



# Proposal #70

Eliminate the  
Bettles Winter Trail from the  
Dalton Highway Corridor Management  
Area's allowed motorized travel routes  
for hunter access

Proponent – ADF&G

ADF&G – TAKE NO ACTION

KRAC – TAKE NO ACTION

# Proposal 70 - Bettles Winter Trail

## Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA)





- 5 miles each side of the Highway
- Yukon River to Arctic Ocean -- (360 miles)
- No motorized vehicles to transport hunters, gear, game
  - Except on
    - Bettles Winter Trail
    - Dalton Hwy itself
    - 4 other exceptions



Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail in DHCMA

Prop  
70-2

**Legend**

-  Bettles Winter Road
-  Game Management Units
-  Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
-  Kanuti CUA

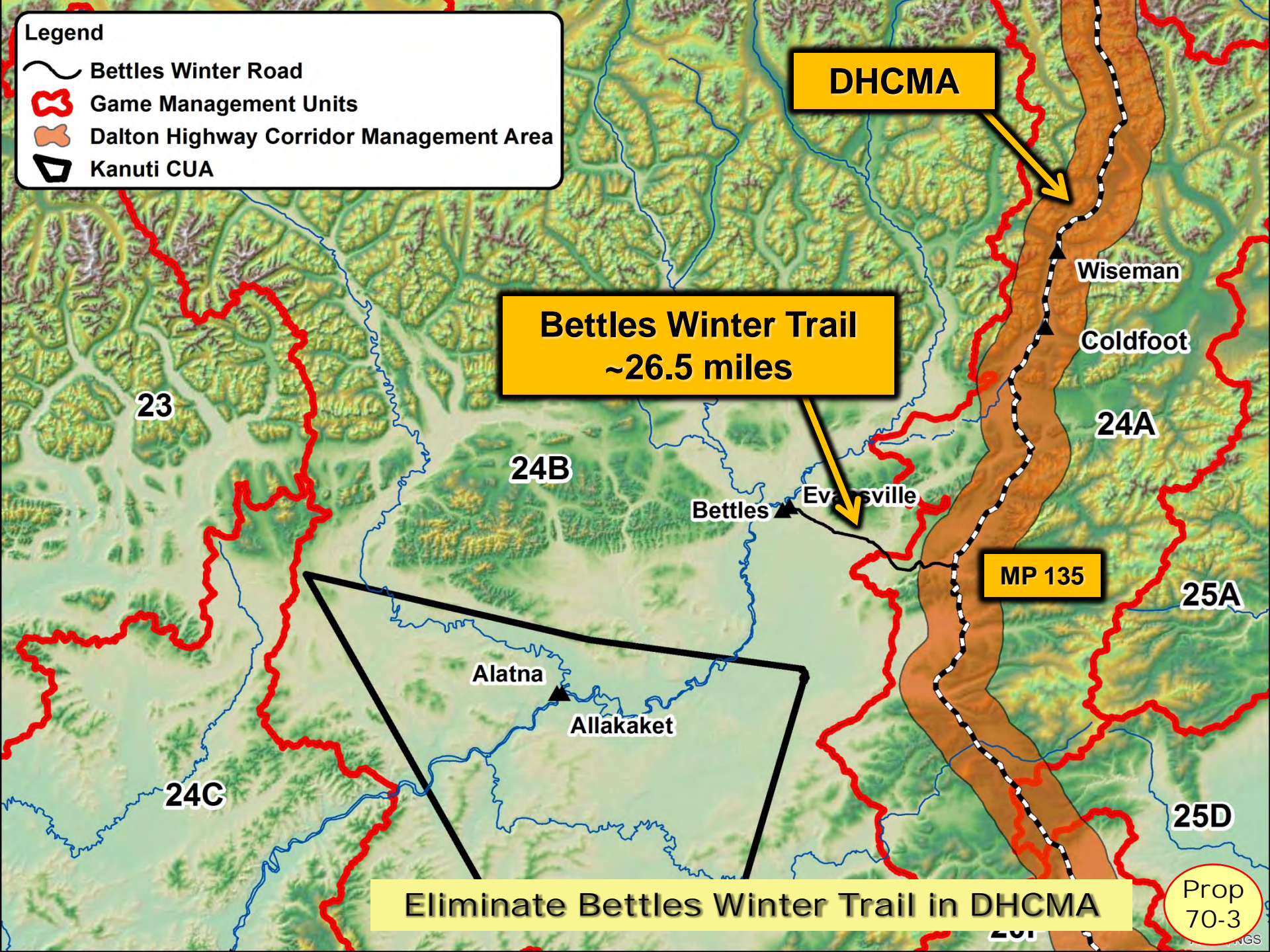
**DHCMA**

**Bettles Winter Trail  
~26.5 miles**

**MP 135**

**Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail in DHCMA**

Prop  
70-3



# Proposal 70 - Bettles Winter Trail

## Timeline of the proposal

- **Historically, State & Federal regulations allowed public use**
- **Bettles trail is the only motorized route from Dalton Hwy for hunters in Unit 24**
- **October 2016: the BLM announced a Scoping Period with 7 options; “No Action” option would limit public access**
- **BLM expected final decision by February 2017 Board meeting & “No Action” to be the outcome**

# Proposal 70 - Bettles Winter Trail

## Timeline of the proposal

- **BLM's EA process delayed**
- **This proposal deferred to Dillingham in 2018**
- **BLM now expects the preferred option to allow public (hunter) access**
- **Decision expected later in 2018**
- **Board of Game action likely not needed**
- **If Board action needed, we will submit proposal**



# Proposal #70

## Summary

- Final determination of a BLM Environmental Assessment (EA), which has not been completed
- BLM expects the preferred alternative will not remove the Bettles Road from public access.
- Other issues along the entire DHCMA have been identified by the public, troopers, and ADF&G
- Prefer to submit a more comprehensive proposal for the Fairbanks Board of Game meeting in 2020, where constituents are more likely to comment.

ADF&G – TAKE NO ACTION

KRAC – TAKE NO ACTION

Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail access in DHCMA regulation

Prop  
70-6



# Proposal #70

Eliminate the  
Bettles Winter Trail from the  
Dalton Highway Corridor Management  
Area's allowed motorized travel roads  
for hunter access

