

Kotzebue Advisory Committee, Thursday, January 29, 2009,
BOG comments pulled from draft minutes. One page.

RC 73
(AC 28)

Chair Pete Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
Quorum established. Members present: Pete Schaeffer, Al Nanouk, Alex Whiting,
Pierre Lonewolf, Victor Karmun, Mike Kramer, Allen Upicksoun.
Eugene Smith arrived a little later. Absent: John Goodwin.

Proposal 227 Carried, 8/0

Eugene was concerned whether we really know enough about the brown bear numbers to make the law more liberal. WC biologists described surveying the Lower Noatak and Red Dog areas, seeing twice as many brown bears as in the last census in 1987.
Moved by Eugene, seconded by Alex, unanimous support.

Proposal 229 Carried 8/0

Eugene said the committee's main concern is the Noatak drainage. WC biologists reviewed the moose-per-mile data and said moose populations seem stable.
Moved by Eugene, seconded by Alex, unanimous support.

Proposal 244 Failed 0/8

The opinion of the committee is that full metal jacket bullets are very useful here. Any restrictions should be Unit specific, and should not apply to Unit 23.

Comments from committee members included:

It's a user problem, not an ammunition problem

Ban 20-round clips / Ban mini-14s / Limit hunting to bolt-action rifles

We use the fmj for seal hunting; don't penalize us if there's problems elsewhere

It's shot placement, not the ammo

Pete asked for audience comments:

Dau said he's heard complaints about people with 20 or 30 round clips, semi-automatic, driving after the herd, "sooner or later guys"

Victor responded it's supposed to be clips of only five, but people don't follow that.

Alex said the fmj is useful and extremely popular.

People use .22s for taking caribou from boats. Jim Magdanz said that's a traditional method; how would the ban impact that?

John Chase said he strongly opposes banning fmj bullets. He said it's all about shot placement. He said hunters here generally use head or neck shots, not shooting behind the front leg. This ban would affect a lot of people here, unjustly put them at a disadvantage.

Kirk Howarth said the ban is not a good idea for seal hunters.

Mike Kramer noted the cost of fuel locally, and people can't afford the more expensive bullets.

Pete mentioned the discussion points for possible amendments, of limiting to bolt action, smaller clip size, ban mini-14's.

Moved by Alex, seconded by Mike, **244** rejected unanimously.

Joint Advisory Committee Report

RC 74

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization GMU 20A

The four advisory committees for GMU 20A met twice to discuss the antlerless reauthorization for 2009. The Joint AC's volunteered to assist the Department in a comprehensive moose management plan for 20A. The annual reauthorization discussion is a requirement to keep the intensive management for moose on track. The four AC's are Delta, Middle Nenana River, Minto-Nenana and Fairbanks. Each AC selected two members to sit on the joint group.

Two meetings were held, first on January 12 and the second on February 21. The meetings were planned to follow the department's analysis of the Fall '08 moose surveys and analysis of the survey results. (Unofficial "minutes" of those meetings are attached.) At the January meeting, each AC was asked to give a brief synopsis of the issues with 20A antlerless moose hunts. Debbie Curnow, a member of the Fairbanks AC who volunteered to help "survey moose" last Fall, gave a report on how the moose survey is done and her experiences from participating in the '08 survey.

In previous years, our constituents have been reluctant to "believe" the department's survey and estimate process. Having a volunteer take the training and be part of the survey team has given her, and many of the constituents, a greater confidence in the population estimating process. This has been a big issue for opponents of the 20A antlerless moose hunts. The validity of the population estimate has not been a significant issue in discussions at the various AC meetings for 2009.

The Joint AC group reviewed the department's survey data and recommendations. The public was invited to both meetings and fully participated in the discussions. The range of issues included a discussion of the possible definitions for an antlerless moose bag limit, zones and sub-zones, access routes, concentrations of hunters and their effects, antlerless moose harvest goal for 2009 and factors to improve the integration of antlerless moose hunting into the general hunts and trapping season. The Joint AC's goals were to improve the antlerless portion of the moose hunt by concentrating the hunting in areas where moose are concentrated, changing from a registration hunt of six month duration to both drawing and registration hunts separated by time and having less interference with other activities, like cabin and private property owners and trapping.

