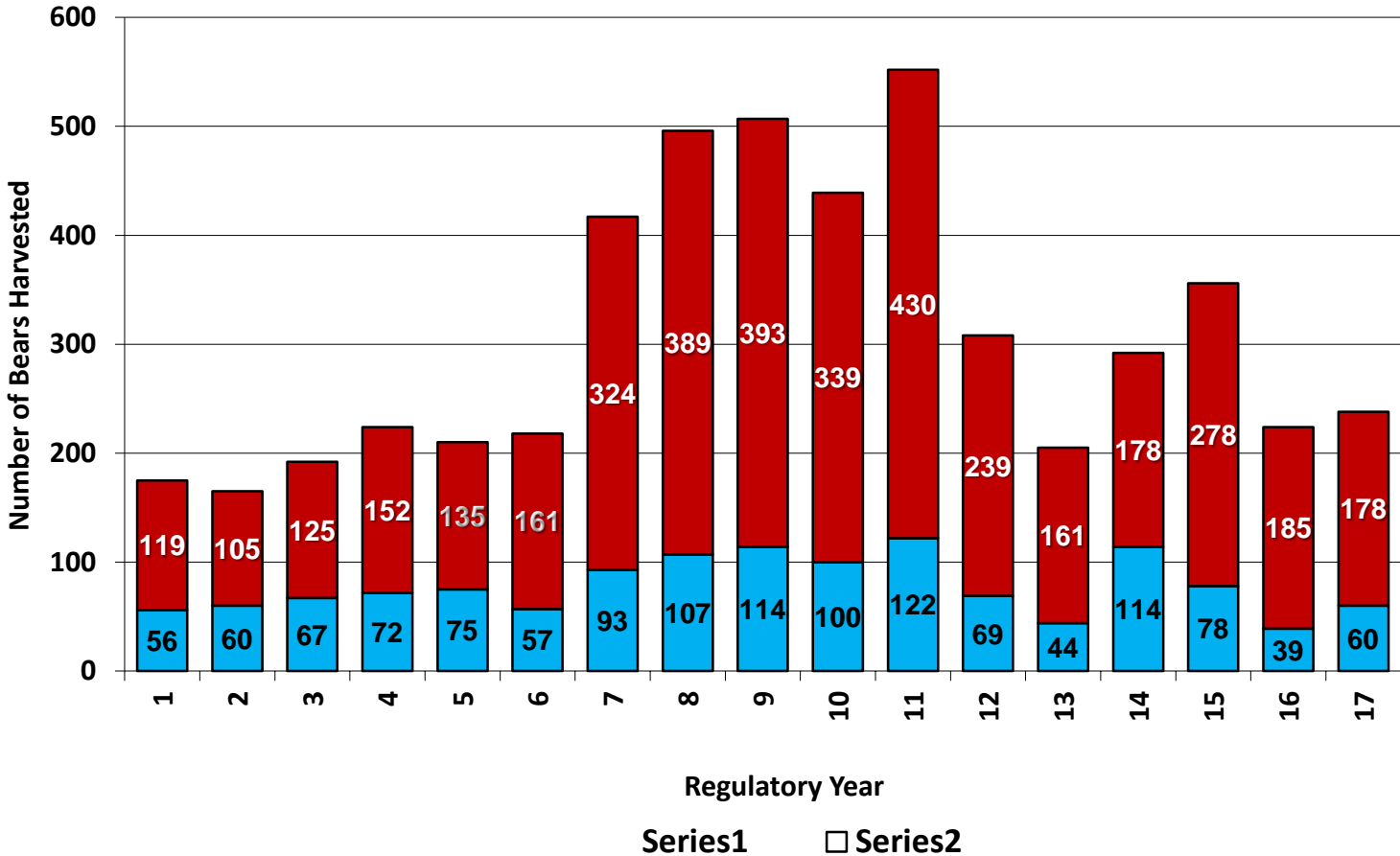
Current Regulations

- **Bag Limit: 3 bears; No closed season**
- **Baiting Allowed outside of Denali State Park from July 1 – October 15 & April 15 – June 30**
- **2 Bait stations allowed per permit**
- **10 bait stations allowed per guide us area**