Proponent – ADF&G

ADF&G – TAKE NO ACTION

KRAC – TAKE NO ACTION

# Proposal 165

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# Moose

Establish a registration moose hunt in  
the closed portion of Unit 19A

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Stony Holitna AC: OPPOSED

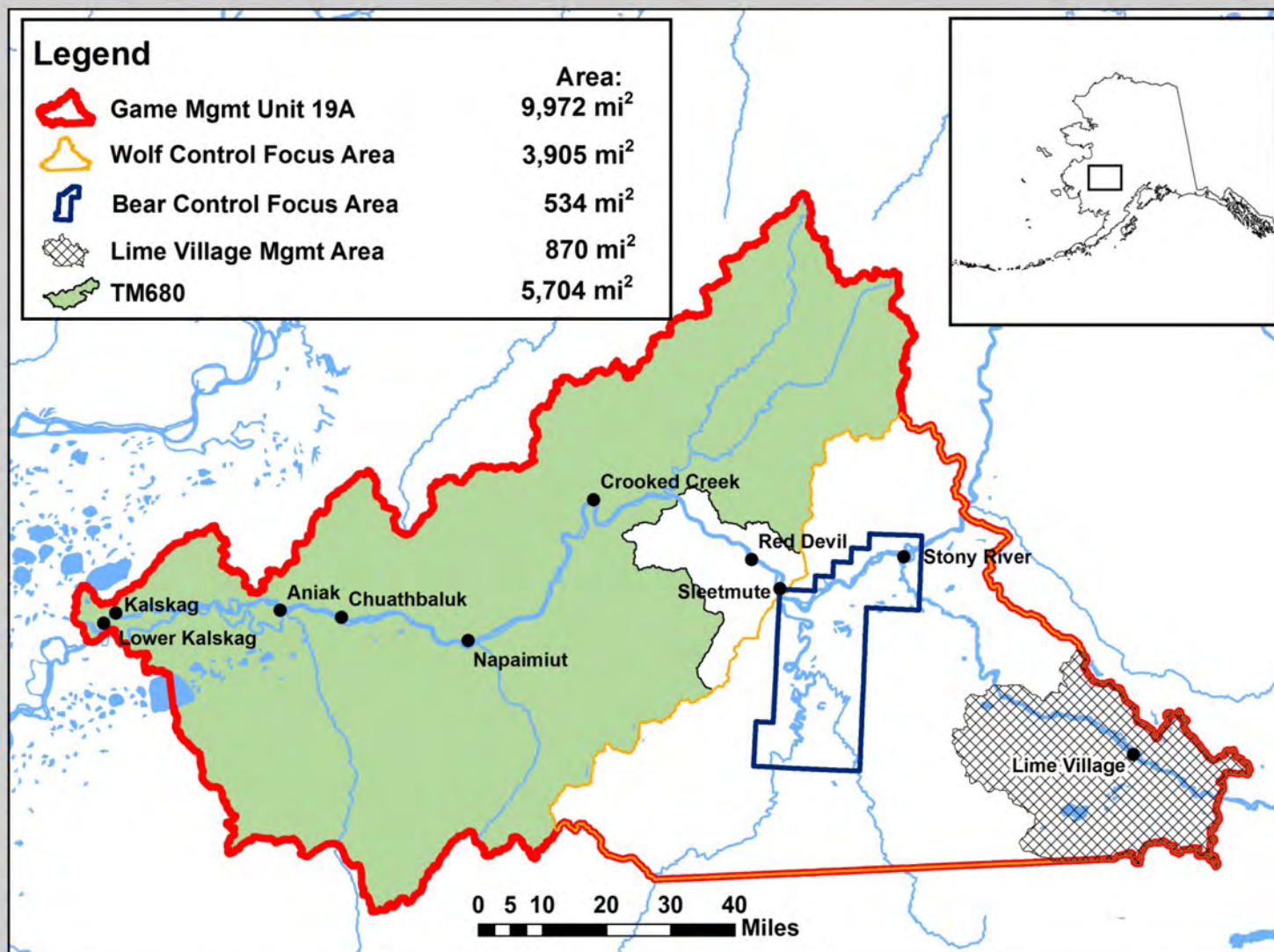
McGrath AC: OPPOSED

Central Kuskokwim AC: SUPPORT/AMEND



# Proposal 165

# Moose



# Proposal 165

# Moose

## Current Unit 19A Regulations:

### TM680

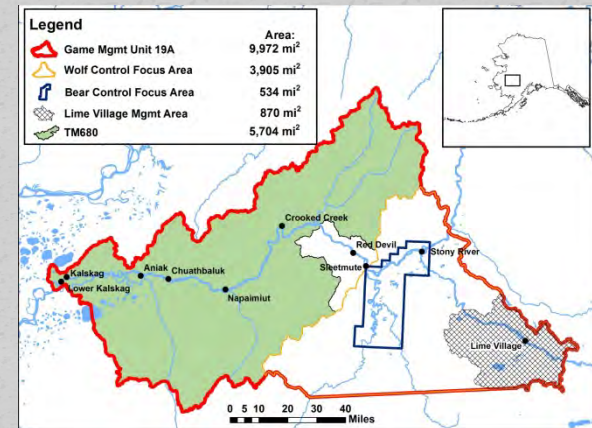
- Sept 1 – Sept 20
- one antlered bull

### TM684

- Aug 10 – Sept 25 and Nov 20 – Mar 31
- Two bulls

### 19A Remainder

- No open season.

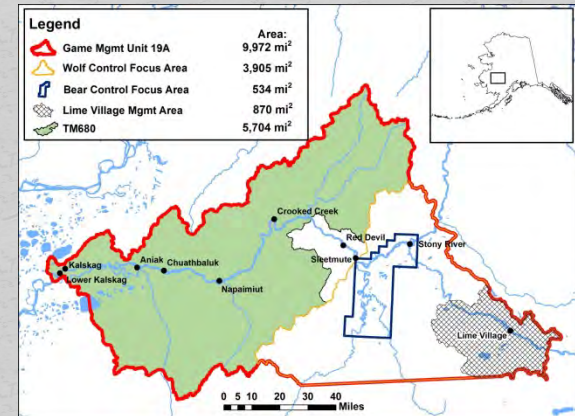


# Proposal 165

# Moose

## Proposed Regulations:

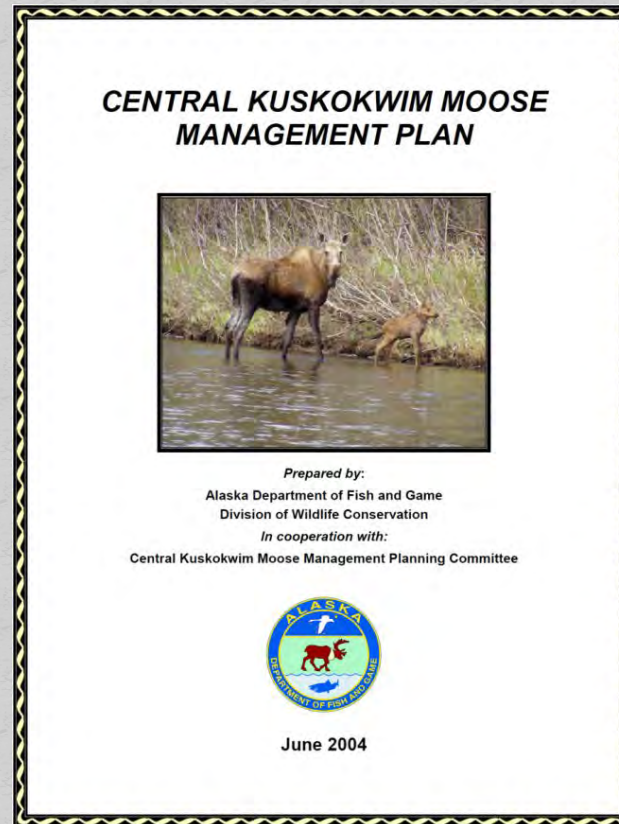
- Open closed portion of Unit 19A
- Registration permit
- Season dates not specified
- Permits available in Sleetmute
- Permits issued for 1 week, one month before season
- Cannot hold any other permits on the Kuskokwim



## Regulatory History

- 2000 and 2001 winter hunt closed by emergency order.
- 2002 BOG changes to moose seasons to address declining moose populations.
- Board also requested the Department initiate a planning process.