* The key agreement between the AC's was to respect the specific concerns of each AC with respect to their recommendations for the antlerless moose hunt.

The Delta AC constituents hunt mostly in Zones 5 & 6 (Zones referred to are as shown on the '08 map also attached.) Their concern is that the hunt emphasize the southern portion of Zone 6 which is shown as 6B. The Minto-Nenana AC requested the continued closure of Zone 1A (along the Parks Highway). Middle Nenana River AC, who's constituents experienced the brunt of the negative impact of the registration hunt and long seasons, asked that Zone 3 and Zone 4A be closed to antlerless hunts for the 2009 season. The Fairbanks AC asked for continued emphasis in the southern or "B" sub-zones of Zones 1,2,4, & 5.

A change from the '08 hunt planning was that the AC's did not seek a formal agreement with the department prior to the Spring board meeting. The Region III department leadership stated that they would like to more closely follow the process for authorizing antlerless moose hunts. The department will recommend the 20A hunt on a sustaining population basis (a significant change from previous years population reduction goals). The harvest goal will be 175 antlerless moose. The hunt would be a combination of drawing permits, during general hunting season and October followed by a registration hunt beginning in January and continuing through February until the harvest goals have been met. There is a possibility that the harvest goal can be reached during the early portion of the season only, in which case there would not be a winter hunt. The department will recommend that the drawing permits be restricted by Zones, sub-zones and, possibly, smaller hunt areas. Another change for 2009 would be the restriction during the drawing hunts only that the permittee would not be allowed to harvest a bull moose in 20A.

The AC's discussed the ability to have a successful hunt for 175 antlerless moose following the agreement between the committees. That is, limiting the antlerless hunts to Zone 1B, 2 A&B, 4B, 5 & 6. The AC's did not discuss Zone 7 where the department has not authorized permits because of poor access and a less dense moose population.

The participants in the Joint AC group agreed to support those conditions on the moose hunt for '09 and to have the individual AC ratify the agreement. The Fairbanks AC voted to accept the agreement at their February meeting. Middle Nenana River and Delta ~~10-2~~ Minto-Nenana AC was part of the formation of the original agreement but did not attend the February Joint AC meeting.

The 20A Joint AC group authorized Mike Tinker, from the Fairbanks AC, to discuss their activities with the board at the Region II meeting.

Notes from Joint AC 20A Antlerless Meeting

January 12, 2009

The meeting began at 1:13p. with introductions from the participating AC's and an acknowledgement that representatives from DNR and Wildlife Protection were present. Delta, Minto-Nenana, Middle Nenana River and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees were represented.

Opening Issues for the AC's

Delta- (Don Quarberg), The AC originally opposed all antlerless hunting but watched the moose population grow to a point that the explanation of the biology of harvesting antlerless changed their minds. Their constituents use Zones 5 & 6 (20A). They have used the department's data to support antlerless hunts and the number for the harvest objective. They realize the social issues around more hunters, especially inexperienced hunters have caused the problems they have to deal with. They realize the "antlerless" reauthorization is not a simple Yes or No question.

Minto-Nenana- (Victor Lord) The "villages" of Nenana and Minto have a long history of harvesting antlerless moose. They have long used an education program for their young hunters for the process of "selecting" target animals. Their experience is both from the hunting seasons and with harvest associated with potlatch moose. They support the closed portion of zone 1 (along the highway).

Middle Nenana River- (Dave Dickey) Their experiences for antlerless reauthorization were similar to the other AC's. The problems they see with the present hunt are blatant disobedience to the zone boundaries and the alleged overharvest from areas near the trail system. The issue of restricting some vehicles by weight has hurt their constituents because they traditionally used the trails for access with larger ATVs. They feel the moose habitat and population efforts have not been supported by other departments (besides the F&G). They would like to see habitat enhancement, like controlled burns, so the area could support a higher moose population. Their history of quality of hunting has been lost to the social issues of too many hunters, long seasons, etc.