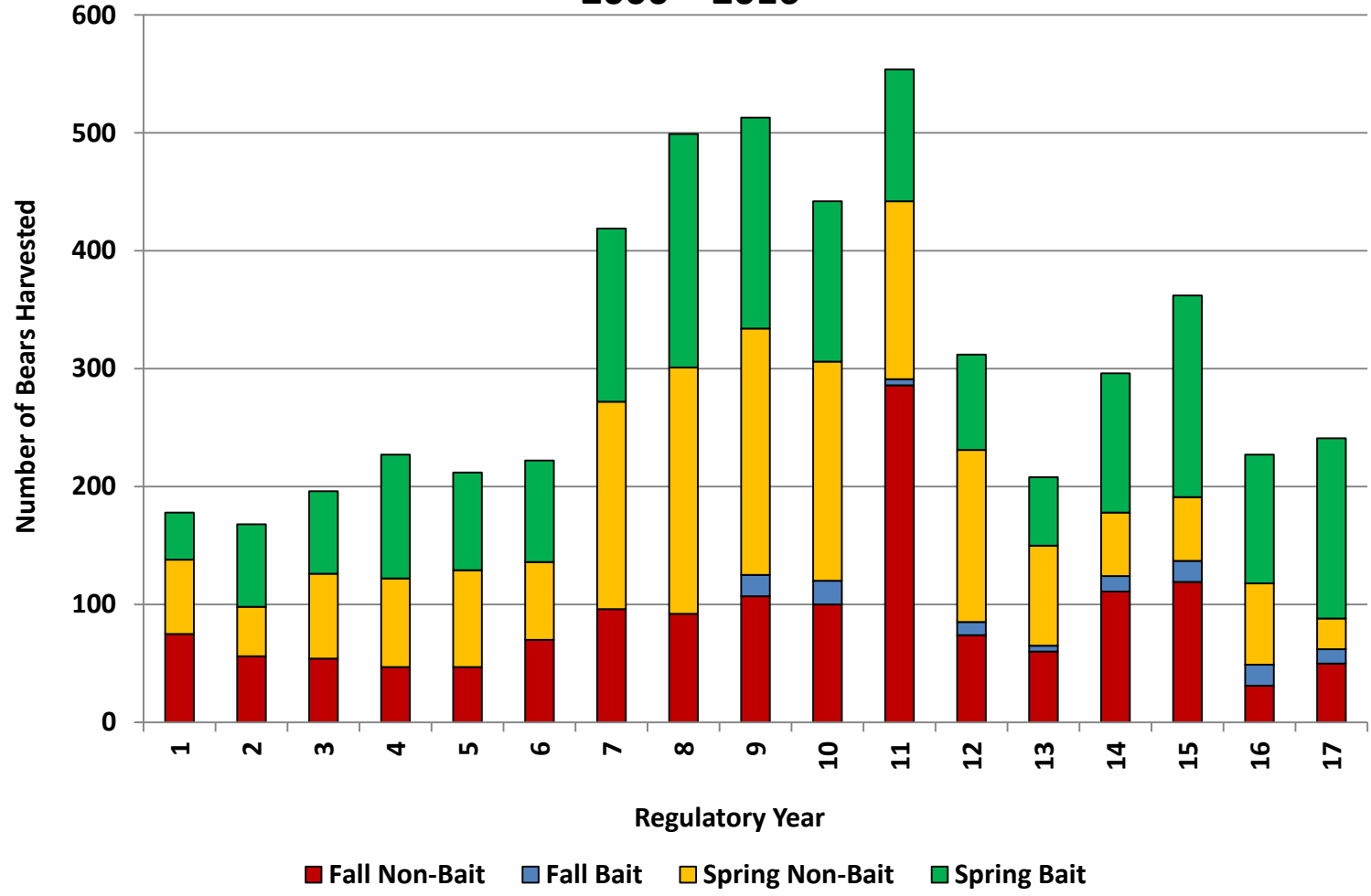
Considerations

- **Proposal would end fall baiting season for black bear; brown bear (?)**
- **Black bears in Unit 16 were part of Predator Control Program from 2007 to 2016**
- **Fall baiting allowed in 2007; Season dates: Aug. 10 to Oct. 15**
- **Baiting extended in 2009 to July 1 to Oct. 15**
- **2007 estimate showed 3,500 ± 300 black bears in Unit 16B**
- **Reduction goal was to 600-800 black bears within the PCA**

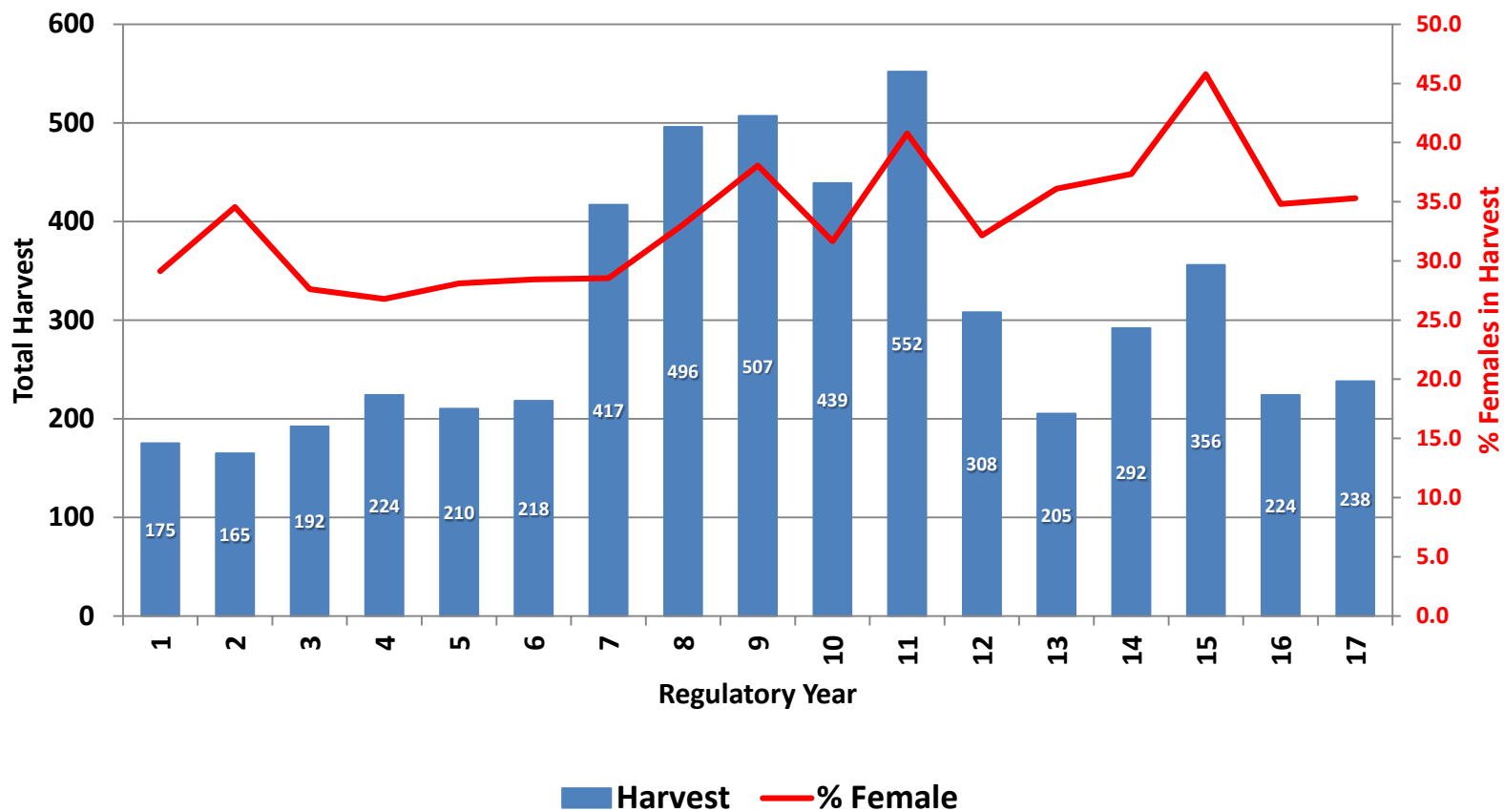
Unit 16 Black Bear Harvest, 2000 – 2016



Unit 16 Black Bear Harvest by Bait and Season, 2000 – 2016



Unit 16 Black Bear Harvest and % Female in Harvest, 2000 – 2016



Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-5)

Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-5)

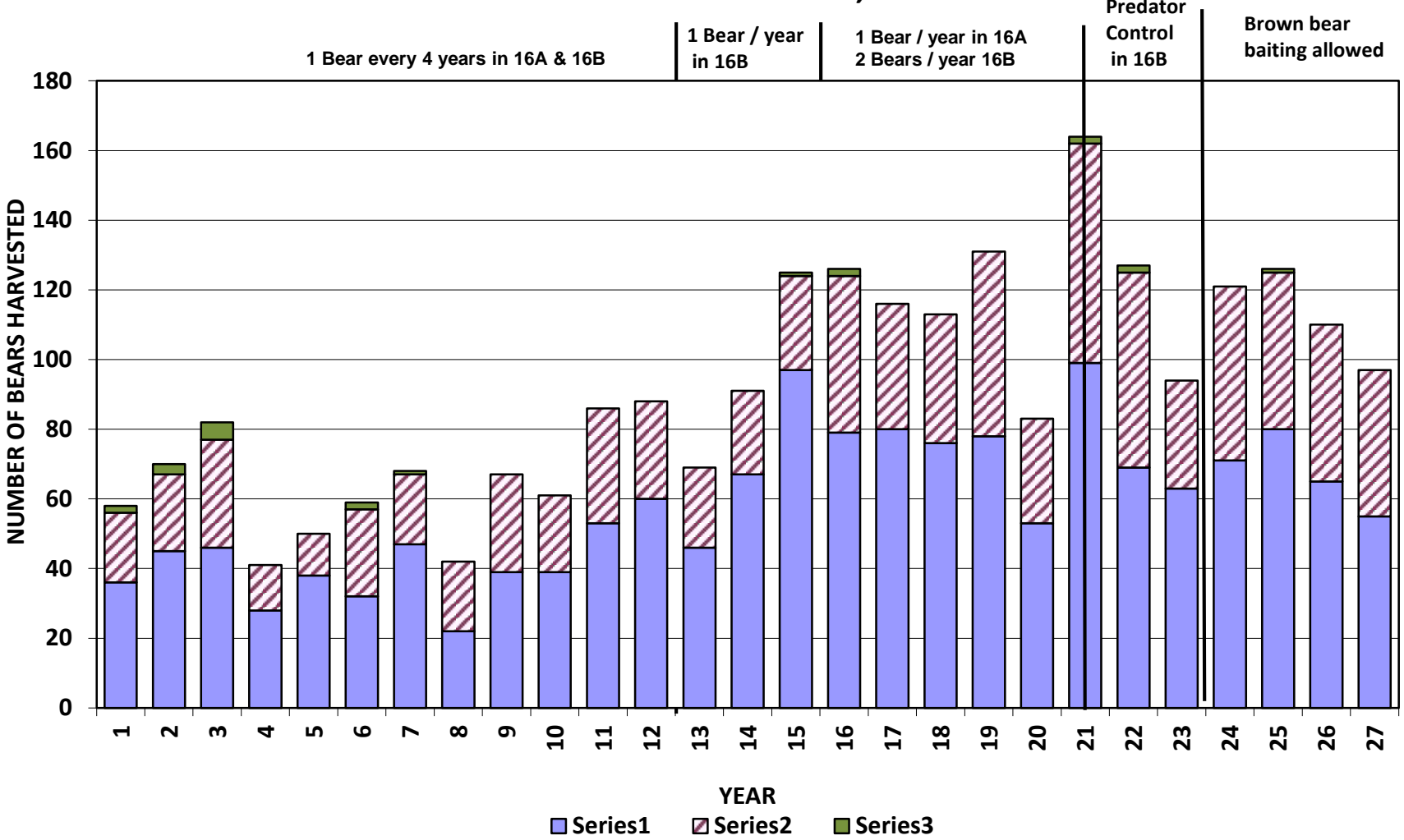
Current Regulations

- Bag limit is 1 bear/year in 16A and 2 bears/year in 16B
- Brown bears may be taken at bear bait stations (same dates as black bear baiting)
- No closed season except within 1 mile of the mouth of Wolverine Creek (Sept. 15 – May 31)
- 2 Bait stations allowed per permittee
- 10 bait stations allowed per guide use area