## Regulatory History



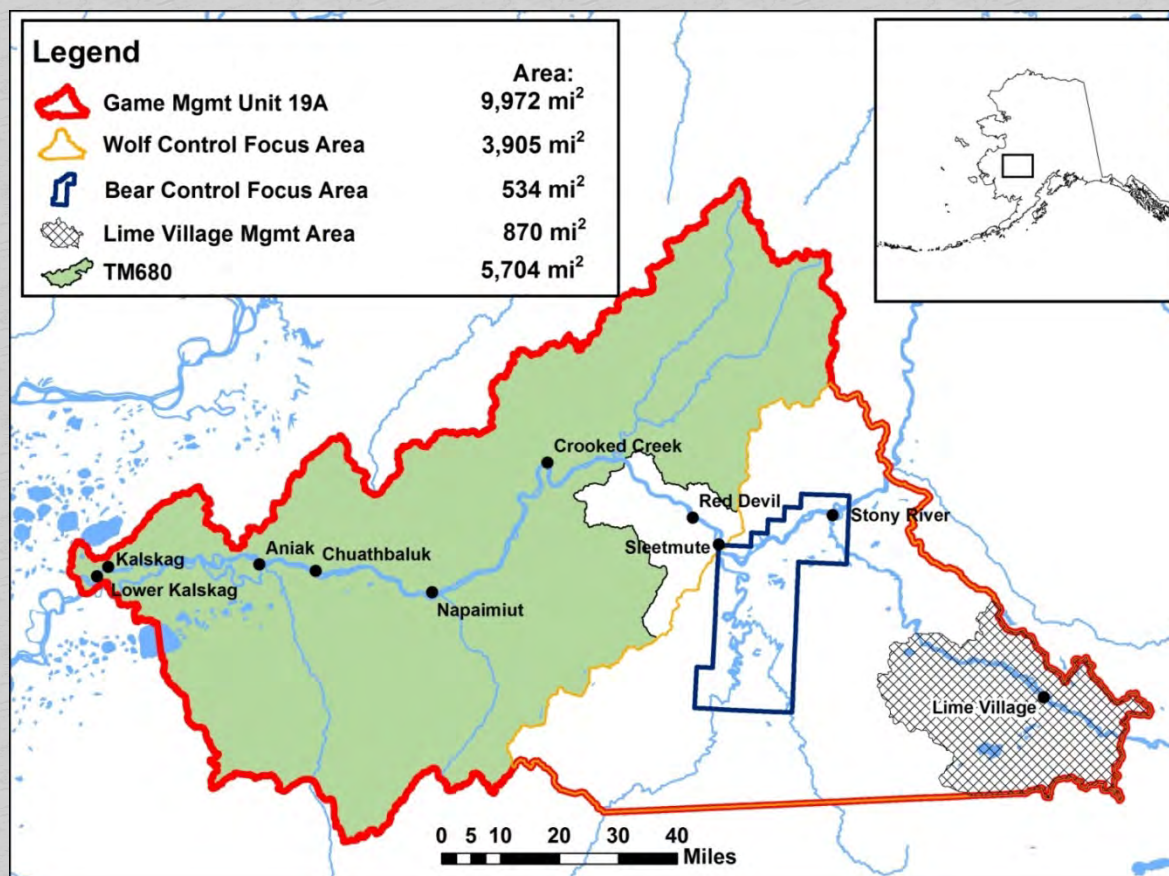
## Regulatory History

- RM640 moose permits
  - 1,031 permits in 2004
  - 1,086 permits in 2005
- 57% of all permits went to Unit 18 hunters and 39% went to Unit 19A hunters
- Approximately 82% of permittees hunted
- Average of 147 moose harvested annually

## Regulatory History

- 2006 BOG meeting proposal 70
  - Recommended closing 19A east (excluding the LVMA)
  - Recommended creating a tier II hunt in 19A west
  - Harvestable surplus was being exceeded under RM640
  - No harvestable surplus in 19A east (excluding the LVMA)
  - Harvestable surplus of 60 in 19A west

## Regulatory History

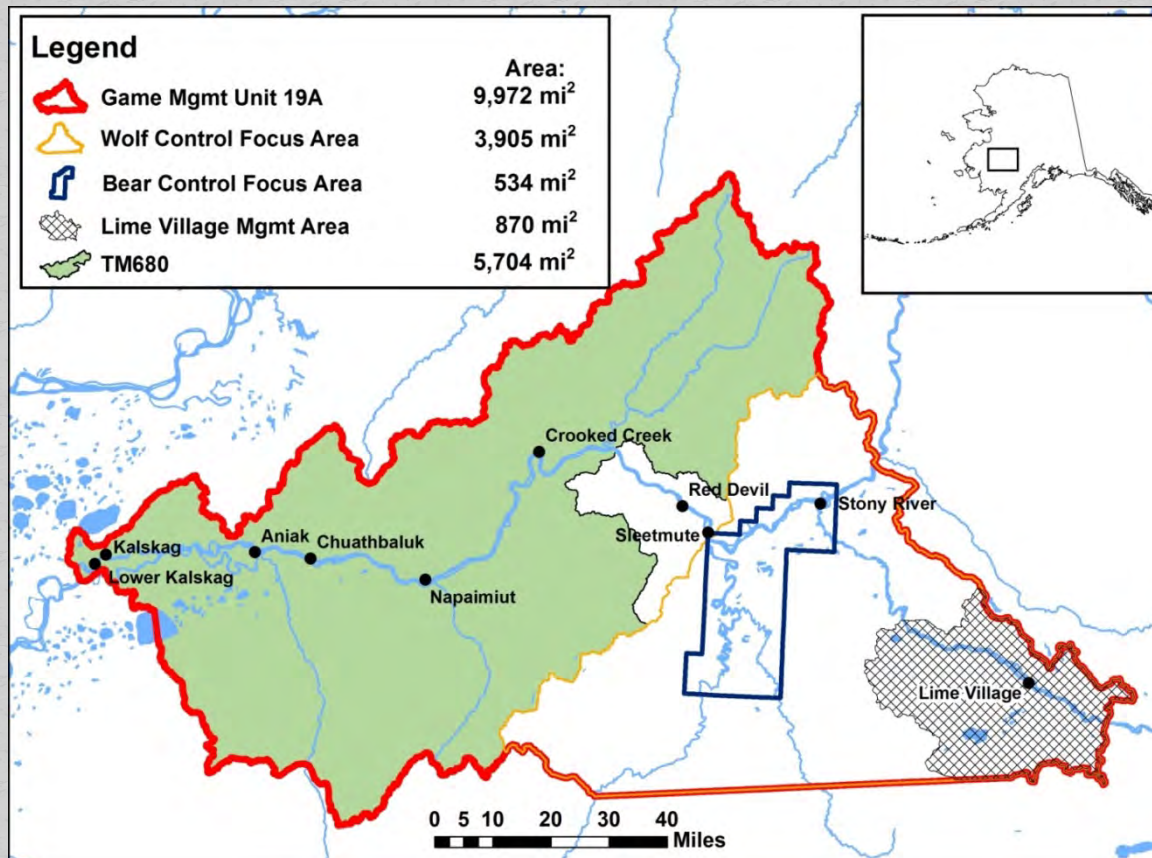




## Regulatory History

- The CKAC submitted proposal 17 to split the AC.
  - The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game passed the proposal creating the new CKAC and the Stony Holitna AC or SHAC.
  - The new CKAC includes Lower Kalskag, Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek.
  - The SHAC includes Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River and Lime Village.

