

RC 47  
NOT Submitted

RC  
48

**We the Ruby Fish and Game Advisory Committee support proposal # 50 AK.Admin.Code # 5 AAC 85.045 which would allow a concurrent hunt with the existing Federal season extension to the fall bull moose hunt on Native Corporation lands and Native Allotments, that are contiguous to the described Federal conservation area of the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.**

**Ed Sarten**

*Ed Sarten - Chair*

**Pat McCarty**

*Pat McCarty*

**Don Honea Jr.**

*Don Honea Jr.*

**Dale Honea**

*Dale V. Honea*

**Billy McCarty Jr.**

*Billy McCarty Jr.*

**Don Honea Sr.**

*Don Honea Sr.*

PROPOSAL 42  
RC 49

- Issue – Suggest board adopt taking of brown/grizzly bear over bait in Unit 20B
- Why – 10 DLP's in spring/summer of 2007
- Reason – I believe the population density is greater than estimated, to reduce likelihood of bear vs. human conflicts
- Stats – information gathered via Fairbanks F&G office provided 1 bear/20 sq. miles
- We believe throughout the 1.5 months of baiting we had 7 to 10 different brown/grizzly bear using our bait station
- This is the only bait station we ran, several other fellow baiters reported exact results



First bear activity 29 May 07  
Grizzly # 1



Grizzly # 2  
June 3 2007



Grizzly # 3 & 4 looks like twin siblings approx.  
3 years old, too small to be a breeding pair 6 June 2007



Grizzly # 5 different from previous slide  
Also young bear 2 to 4 years of age. June 6 2007



Grizzly # 6 mature male approx 7.5 ft based on  
Known measurement of board behind bear June 9 2007



Grizzly # 7 young bear about 4 to 5 ft  
New bear on film based on rub marks of hide  
10 June 2007



Grizzly # 8 not one seen before notice no rub  
Marks on hide. Previous bears had rub marks  
16 June 2007



Grizzly # 9 mature male no rub marks bigger than # 8 also no evident rub marks June 17 2007



Definite breeding pair mature male (front) could be Two previous bears June 19 2007



Grizzly #10 biggest of all bears photographed bucket  
Opening is 11" wide vs. head width 21 June 2007

Proposal 42  
RC 49

- I am not a wildlife biologist, however after reviewing all these pictures I can determine we have several different grizzly bears using bait
- Numbers obtained via F&G must not be accurate
- Reason for so many grizzly bear unknown
  - Assumption – recent wildfires in past years may have pushed them off their home range. This could be temporary invasion
  - Previous baiting year all black bears and only one grizzly. Grizzly # 10 believed to be grizzly from 2006 baiting season, Only home video captured in 2006 no still photos
  - CD provided of all bear photo's approx. 200 pictures

Don Horrell  
Copper Basin Advisory Chair

February 29, 2008

Board of Game

Re: Proposal 86

The Copper Basin Advisory Committee met on January 10, 2008. The committee unanimously voted to support creating a wildlife sanctuary in the Tangle Lakes area.

This area is an important wildlife area for Copper River Basin residents. It is also used for recreation and subsistence activities. Loss of this area will greatly impact the residents of the Copper River Basin culturally and monetarily. The value of these traditional activities along with tourism will far outweigh the few mining dollars a foreign company will leave in the state. Mining activities that last a few years but destroy the area forever should not be allowed.

This Advisory Committee urges the Board of Game to support protecting this valuable fish and wildlife habitat area for future generations.

This issue does not impact as high a profile salmon fishery that Pebble does but believe us, it is every bit as important to our community as the Pebble Mine is to Bristol Bay. As with Pebble, there are also anadromous fish issues. The preferred mine site would allow drainage into Hungry Hollow which is a headwater tributary of the Gulkana and Copper Rivers, thus an important king and red salmon fishery.

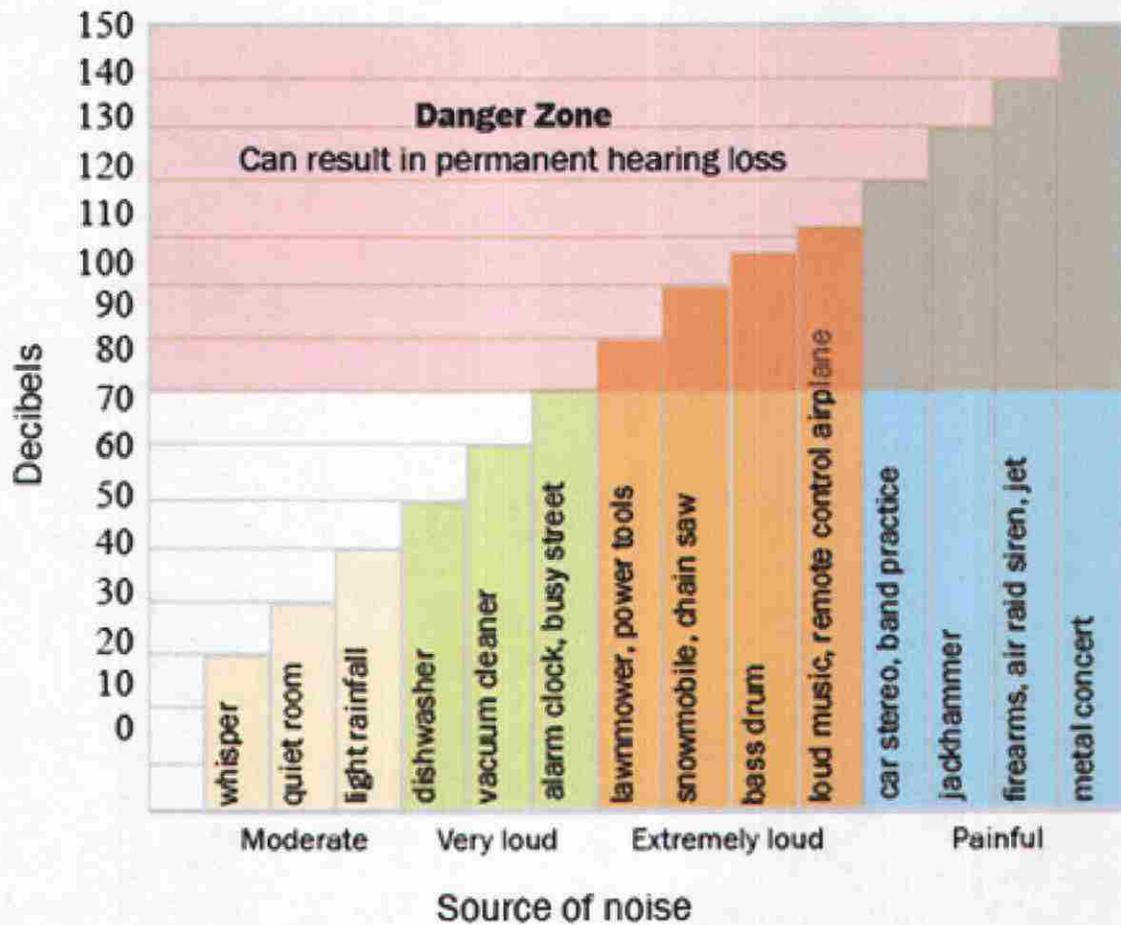
This committee urges the Board of Game to take action and support this proposal.

RC51

Mike Brase

February 28, 2008

Figure 1: Chart showing decibel range and representative noise sources. Information presented in this chart was provided by Jennifer Simpson, Au.D. CCC-A, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Speech Language & Hearing Sciences, from Purdue University.



Note that airboats operate in the 115 – 135db range, which are reflected in the first 3 blue bars on the far right; this range has been described as both “painful” and “can result in permanent hearing loss”.

Text Block 1:

Summary of court case in the Supreme Court of the State of Alaska, concerning the legitimacy of Controlled Use Areas, specifically with respect to excluding airboats used for hunting during hunting season from some areas.

Interior Alaska Airboat Assoc. Inc. vs. State Board of Game (3/2/01) sp-5369 in the Supreme Court of the State of Alaska. 2 March 2001. Source: <http://www.touchngo.com/sp/html/sp-5369.htm>

The Alaska Board of Game closed the Nenana Controlled Use Area (CUA) to airboats for hunting moose "to forestall habitat alteration and eliminate conflicts between moose hunters who use airboats and moose hunters who use other means of transportation." Part of the lawsuit was also about the Noatak Controlled Unit Area where the Alaska Board of Game closed a corridor to the use of aircraft for hunting during part of the hunting season.

The court's findings of fact and conclusions of law particularly relevant to this appeal for the Nenana Controlled Use Area:

"1. The Board of Game heard testimony from members of the public in an area of the Tanana Flats near Nenana, Alaska, [of] airboat use by moose hunters interfering with traditional spot and stalk and stillhunting techniques used by subsistence moose hunters.

"2. The Board of Game also heard testimony that in the same area, where heavy airboat use had occurred, some wildlife habitat changes, including alterations of drainage patterns, had been observed.

"3. The Board of Game also heard testimony that airboat noise can range up to 135 decibels, approximately the same as the noise produced by the engine of a commercial jet aircraft being operat[ed] under full power, and that it was impossible for hunters to hear or call moose in the vicinity of such noise.

"4. The Board of Game also heard from airboat users and manufacturers, who testified that technological advances were addressing the noise problem, and who countered the habitat damage testimony and various other complaints raised by others about airboat use.

"5. The Board of Game concluded that a conflict existed between moose hunters using airboats and moose hunters using the more traditional spot and stalk and stillhunting methods, and that this conflict detrimentally affected the subsistence use of moose from the area, although game levels remain stable.

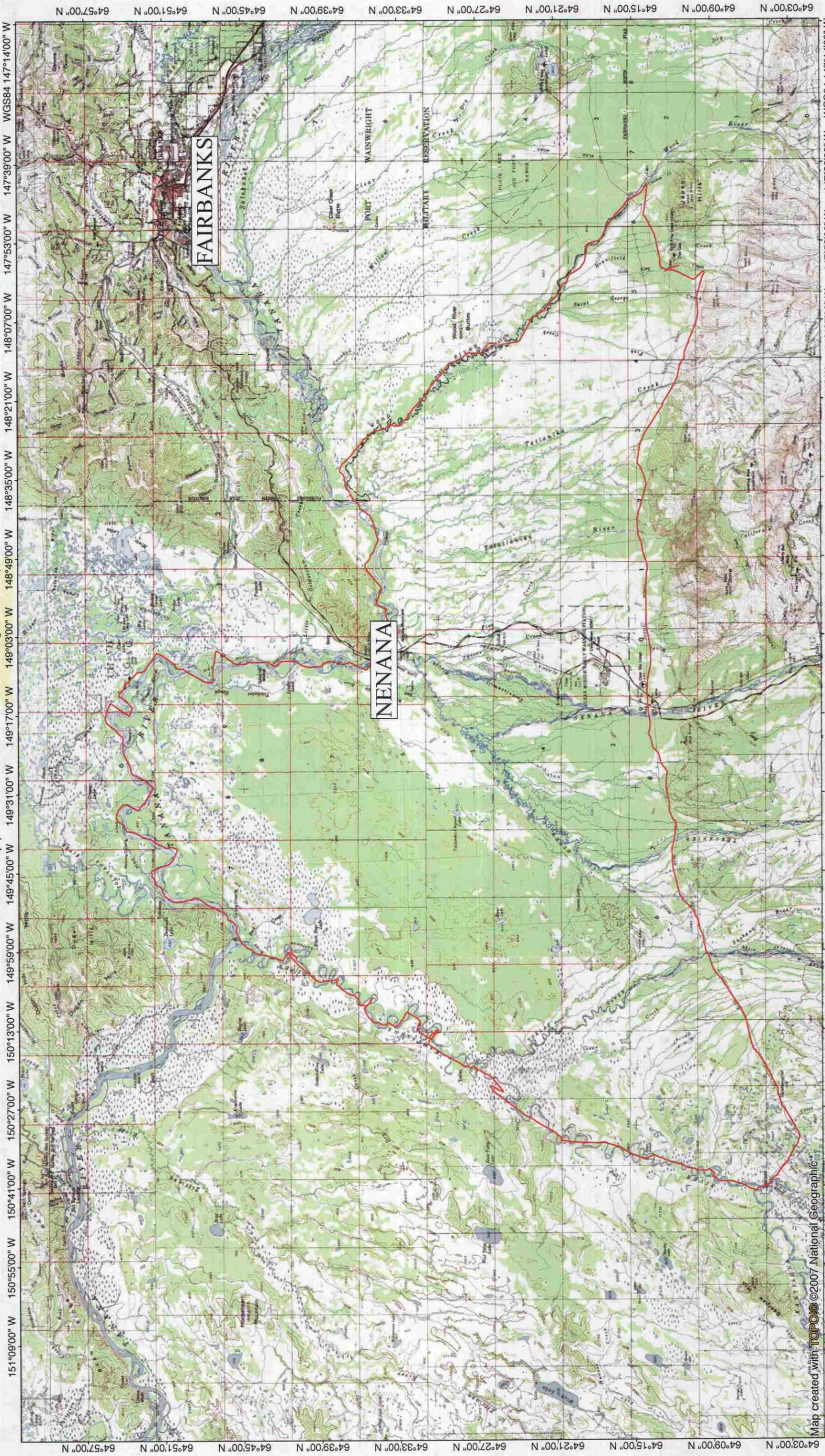
From Footnote 24 of the decision: The Alaska Board of Game "... noted that 'large areas near Fairbanks remain open to airboat use for moose hunting.' Further, the Board stated that 'an area of comparable habitat, size and accessibility remains available to airboat hunters in adjacent areas of GMU 20A and GMU 20C. This adjacent area has traditionally been less important for subsistence hunters and more frequently used by airboat hunters than has the NCUA [Nenana Controlled Unit Area]."

Although moose hunters could still use airboats in some areas, the airboat association wanted access to all areas.

The Supreme Court entered final judgment dismissing the complaint of the Interior Alaska Airboat Association. Inc., so the Alaska Board of Game could exclude airboats used for hunting during the hunting season from some areas.

MAP 1

TOPO! map printed on 02/28/08 from "NCUA Larger Border.tpo"

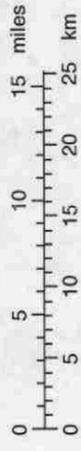


64°03'00" N 64°09'00" N 64°15'00" N 64°21'00" N 64°27'00" N 64°33'00" N 64°39'00" N 64°45'00" N 64°51'00" N 64°57'00" N

151°09'00" W 150°55'00" W 150°41'00" W 150°27'00" W 150°13'00" W 149°59'00" W 149°45'00" W 149°31'00" W 149°17'00" W 149°03'00" W 148°49'00" W 148°35'00" W 148°21'00" W 148°07'00" W 147°53'00" W 147°39'00" W 147°25'00" W 147°11'00" W

Map created with TOPO! ©2007 National Geographic

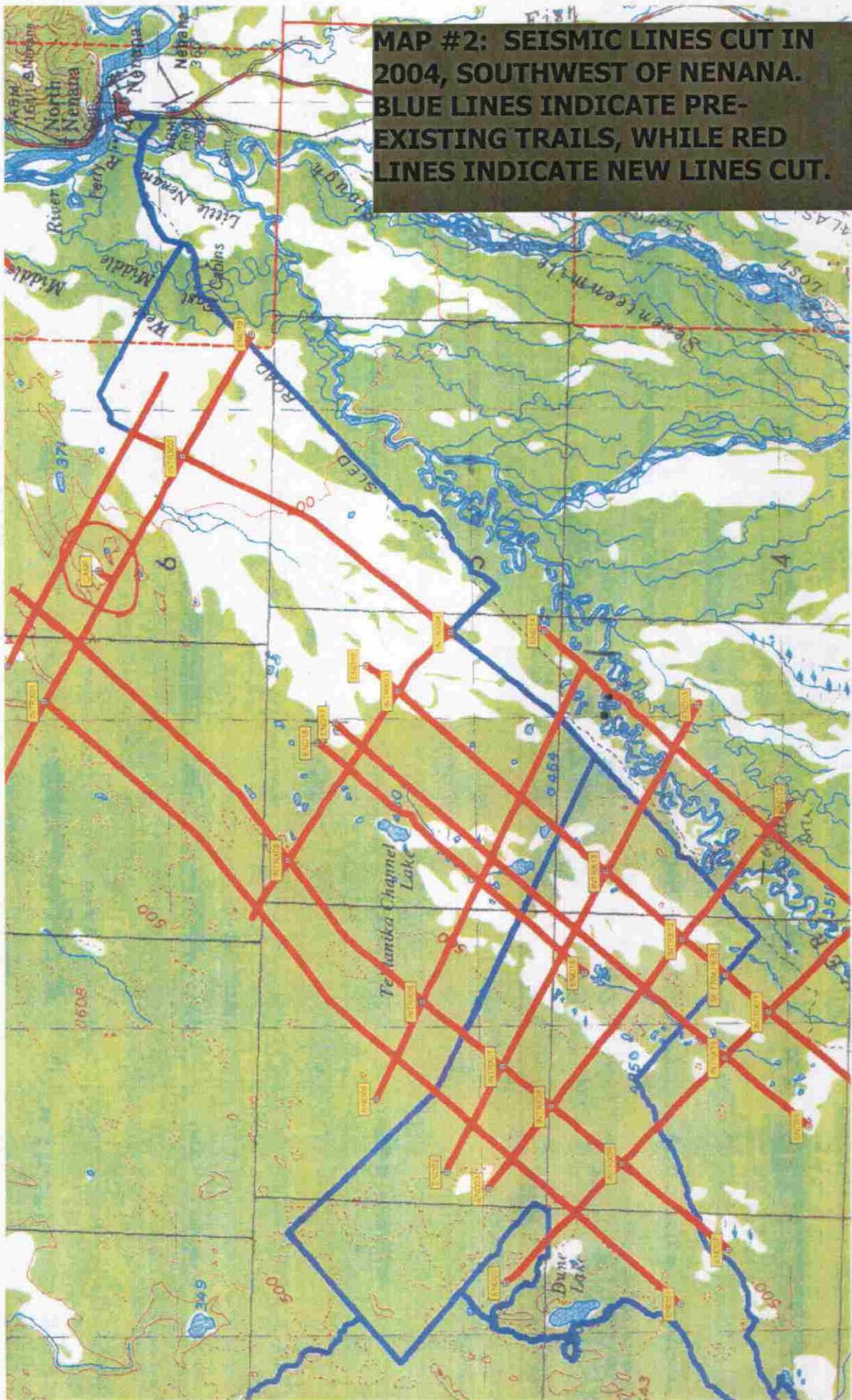
64°03'00" N 64°09'00" N 64°15'00" N 64°21'00" N 64°27'00" N 64°33'00" N 64°39'00" N 64°45'00" N 64°51'00" N 64°57'00" N



