



# Alaska Hare Research and Status Update



Region IV – Board of Game  
Wasilla, Alaska  
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Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity Program

RC: 4, Tab: 1.5

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## Small Game Proposals

Alaska Hare:  
Prop 24 – Create a season, daily and seasonal bag limit, and salvage requirement for Alaska hare in Unit 17.



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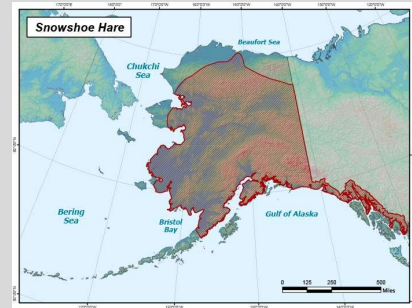
## Alaska Hare

- Weight 7-13lbs
- One litter per year
- Limited distribution



## Snowshoe Hare

- Weight 4-5lbs
- Multiple litters per year
- Widespread and common



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## Alaska Hare Project Background

- Historical accounts suggest current population is substantially lower
- Last known management project 1970's
- 2017 – Ongoing
  - 7 locations
  - 16 surveys
  - 220 days in the field
  - 10,000 snowmachine miles
  - 8 staff members

## Field Locations



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## Project Objectives:

1. Evaluate techniques for long-term population monitoring
2. Movement ecology
3. Diet composition




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## 1) Population Monitoring Techniques

**Goals:**

- Evaluate long-term monitoring approaches
- Estimate population size
- Density
- Buck:Doe ratios
- Variability in study areas and years

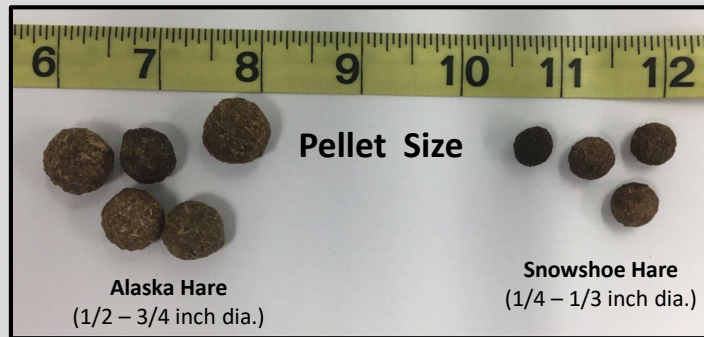


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# 1) Population Monitoring Techniques

## Pellet Transects with DNA analysis

- transect completed via snowmachine
- DNA collected from winter fecal pellets
- individual and sex



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### Summary Statistics

**\*Preliminary Data\***

Kotzebue/Selawik Hills  
~300 miles, 200 samples, fewer than 10 hares

Nome  
~1,000 miles, 1,200 samples, fewer than 100 hares

Ekuk  
~250 miles, 150 samples, fewer than 20 hares

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## 2) Movement Ecology

Need: **Basic Movements**

- 1) Determine seasonal and annual movements
- 2) Home range sizes (annual and seasonal variability)
- 3) Comparison of movements in different areas



Satellite collars collect ~2-3 points/day.