## Predator Control



## Wolf Control

Period	Regulatory Year	Harvest removal		Public control removal	Total removal
		Trap	Hunt		
Year 1	2004	3	0	40	43
Year 2	2005	2	0	36	38
Year 3	2006	0	0	7	7
Year 4	2007	0	3	12	15
Year 5	2008	1	0	19	20
Year 6	2009	0	0	2	2
Year 7	2010	1	0	10	11
Year 8	2011	0	0	8	8
Year 9	2012	2	0	0	2
Year 10	2013	2	0	6	8
Year 11	2014	4	1	2	7
Year 12	2015	1	0	0	1
Year 13	2016	1	0	14	15

## Bear Control

Year	Black Bear	Grizzly Bear
2013	84	5
2014	54	10

## November Moose Composition Data

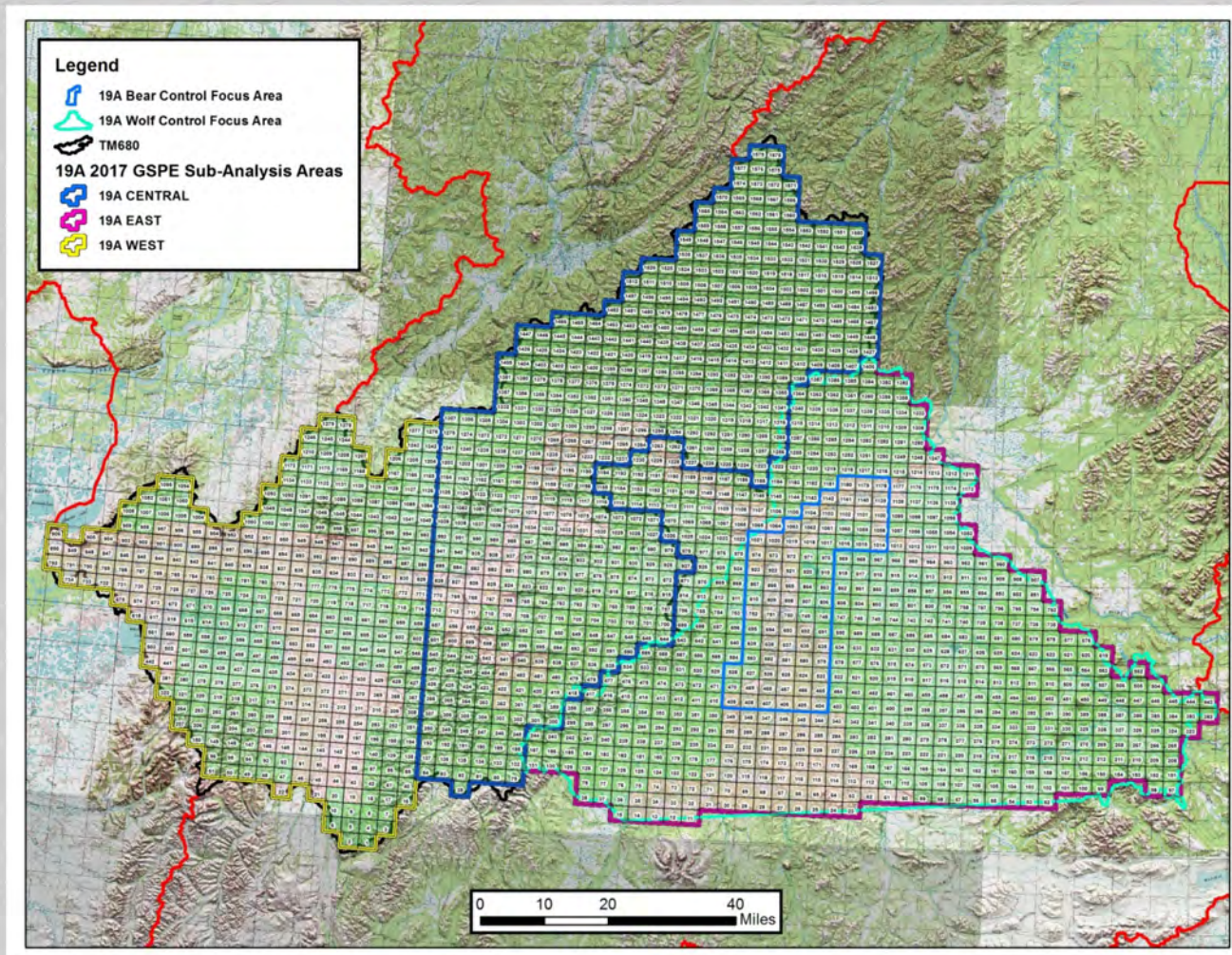
<b>Regulatory</b>	<b>Bulls:100</b>	<b>Calves:</b>	
<b>year</b>	<b>cows</b>	<b>100 cows</b>	<b>Moose</b>
2004	8	24	307
2007	35	45	200
2008	34	27	124
2009	51	36	129
2010	48	19	212
2011	38	31	164
2013	55	50	244
2016	58	55	273
2017	36	34	300

## Twinning Data

Year	Twinning Rate	n
2013	56%	41
2014	63%	48

# Proposal 165

# Moose



## 2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Total Area	Density	Harvestable Surplus (4%)
TM680	4,135	5,735	0.7	165
LVMA	232	870	0.3	10
Closed area	1,932	3,419	0.6	77
19A	6,300	10,024	0.6	<b>252</b>

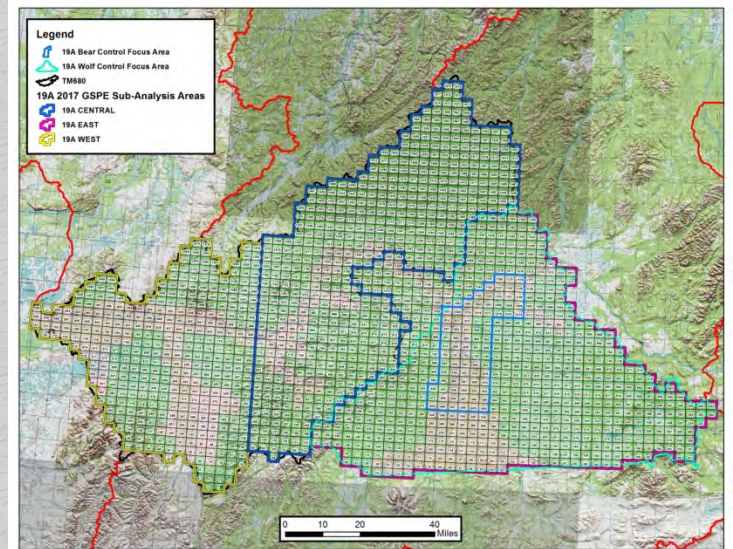


## Eastern 19A GSPE Results

Year	Moose/mi <sup>2</sup>
2005	0.3
2008	0.4
2011	0.4
2017	0.6

## TM680 Survey Results

- 2010 western survey area 0.4 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>
- 2017 western survey area 1.3 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>
  
- 2010 TM680 0.3 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>
- 2017 TM680 0.7 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>



## IM objectives

- Population objective
  - 7,600 – 9,300 moose (0.8 – 0.9 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>)
  - Currently at 6,300 moose or 0.6/mi<sup>2</sup>
- Harvest objective
  - 400 - 550 moose
  - 2016 harvest 157

## Harvest Summary

- Except for LVMA moose hunting closed in eastern 19A since 2006
  - 10 year average of 2 bulls/year in LVMA
- TM680 area has been tier II since 2006
  - State hunt: average 80 bulls/year
  - 54 bulls in 2007 to 112 bulls in 2016
  - Federal hunt: average 19 bulls/year
  - 16 bulls in 2007 to 45 bulls in 2016

## Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

- Positive C&T determination for Unit 19 of 400-700 moose outside the LVMA including:
  - 175-225 in Unit 19A
  - 20-24 in Unit 19B
  - 30-40 in the LVMA
- Harvestable surplus for 19A outside LVMA 242