TN 21° 02/28/08

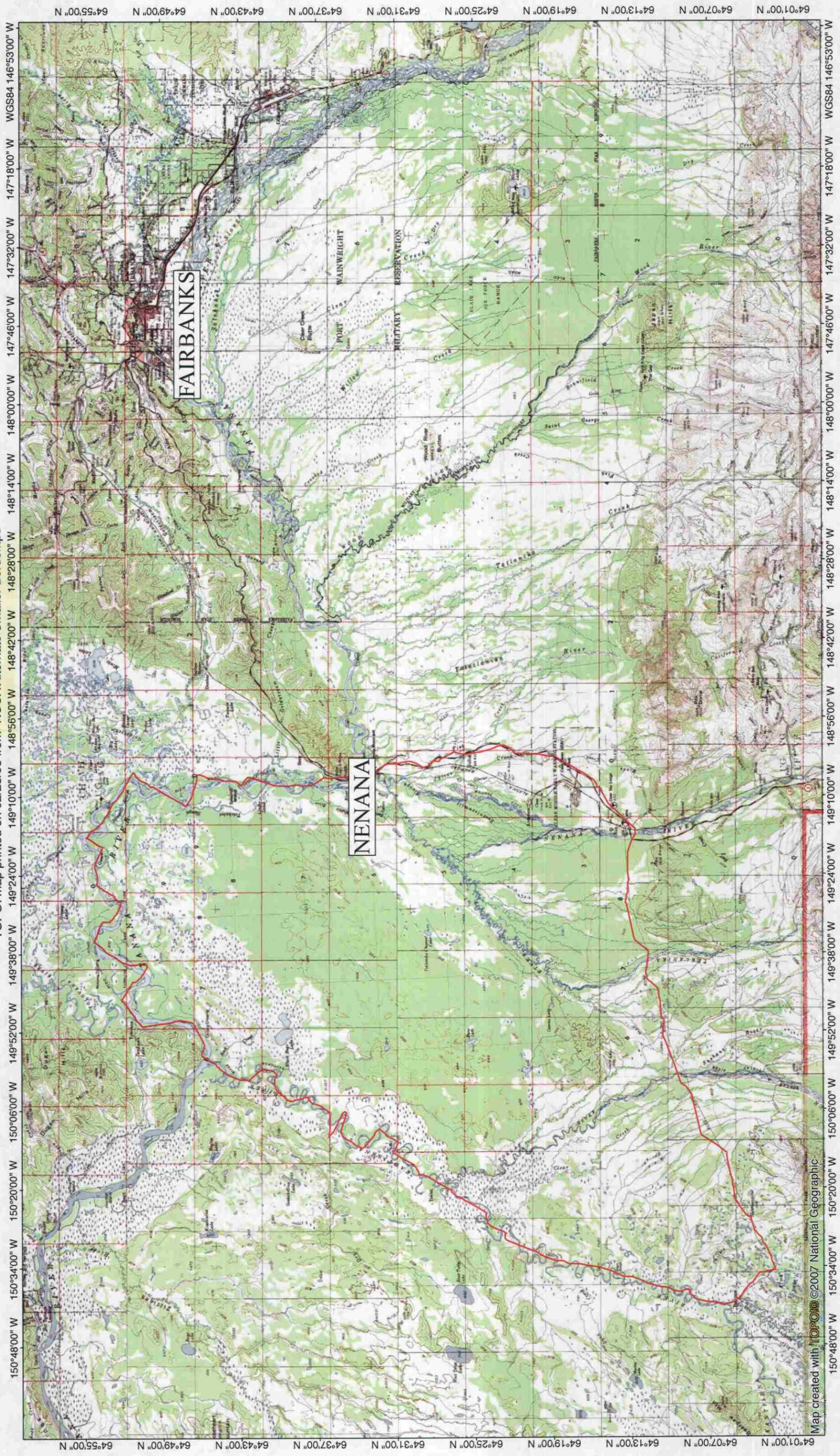
MAP 2

**MAP #2: SEISMIC LINES CUT IN 2004, SOUTHWEST OF NENANA. BLUE LINES INDICATE PRE-EXISTING TRAILS, WHILE RED LINES INDICATE NEW LINES CUT.**



MAP 3

TOPO! map printed on 02/28/08 from "NCUA Alternate Smaller Border.tpo"

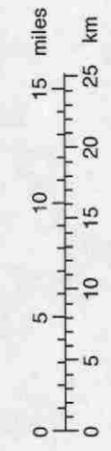


64°01'00" N 64°07'00" N 64°13'00" N 64°19'00" N 64°25'00" N 64°31'00" N 64°37'00" N 64°43'00" N 64°49'00" N 64°55'00" N

150°48'00" W 150°34'00" W 150°20'00" W 150°06'00" W 149°52'00" W 149°38'00" W 149°24'00" W 149°10'00" W 148°56'00" W 148°42'00" W 148°28'00" W 148°14'00" W 148°00'00" W 147°46'00" W 147°32'00" W 147°18'00" W 147°04'00" W

64°01'00" N 64°07'00" N 64°13'00" N 64°19'00" N 64°25'00" N 64°31'00" N 64°37'00" N 64°43'00" N 64°49'00" N 64°55'00" N

Map created with TOPO! ©2007 National Geographic



TN / MN 21° 02/28/08

Feb. 17, 2008

RC 52

STATE BOARD OF GAME

Good day.

We are encouraged to see the State Board of Game is taking up the proposal to create Tangles Lake Wildlife Refuge at your Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Because refuge status will place the area under the management of Fish and Game, wildlife will be better protected. We are glad the board recognizes this area as crucial wildlife habitat.

Our family has hunted, fished, berry pickled, and recreated in this area for well over 30 years. Support Proposal 86. We want the Tangles Lake area protected.

Sincerely,

Charlie and Linda Rutledge

P.O. Box 91

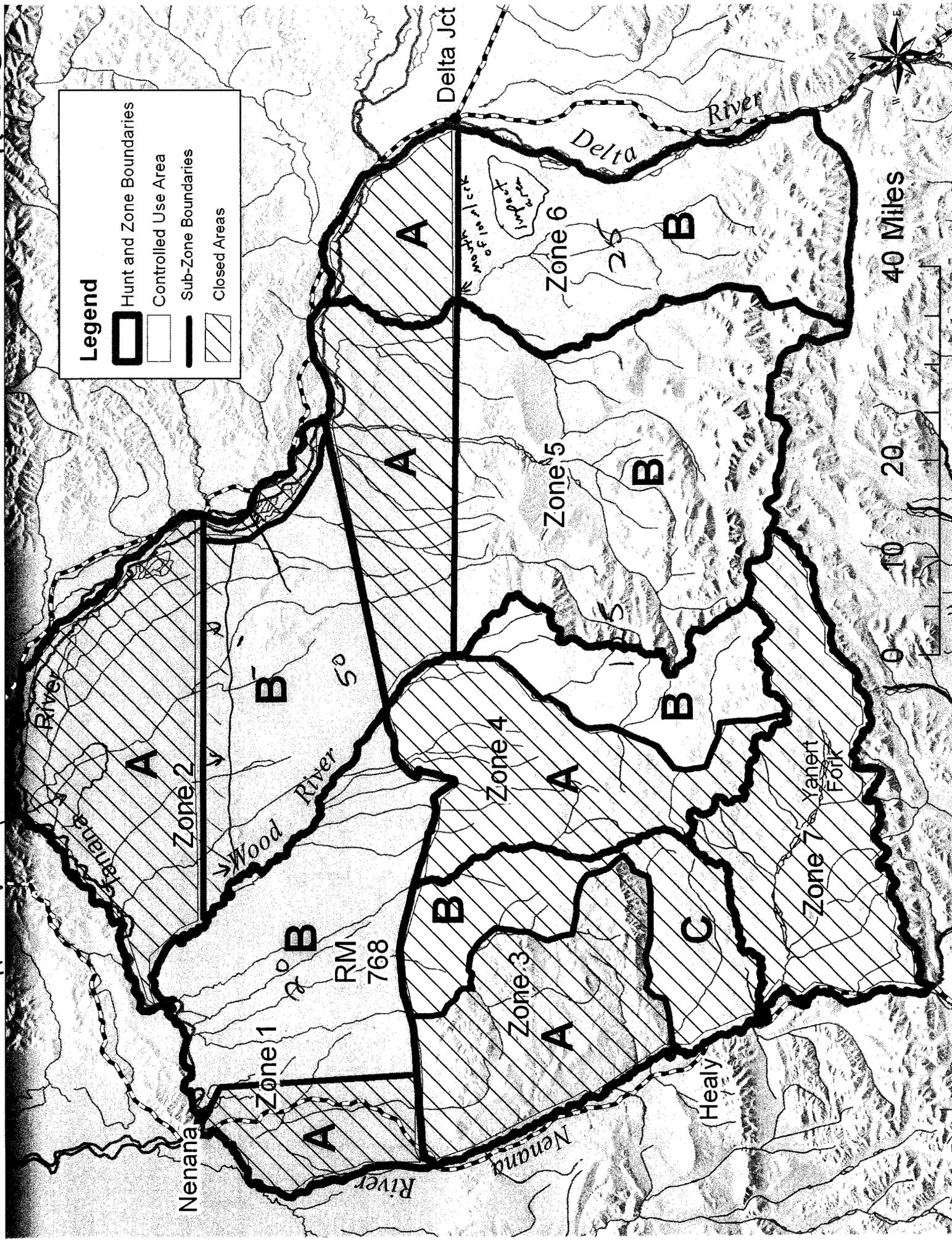
Copper Center, AK

99573

RC 53

Air boat meadows

RC 52



**Legend**

-  Hunt and Zone Boundaries
-  Sub-Zone Boundaries
-  Controlled Use Area
-  Closed Areas

40 Miles

20

10

0

RC54

## Northeast Alaska Area

Area Biologist: Beth Lenart, Fairbanks

Assistant Area Biologist: Jason Caikoski, Fairbanks

**Units: 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B & 26C**

**Includes upper Yukon drainage and central and eastern North Slope (73,800 mi<sup>2</sup>)**

### Population/Settlements

Nine communities: approx. 1,700 people

- Arctic Village
- Beaver
- Birch Creek
- Chalkyitsik
- Circle
- Fort Yukon
- Kaktovik
- Venetie
- Stevens Village
- \* Prudhoe Bay Complex

### State Advisory Committees

- Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
- North Slope Advisory Committee

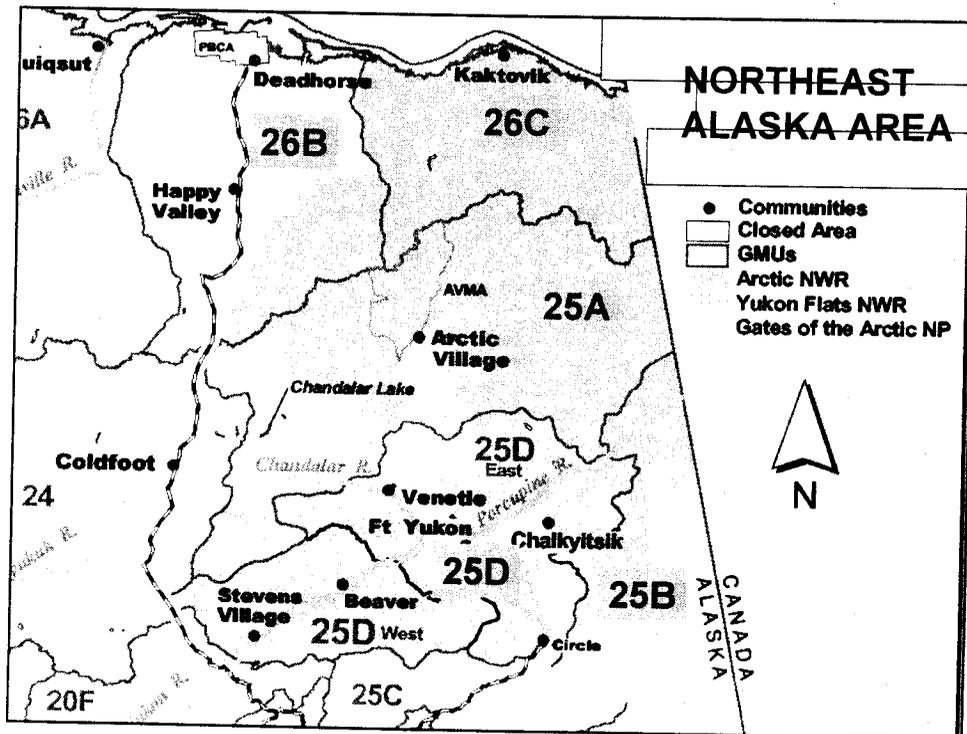
Hand

### Conservation System Units

- Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Yukon Charley Rivers National Preserve

### Controlled Use/Management Areas

- Prudhoe Bay Closed Area
- Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area



## **BEAR**

### **Black Bear**

- Abundant & lightly harvested in Unit 25

### **Brown Bear**

- Low to moderate density in 25
- Low density in 26B&C
- Low to moderate harvest

**Management issues: Effects of bear predation on moose in Unit 25 and on muskox in Unit 26B**

**Proposals 68, 71, and 72**

## **Caribou**

### **Central Arctic Caribou Herd**

- Population size = 32,000; Increasing
- Annual harvest = 800-1000
- Access: Dalton Highway, boat, airplane

### **Management Issues:**

- Hunting conditions in DHO
- Effects of oil development

**Proposal 81**



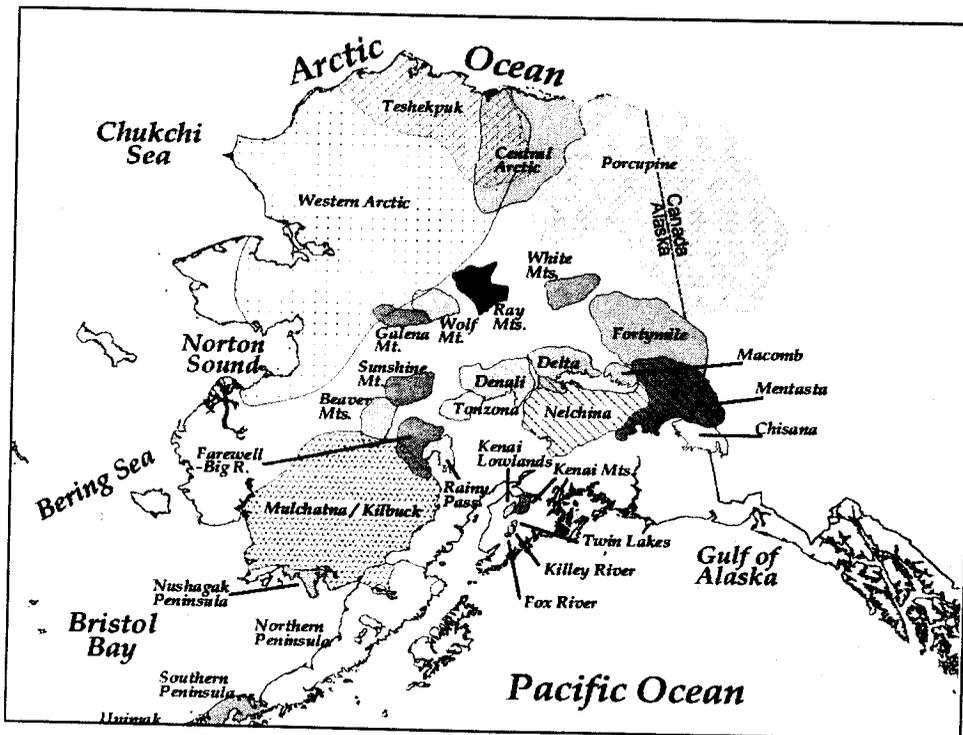
*Caribou cont'd*

Porcupine Caribou Herd

- Population size = 123,000; Declining
- Annual harvest = 500 in AK & 2,000+ in Canada
- Access: Remote

Management Issues:

- Population decline, inability to get photocensus
- Oil development on calving grounds
- Caribou distribution
- International ownership management



## Moose

### Units 25A, 25B, 25D

- Widely distributed at low densities
- Harvest = 250–350 annually
- Stable or declining

### Management Issues (Units 25A, B, D):

- Chronically low densities in Unit 25
- Effects of bear and wolf predation
- Harvest of cow moose
- Local harvest reporting
- Developing Intensive Management Plan

Proposal 69

## *Moose cont'd*

### Units 26B & 26C

- Limited distribution
- Severe decline 1992 - 1995
- Season closed in 1996
- Opened season in 26B in 2006

### Management Issues (Units 26B & C):

- Recovering population
- Providing opportunity to hunt
- Unit 26C has not increased
- Migratory moose in a portion of Unit 26C

Proposal 69

## **Muskox**

### **Northeast Alaska Muskox (Units 26B & C, eastern 26A)**

- **Substantial decline (Steve Arthur provided update)**
- **Unit 26B harvest was regulated by Tier II, Tier 1 and Drawing permits**
  - **Tier I and draw hunts closed 2005**
  - **Tier II hunt closed in 2006**
- **Unit 26C harvest regulated by Federal system**