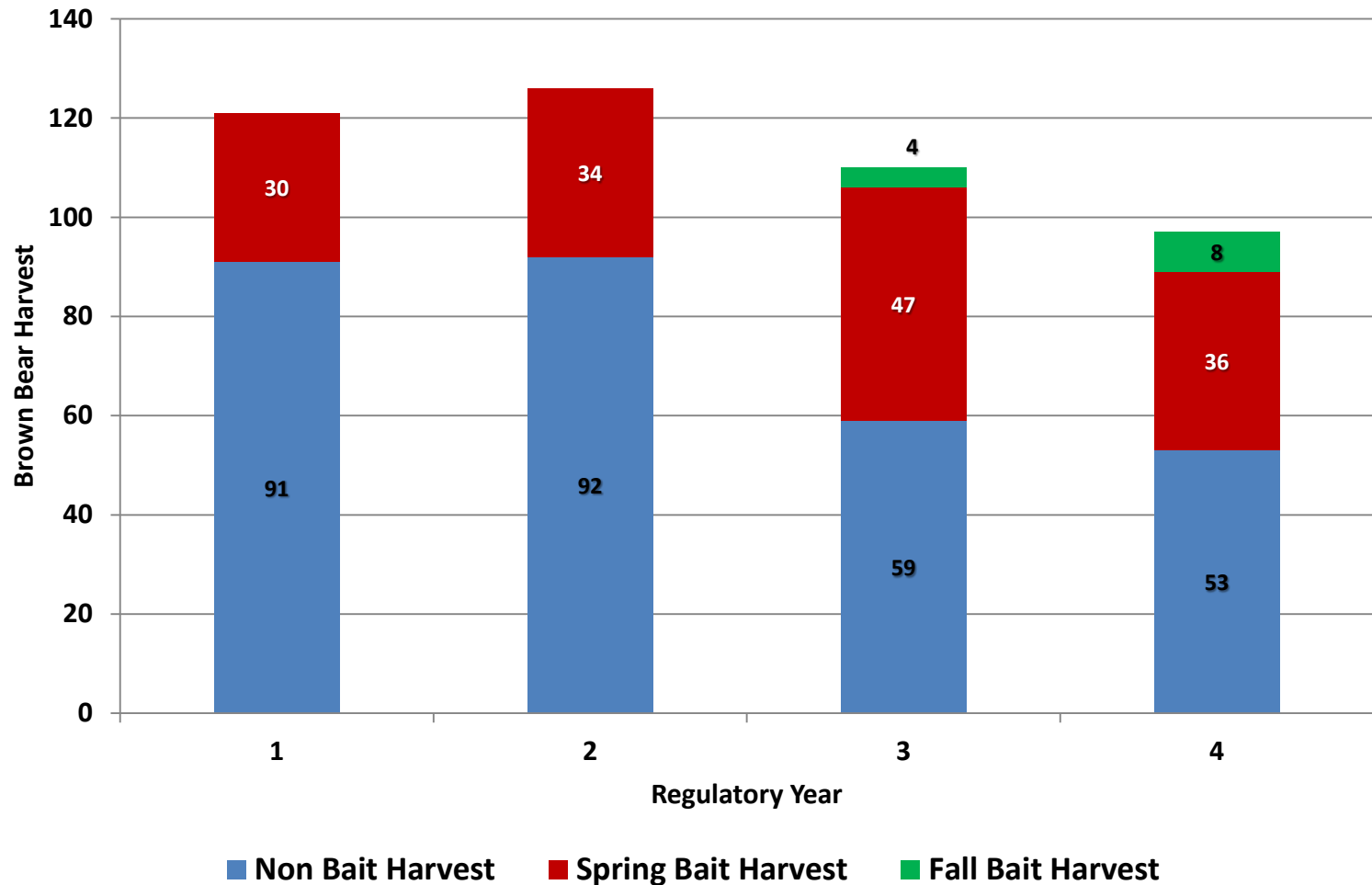
Background

- Brown bear harvest at black bear bait stations began in 2013
- Average harvest of brown bears (2003-2012) was 117
- Average harvest since baiting began in Unit 16 was 114 (2013-2016)
- Population estimate in 2007 was 937 ± 313
- Goal was to reduce the population by 60%

UNIT 16 BROWN BEAR HARVEST, 1990 – 2016



Unit 16 Brown Bear Harvest by Bait and Season, 2013 – 2016



Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-5)

Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8-0)