# Proposal 165

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# Moose

Establish a registration moose hunt in  
the closed portion of Unit 19A

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Stony Holitna AC: OPPOSED

McGrath AC: OPPOSED

Central Kuskokwim AC: SUPPORT/AMEND



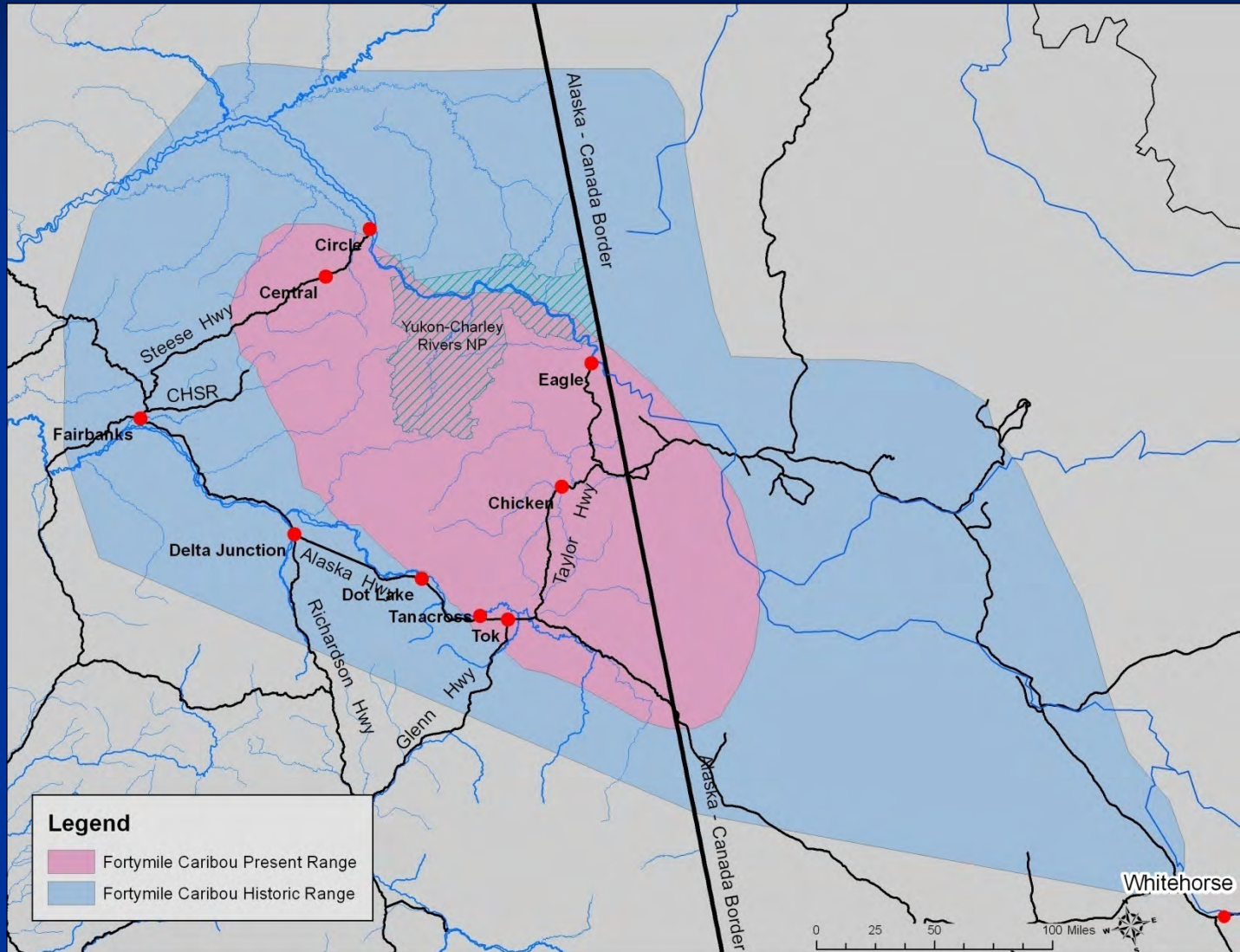
## **Proposal 166** – Modify the hunt structure for the Fortymile caribou herd in Units 20 and 25

**Submitted by:** Public

- **Effect of Proposal:** Extend seasons and increase bag limits for Fortymile caribou herd hunts, in Units 20 and 25.

**ADF&G Recommendation:** Support

# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)





# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## High Levels of Human Use

## Intensive Management Objectives

- Population 50,000 – 100,000
- Harvest 1,000 – 15,000



# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## ➤ Harvest guided by **2012-2018 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan**