## **Dall Sheep -- Wolf**

### **Dall Sheep**

- **Population stable at reduced density**
- **Localized issues relating to hunting pressure**

**Proposal 70**

### **Wolf**

- **Low density population**
- **Low harvests**
- **Effects of wolf predation on moose in Unit 25D**



## **Fur -- Small Game**

### **Fur/Small Game**

- High quality habitat for lynx, fox, marten, mink beaver, snowshoe hares and grouse
- Harvest is low relative to populations



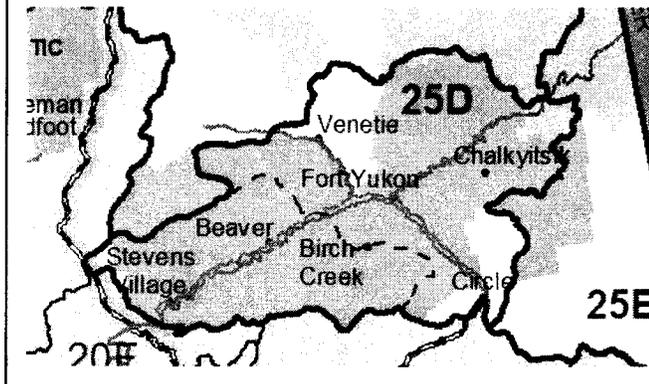
## **3 Main Issues**

- 1. Declining PCH herd**
  - Develop harvest strategies w/Canada
  - Estimating population
- 2. Work with oil industry for CAH**
  - Mitigate effects of development
- 3. Develop IM plan for moose in Unit 25D**

# Unit 25D Intensive Management Development

Unit 25D –17,569 mi<sup>2</sup>

Approx. 1200 people in 7 communities



## Background

- **Protect, maintain, and enhance the Yukon Flats moose population and habitat**
  - **Maintain traditional lifestyles**
  - **Provide opportunities for use of the moose resource**
- **2006—YFAC submitted a proposal to the board to implement a wolf predation control plan in 25D. BOG & ADFG agreed ADFG should develop IM options & present in 2008**

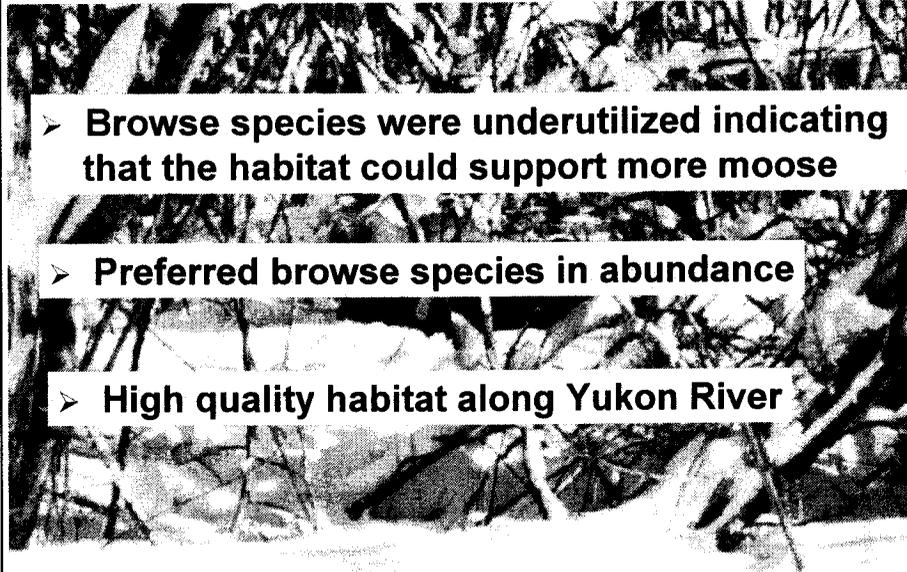
## **Presentation Outline**

- ❖ **Moose habitat and weather data**
- ❖ **Moose population & composition data**
- ❖ **Moose hunting regulations**
- ❖ **Moose harvest data**
- ❖ **Wolf population and harvest data**
- ❖ **Black and Brown Bear data**
- ❖ **Modeling Exercises**
- ❖ **Intensive Management Options**

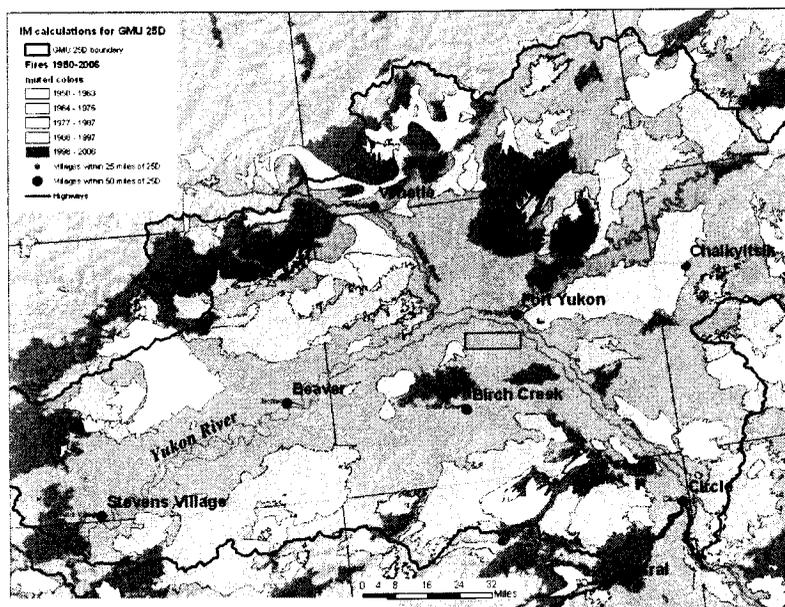
## **Moose Habitat in 25D**



## May 2000 Browse Surveys

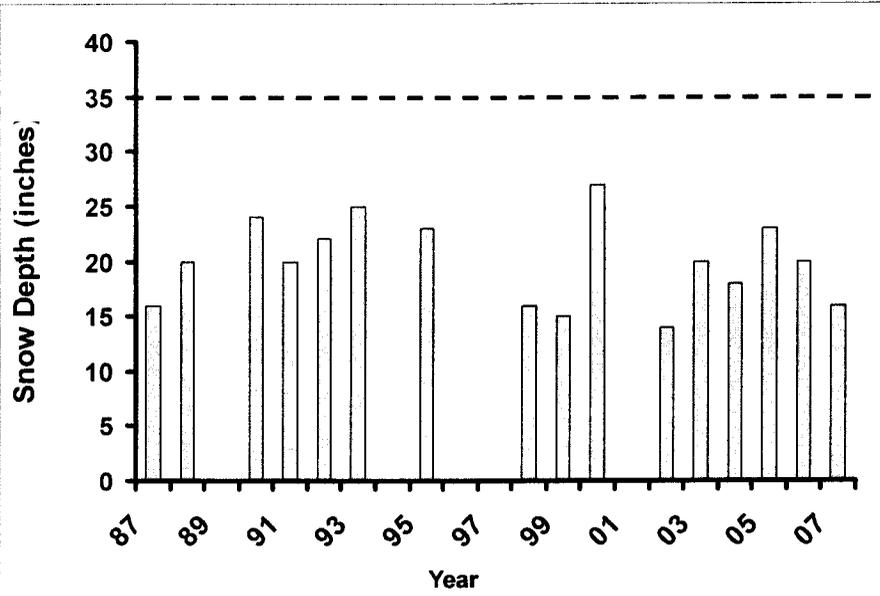


## Unit 25D Fire History



BLM Alaska Fire Service

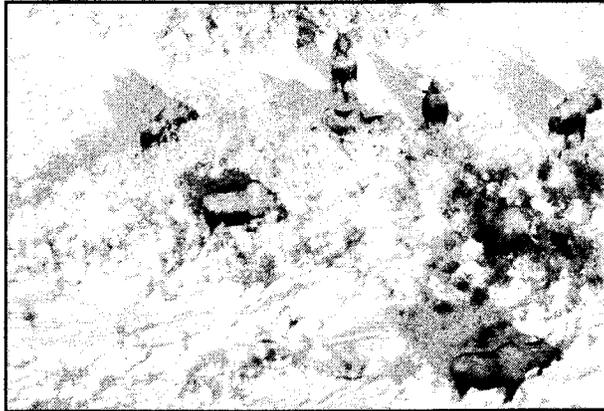
## Snow Depth, Ft Yukon, 1987 – 2007



## Moose Habitat Summary

- Diverse winter and summer habitat including burns and riparian areas
- Abundance of preferred willows and other species
- Some browse has grown out of reach
- Low annual snowfall
- Not limited by habitat or weather

## Moose Population Parameters in Unit 25D



- Productivity & Calf survival/mortality study (Bertram & Vivion 2002)
- Population Estimates
- Composition data

## Productivity & Calf Survival

### Productivity:

- Mean pregnancy rate = 89% (n=55, 2 years)
- Twinning rates = 63% (n=60; 2 years)

### Calf Survival to 1 year:

- 21% (n= 58; 2 years)

### Cow Survival for 1 year:

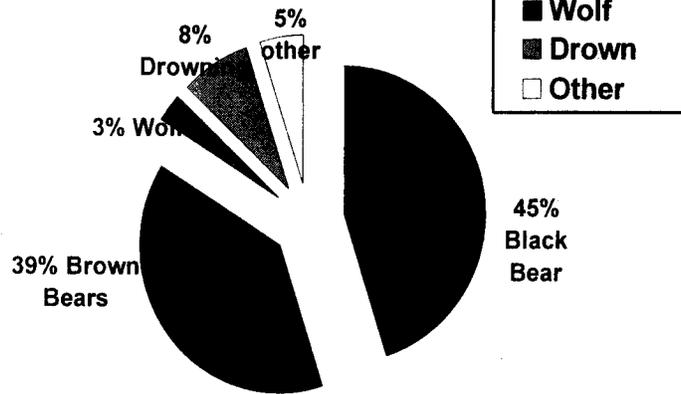
- 90% (n= 29; 1998)
- 85% (n= 26; 1999)
- 76% (through year 2)

Source: Bertram and Vivion (2002)



## Calf Mortality

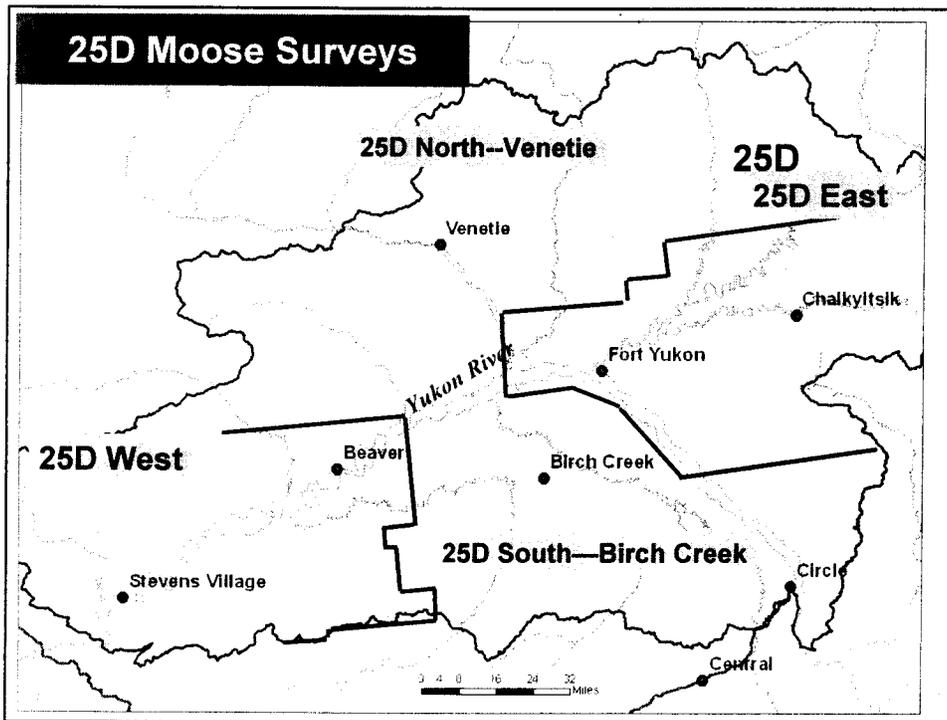
n = 39 calf carcasses



Source: Bertram and Vivion (2002)

- 26 additional calves died; but cause of death was not determined

## 25D Moose Surveys



## Fall Moose Surveys

### 25D North—Venetie Survey (2858 mi<sup>2</sup>)

- 2004—0.19 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> ± 60%
- 2005—0.15 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> ± 32%

### 25D South—Birch Creek Survey (3630 mi<sup>2</sup>)

- 2006—0.20 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> ± 33%

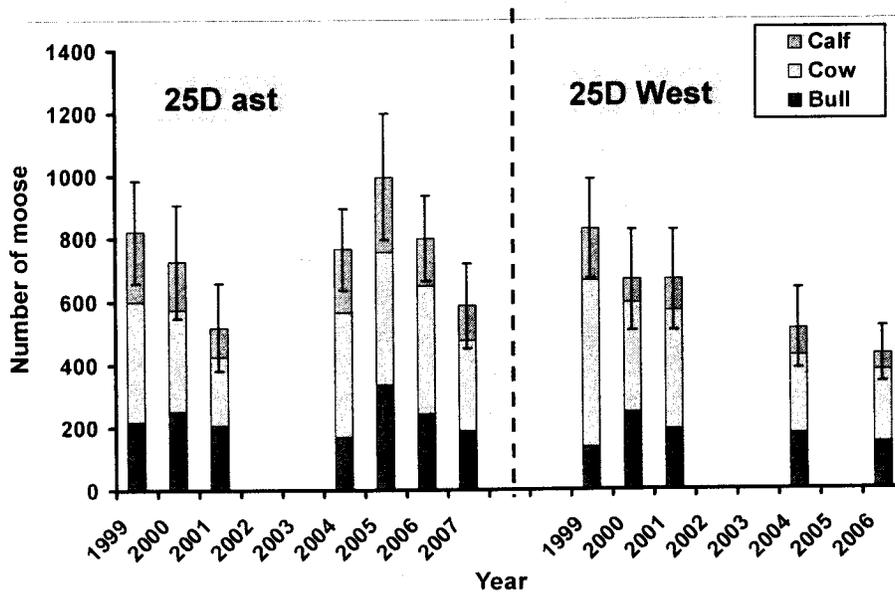
### 25D West (2269 mi<sup>2</sup>)

- 1999 — 2001, 2004, 2006

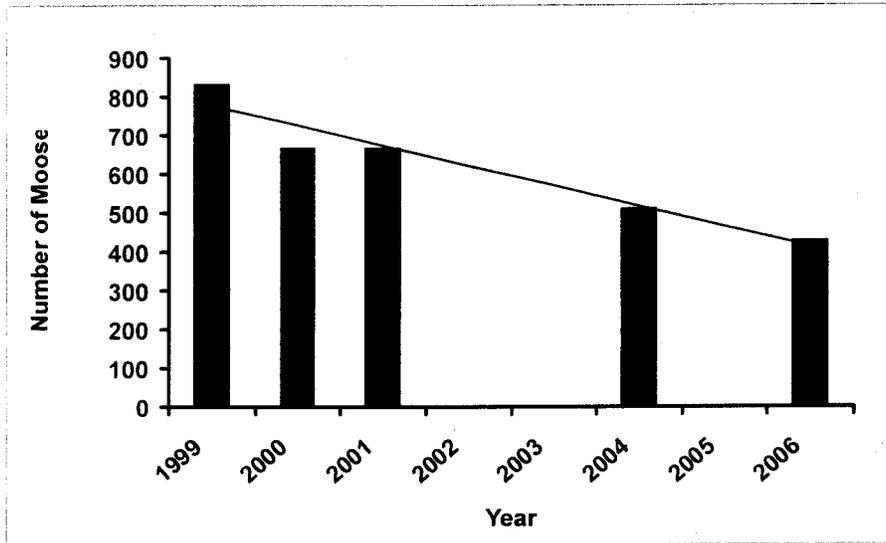
### 25D East (2936 mi<sup>2</sup>)