Fairbanks- (Mike Tinker) The issues around the antlerless moose harvest in 20A are how the seasons relate to the general and other special seasons, whether the zone boundaries need any changes, the effects of natural predation on the overall moose mortality (percentage taken by wolves and bears going up), the IM harvest objective and changes to it, buffer zones along major waterways and trails, productivity of the moose herd and the status of "participation" in the antlerless hunts (number of permits going up or down?)

Debbie Curnow gave her report on "how to count" and experiences of the '08 count. The personal approach has given her a greater confidence in the population estimating process.

Don Young gave a moose management overview. That 20A has approximately 5,000 square miles of moose habitat out of an overall area of 6,700 square miles. He (and Debbie) showed the '08 moose "count" map(s). Don reiterated that he saw his mission as the health of the moose herd and it's habitat. He presented the moose population history and explained the relationship between various year's

estimated population with the IM population objective (set by the Board of Game). He stated the department uses the "90% confidence interval" for population estimates. The department is recommending an antlerless harvest component for '09 of 175. After a discussion and questions from all of the participants (including the public), Don was left with a couple of questions. One participant asked is the 12,000 population (the IM pop. Objective) would be good for a "stable" population. The bull/cow ratio's relationship to antler restrictions in the general season hunt, the number of "any bull" permits for '09 and configuring the season(s) to avoid social problems, like interference with the normal trapping season, were also topics.

Sgt. Scott Quist from the AST Wildlife Protection talked about issues of concern in 20D and 20A. He said AST "didn't know" the extent of harvest of calves (instead of yearlings) in 20A because there was no requirement to turn in the lower jaw as there is in 20D. In their opinion the public, especially inexperienced moose hunters, are having a hard time telling calves from yearlings. 6-8 citations for calf v yearling are pending. He presented an email from the department on weights and measurements expected from calves and yearlings to show there is not much difference "in the field". Antlerless hunts draw inexperienced and first time moose hunters. Sgt. Quist stated the department's preference for clear boundaries such as a riverbank or gps "line". The department of public safety recommends that calves be authorized as "antlerless" to solve the calf v yearling problem. He was asked if the department saw any differences (advantage or disadvantage) in drawing or registration permit hunts and he replied that there was no real difference for enforcement. He stated that the "boundary issues" for 20A were not extraordinary in '08 compared with other years. More resources for enforcement would help their efforts.

Public comments:

Valerie: The boundaries and seasons are complicated for the hunters. The AC's and the department should "make it easier". She supports making calves part of the antlerless definition. She suggested one way would be to authorize a "party hunt permits" for two hunters to take a cow with a calf.

O'Neal: A hunter in 20A in '08. Floated the Delta River from near Donnelly Dome, commented that the area was "too crowded" for a quality hunt.

Griener: Has hunted the "flats" since '65 most recently along the lower Wood River. Has noticed a severe reduction in cows along the river access corridor. He has noticed a greater reduction over the last three years. His observation is that the count data misrepresent the "availability" of moose. He recommended that winter hunters be encouraged (buffered) to hunt away from the general season access corridors. He recommends habitat enhancement and says we should not suppress wildfires in 20A. Use controlled burns which he realizes needs more emphasis with other agencies. (DNR was present for this comment.) He supports more enforcement and more resources for the AST.

Giuchici: John had three issues. 1. With a bull/cow ratio of 37/100 in 20A, why don't we hunt the "extra" 5% bulls. (37/100 to 30/100). 2. If there are no cows in an area, no bulls will come into that area. This affects the distribution of the moose. 3. Don't shoot calves, especially those that are only 90 days old.

Brunelle, Bonnie: Lives in zone 4 on the Wood River. She is seeing no moose or even moose tracks. She wants "no cow hunt" and changes in hunting ethics. The objective of lowering the population (in 20A is met).