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Box Trap



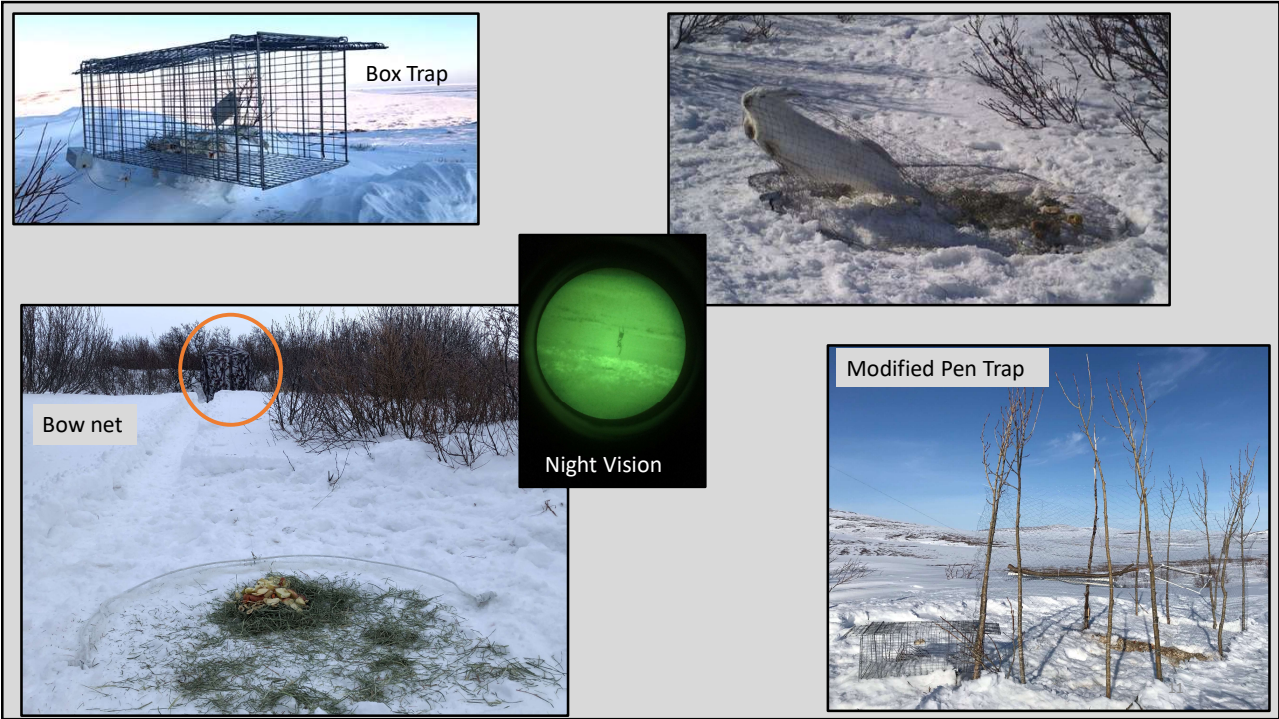
Bow net



Night Vision

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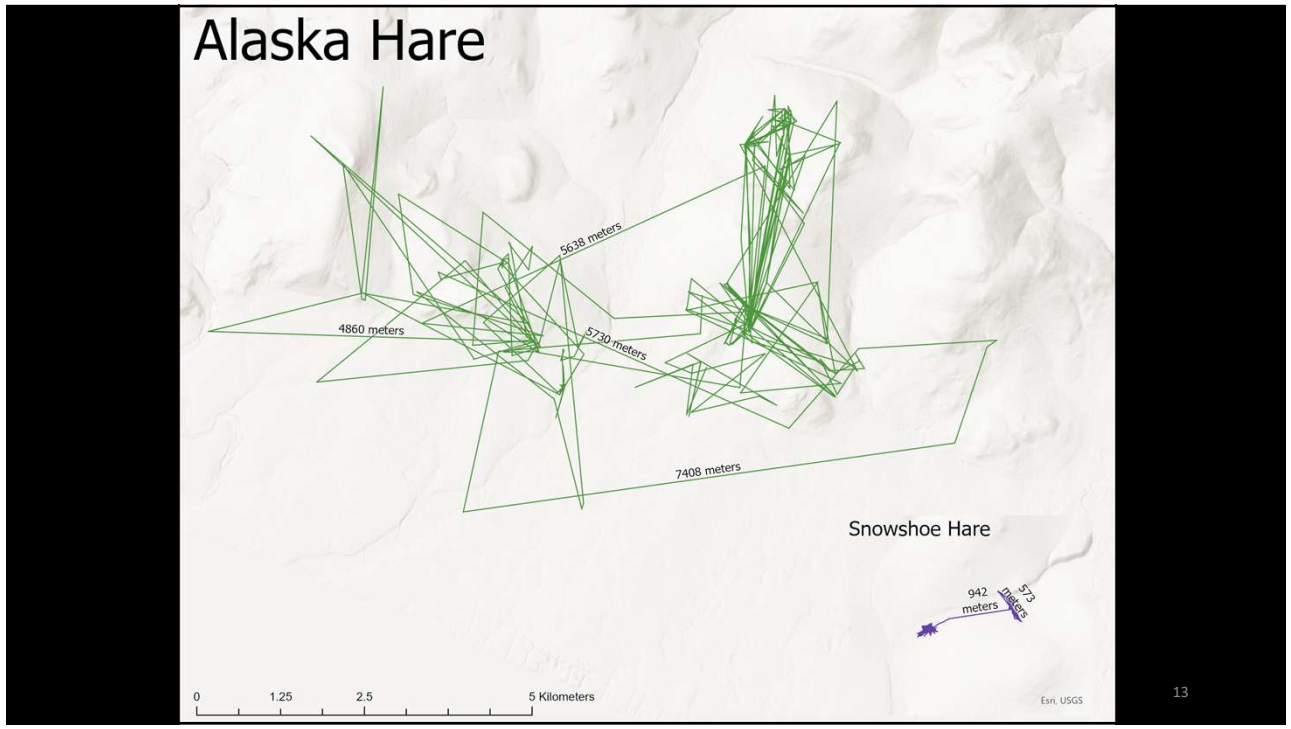