- 1999 — 2001, 2004 — 2007

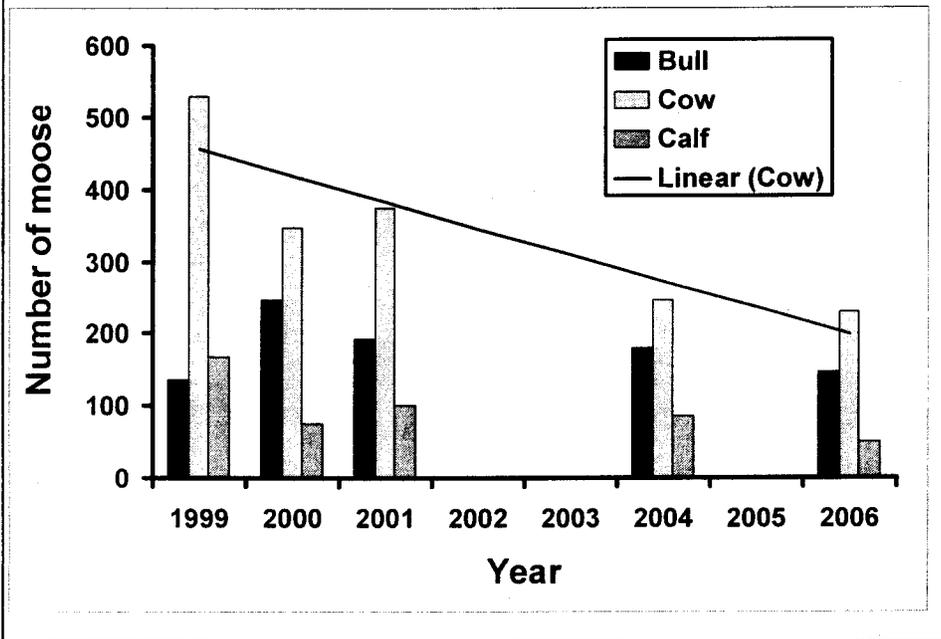
## 25D East and 25D West



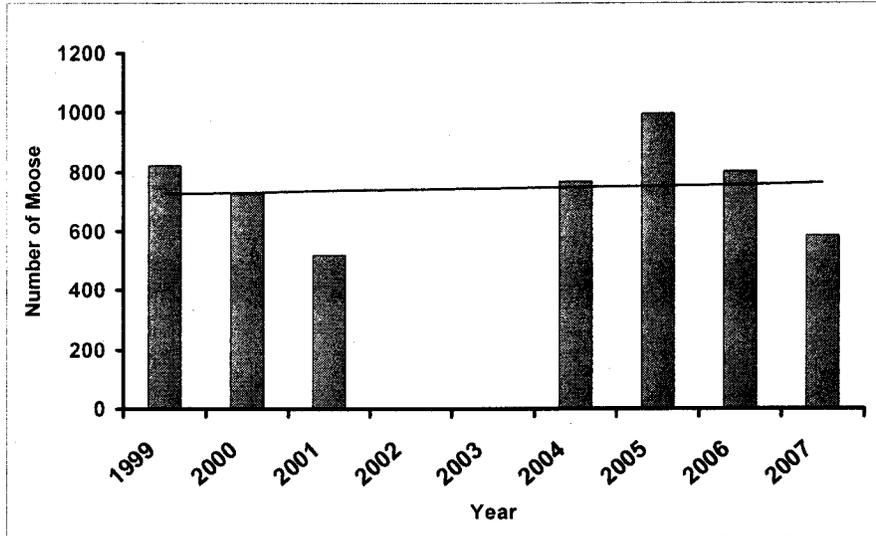
## Unit 25D West Trend



## 25D West, Bulls, Cows, Calves



## Unit 25D East Trend



## Current Unit 25D Moose Population Estimate



- ❖ 3,000 – 4,500 moose
- ❖ 0.18 – 0.26 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>

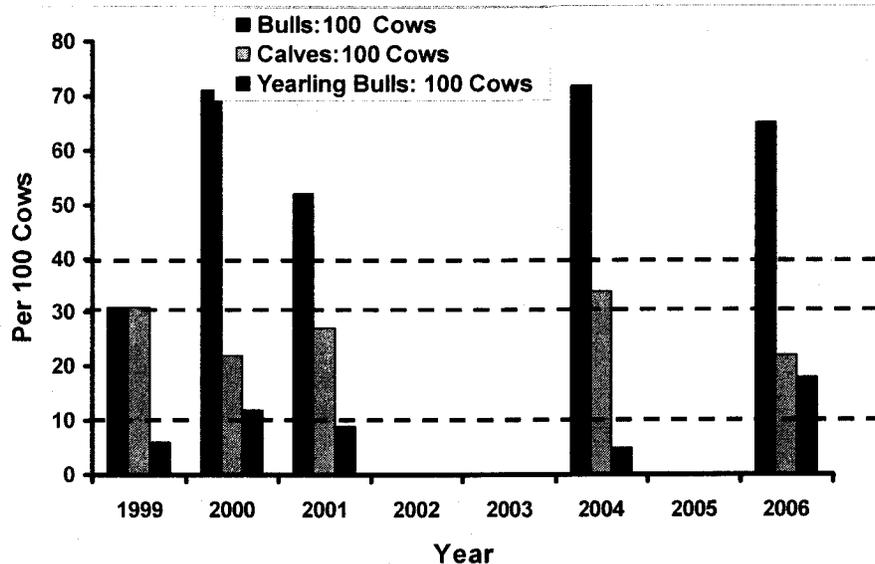
**Current 25D Moose Population Estimate  
and  
Intensive Management Objectives**

- **25D IM Objective: 6,000 – 10,000 moose**
- **2007 Estimate: 3,000– 4,500 moose**

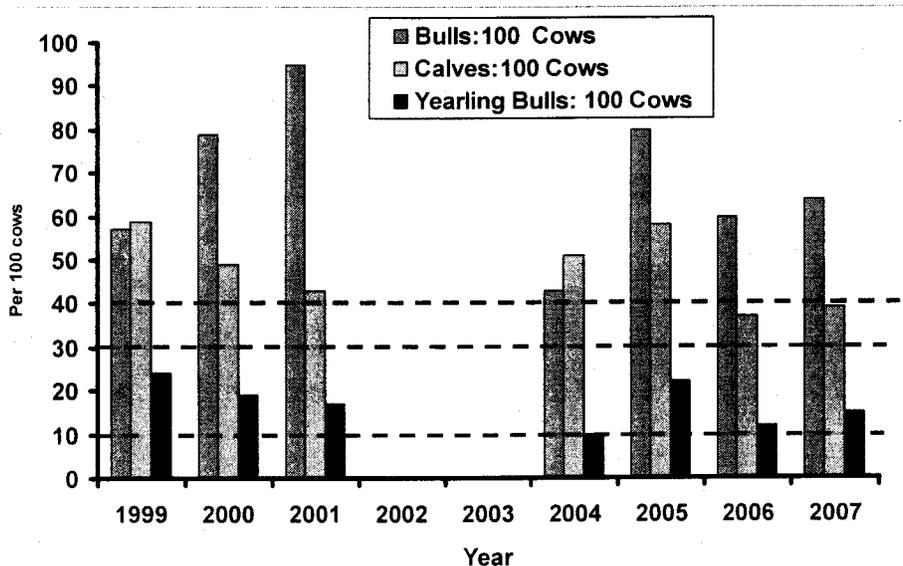
**Moose Composition in 25D**



## 25D West Ratios



## 25D East Ratios



## Composition Summary

- High bull:cow ratios
- Moderate – good yearling bull:cow ratios
- Moderate – high calf:cow ratios
- Should indicate a growing population
- Declining or stable population

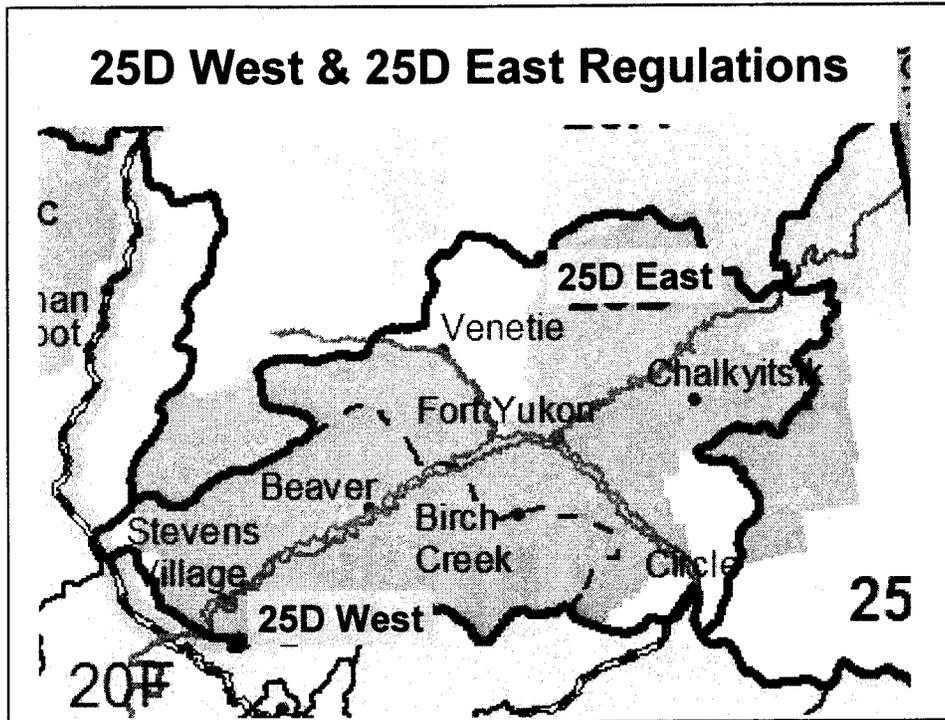
Drawing by Michael Williams

## Why good ratios & low population??

### Good Question!

- ❖ Number of adult cows in population is low relative to other sex and age classes
- ❖ Ratio data calculated from low density populations have high variability
  - small sample sizes
  - moose movement
- ❖ Number of cows harvested may be influencing population

## 25D West & 25D East Regulations



### Brief summary of historical regulations

- ❖ Regulations restricting harvest were implemented in 1983 when 25D West and 25D East were established
- ❖ Tier II permit hunt was established in 25D West in 1990
- ❖ Since then, regulations were adjusted to preclude overharvest and accommodate more traditional patterns of hunting

## Current Moose Hunting Regulations

### Unit & Bag Limit

**25D West** —1 bull by  
Tier II permit; Up to 75  
permits will be issued

### **25D East**

**Resident:** 1 bull; or  
(community harvest program)  
**Nonresident:** 1 bull  
with 50" antlers or 4 or  
more brow tines

### **25D West**

**25 Aug – 28 Feb;  
1 bull**

**60 Federal permits  
Harvest quota for state  
& federal = 60 bull moose**  
(Federal regulations)

### **25D East**

**25 Aug – 25 Sept  
Dec 1– 20**

**1 antlered moose**  
(Federal regulations)

## Unit 25D

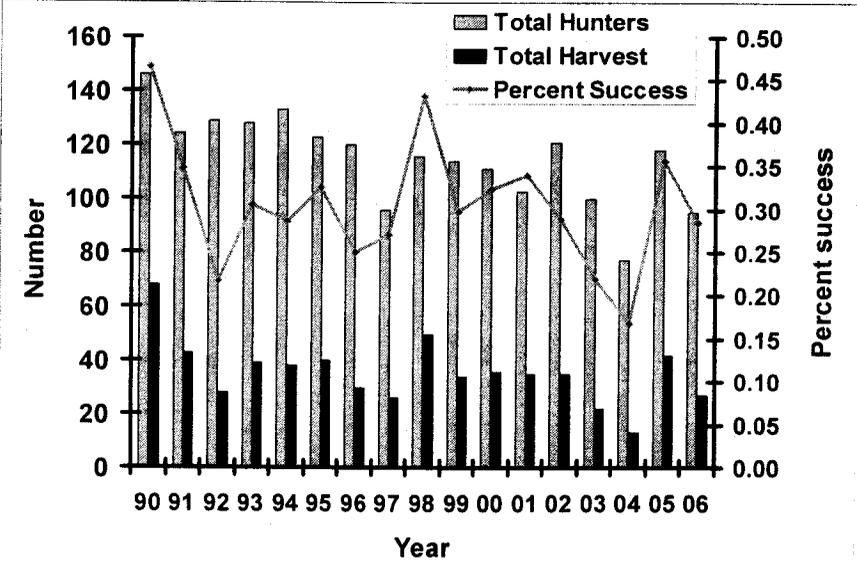
### Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

### ANS for Unit 25D (Est. 1992; Rev. 2002)

- **25D West 50 – 70**
- **25D East 150 – 200**

# Harvest Data for Unit 25D

**Reported Moose Harvest Data Unit 25D,  
1990 – 2006**



*Moose Harvest Data cont'd*

❖ **Current harvest reporting systems we are using are ineffective**

- difficult to obtain license & harvest tickets
- not accustomed to paperwork

❖ **Complex combination of permits to report on**

- Tier II
- General green moose harvest ticket
- Community harvest program
- 2 Federal permits

*Moose Harvest Data Cont'd*

❖ **Data collected from CATG & YFMMP indicate**

- 180–250 moose harvested

❖ **5% – 8% harvest rate**

❖ **Intensive Management Harvest Objective**

- 600–1,500 moose

## Cow Harvest

❖ Some cows taken for ceremonial purposes

❖ Some cows taken for food

❖ Cows taken in winter during  
bulls only season

❖ Efforts have been made to  
reduce cow harvest



Unit 25D  
Wolf Data

## Wolf Survey March 2006

**Estimated 216 – 229 wolves (18,850 mi<sup>2</sup>)**

- **11.5—12.2 wolves/1000 mi<sup>2</sup>**
- **37 packs (3 or more wolves)**
- **Mean pack size = 5.5**

**Considered low density wolf population**

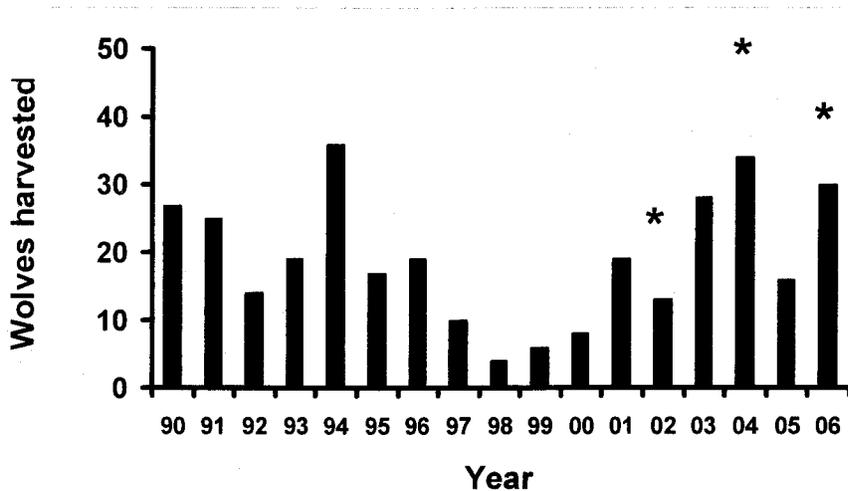
## Wolf Hunting & Trapping Regulations

**Hunting: 10 wolves, Aug 10 – May 31**

**Trapping: No limit, Oct 1 – April 30**



## 25D Wolf Harvest Data



➤ Harvesting less than 25% of wolf population

## Unit 25D Bear Data



## Black Bear

- no population estimate; good black bear habitat

- No sealing requirement

- CATG harvest surveys

- 2004 = 68
- 2006 = 149

- Current Regulations

- 3 bear bag limit
- Community harvest program
- No closed season



## Brown Bear

- No population estimate; Low to moderate density

- Mean Harvest/Year:

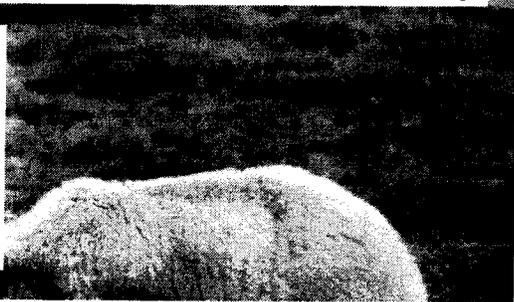
- 2000–2006 = 3

- CATG harvest surveys

- 2004 = 24
- 2006 = 37

- Current Regulations

- 1 bear bag/year
- Tag fee exemption for residents
- Resid: July 1– Nov 30 and Mar. 1–Jun 30
- Nonresid: Sept 1– Nov 30 and Mar. 1–Jun 15



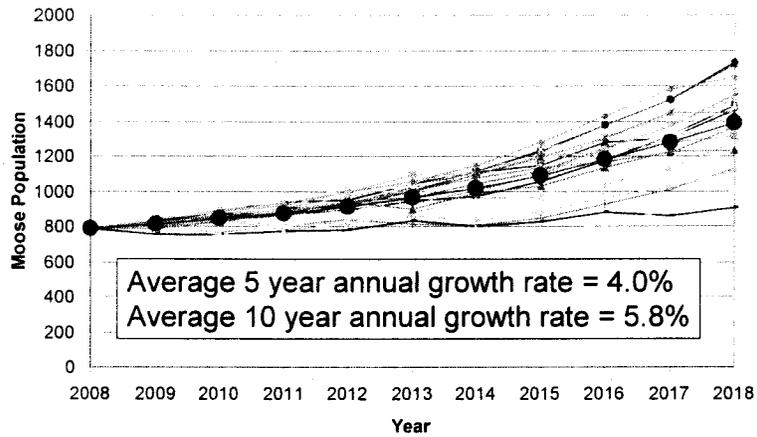
### **Modeling the 25D West Moose Population**

1. Program Predprey
2. Examine the effects:
  - Harvest (bull and cow components)
  - Wolf predation
  - Bear predation
3. Provide direction for implementation of management strategies to stimulate moose population growth

### **Model Assumptions:**

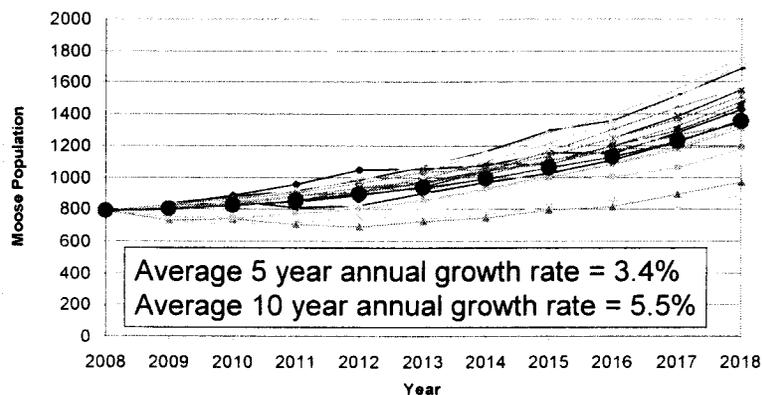
1. Moose density and composition estimates are extrapolated across the modeled area from the 25D west survey area.
2. Moose harvest rates, sex composition of the harvest, and harvest distribution are estimates based on CATG surveys and model fit.
3. Population estimates for black and grizzly bears are based on other studies with similar habitats and prey availability.
4. Wolf densities are based on extrapolation from surveys conducted in nearby portions of 25D.