Dalrymple, Larry: Owner of property (spends time in spring and hunting season) in the area of the Gold King airstrip. Has seen a drastic reduction in the moose population since '04. Larry is speaking both of the local moose and the migratory population. He believes the "biological" data from the department. He recommends hunters be zones into concentrations of moose. The area for hunting should take into consideration movements within the "unit". (zone) The number of moose taken and number of hunters during the muzzle loader hunt is a problem for the Gold King area. The extra hunters should be moved into 20B. Prefers drawing permits instead of registration. He told enforcement a rumor that 60 moose were taken by one group of hunters who had a large camp near Gold King for an extended period. He prefers that hunters be restricted to a bull OR a cow.

Cummings, Dean: For eastern zone 5 and zone 6 the bull/cow ratio is good enough that antler restrictions are not needed.

Barrette, Al: Consider changing the bag limit within the season, example from Sept. 1 – 15 no antler restrictions then from Sept. 16 – 25 put antler restrictions on. Any "late" season held before April would be in some conflict with trappers.

Grennen, Emma Lee: With the present bull/cow ratio, IF antler restrictions are still needed, use more "any bull" permits.

Vincent, Steve: Some routes within the sub zones need buffers. Recommends boundaries on navigable rivers and access corridors. Recommends 2 – 3 mile buffers. Need to cut down on traffic, especially like fast boat traffic on very small streams.

Curnow, Debbie: Remember the issues of trespass and vandalism on private property.

Don Young said the department would recommend "up to 1000" "any bull" permits for '09 in order to increase the harvest in this category to 200.

The advisory committee representatives then discussed the main issues that form the basis for recommendations for antlerless harvest. The discussions let to an agreement to take the following suggestions back to the individual AC's for consideration.

Season(s)

General - Antlerless by drawing permits, allocated by zones and sub zones.

Late (Winter) - Antlerless by registration (and leftover drawing), allocated by zones and sub zones.

Boundaries

Recommend the same boundaries and sub zones.

Buffers

Substitute low number of permits for “buffers” to hold down the number of hunters

Number of Antlerless

175 (representing 1.5% of the population)

Definition of Antlerless

The department and the wildlife enforcement and some public would like the definition to include calves. The wildlife enforcement would like to see “encouraged to take without calves” (like goat def. existing). The alternatives are:

1. Change the definition to include calves.
2. Keep it the same as '08, “cow unaccompanied by a calf”

There is a widespread understanding that this is a “social” issue not a biological one. Most AC’s anticipate “public uproar” over calf hunting and don’t want to lose the entire antlerless component because of it.

The AC’s recommend another meeting after the next “round” of individual meetings to discuss making a unified recommendation to the Board.

Notes of M. Tinker

**Notes from Joint Meeting AC Representatives for 20A Antlerless Reauthorization Meeting
Extended Stay Lodge
Feb 21, 2009
1:00 p.m.**

Introduction of Department staff: David James, Mike Taras, Don Young, Rita St. Louis

Members of the Public who signed in were:

Loren Hite (shortyhite@yahoo.com), John Giuchici, Lenny Jewkes, Emma Lee Grennan, Katharine Richardson, Amal Ajmi, Ron Routh (national57@yahoo.com), Ron Bless, Valerie Baxter (Others were there too, but I don't remember who)

Members representing the AC's were Don Quarberg (Delta), Virgil Umphenour (Fairbanks), Mike Tinker (Fairbanks), Dave Dickey (Middle Nenana). Minto-Nenana did not send a representative.

Mike T. Chaired the meeting. He shared some emails that went between him and Cliff Judkins and him and Ted Spraker regarding whether seasons and bag limits could be changed out of cycle.

David James stated he was taken by surprise by the email information.

Mike said all meetings were properly noticed and we are staying within the bounds of the first joint meetings. He felt there were no contentious issues between the advisory committees. Comments of all were compatible, and these are our concerns.

When it comes to areas in which we do not have a constituency, then we leave those decisions to the AC's that do.

The committee agreed that there would probably be registration hunts for the alpine areas, and drawing hunts for other areas

The committees agrees with the Department's proposal. The proposal included.

Drawing in Fall Aug 25 to Oct 31.(up to 500 permits)

Or

One antlerless moose by registration permit only from January 10 to Feb 28 (No calves, no cows with calves; no bulls in drawing permit)

Spread out in space and time. Harvest at lower rate, keep the population stable.