### ➤ Harvest Objectives and Allocation

- 3% Harvest Herd Rate (50-70K)
- Increase to 4% when herd  $\geq 70K$

### ➤ Allocation

#### ➤ Alaska

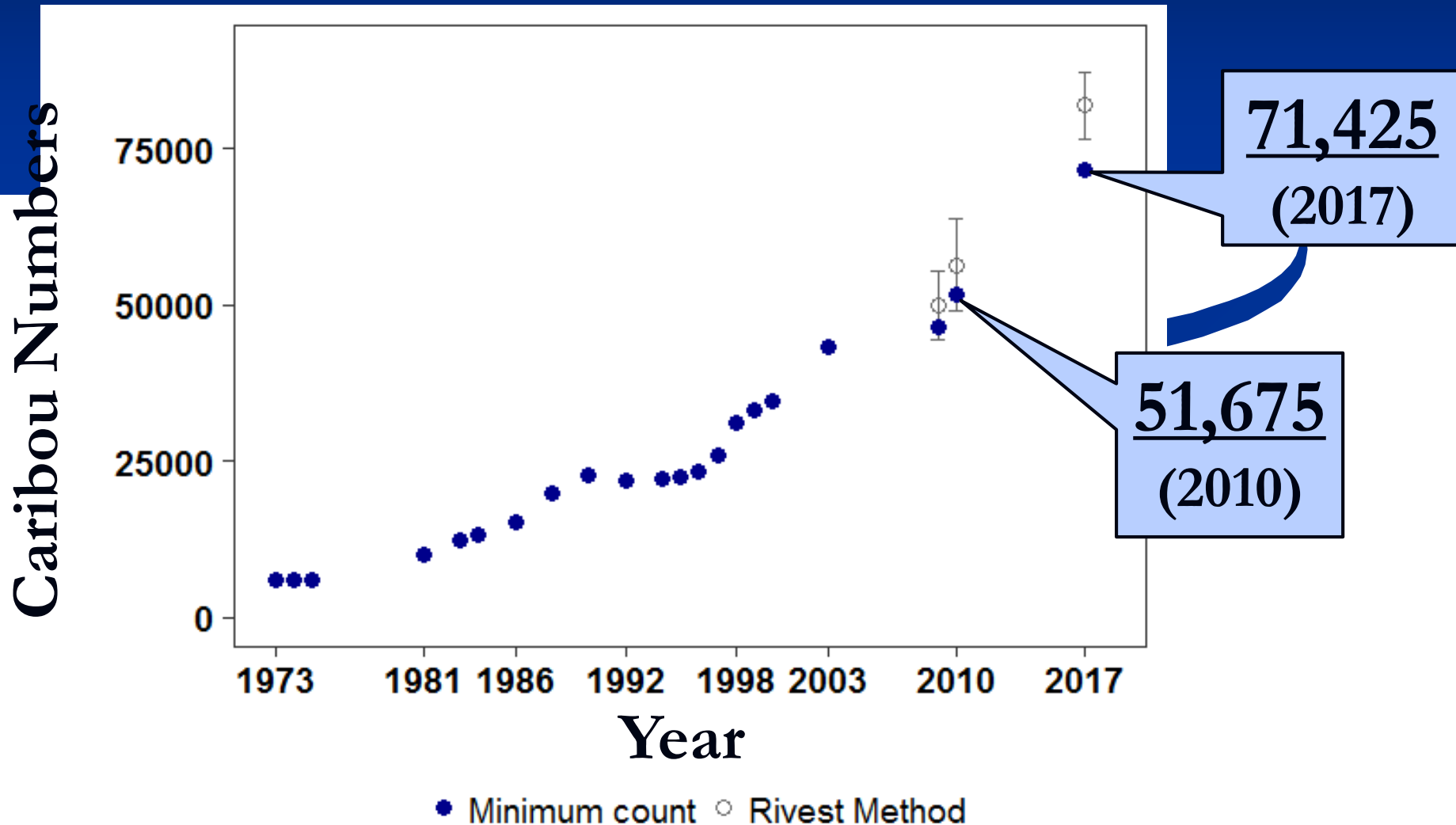
- 65% of total annual herd quota

#### ➤ Yukon

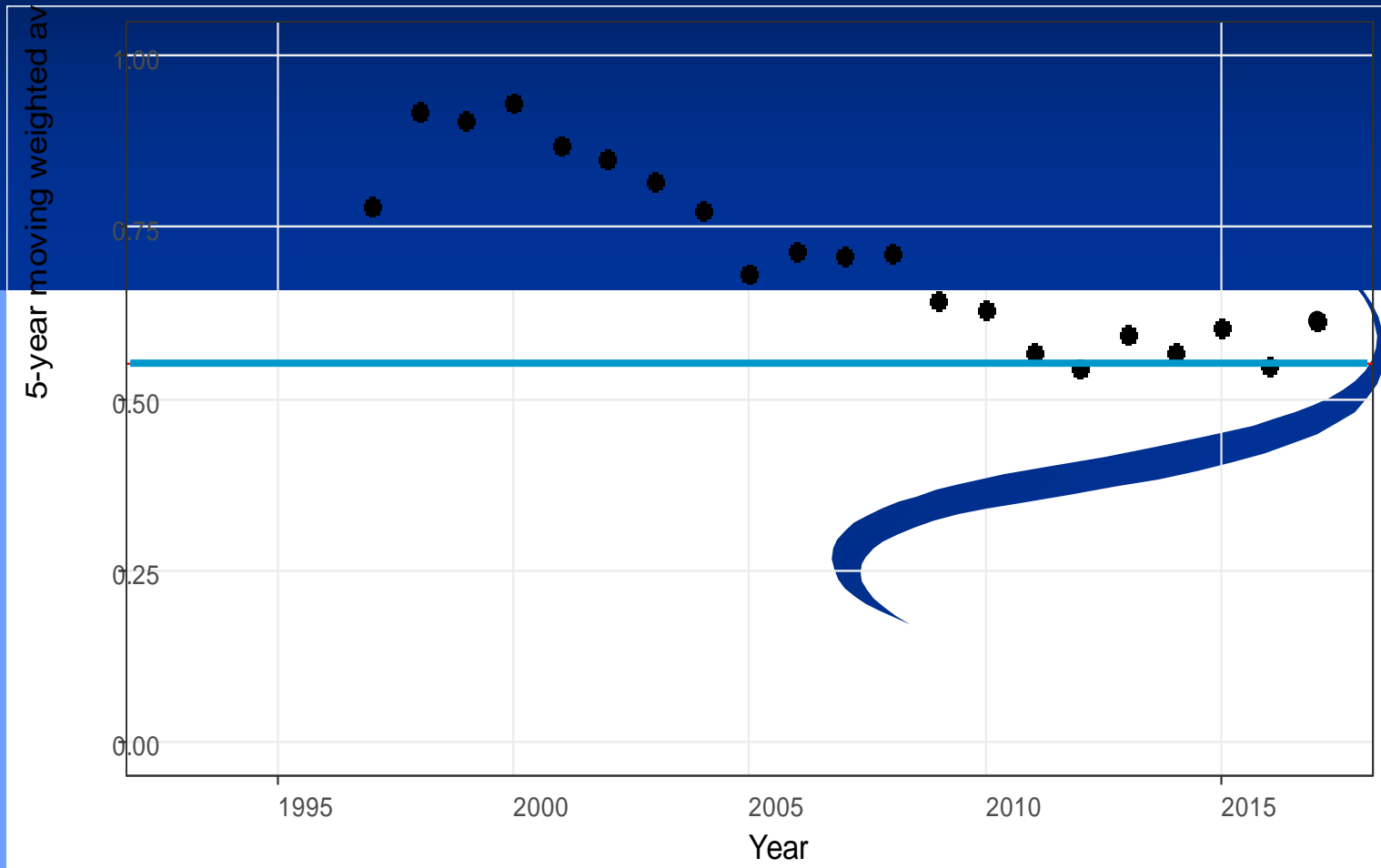
- 35% of total annual herd quota

# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## Fortymile Caribou Herd Size



# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)



5-year moving weighted average of 3-year-old parturition rates  
(blue line indicating the 55% cautionary threshold, Boertje et al. 2012)

# 2012-2018 Harvest Plan Objectives

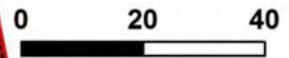
## Alaska Harvest Quota

- RY 2012 – 2016 = 1,000
- RY 2017 = 1,750
- RY 2018 (anticipated) = 1,850 – 2,000