### Effects of Decreased Wolf Predation with Bull Only Harvest



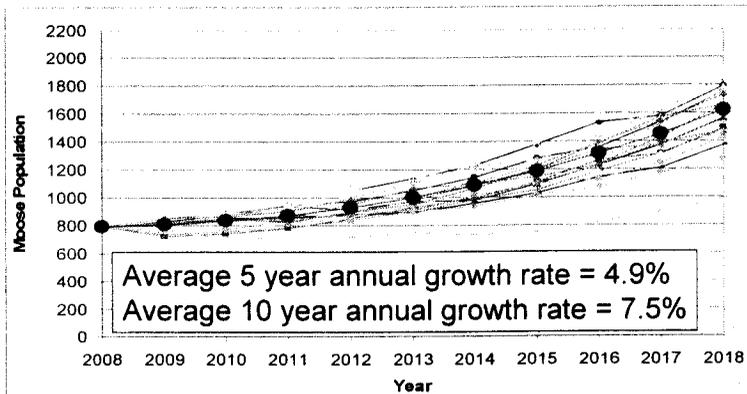
- Annual wolf harvest rate = 30%
- Annual moose harvest = 45 Bulls
- Stable bear population

### Effects of Decreased Bear Predation with Bull only Harvest



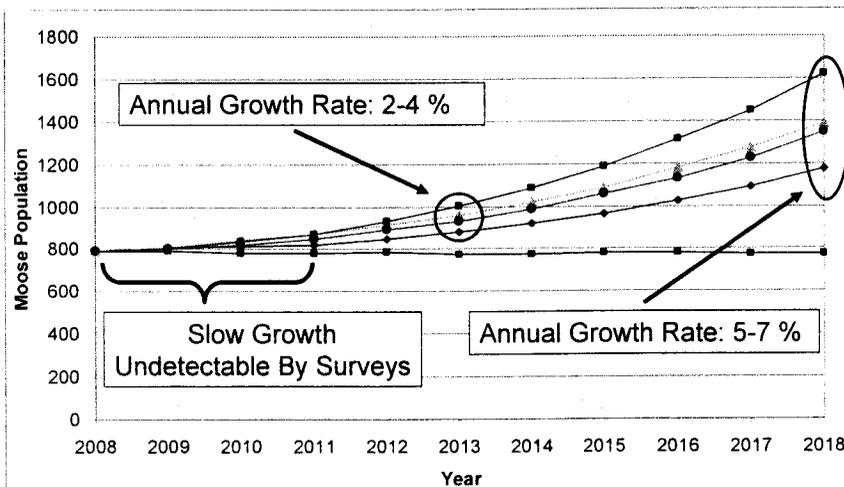
- Annual wolf harvest rate = 15%
- Annual moose harvest = 45 Bulls
- 10% annual decline in black bear population until the population reaches 75% of original size, then stabilized

**Effects of Decreased Bear and Wolf Predation  
with Bull only Harvest**

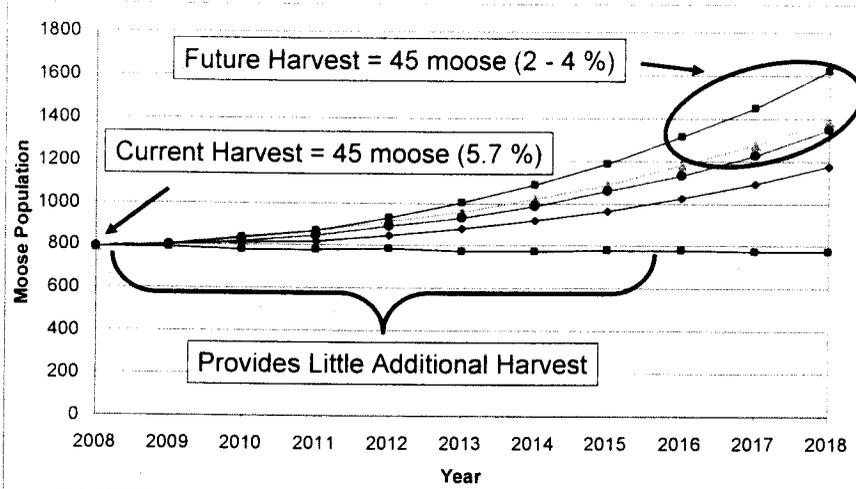


- Annual wolf harvest rate = 30%
- Annual moose harvest = 45 Bulls
- 10% annual decline in black bear population until the population reaches 75% of original size, then stabilized

**Model Results Summary**



### Model Results Summary



### Model Results Summary

#### Parameters

#### Effect on moose population

- Increased wolf harvest
- Bull only harvest



Larger growth rates

- Reduced bear population
- Bull and cow harvest



Smaller growth rates

### Summary

1. Models represent "reasonably achievable" scenarios given the complexity and constraints of landownership
2. Current models are based multiple assumptions
3. Model accuracy and precision decreases over time
4. Models that include the effects of bear populations may be inaccurate as a result of compensatory predation

**Modeling Exercises**

**Exploring**  
**Intensive Management**  
**Options**  
**in**  
**25D**

## **Four Options**

- 1. Aerial wolf control and Land & Shoot on private (Corp, Tribal) & state lands combined with other efforts to increase trapper harvest**
- 2. Black & Grizzly Bear control program combined with hunter incentives**

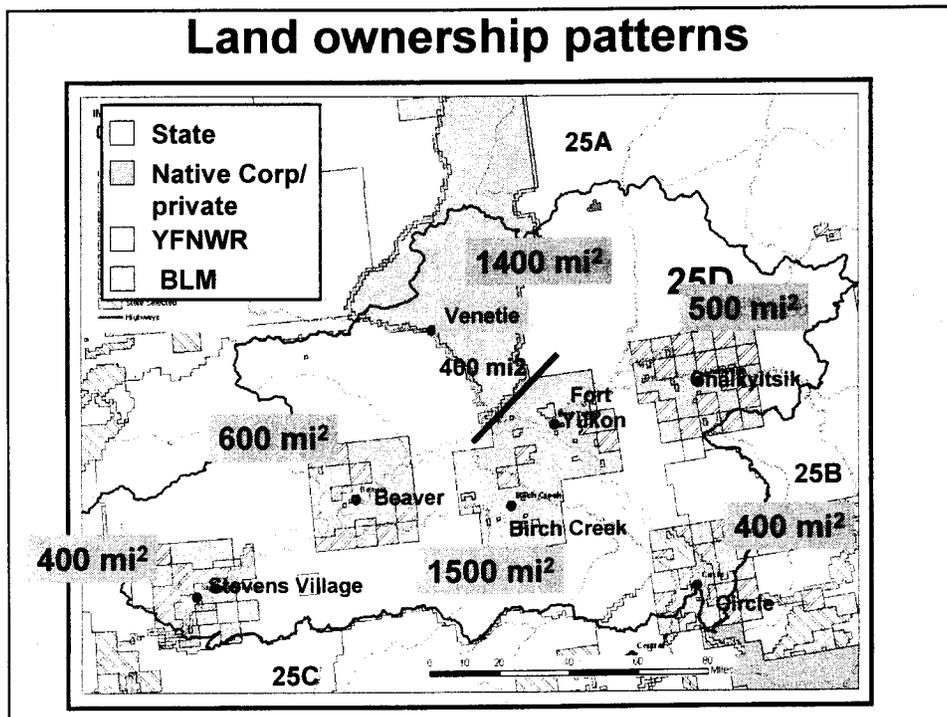
### *4 Options cont'd*

- 3. Obtain additional moose, wolf, & bear harvest data**
- 4. Minimize cow harvest by searching for alternative protein sources**

## Wolf Control & Increased Harvest

- ❖ Implement aerial wolf control on private (Corp, Tribal), BLM, and state land (~35%)
- ❖ Communities obtain grants to provide trapper incentives for both aerial & ground based trappers
- ❖ ADF&G track wolves periodically to provide location of kills to ground based and aerial trappers

## Land ownership patterns



## Challenges for Aerial wolf Control

- ❖ ~65% YFNWR; ~35% Corp/Tribal & State & BLM
- ❖ Need permission from private landowners to allow permittees to land
- ❖ Most private land surrounding villages encompasses small area

### *Wolf control cont'd*

- ❖ Aerial wolf control may not be attractive to permittees:
  - Control areas are small
  - Low density wolf population
  - No place to get fuel
  - Long stretches of intense cold weather
  - Short day length
  - No local pilots in 25D

✓ YFNWR did send letter stating they would not oppose wolf control on state lands

#### Expectation of success:

- 80% reduction of wolves: Low
- 30% reduction of wolves: Moderate

## Challenges for Trapper Incentive Program

- ❖ Communities need to acquire a grant
- ❖ Requires a fair amount of effort, initiative, and organization from the communities to administer this type of program

### *Trapper incentive cont'd*

✓ Not limited to state & private lands

✓ Some success in Beaver  
--Re-imbursed both ground & aerial trappers for fuel  
--Purchased raw wolf hides

#### Expectation of success:

➤ 30% reduction of wolves: Moderate in some communities

## **Challenges for ADF&G to provide kill locations**

- ❖ **Tracking wolves in an area that receives little snowfall**
- ❖ **Short day length**
- ❖ **Contacting trappers**

**✓ May be allowed on federal land**

### **Expectation of success:**

- **30% reduction of wolves: Good to High**
- **May be possible to reduce > 30% combined with other efforts**

## ***Option 1 – Wolves– cont'***

### **To help determine if options are feasible:**

- ❖ **ADF&G will conduct a comprehensive wolf survey**
  - **Number of wolves**
  - **Number of packs**
  - **Mean pack size**
  - **Estimate of home ranges for packs**
- ❖ **Get a better idea if aerial wolf control could be successful in the small areas**
- ❖ **Help determine feasibility of tracking wolves and providing kill locations**

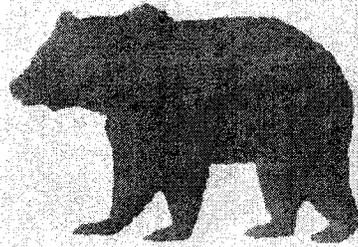
## Bears

### BLACK

#### Black Bear Control Program



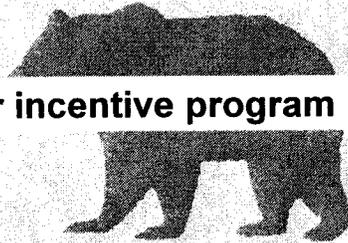
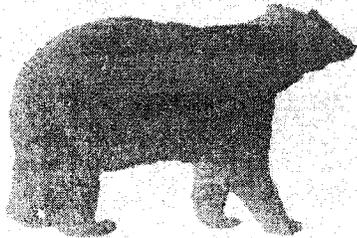
- Baiting clinics
- Hunter incentive program



## Bears

### Grizzly

- Increase bag limit to 2
- Hunter incentive program



## Bears

### Expectation of success:

- 10% reduction in black bear population: Low

### Expectation of success:

- Take some bears: Good

### ISSUES:

- Do not know what the effect of taking a small number or even 10% of the population of black bears has on neonate survival
- Do specific bears need to be targeted?
- If remove black bears, do grizzly bears take place?

## Obtain Additional Harvest Data

- ❖ Work with CATG to obtain more information from hunters on moose, wolf, and bear harvest
- ❖ Explore implementing Div. of Subsistence Household survey methods
- ❖ Necessary in order to attribute what effect harvest has on changes in the moose population

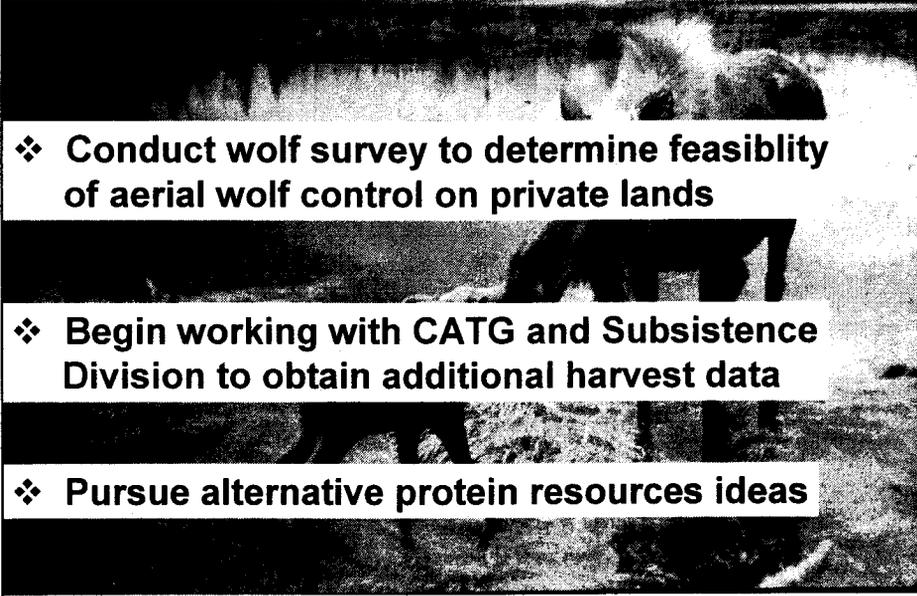
✓ System in place to help facilitate

Expectation of success: Good

## Minimize cow harvest and searching for alternative sources of protein

- ❖ Continue efforts with local tribal councils, YFAC, CATG, and USFWS to minimize cow harvest
  - outreach program in progress (posters, video, mural, presentations in schools)
- ❖ Alternative protein resources
  - Nonresidents dropping off meat
  - Transporting meat from Fairbank ✓USFWS may be able to assist in transporting (roadkill charity list, illegal harvest)
  - Wood Bison Transplant

## Summary

- 
- ❖ Conduct wolf survey to determine feasibility of aerial wolf control on private lands
  - ❖ Begin working with CATG and Subsistence Division to obtain additional harvest data
  - ❖ Pursue alternative protein resources ideas

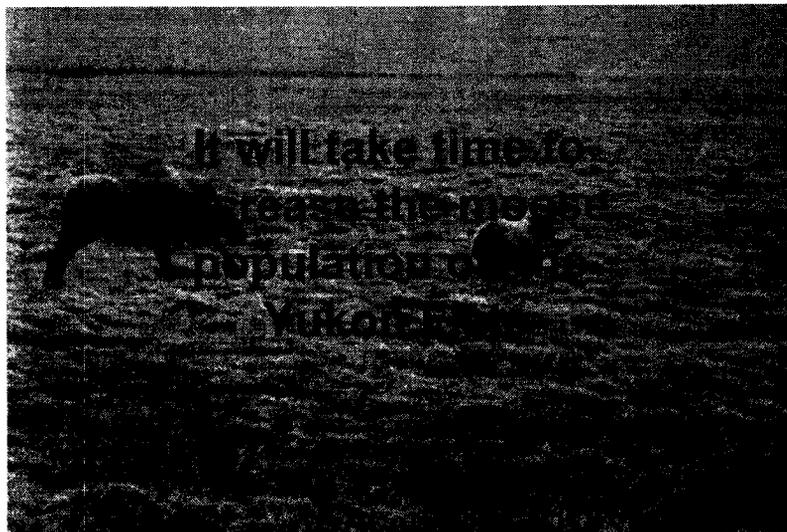
*Summary cont'd*

❖ **Meet with 25D residents & Tribal councils to discuss options we are exploring**

- permission for wolf control permittees to land
- permission for aerial trappers to land
- receiving meat from nonresidents
- implementing incentive programs
- providing additional harvest data

✓ **Do Yukon Flats residents want to pursue an Intensive Management Plan given current constraints and predicted outcomes?**

**Important for everyone to recognize that with current constraints:**



## Proposal 81

### EFFECT:

Increase caribou bag limit within  
DHCMA in Units 20, 24, 25, 26 to allow up  
to 2 bulls during July 1 – Sept 30 season

Proposal by: Public

Recommendation: AMEND & ADOPT

81

## Amendment

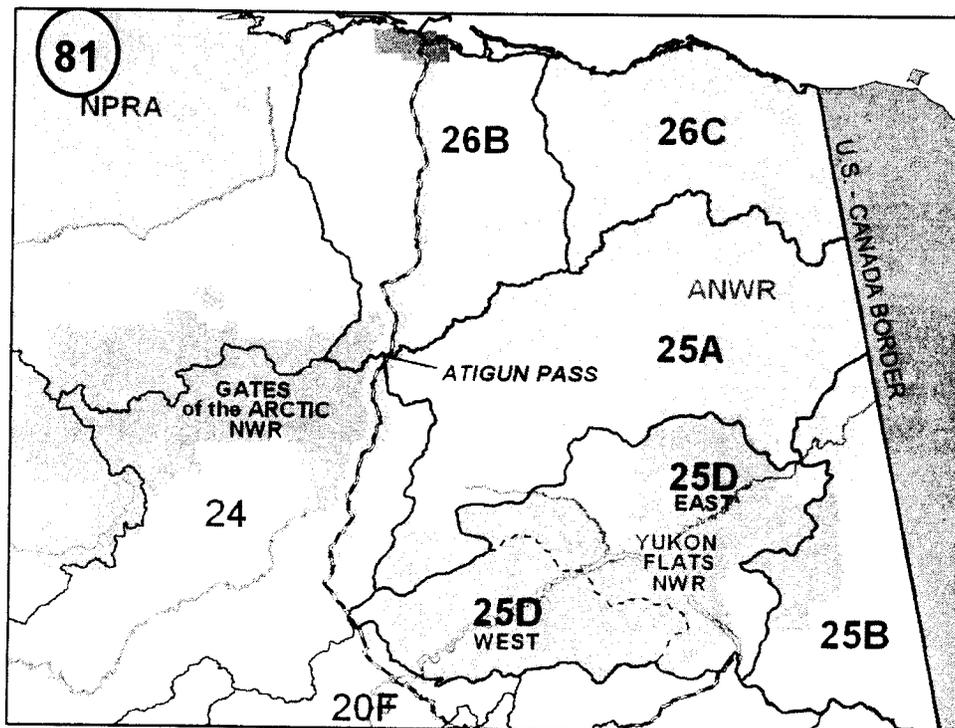
- ❖ Amend to include 26B only
- ❖ Make regulations consistent within  
Unit 26B, outside the DHCMA
- ❖ Most caribou hunting is in 26B