- Small numbers of hunters. During that hunt, you could not harvest a bull. This should also help with some of the social-crowding issues
- Registration portion. Jan 10 Feb 28 These dates were chosen because they are consistent with Minto hunts.
- Permits, over counter, and not internet, to cut down illegal hunts.
- Conduct in all zones except zone 7. There are complications in 7, lot of private land
- In the other six zones, spread the hunt so that the areas with highest moose densities would have the highest hunting pressure –concentrating in the middle part.

Don Young said the hunt will be conservative. The count of 13,000 probably conservative; it might be higher. But as is, he recommends a 1.3% harvest which would total 169 total antlerless harvest. By zone, using his model the harvest would be:

1. 22
2. 40
3. 31
4. 24
5. 32
6. 11
7. 8

Since 175 were recommended, he suggested that the harvest be (by zone):

1. 18
2. 40
3. 35
4. 30
5. 40
6. 12

He adjusted the harvest rate a bit, but pointed out there would be a harvest of only 3 cows per 100 sq miles. Again, he emphasized harvest should be greater where densities are highest.

Dave Dickey commented that buffer zones would be impossible to enforce. Fewer people out on the landscape will help a lot.

Someone asked "What causes the decline in habitat?" Don replied that the burn areas are getting old. A member of the public wondered why browse looking in good where he goes. And not seeing moose. Don commented we are getting close to our population objective, so we won't have so much antlerless harvest. Our recommendations are for population stability, not reduction.

Maybe there is a time lag between calf weights, and twinning rates. But we know they are both low. Some of the habitat can be rejuvenated only with fire.

Wrap up

- The AC's thought the Department is headed the right direction. However Middle Nenana R. does not want hunting in certain areas and we need to support them.
- Did joint meetings help? E and emails.
- As hunters we are showing others (anti or concerned) that we can improve things over time.
- Emma Lee (member of Fairbanks AC) stated, "This is what we need to do annually. "
- Katharine Richardson stated that we used to do this. Now we are issue oriented. The issue is larger than the scope of one
- Don Quarberg commented that the challenge is to maintain that knowledge in the AC's as new people get re-elected and committees have turn over.

Rs/ Rita St. Louis

*Delta Advisory Committee vote on Proposals
For Board of Game Feb 27 – March 1 , 2009*

(These votes were taken at regular meetings of the Delta AC on 1/28/09 and 2/4/09)

Proposal#113, 0-10 oppose Denali Park is already a control area and all variables are already known.

Proposal#218, 8-2 Committee supports this proposal with the amendment that both seasons end at the same time, Sept 20th.

Proposal#233, 10-0 Committee supports this proposal as written.

Proposal#234, 10-1 support Committee recommends that cow hunt be reauthorized for SW 20D and that each area be voted on separately.

Area 20A, **10-0-1 support** Reauthorize

Area 20B, **9-0-1 support** Reauthorize

Proposal#237, 0-11 Committee does not support this proposal because it is too politically heated and feels it would not be effective. Feels that legislation to improve non-resident access by waving guide requirement and tag fees would be better.

Proposal#240 10-0 Committee unanimously **supported** this proposal.

Proposal#241, 1-9-0 oppose The committee felt that this would not be of much benefit to most people and would rather have an equal chance every year to draw a permit.

Minutes of Middle Nenana AC meeting
January 19, 2009 6:00 p.m.
Healy School, Healy Alaska

Here's what we came up with to take back to the next joint AC Meeting. All these votes were unanimous.

* Keep Antlerless Definition as is.

I brought this back up to make sure that everybody was still OK with this. I think people didn't care about the enforcement issue, we would rather try and protect the calves as this is a very emotional issue and we would rather not have another issue to try and deal with or sell to the public.

*We Voted in support of 175 antlerless permits.