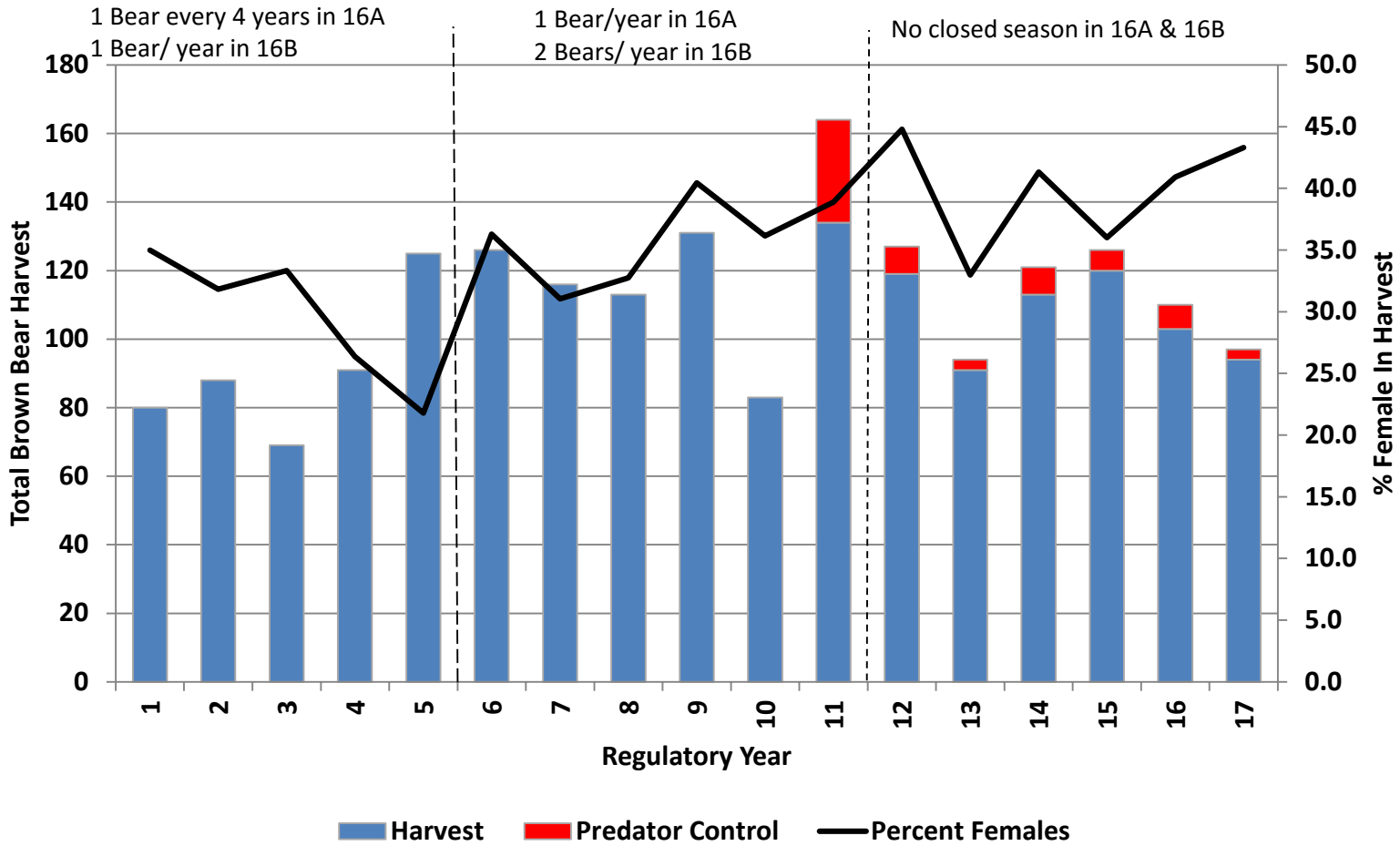
Tyonek AC

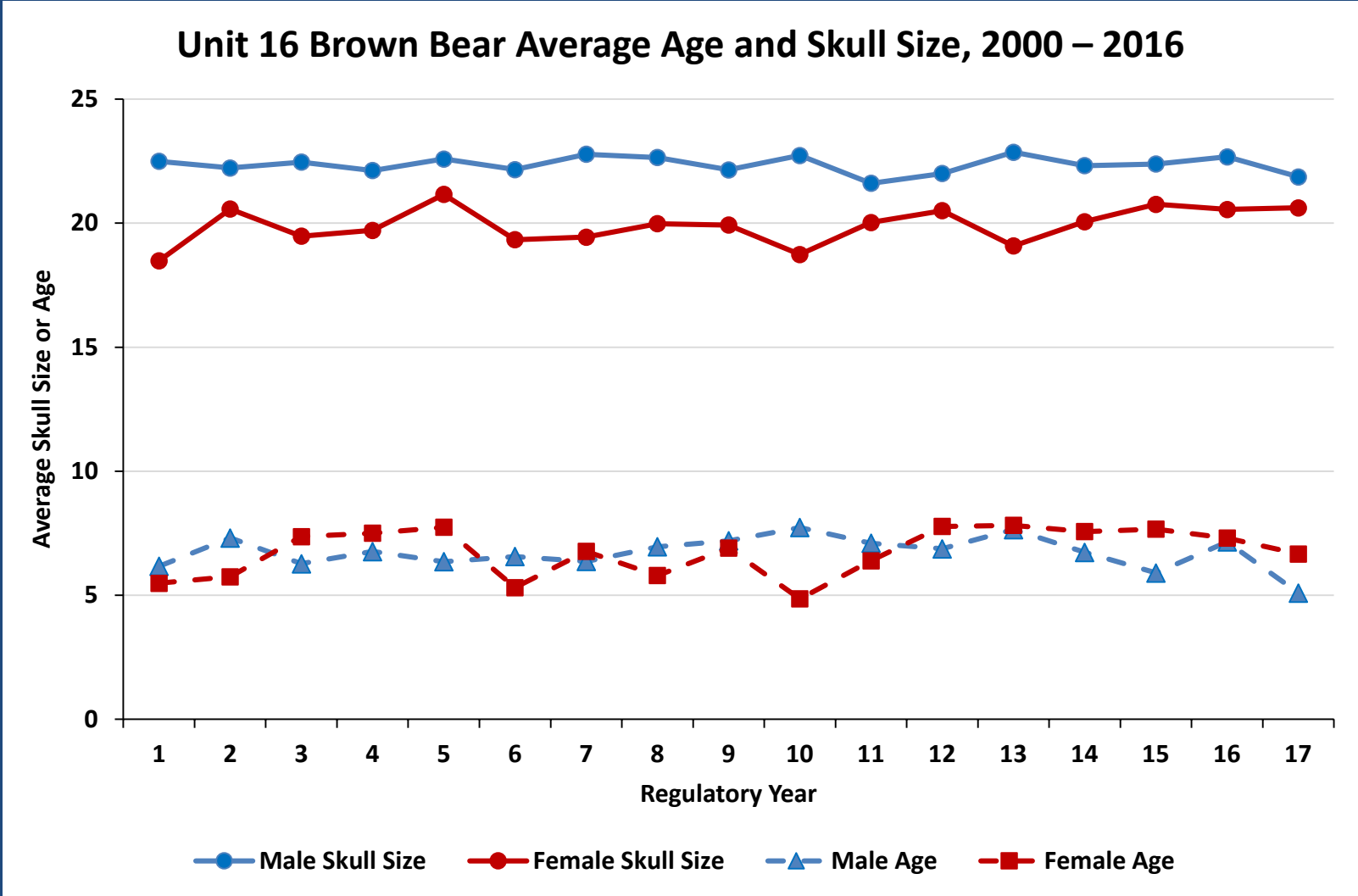
Oppose (0-5)

Current Regulations

- No closed season except within 1 mile of the mouth of Wolverine Creek (Dates; September 15 to May 31)
- Bag limit 1 brown bear per year in 16A, 2 brown bears per year in 16B
- Bears taken in the Unit 16B may be sold after sealing.

Unit 16 Brown Bear Harvest and % Female by Regulation Type, 2000 – 2016





Regulatory Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest	126	116	113	131	83	135	119	91	113	121	105	94
# Hunters who Harvested >2 Bears	4	4	2	4	3	3	7	2	4	2	4	1

Unit 16 brown bear hunters who harvested 2 bears in a regulatory year, 2005-2016.

Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Mt Yenlo AC

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-11)

Support (8-0)

Oppose (0-5)

End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Oppose (0-11)

Mt Yenlo AC

Support (8- 0)

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-5)

Proposal 89

Black & Brown Bear / Unit 16



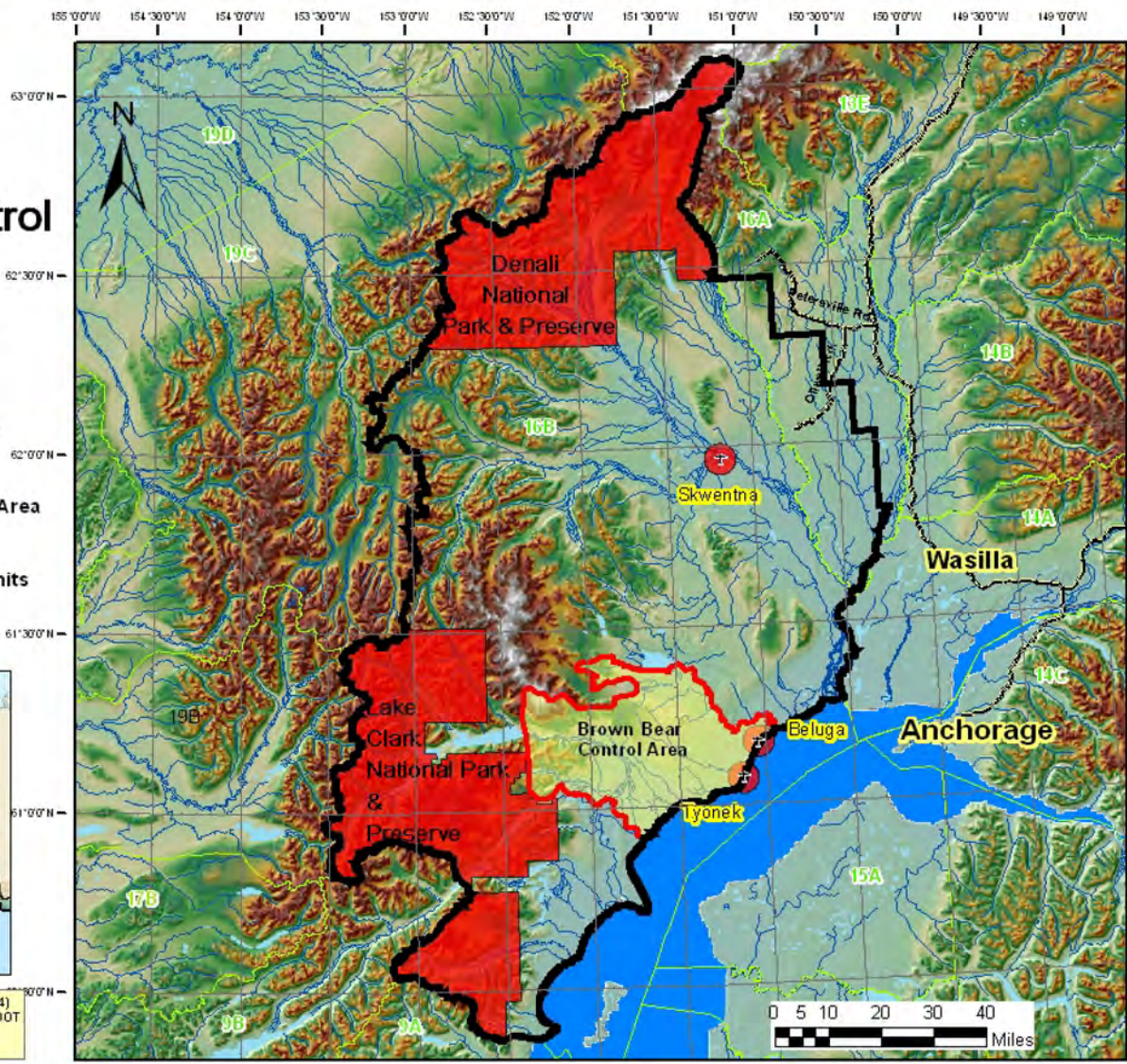
Predator Control Areas GMU 16

Legend

- Unit 16 PCA boundary
- Roads
- Brown Bear Removal Area
- Land closed to SDA
- Game Management Units
- Lakes
- Rivers



Map Projection: Alaska Albers NAD83 (WG S84)
Data Sources: ADFG, USGS, BLM, AK DNR, DOT
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Date: January 14, 2013