81

## Unit 26B Caribou hunting

### Current Seasons & Bag Limits

- July 1 - Sept 30; 1 bull in DHCMA  
2 bulls outside
- Oct 1 – April 30; 2 caribou in both areas



81

## Central Arctic Caribou

- ❖ Central Arctic Herd is increasing
- ❖ Harvesting at < 3% of the herd
  - harvest by bow = ~200 caribou
  - (1/3 of overall harvest)
- ❖ Additional harvest likely low

## Proposal 81 Conclusion

### EFFECT:

Increase caribou bag limit within  
DHCMA in Units 20, 24, 25, 26 to allow up  
to 2 bulls during July 1 – Sept 30 season

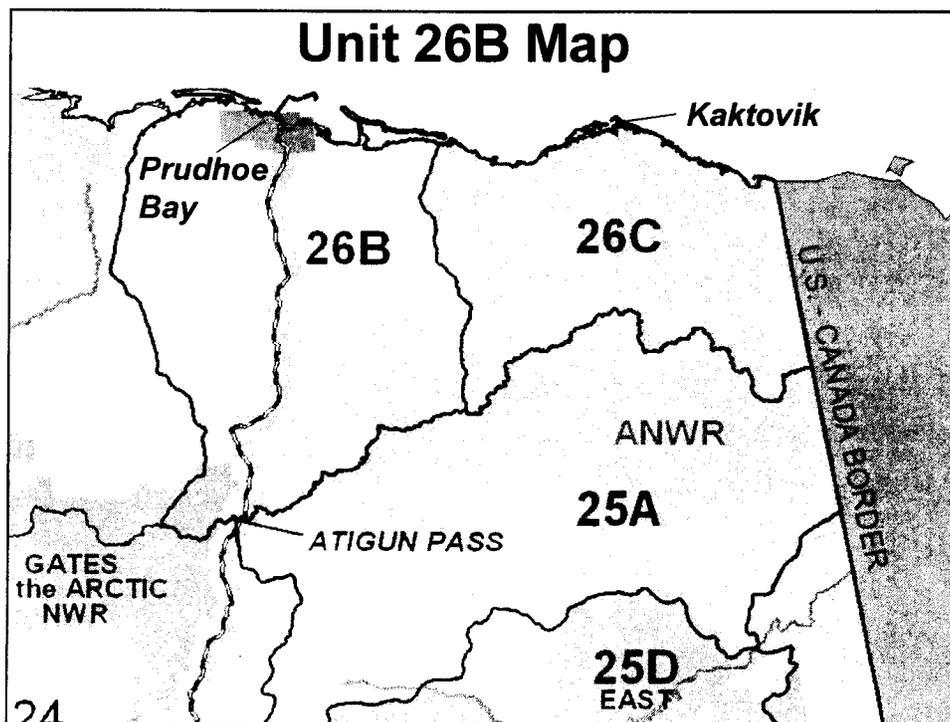
AMEND to Unit 26B only  
& ADOPT

## Proposal 71

**Effect:** Open brown bear season in 26B  
on Aug. 25 vs Sept. 1  
and  
Clarify in codified, the number of  
permits available for nonresidents

**Proposed by:** ADF&G

**Recommendation:** ADOPT



## Unit 26B Brown Bear Regulations

<u>Unit &amp; Bag Limit</u>	<u>Resident</u> <u>Open Season</u>	<u>Nonresident</u> <u>Open Season</u>
<b>Within DHCMA,</b>  <u>Resid:</u> 1 bear/year Up to 20 permits will be issued  1 bear/year	25 Aug <del>1 Sep</del> - 31 Dec  1 Mar - 31 May	25 Aug <del>1 Sep</del> - 31 Dec 1 Mar - 31 May
<u>Nonresid:</u> 1 bear/year Up to 20 permits will be issued		25 Aug <del>1 Sep</del> - 31 Dec 1 Mar - 31 May

### *Brown bear regulations cont'd*

<u>Unit &amp; Bag Limit</u>	<u>Resident</u> <u>Open Season</u>	<u>Nonresident</u> <u>Open Season</u>
<b>Remainder Unit 26B,,</b>  <u>Resid:</u> 1 bear/year	25 Aug <del>1 Sep</del> - 31 May	
<u>Nonresid:</u> 1 bear/year Up to 20 permits will be issued		25 Aug <del>1 Sep</del> - 31 Dec 1 Mar - 31 May
<b>(Makes language consistent with regulations in DHCMA)</b>		

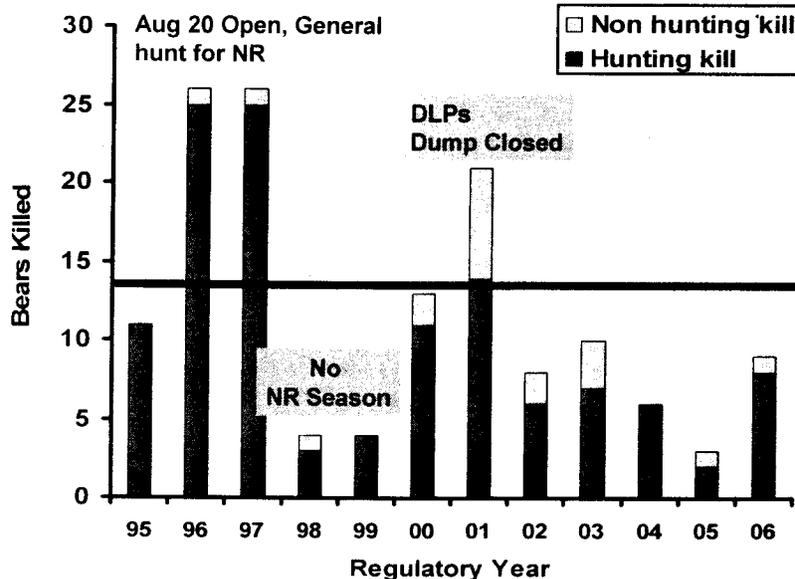
## Effect of Longer Season

### Unit 26B Brown Bear Objectives

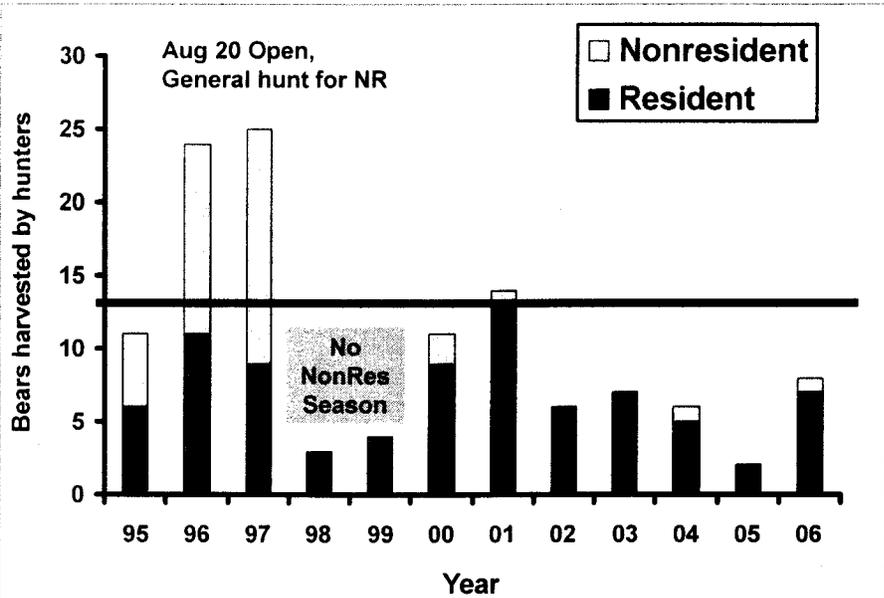
- ❖ Objective is to manage:
  - 5 % harvest rate = 13 bears
  - 60% males

**Allowable Harvest = 13 Bears**

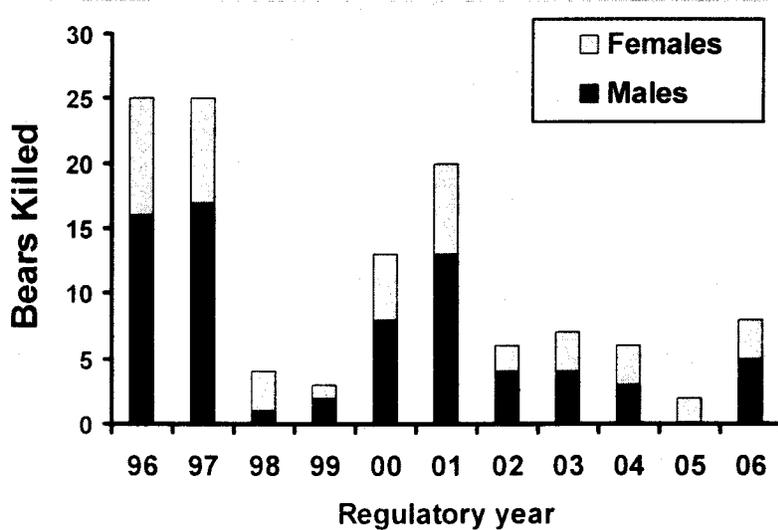
### Unit 26B Brown Bear Total Kills 1995-2006



## Harvest by residency, 1995 – 2006

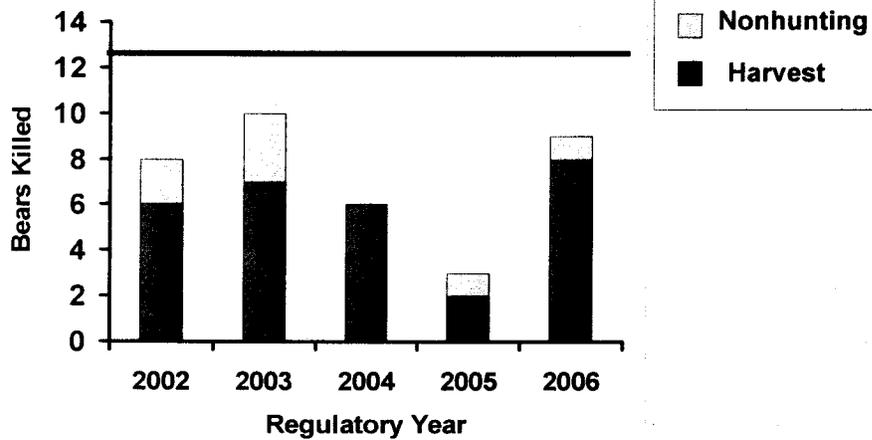


## Proportion of Males Killed



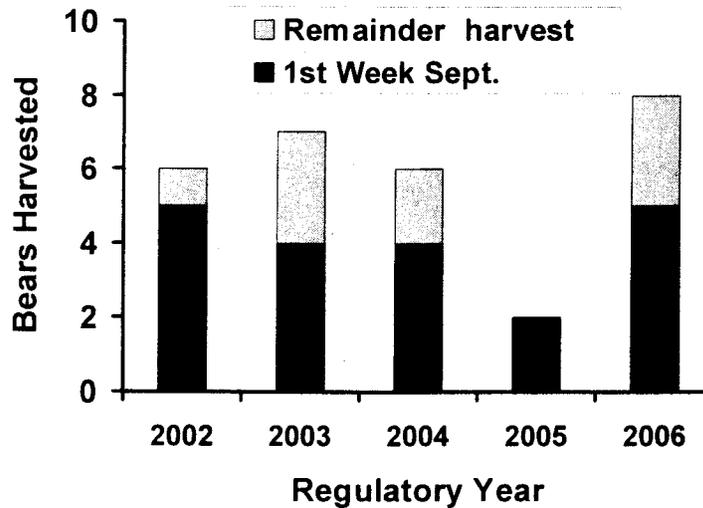
≥ 60% Males killed in most years

## 26B Brown Bear Kills 2002-2006



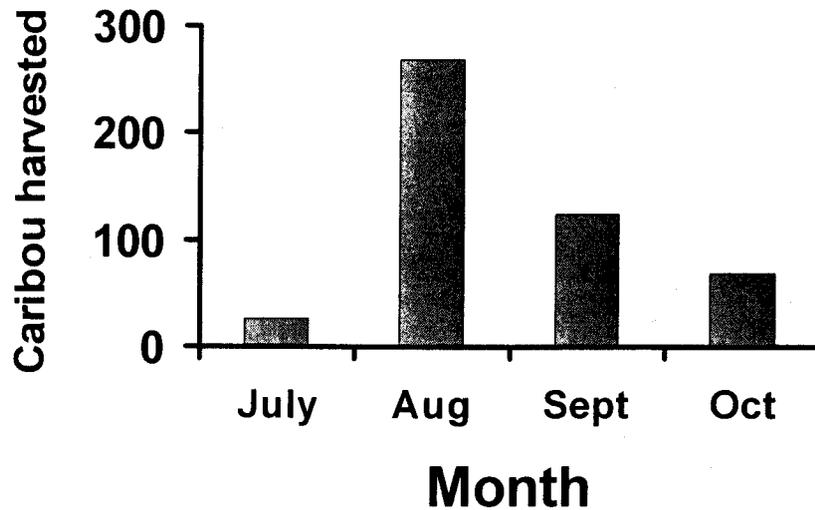
- ❖ Total kills < 13 bears since 2002
- ❖ Room for opportunity

## Chronology of Bear Harvest



- Most harvest occurs opening week, Average=4

### Chronology of caribou harvest 2001—2005



#### Longer season conclusion

- ❖ Room for 4 to 10 bears
- ❖ 1 week longer season sufficient because of number of hunters in the field last week of August

## **Clarifying number permits available for nonresidents**

### **In Codified**

- Up to 20 permits in DHCMA
- Up to 10 permits in Remainder

### **Administratively**

- All under one hunt

### **Currently issuing 12**

- undersubscribed except in 2007 (13)

## **Proposal 71 Conclusion**

### **Effect:**

**Open Brown Bear season in Unit 26B  
1 week earlier for residents & nonresidents  
(Open Aug. 25)**

**Clarify in codified, the number of permits available to nonresidents outside the DHCMA should be "up to 20"**

# **ADOPT**

## **Proposal 72**

**Effect:** In Unit 26B

- Open brown bear Aug 10 versus Sept 1
- Close June 30 versus May 31
- Issue up to 50 permits in DHCMA versus 20

**Proposed by:** Public

**Recommendation:** Take No Action

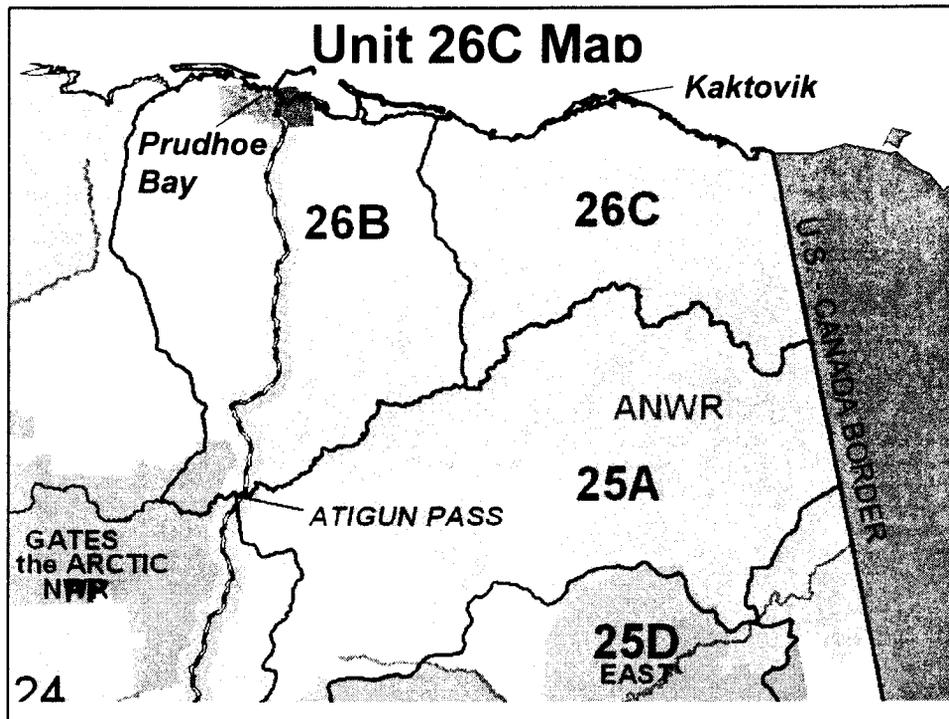
## **Proposal 73**

**Effect:** Open moose hunting seasons in Unit 26C by registration permits:

- 1 moose Sept 5–April 15 for Resident
- 1 bull 50 in or 4+ brow Sept 5 - Nov. 30 for NR

**Proposed by:** Anchorage AC

**Recommendation:** Do Not Adopt



73

## 26C Moose Regulations

- ❖ **NO open season in state regulations (Closed since 1996)**
- ❖ **Open in Federal regulations (2 bulls total harvest quota)**