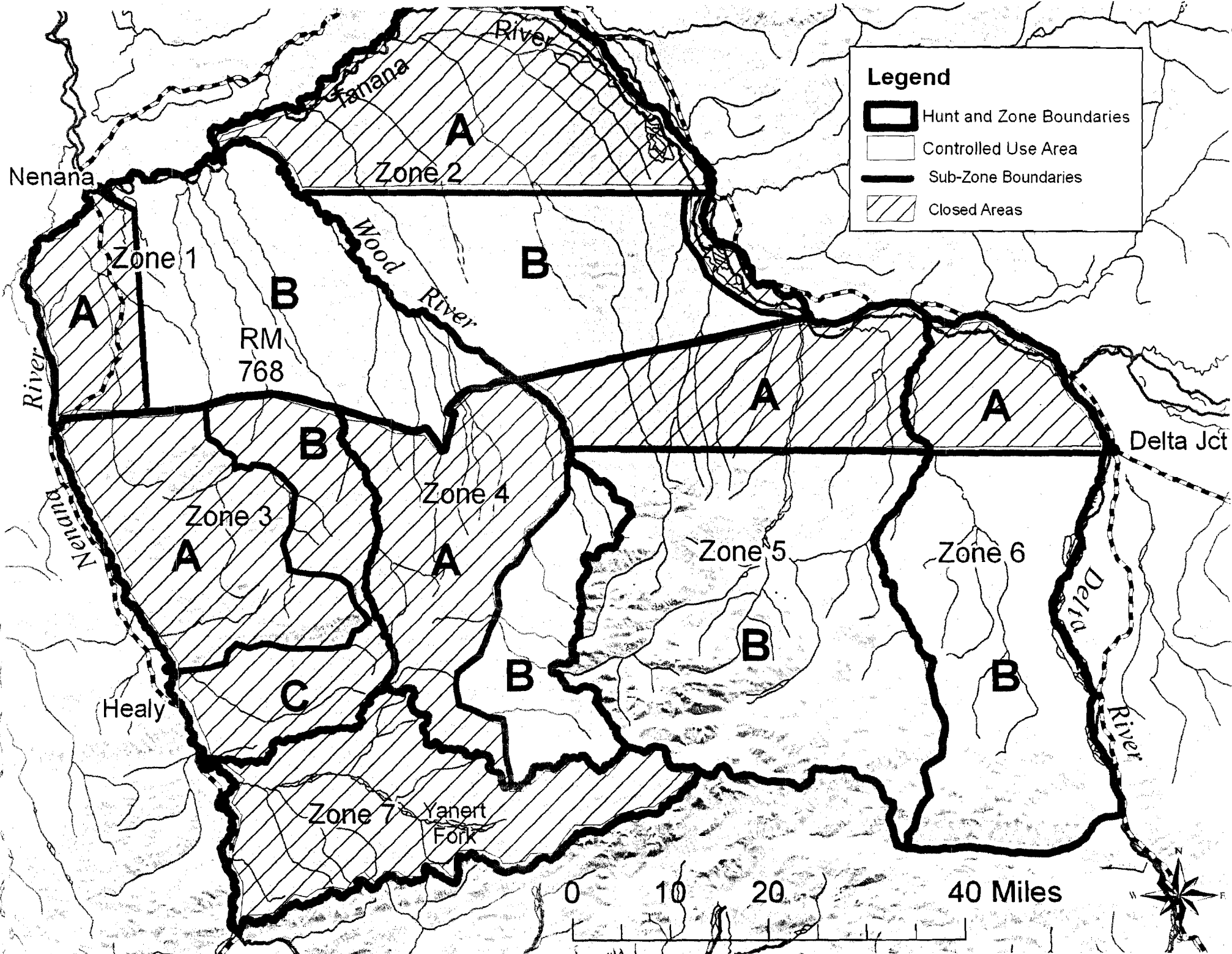
This was one of the areas we had questions. How will the permits be allocated the way we recommended the hunt.

*Any Bull Permits. We voted to keep the number of anybull permits @ 750. There were comments from the public and the committee that was against raising the number to 1000. It was brought up that last year the weather was pretty wet and generally bad. If we get a good dry year and good hunting conditions we feel that we can get the 200 harvest objective with the 750 permits. We don't like the trend of going with permits to hunt bulls in 20A. We need to watch this for a few more years and track the success ratio during some years with good hunting weather, watch it and connect the dots to see if the trend, or ratio, changes.