## Harvest Management Coalition

- Began revision of Harvest Plan Oct. 2017

**RC860 RC867  
Fortymile-White Mtns  
Caribou  
Registration  
Permit Hunt**



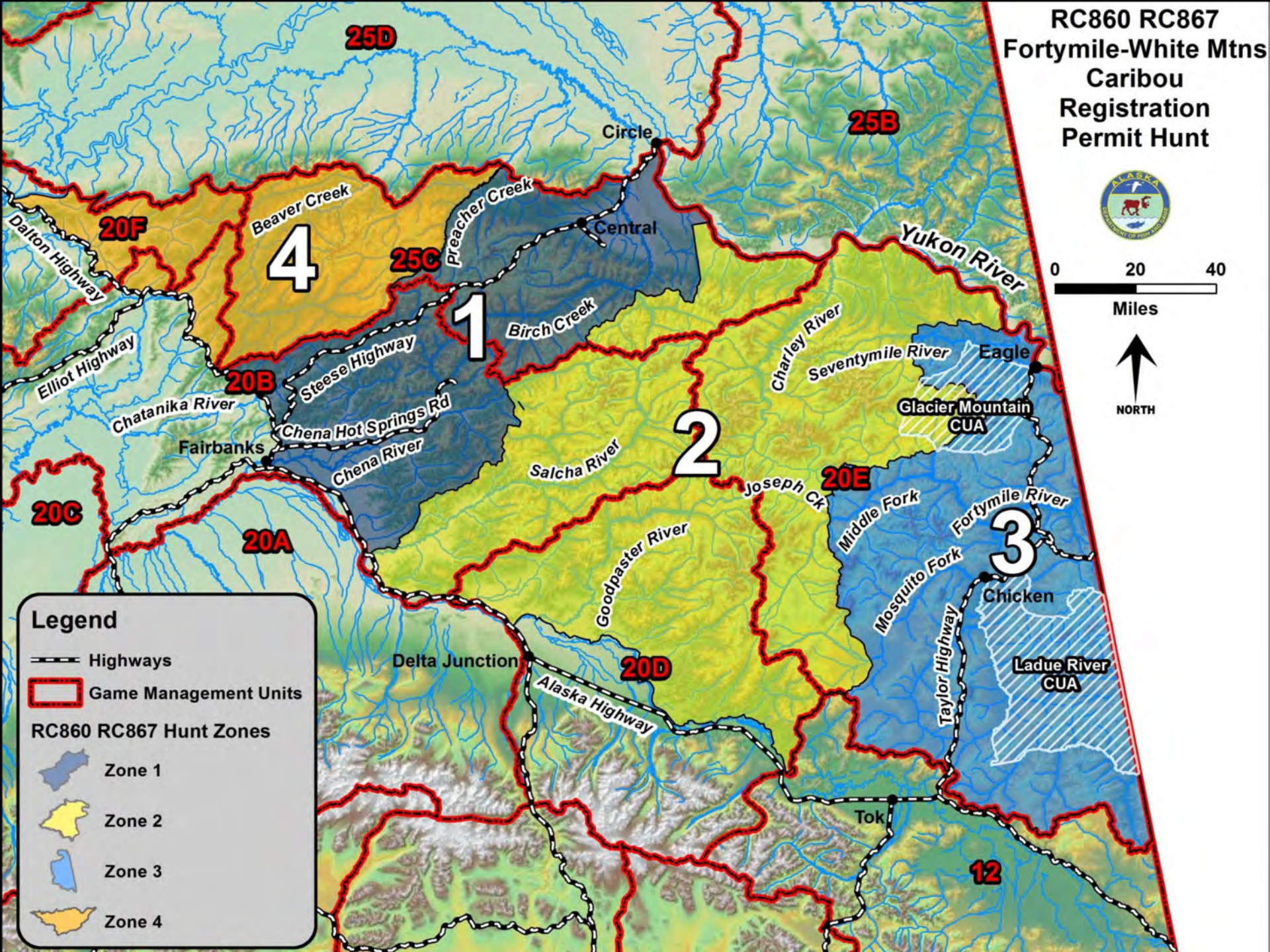
Miles



NORTH

**Legend**

- Highways
- Game Management Units
- RC860 RC867 Hunt Zones**
- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 4



# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## Fortymile Caribou Hunt Zones and Information

All Fortymile/White Mountains caribou hunts are subject to openings and closings on short notice.  
Call the Fortymile hotline at (907) 267-2310 for information before departing for the field.

	OPEN TO:	UNIT/AREA	BAG LIMIT	HUNT NUMBER	OPEN SEASON	PERMIT AVAILABILITY
OR	R	Zones 1 & 3	One bull (Fall)	YC831	Aug 10-Aug 21	apply in Nov and Dec
	R	Zones 1 & 3	One bull (Fall)	RC860	Aug 29-Sept 30	<i><a href="http://hunt.alaska.gov">http://hunt.alaska.gov</a> or Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, Central, Douglas, Anchorage, and Palmer beginning Aug 3</i>
	R	Zones 2 & 4	One bull (Fall)		Aug 10-Sept 30	
	R	Zones 1, 2, 3 & 4	One caribou (Winter)	RC867	Dec 1-Mar 31	<i><a href="http://hunt.alaska.gov">http://hunt.alaska.gov</a> or Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, and Central beginning Nov 9</i>
OR	N	Zones 1 & 3	One bull (Fall)	YC831	Aug 10-Aug 21	apply in Nov and Dec
	N	Zones 1 & 3	One bull (Fall)	RC860	Aug 29-Sept 20	<i><a href="http://hunt.alaska.gov">http://hunt.alaska.gov</a> or Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, Central, Douglas, Anchorage, and Palmer beginning Aug 3</i>
	N	Zones 2 & 4	One bull (Fall)		Aug 10-Sept 20	

Detailed zone descriptions, zone maps, and restricted areas available at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or ADF&G offices in Fairbanks, Tok, Delta Junction, Douglas, Anchorage, and Palmer.

Zone 1: portions of Units 20B and 25C

Zone 3: portions of Unit 20E

Zone 2: portions of Units 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C

Zone 4: portions of Units 20B, 20F, and 25C

Setting Fortymile seasons within sideboards of codified regulations.

Example – Fall Registration Permit Hunt

**Current Codified Regulations** (5 AAC 85.025)

**Registration Permit Hunt**

- Residents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 30
  - one caribou
- Nonresidents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 20
  - one bull

**2017-2018 Hunting Regulation Booklet**

**Zones 1 & 3 Registration Hunt**

- Residents:
  - **Aug 29**–Sept 30
  - **one bull**
- Nonresidents:
  - **Aug 29**–Sept 20
  - one bu.

**Zones 2 & 4 Registration Hunt**

- Residents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 30
  - **one bull**
- Nonresidents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 20
  - one bull



# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## 2017-2018 Hunting Regulation Booklet

### Youth Draw Permit Hunt

- Aug 10–21 (YC831) (Zones 1&3)
  - one bull per lifetime

## Department Recommendations

### Youth Draw Permit Hunt

- **Aug 1–21** (YC831) (Zones 1&3)
  - one **caribou** per lifetime

# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## 2017-2018 Hunting Regulation Booklet

### Registration Permit Hunt

- Residents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 30 (Zones 2&4)
  - Aug 29–Sept 30 (Zones 1&3)
    - one bull
  - Dec 1–March 31 (All Zones)
    - one caribou
- Nonresidents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 20 (Zones 2&4)
  - Aug 29–Sept 20 (Zones 1&3)
    - one bull

## Department Recommendations

### Registration Permit Hunt

- Residents:
  - **Aug 10–Sept 30 (All Zones)**
  - **Oct 21–March 31 (All Zones)**
  - **one caribou**
- Nonresidents:
  - **Aug 10–Sept 30 (All Zones)**
    - one bull

**Remainder of Fortymile caribou regulations - no change**

# Caribou – Fortymile Herd (Units 20 & 25)

## **Current Codified Regulations** (5 AAC 85.025)

### **Youth Draw Permit Hunt**

- Aug 10–21
- one caribou per lifetime

### **Registration Permit Hunt**

- Residents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 30
  - Dec 1–March 31
  - one caribou
- Nonresidents:
  - Aug 10–Sept 20
  - one bull

## **Department Recommendations** (5 AAC 85.025)

### **Youth Draw Permit Hunt**

- **Aug 1–21**
- one caribou per lifetime

### **Registration Permit Hunt**

- Residents:
  - **Aug 1–Sept 30**
  - **Oct 21–March 31**
  - **Up to 3 caribou**
- Nonresidents:
  - Aug 10–**Sept 30**
  - one bull

**Remainder of Fortymile caribou regulations - no change**



**Proposal 166** – Modify the hunt structure for the Fortymile caribou herd in Units 20 and 25.

**Submitted by:** Public

- **Effect of Proposal:** Extend seasons and increase bag limits for Fortymile caribou herd hunts, in Units 20 and 25.