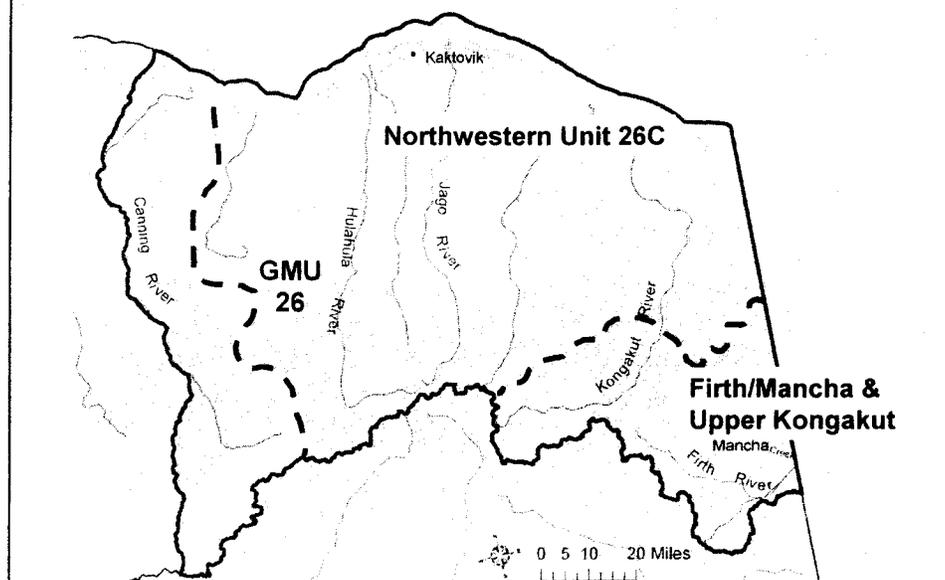
73

## 26C Background

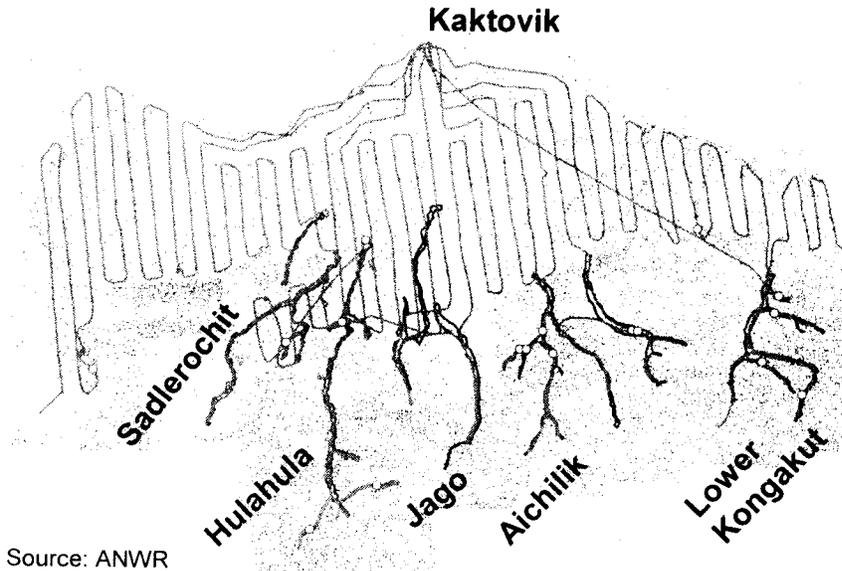
- ❖ Northern limit of moose range
- ❖ In mid 1990s, population crashed along with 26A & 26B
- ❖ 26A & 26B moose have increased
  - 26B season opened 2006
  - 26A season liberalized
- ❖ 26C remains low & stable

73

## 26C Moose survey areas



## Northwestern 26C Spring Moose Surveys



Source: ANWR

73

## Northwestern 26C Spring Moose Surveys

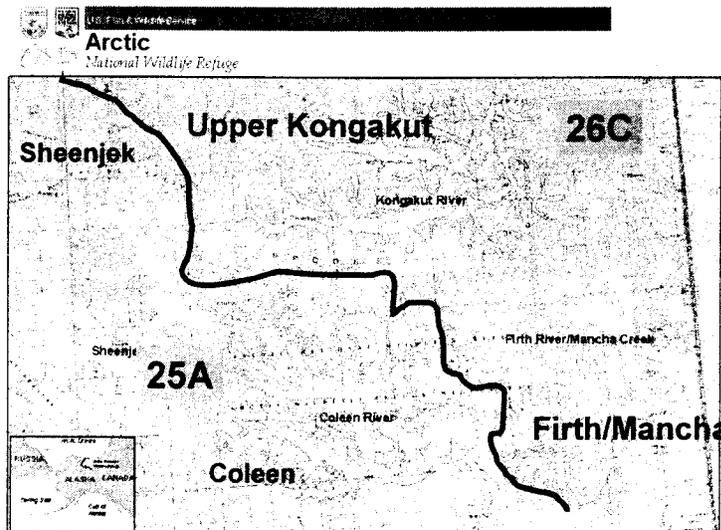
<u>Year</u>	<u>Northern 26C</u>
2003	52
2005	47
2007	59

73

Northwestern 26C cont'd

- ❖ Allowable harvest = 2 bulls  
(3% of 60 moose = 2)
- ❖ Allowable harvest provided in  
Federal season
- ❖ Most hunting occurred in northern 26C
- ❖ Historical reported harvest 3 to 6

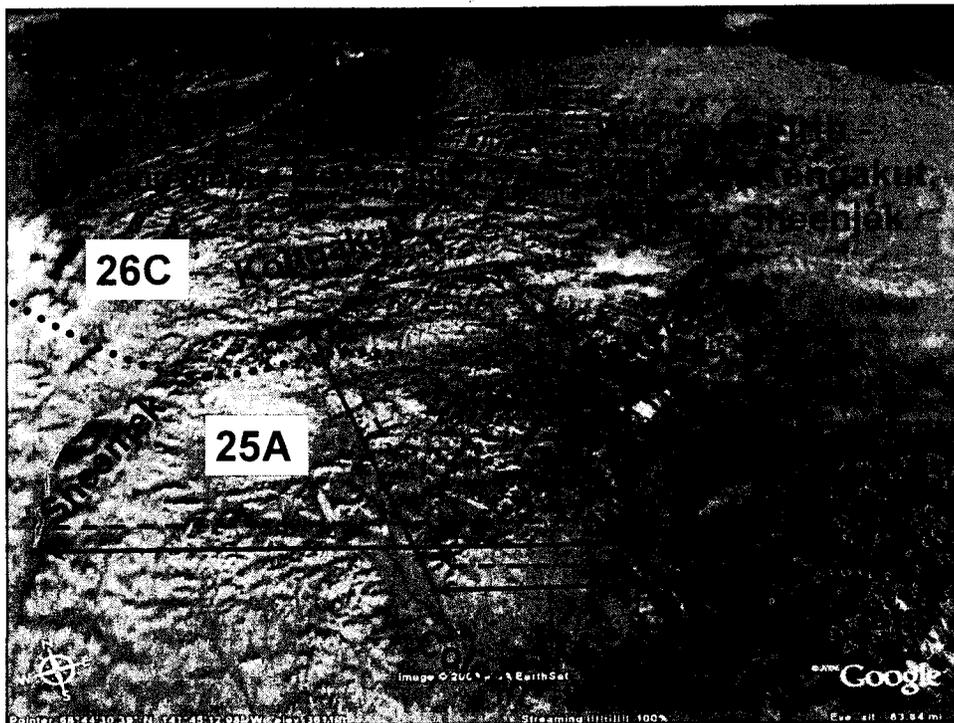
**Firth/Mancha/Upper Kongakut Fall Moose Surveys**



73

### Firth/Mancha/Upper Kongakut Fall Moose Surveys

Year	Firth/ Mancha	Upper Kongakut	Total
1991	245	163	408
2000	87	70	157
2002	132	95	227



73

**Firth/Mancha/Upper Kongakut cont'd**

- ❖ **Most reported harvest was by Nonresidents**
- ❖ **Historical reported harvest was 2 to 4**
- ❖ **Migratory population**

73

**Considerations**

- ❖ **All on federal land  
(Closed to nonfederally qualified users)**
- ❖ **Cooperative survey planned for 2009**
- ❖ **ANWR movement study in northern 26C planned for 2009 & 2010**
- ❖ **Work with ANWR to determine if there is some opportunity in Firth/Mancha**

## **Proposal 73 Conclusion**

**Effect:**

- ❖ **Open moose season in Unit 26C**

**DO NOT ADOPT**

## Proposal 69

### Effect of Proposal:

**Clarifies the TM940 hunt boundary in Unit 25D**

**5 AAC 85.045**

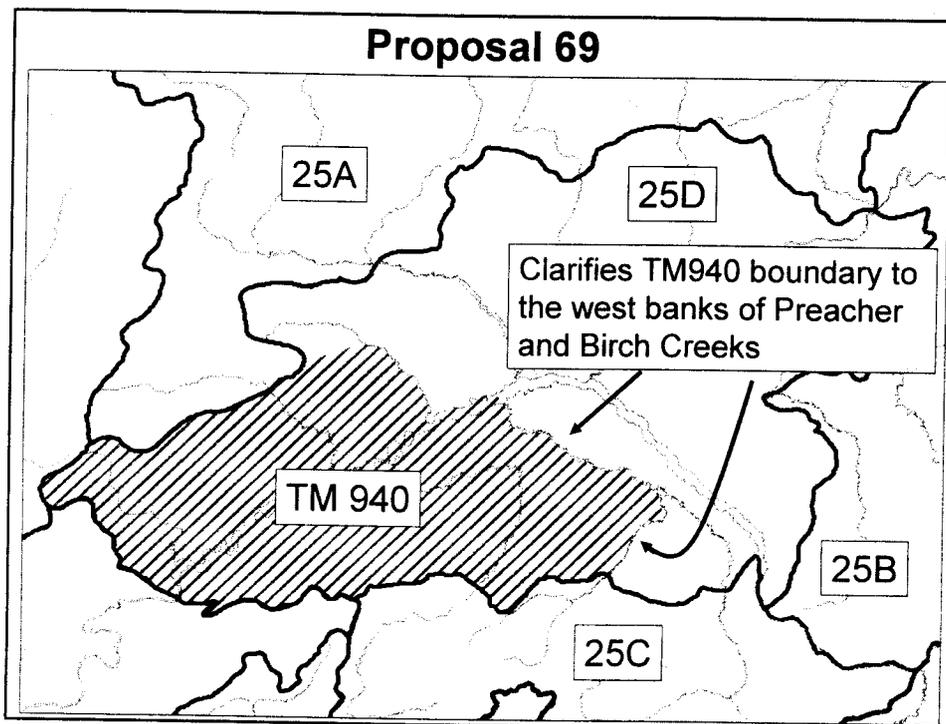
**(23)**

...

Unit 25(D) that portion lying west of a line extending from the Unit 25(D) boundary on Preacher Creek, then downstream along the **west banks of** Preacher Creek, Birch Creek, and Lower Mouth Birch Creek to the Yukon River, then downstream along the north bank of the Yukon River (including islands) to the confluence of the Hadweenzik River, then upstream along the west bank of the Hadweenzik River to the confluence of Forty and One-Half Mile Creek, then upstream along Forty and One-Half Mile Creek to Nelson Mountain on the 25(D) boundary.

**Department Recommendation: Adopt**

## **Proposal 69**



## **Proposal 69**

### **Effect of Proposal:**

#### **Clarifies the TM940 hunt boundary in unit 25D**

Unit 25(D) that portion lying west of a line extending from the Unit 25(D) boundary on Preacher Creek, then downstream along the **west banks of** Preacher Creek, Birch Creek, and Lower Mouth Birch Creek to the Yukon River, then downstream along the north bank of the Yukon River (including islands) to the confluence of the Hadweenzik River, then upstream along the west bank of the Hadweenzik River to the confluence of Forty and One-Half Mile Creek, then upstream along Forty and One-Half Mile Creek to Nelson Mountain on the 25(D) boundary.

### **Department Recommendation: Adopt**

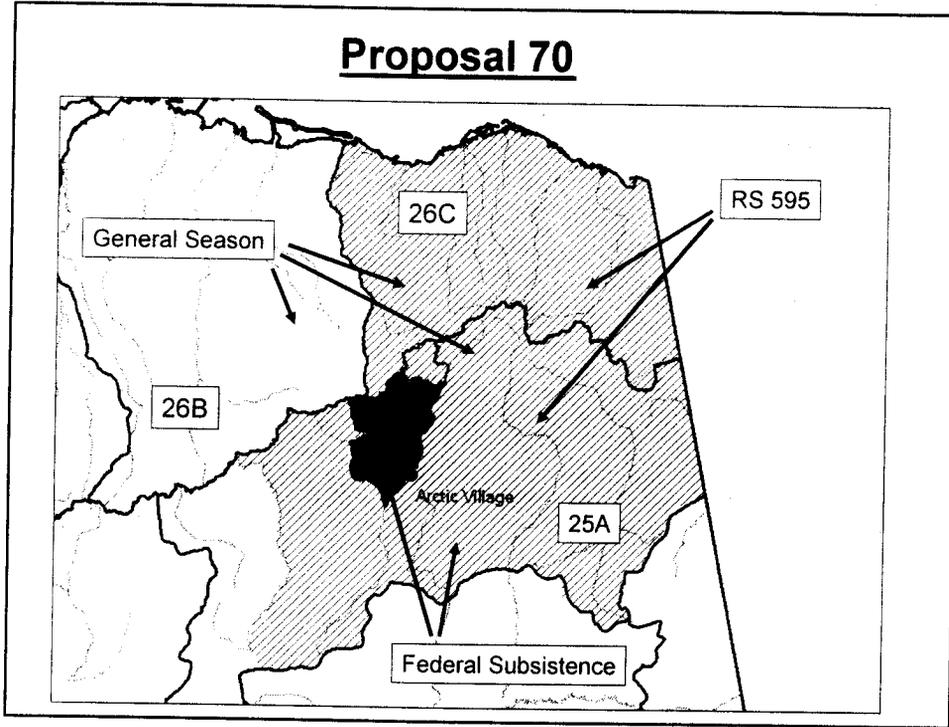
## **Proposal 70**

### **Effect of Proposal:**

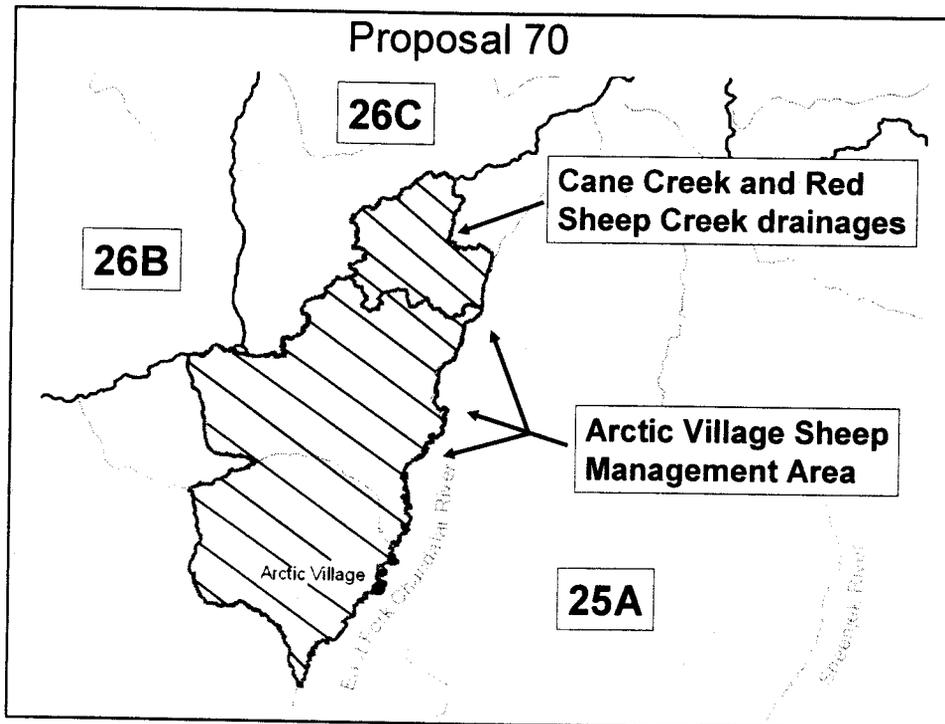
**Establishes a drawing permit hunt for a portion of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area currently open to general Harvest from Aug 10 – Sept 30**

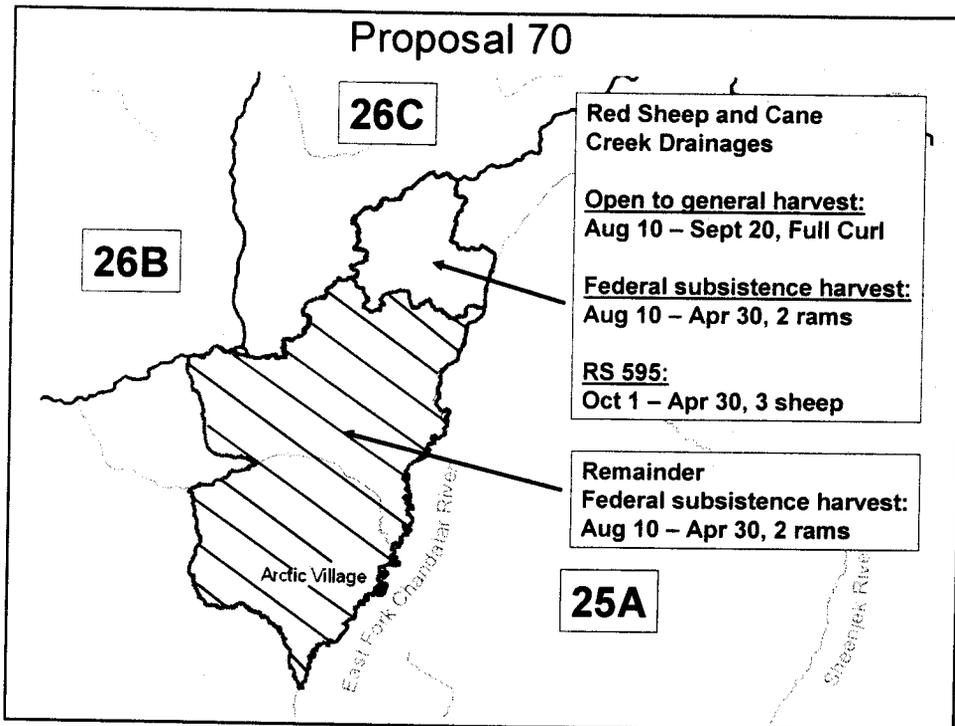
### **Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt**

# Proposal 70



# Proposal 70





**Proposal 70**

General Season Harvest in RY06 and RY07 for Red Sheep and Cane Creeks:

- Participation averaged 6 hunters / year
- Harvest averaged 5 rams / year

RS 595 Harvest in RY06 and RY07:

- Permits issued averaged 18 / year
- No harvest ( 2007 reporting not complete)

Subsistence Harvest in RY06 and RY07 for AVSMA

- Permits issued averaged 7 / year
- Harvest averaged 0.5 rams / year
- No harvest within Red Sheep or Cane Creeks

## **Proposal 70**

### **Effect of Proposal:**

**Establishes a drawing permit hunt for a portion of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area currently open to general Harvest from Aug 10 – Sept 30**

**Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt**

## Proposal 47

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Shorten the moose season in Unit 21A and add antler restrictions for resident hunters.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

## Proposal 47

### Current Regulations 21A:

- Residents Sept 5-25  
-any bull
  
- Nonresidents Sept 5-20  
-Spike fork or 50 inch  
or 4 brow tines on one  
side

### Proposed Regulations 21A:

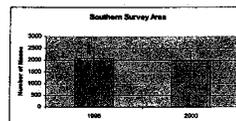
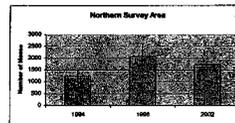
- Residents Sept 5-20  
-Spike fork or 50 inch or 3  
brow tines on one side
  
- Nonresidents Sept 5-15  
-Spike fork or 50 inch or 4  
brow tines on one side

## Proposal 47

- In spring 06 the Board reduced the 21E nonresident season by 5 days as recommended in the YIMMP.
- At the same time the Board reduced the 21A nonresident season by 5 days to align it with 21E.