*Antlerless Hunt Zones. Keep them the same as last year. Do not open Zones 3 or 4A. Deleting the buffer Zone along zone 2 wasn't a problem we will support Fairbanks on whatever they want to do there. We did have some discussion on opening up Zone 2A. We did not take an official stand on that. We felt if that is something Fairbanks wants to do we had no problem with it. We would support whatever they wanted to do there. This is an area we had questions as to allocation of permits for the zones we recommended for the hunt. Bonnie and Bruce Burnell and Brent Keith suggested that we ask for 10 permits for Zone 4B since we voted to close 4A and it's about 1/3 of the total size of Zone 4.

*Antlerless Hunt and Season. We voted to support a Drawing Permit Hunt, to limit it to the General Season and then reopen it for the Month of January. The same drawing permits would be valid for the second season if the permit winner was not successful during the General Season. There would be no registration permits available for the second season. Drawing permit winners would be limited to taking an antlerless moose only, they would not be eligible to hunt Bulls if they received an antlerless drawing permit. We did not discuss what would happen if they put in for an antlerless hunt and an any bull permit and won both. We can bring that up at the next meeting and amend this recommendation. I suspect they would have to forfeit one or the other. We feel this will deal with the social issues and is very conservative, yet still allows for the harvest of antlerless moose.

Rs/ Bruce Carter



Analyses Results 2008 Surveys (Posthunt) - SCF=1.21								
POPULATION ESTIMATE								
	20A	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7
Area (sq. mi):	5703	1000	1000	842	626	1140	704	391
Population	12537	1643	2997	2320	1790	2391	799	600
Calf:cow ratio	35	36	34	34	34	37	35	30
Bull:cow ratio	37	39	39	31	35	38	44	33
Yling bull:cow ratio	12.5	14	12	11	12	13	16	12
Cows	7318	933	1733	1425	1055	1358	445	368
Calves	2559							
Bulls	2708							
Yrlng Bulls (incl. in Bulls est.)	760							
Density	2.2	1.6	3.0	3	2.9	2.1	1.1	1.5
Browse Removal	High	?High?	High	Mod High	High	High	Mod	Low
Habitat Quality	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Excell	Good	Poor	Good
Habitat Trend	Decline	Improve	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Stable	Stable
ANTLERLESS HARVEST RATES AND QUOTAS - POPULATION								
	20A	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7
Posthunt Population 2008	12537	1643	2997	2320	1790	2391	799	600
Est. Prehunt Population 2009	13001	1704	3108	2406	1856	2479	829	622
Harvest Rate	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013
Harvest Quotas	169	22	40	31	24	32	11	8
Adjusted Harvest Quotas	175	18	40	35	30	40	12	10
Adjusted Harvest Rate	0.013	0.011	0.013	0.015	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.000
COW HARVEST PER 100 MI SQ	3.1	1.8	4.0	4.2	4.8	3.5	1.7	0.0
COWS AVAIL HARVEST/100 MI SQ	128	93	173	169	169	119	63	94
RATIO HARVESTED:AVAILABLE	1.42	1.52	1.43	1.41	1.35	1.34	1.37	0

Interpretation in harvest rates going up to 1.5 %

ratio =
1 cow per 42 available

-35
20%

Good for safety
Good for winter hunting
Outside the

DRAFT

PROPOSAL KK - 5AAC 85.045(a)(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Units 20A.

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. (a) ...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(18)

Unit 20(A), the
Ferry Trail
Management Area,
Wood River
Controlled Use
Area, and the
Yanert Controlled
Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with
spike-fork
antlers or 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side;
or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only in
the Aug. 25-Oct. 31 season
(up to 500 permits will be
issued), or 1 antlerless
moose by registration permit
only in the Jan. 10-Feb. 28
season; a person may
not take a calf or a
cow accompanied by
a calf; a recipient of a
drawing permit is prohibited
from taking a bull moose
in Unit 20A; or

Aug. 25 - Feb. 28
(General hunt only)
Jan. 10-Feb. 28
General hunt only)

unit
20A
Recommendation

DRAFT

only in the Jan. 10-Feb. 28
season; a person may not
take a calf or a
cow accompanied by
a calf; a recipient of a
drawing permit is prohibited
from taking a bull moose
in Unit 20A; or

1 bull by drawing
permit only; up to
1000 permits may be
issued

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

**NONRESIDENT
HUNTERS:**

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

ISSUE Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually.