**ADF&G Recommendation:** Support

# Questions?



# **Proposal 166 – Part 2 – Agenda Change Request 2, submitted in 2017.**

## **Public Proposal**

### **Effect of Proposal :**

- 1. Clarify whether the winter portion of the hunt provides subsistence opportunity or not.**
- 2. Clarify what type of registration hunt is being issued, subsistence or not.**
- 3. Clarify how potential subsistence opportunity is being offered in a unit that lacks a positive C&T finding.**
- 4. Specifically exclude the positive C&T finding in regulation within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.**
- 5. Clarify how potential subsistence opportunity is being offered in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area**

### **Recommendation :**

**Take No Action, based on previous proposals**

# General Guidelines for labeling

**“General hunt only”** is applied to resident hunts in areas designated as nonsubsistence areas by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game and to hunts outside of nonsubsistence areas that have a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for the game population.

**“Subsistence hunt only”** is applied to resident hunts if the hunt occurs outside nonsubsistence areas on a game population with a positive C&T finding and the harvestable portion of the population is not great enough to allow for nonsubsistence harvests and uses.

**No label.** These hunts generally include all types of resource use, subsistence and nonsubsistence, and do not differentiate between the various types of use.

# Background

- ▣ Currently very few labels for any of the caribou hunts in Interior-Northeast Arctic Region, and there are no -C&T findings for caribou in the units, however there is a -C&T in the Fairbanks NSA
  - Alaska residents take caribou for a variety of uses, not all of which conform to the 8 criteria that characterize subsistence use patterns.
  - Example: use that involves considerable travel and expense is likely not consistent with Criterion 3
  - Example: harvest of game in an area with little or no use of other resources from the area may not be consistent with Criterion 8
- ▣ Current hunts allow for both subsistence and nonsubsistence uses



- ▣ To address the proposal as written, for each area the board would need to:
  - Determine if subsistence priority laws apply.
  - If they apply, the board will need to determine if a pattern exists.
  - If a pattern exists, the board will need to set an ANS to determine the hunt type (Tier II, Tier I, Tier I+)
  - Codified regulations need to be labeled accordingly.
  - Changes need to be made to the regulations book to reflect the labels.
  - Issue permits accordingly for each type of use, even if they are in the same area.

*-The effect on hunters in the field is unknown, pending action on the above items.*

# Background

- ▣ AS 16.05.258(a) directs the board to identify populations or portions of populations that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence
- ▣ Since the early 1980s the board has used joint board regulations to identify these populations, and the joint board determines nonsubsistence areas.
- ▣ Evaluation is done based on the 8 criteria in regulation
- ▣ When no determination has been made, the open season is for “general and subsistence hunts”

# Proposal 166 Part 2.1

1. Clarify what type of opportunity the winter portion of the Fortymile caribou hunt is, subsistence or general.
  - Currently, in areas outside of the nonsubsistence area, and in areas that lack a finding, it provides for both subsistence and nonsubsistence.

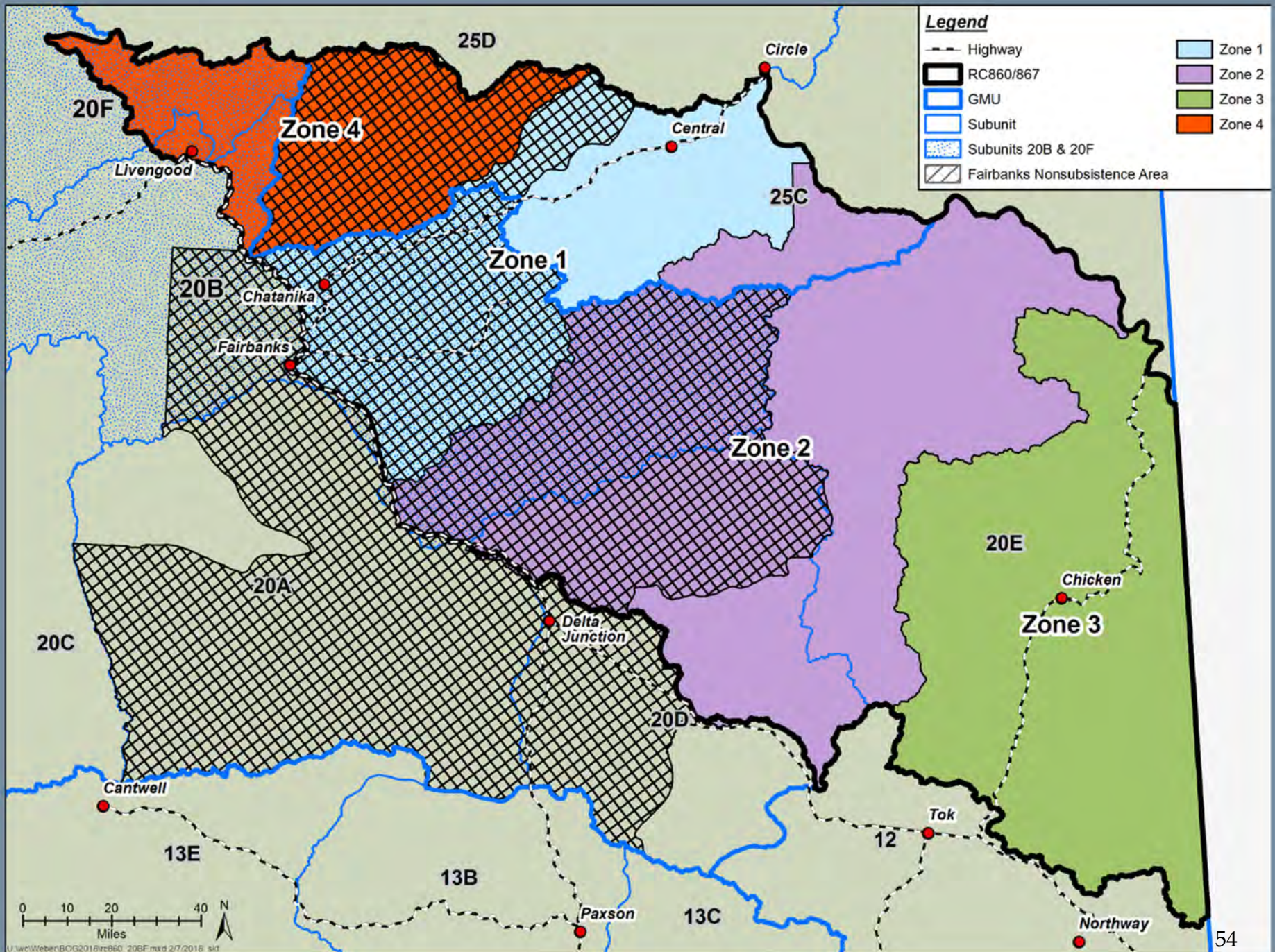
# Proposal 166 Part 2.2

2. Clarify what type of registration permit is being issued.
  - In all hunts managed by registration permit, the department issues one type of registration permit that covers both subsistence and nonsubsistence opportunity, if both types of opportunity exist.
  - Tier II permits are specific only for subsistence opportunity.

# Proposal 166 Part 2.3

3. Potential subsistence opportunity in an area that does not have a positive customary and traditional use finding.

- Reminder that an absence of a C&T finding of any variety means the hunt provides for both subsistence and nonsubsistence opportunity.



# Proposal 166 Part 2.4

4. Exclude the positive customary and traditional use finding in the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area. Regulatory action required.

5 AAC 99.025(a)(4)

Units 12, 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C), except that portion within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area  
(Fortymile herd)

# Proposal 166 Part 2.5

5. Speak to the appearance of allowing subsistence opportunity in a nonsubsistence area.

Very similar to #4.

5 AAC 99.025(a)(4)

Units 12, 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C), (Fortymile herd)



## **Proposal 166 – Part 2 – Agenda Change Request 2, submitted in 2017.**

### **Public Proposal**

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