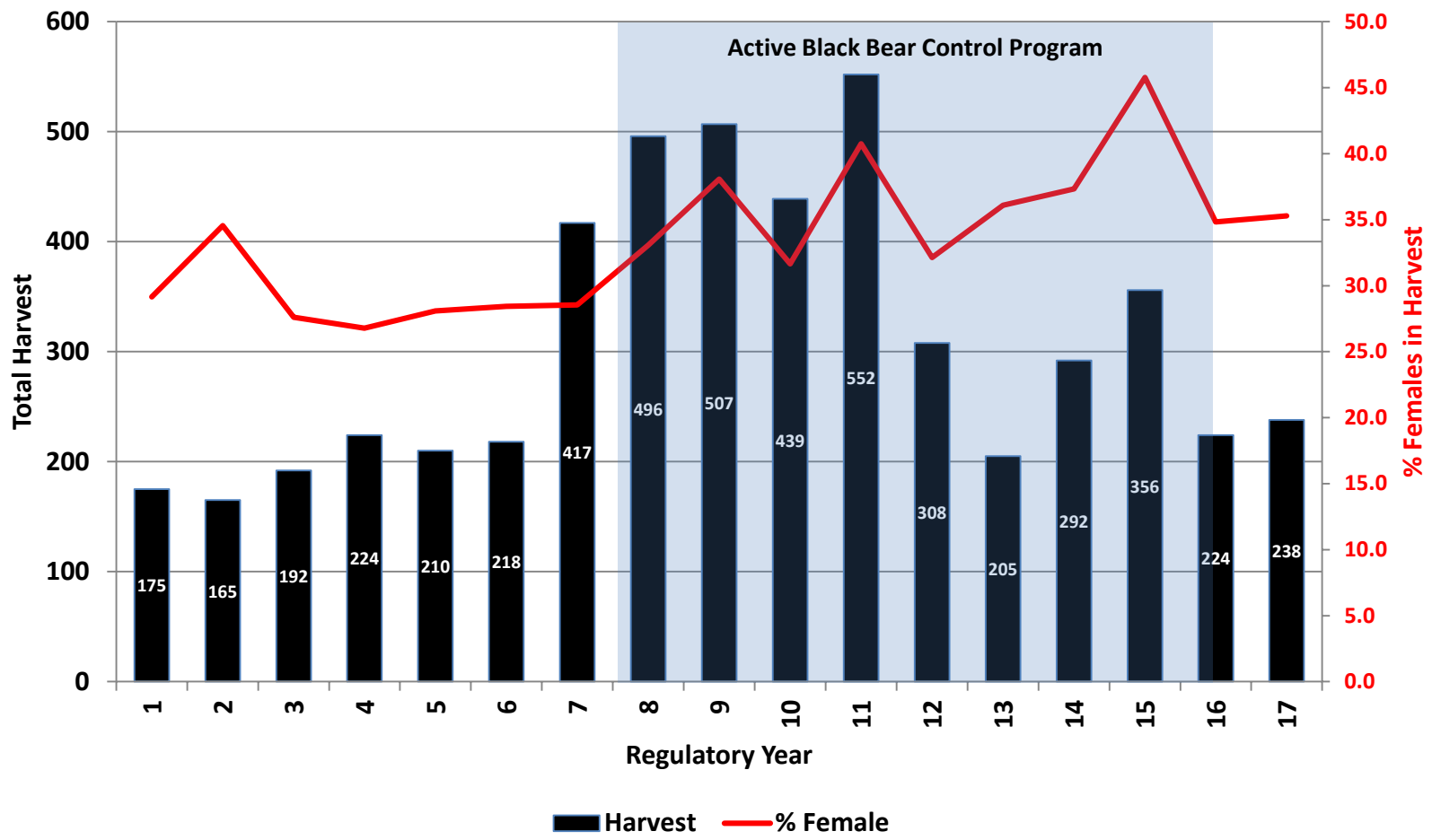


Current Regulations; Suspended

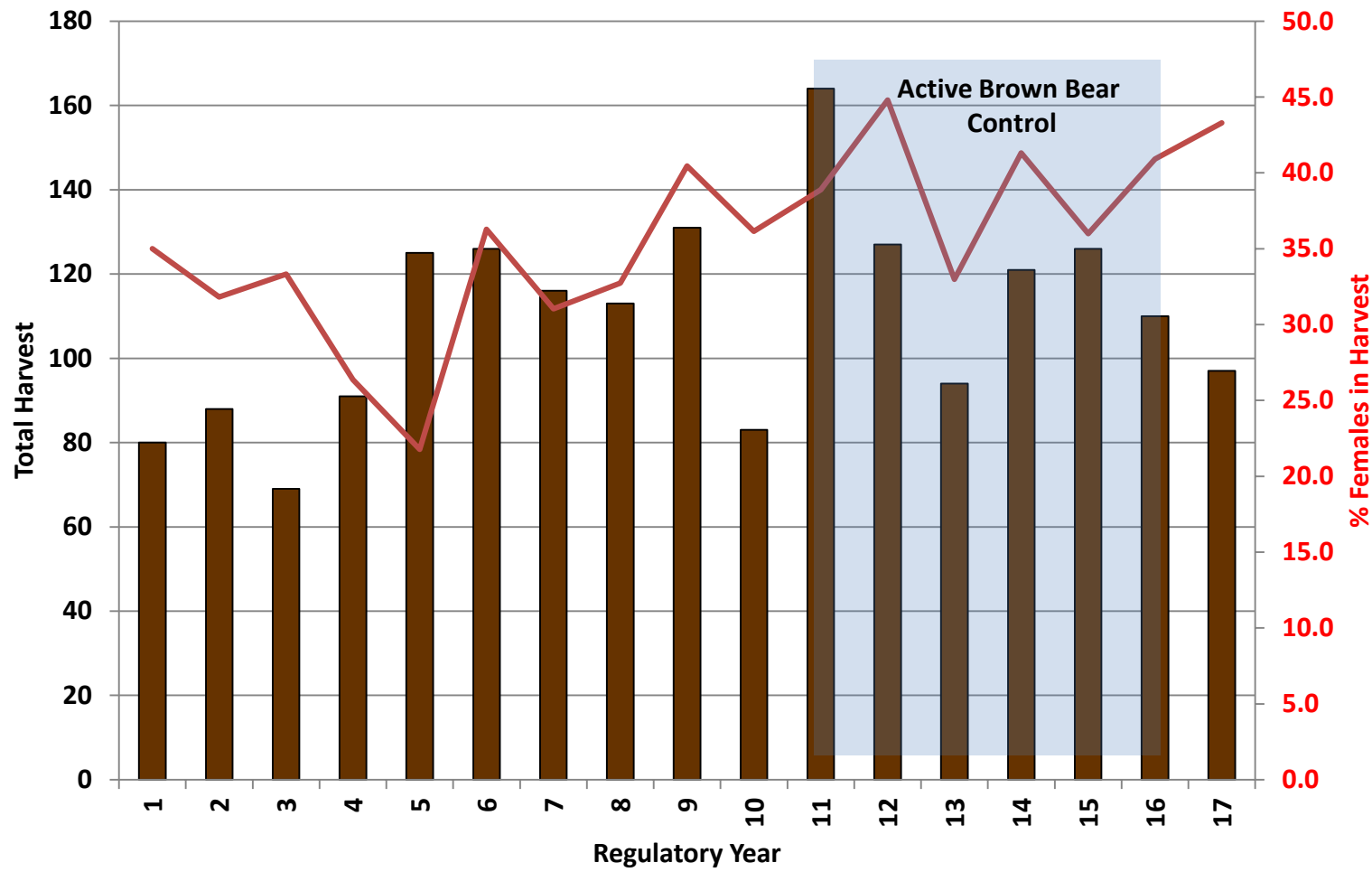
- All black bears are legal, including sow with cubs, and cubs; no limit
- A permit is required; residents only, ≥ 16 years old
- Permittees may use snares; requires permit and class
- Helicopters may be used to transport permittees and bears with a permit
- Brown bears caught in black bear snares outside of the brown bear control area (BBCA) must be reported to the department; the department will decide to release or direct the permittee to take the bear
- Brown bears may be taken in the BBCA; permit required, residents only, ≥ 16
- All brown bears are legal, except cubs of the year and sows accompanied by cubs of the year

* Both brown bear and black bear control programs were suspended starting in January of 2016.