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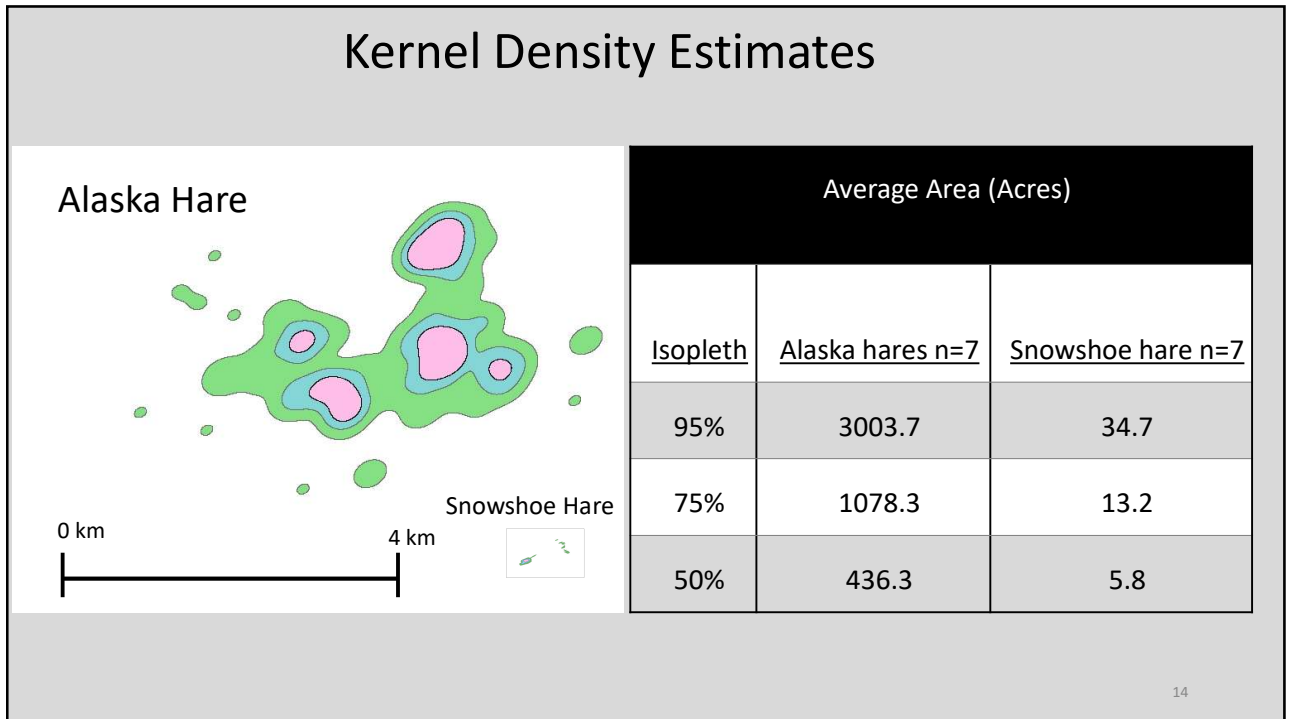