## Proposal 47

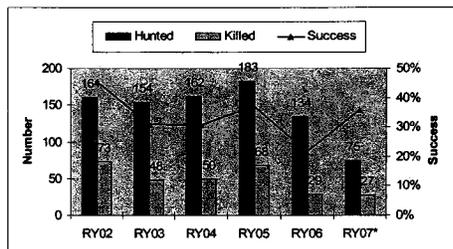
- Data collected by Innoko National Wildlife Refuge have not detected a decline in the 21A moose population.



## Proposal 47

- Fall composition counts do not indicate problems with bull:cow ratios (36:100) and antler restrictions are not necessary.

## Proposal 47



\* Preliminary Data

## **Proposal 47**

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

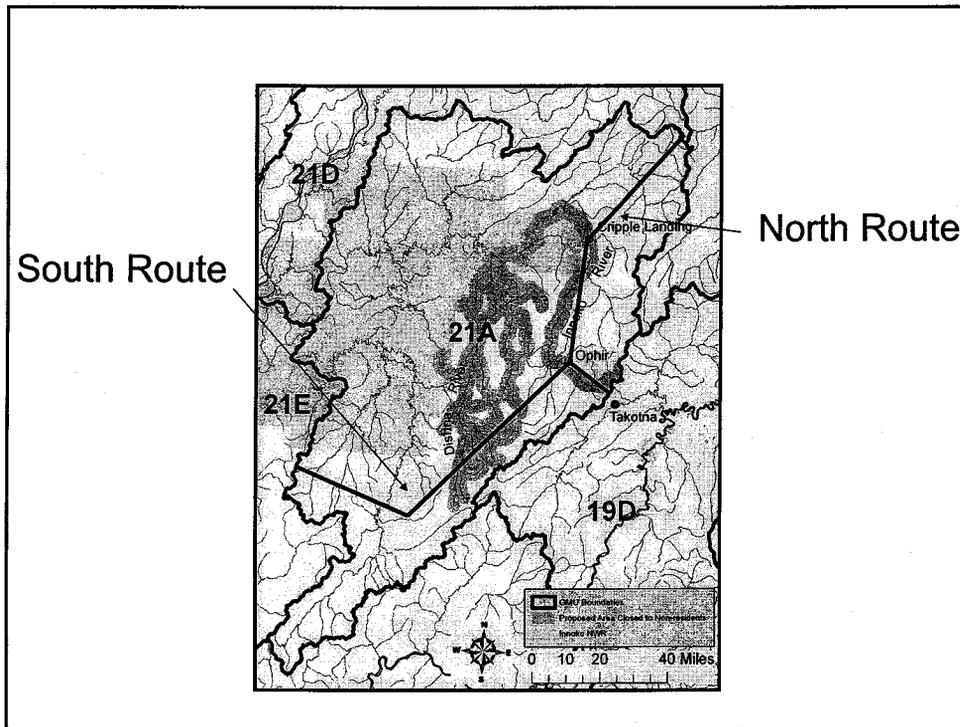
## **Proposal 57**

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Establish a drawing permit hunt for residents and nonresidents in Unit 21A west of the Iditarod trail.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

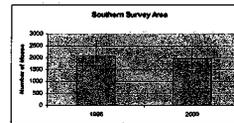
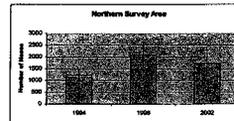


## **Proposal 57**

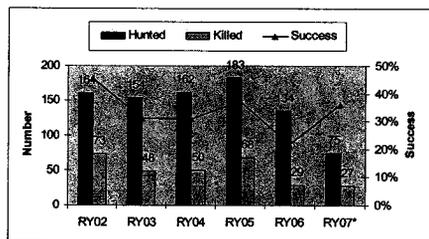
- In Spring 06 the Board reduced the 21E nonresident season by 5 days as recommended in the YIMMP.
- At the same time the Board reduced the 21A nonresident season by 5 days to align it with 21E.

# Proposal 57

- Data collected by Innoko National Wildlife Refuge have not detected a decline in the 21A moose population.



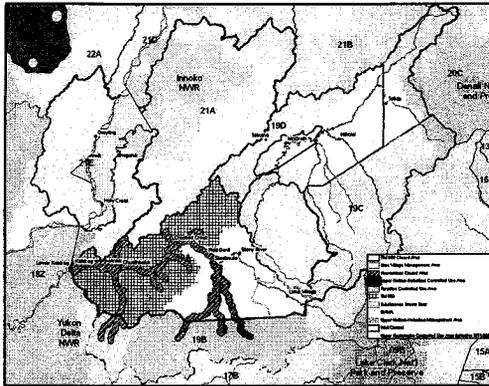
# Proposal 57



\* Preliminary Data

## Proposal 57

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:  
DO NOT ADOPT



## Proposal 58

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Require nonresident and nonresident alien moose hunters in Unit 21A, 21D, and 21E to be accompanied by a licensed guide or a resident relative within a second degree of kindred.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- TAKE NO ACTION

## **Proposal 58**

- Guiding requirements are set by the legislature in AS16.05.407 and the Board does not have authority to regulate guiding requirements.

## **Proposal 48**

### **EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:**

- Require nonresidents to have hunter education and orientation before moose hunting in 21A or 21E or be accompanied in the field by a registered guide or a resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

- **DO NOT ADOPT**

## **Proposal 48**

- Hunter orientation should not be implemented in a piecemeal fashion.
- YIMMP has not identified waste as an issue.

## **Proposal 48**

- Guiding requirements are set by the legislature in AS16.05.407 and the Board does not have authority to regulate guiding requirements.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

- **DO NOT ADOPT**

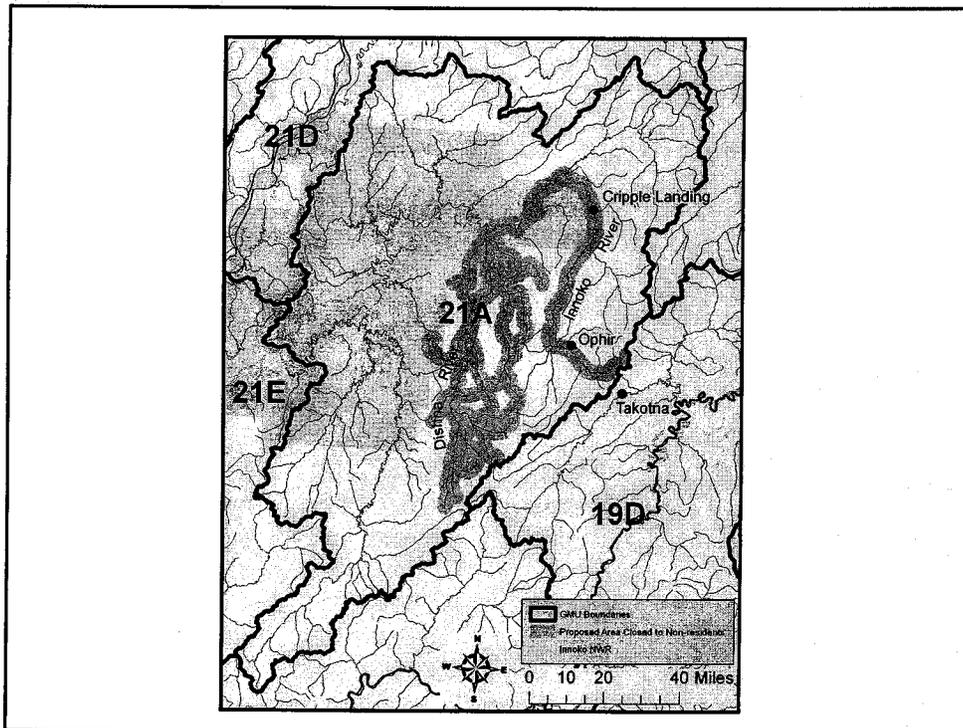
## Proposal 54

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Create a nonresident closed area for caribou and moose in Unit 21A.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- NO RECOMMENDATION



## Proposal 54

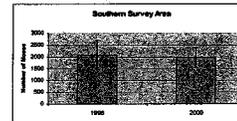
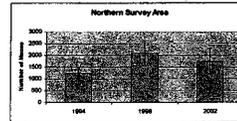
Regulatory Year	Resident Caribou Harvest	# of Resident Caribou Hunters	Nonresident Caribou Harvest	# of Nonresident Caribou Hunters
2002	0	4	1	2
2003	3	9	1	4
2004	0	1	2	5
2005	1	3	0	1
2006	0	6	0	2

## Proposal 54

- 200 caribou in the Beaver and Sunshine Mountain herds.
- Harvestable surplus is 10 caribou.
- ANS for these herds is 30 caribou.

## Proposal 54

- Data collected by Innoko National Wildlife Refuge have not detected a decline in the 21A moose population.

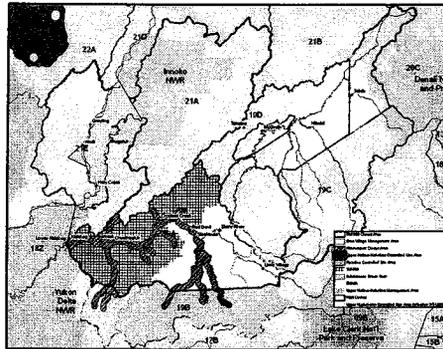


## Proposal 54

Regulatory Year	Resident Moose Harvest	# of Resident Moose Hunters	Nonresident Moose Harvest	# of Nonresident Moose Hunters
2002	33	71	40	88
2003	20	69	27	84
2004	28	84	22	78
2005	38	85	30	98
2006	20	73	9	60

## Proposal 54

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:  
NO RECOMMENDATION



## Proposal 112

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Adopt a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan for Unit 21E.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DEFER

## **Proposal 112**

- Moose surveys conducted in 2000 & 2005.
- 2000 estimate 1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> ± 13%
- 2005 estimate 0.9 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> ± 17%

## **Proposal 112**

- Current population appears to be stable.
- Local have noted a decline in the population since the late 90's.

## **Proposal 112**

- An intensive management plan has been prepared for this meeting.
- This plan is intended to be proactive in nature.
- Recommends wolf control if the moose population declines from 2000 estimates.

## **Proposal 112**

- Proposal would create a predation control area implementation plan.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

- **DEFER**

## Proposal 52

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Eliminate the nonresident wolf tag fee in Unit 21A, lengthen the hunting season and extend the bag limit for residents and nonresidents.

#### Current regulations:

- Aug 10-April 30
- 10 wolves/season

#### Proposed regulations:

- Aug 10-May 31
- 10 wolves/day

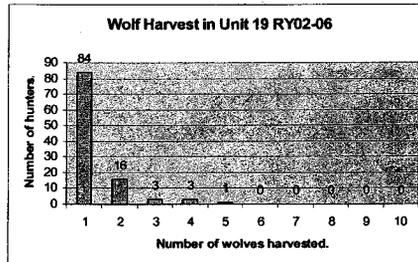
## Proposal 52

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT



## Proposal 52



## Proposal 52

- If a resident or nonresident was interested in taking more than 10 wolves in a season they could do so under a trapping license from Oct 1–April 30.

## **Proposal 52**

- Current wolf hunting regulations are consistent throughout Unit 21 and this proposal would add unnecessary complexity.

## **Proposal 52**

- Wolf tag fees are set in statute (16.05.340) and can only be waived in units with IM programs.
- There is currently no IM program in Unit 21.

## **Proposal 52**

- Eliminate the nonresident wolf tag fee in Unit 21A, lengthen the hunting season and extend the bag limit for residents and nonresidents.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- **DO NOT ADOPT**

## **Proposal 9**

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Extend the resident and nonresident brown bear season in Units 19B & 19C.

<u>Current Season:</u>	<u>Proposed Season:</u>
Sept 1 – May 31	Aug 10 – May 31

- Bag limit will remain 1 per year.

## Proposal 9

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

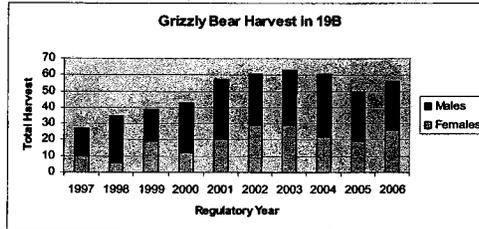
- DO NOT ADOPT



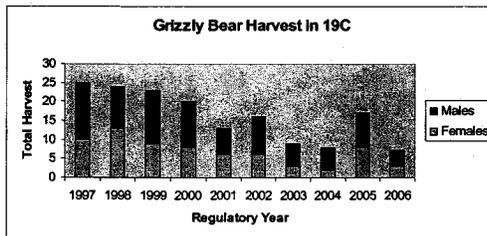
## Proposal 9

- Units 19B & 19C are managed to:
  - provide for the opportunity to take large grizzlies
  - Harvest up to 6% of the population
  - Maintain at least a 50% harvest of males

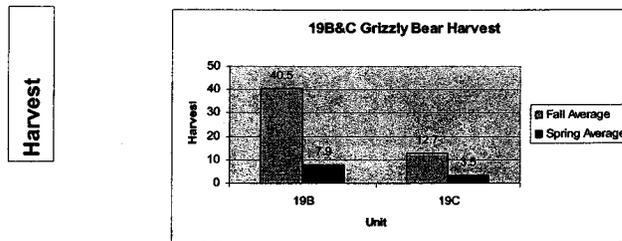
# Proposal 9



# Proposal 9



## Proposal 9



## Proposal 9

- Harvest in 19B is already higher than our objective.
- It is uncertain why harvest has declined in 19C.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT

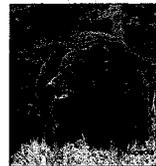
## **Proposal 56**

### **EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:**

- Increase the resident and nonresident bag limits for black bears from 3 to 5 per year in Units 21A and 21E.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

- DO NOT ADOPT



## **Proposal 56**

- Increasing the harvest of black bears is consistent with the YIMMP.
- However, current regulations are not limiting black bear hunting opportunity in Units 21A and 21E and this proposal is not likely to increase harvest.

## **Proposal 56**

- In 19D where we have sealing data an average of only 7 bears per year were sealed between RY02-RY06.
- Only 3 hunters in RY02-RY06 took 2 bears and no hunters took 3 or more bears.

## **Proposal 56**

- This proposal would make the 21A&E bear seasons inconsistent with the rest of unit 21.
- Would add unnecessary complexity to the regulations.

## **Proposal 56**

- This proposal would increase black bear bag limits in 21A and 21E.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:  
DO NOT ADOPT

## **Proposal 53**

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Open a beaver hunting season in Unit 21A with no limit and no closed season.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- TAKE NO ACTION



## Proposal 16

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

- Extend the resident and nonresident wolverine hunting season in Unit 19.
- Bag limit would remain 1.

#### Current Season:

- Sept 1 - Mar 31

#### Proposed Season:

- Sept 1 - May 15

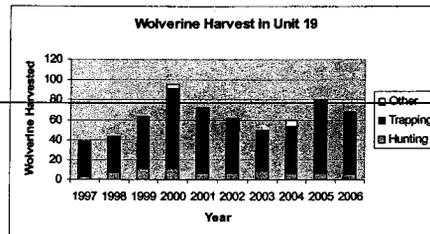
## Proposal 16

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

- DO NOT ADOPT



## Proposal 16



## Proposal 16

- Fur quality begins to decline.
- Other area seasons close March 31<sup>st</sup> and extending this season could create an enforcement issue.
- Kits in dens.

## **Proposal 16**

- Proposal 16 would extend the resident and nonresident wolverine hunting season in Unit 19.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

- **DO NOT ADOPT**