Unit 16 Black Bear Harvest and % Female in Harvest, 2000 – 2016



Unit 16 Brown Bear Harvest, 2000 – 2016



End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Mt Yenlo AC

Tyonek AC

Oppose (0-11)

Support (8-0)

Oppose (0-5)

Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16

Mat Valley Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Mt Yenlo AC

Tyonek AC

Support (11-0)

Oppose (0-8)

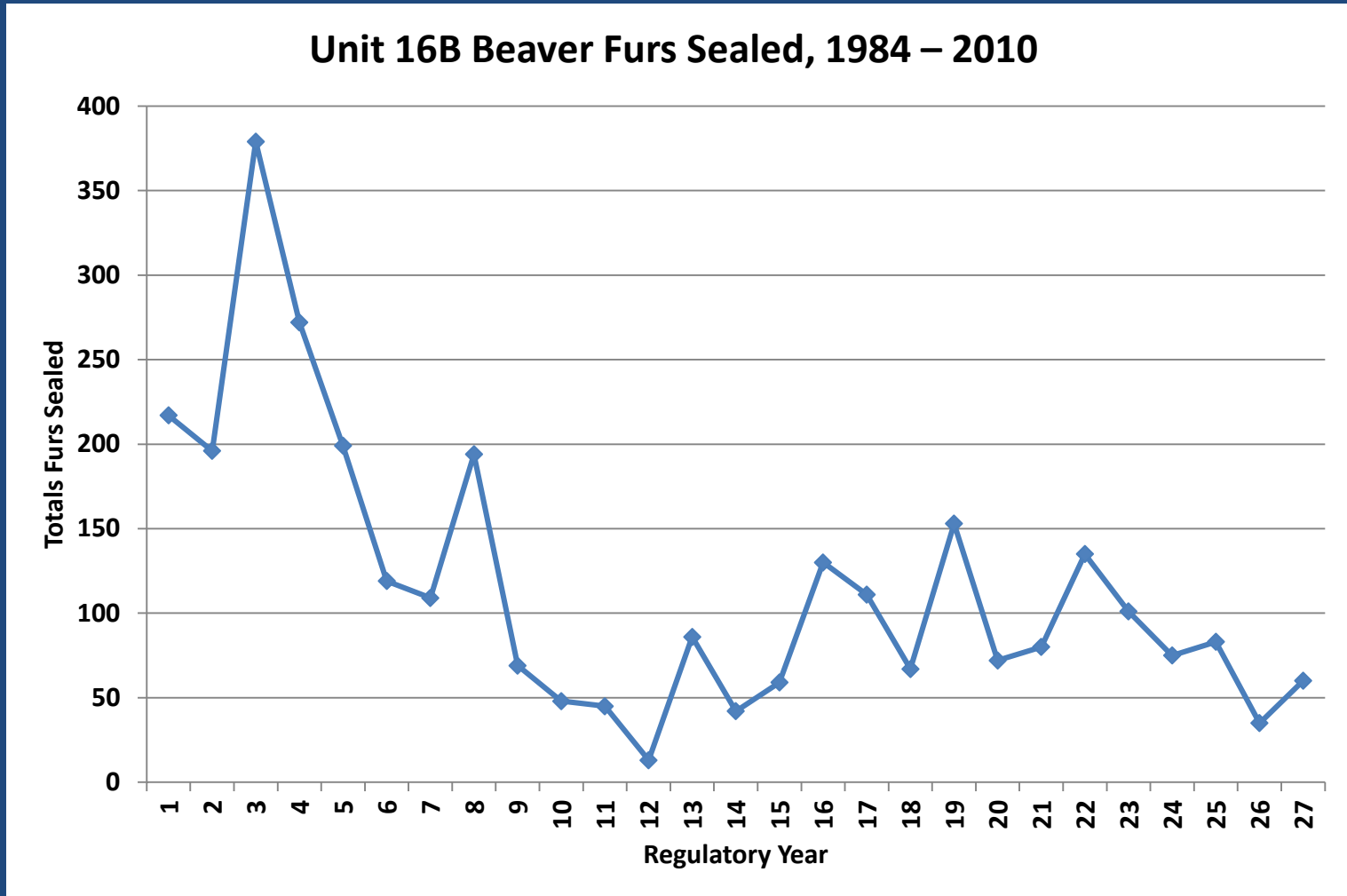
Support (5-0)

Current Regulations

- Season dates: Sept. 25 – May 31
- No Limit
- No sealing requirement
- Only steel trap or snare allowed
- From Sept 25 – November 9 only submerged traps and snares allowed

Considerations

- No biological concern
- Fewer trappers and low fur prices result in lower take overall
- Some concern about the ability to recover beaver after they have been shot
- Similar proposal failed in statewide BOG meeting



Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16

Mat Valley Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Mat Valley AC

Mt Yenlo AC

Tyonek AC

Support (11-0)

Oppose (0-8)

Support (5-0)

Proposal 67B

**Review and update regulations to comply
with statutory changes – HB137 in 2017**

Department: Support

Department proposal

Proposal 67B

5 AAC 92.122. Unit 16 IM Plan

(vii) taking of bears by foot snaring by permit only from April 15 through October 15; permittees must be accompanied by another person, age **18 [16]** or older, when conducting foot snaring activities in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident **18 [16]** years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

Proposal 67B

5 AAC 92.530(30) Hatcher Pass Youth Hunt Management Area

(B) from August 10 to August 25, the area is closed to small game hunting except that small game may be taken by a youth hunter 18 [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the youth hunter has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course.

Proposal 67B

5 AAC 92.530(6) Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area

(b) standard .22 caliber rimfire firearm and shotgun only, in that portion of the area west of ... during each Saturday and Sunday from November 1 through December 31 and the Friday following Thanksgiving day, by youth hunters 18 [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the youth has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course;

Proposal 67B

Review and update regulations to comply with statutory changes – HB137 in 2017

Department: Support

Department proposal