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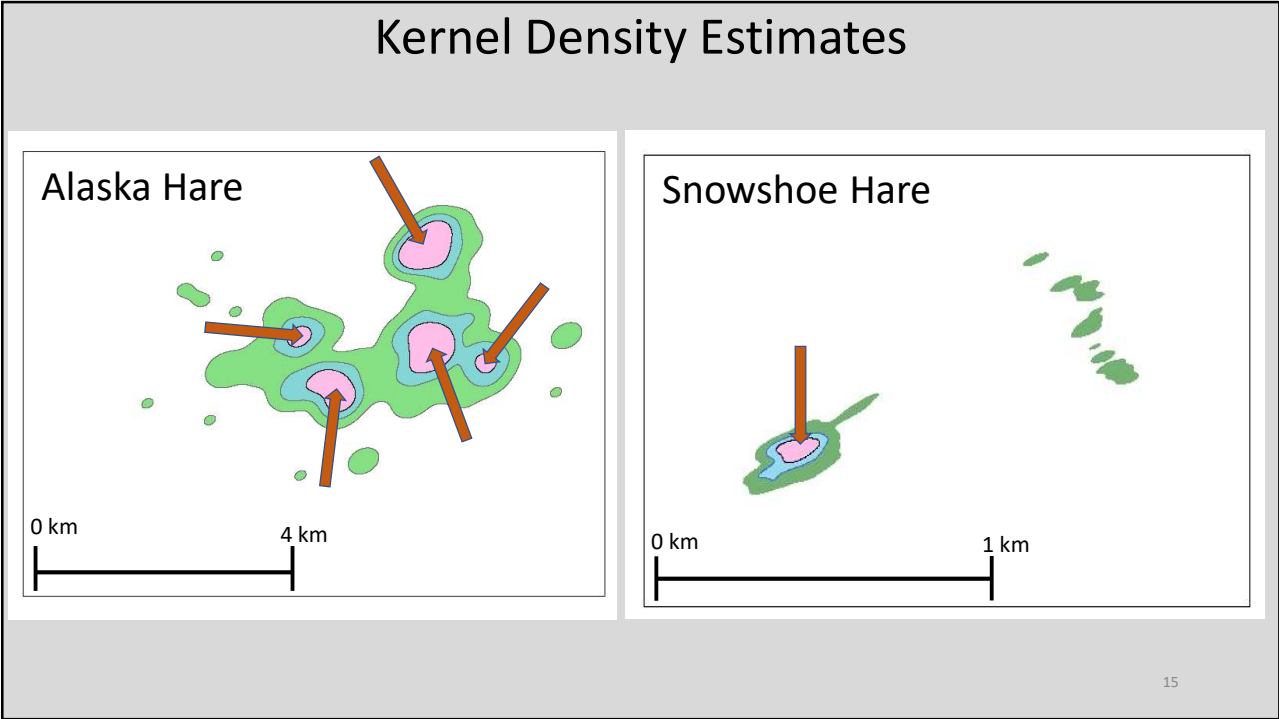
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### 3) Diet data

- Range-wide diet
- Yearly individual changes
- Differences between overlapping populations of Alaska hares and Snowshoe hares





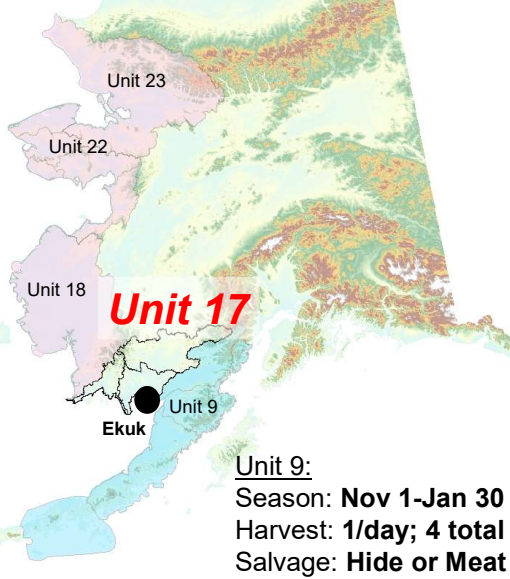
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# Proposal 24

## Current Statewide Regulatory Structure (Alaska Hare):

Units 18, 22, and 23:  
Season: **Aug 1-May 31**  
Harvest: **2/day; 6 total**  
Salvage: **Hide or Meat**



Unit 9:  
Season: **Nov 1-Jan 30**  
Harvest: **1/day; 4 total**  
Salvage: **Hide or Meat**

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# Questions?



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