RC 75

Members of the Board of Game,

11 February 2009

My name is Don Hunley; I have been a resident of Alaska since 1983, retired from the military in 1999, and am currently employed as a firefighter at the Anchorage Fire Dept. I have been a falconer for 21 years.

I am interested in acquiring a Russian/Finnish Goshawk. I have dreamed of having one since I have started falconry, and am finally in a financial position to be able to purchase the birds.

Last summer, I tried to import a male Russian/Finnish gos, and when I contacted Kim Titus, of Fish and Game, I had a difficulty securing the import permit from him. His primary concern was that the species was non-indigenous, and he denied me the permit.

I respectfully disagree with Mr. Titus' decision in this matter. Although not common, the Russian/Finnish Goshawk is resident in Alaska, and it is my understanding that specimens have been captured and identified in Alaska. Mr. Titus agrees that there have been instances of Russian goshawks being sighted in Alaska. It is difficult to distinguish a "passage" (first year plumage) Russian/Finnish goshawk from a North American goshawk while in the field. In addition, these birds are quite secretive and are rarely observed by people other than experts who are searching for them. Therefore, since it is documented that some adult Russian/Finnish goshawks are in Alaska, it is logical to assume that the actual population of such birds is substantially higher than the few specimens that have been captured, due to the presence of both unobserved adult birds and juvenile birds.

Additionally, another falconer, who is a goshawk expert, Gary Penner, observed a white goshawk on his pigeon coop in Sterling, AK approximately 4 years ago. Some people have implied that this bird was a gyrfalcon, but Mr. Penner is an expert and will attest that it was in fact a Russian/Finnish goshawk.

I wish to obtain a pair that I could breed in order to supply my requirements for the rest of my life. Since these birds are captive bred, I will not have to remove any raptors from the wilds, and therefore there will be no impact on the wild raptor population of Alaska.

They are rather expensive, approximately \$4,000 per hawk, so I have an extreme interest in not losing one, and would always fly the hawk with 2 transmitters. In addition to multiple transmitters for tracking, I will obtain "imprinted" birds; which effectively sterilizes them (psychologically), and would prevent them from breeding with wild goshawks in the very unlikely event of their loss.

The state of Alaska presently permits the release of several "non indigenous" species like pigeons, chuckar partridge, and pheasants with no positive means of ensuring that they do not become resident in Alaska. Is there any fair basis for restricting an experienced, licensed falconer from hunting with a bird that is resident in Alaska, imprinted, trained, has transmitters, and which the owner has every incentive to keep in his possession?

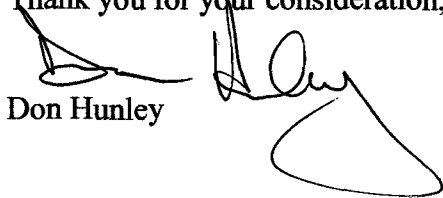
From a legal perspective, the Alaskan Falconry Manual states in section 5AAC 92,037 (a), that "...a bird defined in (f) of this section as a raptor may be taken, transported, imported, exported, held, or possessed for falconry." [emphasis added]. In section 5AAC 92,037 (f) the statute defines "raptor" as ... "any bird of the following species: (2) Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).". As one can readily see from the taxonomy supplied in Appendix A (attached), the Russian/Finnish subspecies of goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis buteoides*) is included in the northern goshawk family (*accipiter gentilis*). Therefore, there is explicit legal authorization for both the importation and use in falconry of the birds that are the subject of this matter.

From both a practical and legal analysis, it is overwhelmingly clear that the request that I originally tendered to the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alaska should be granted, and I respectfully request that the Board of Game reconsider my application and respond in the affirmative.

I would respectfully request that you consider discussing this issue under miscellaneous business at your next board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don Hunley

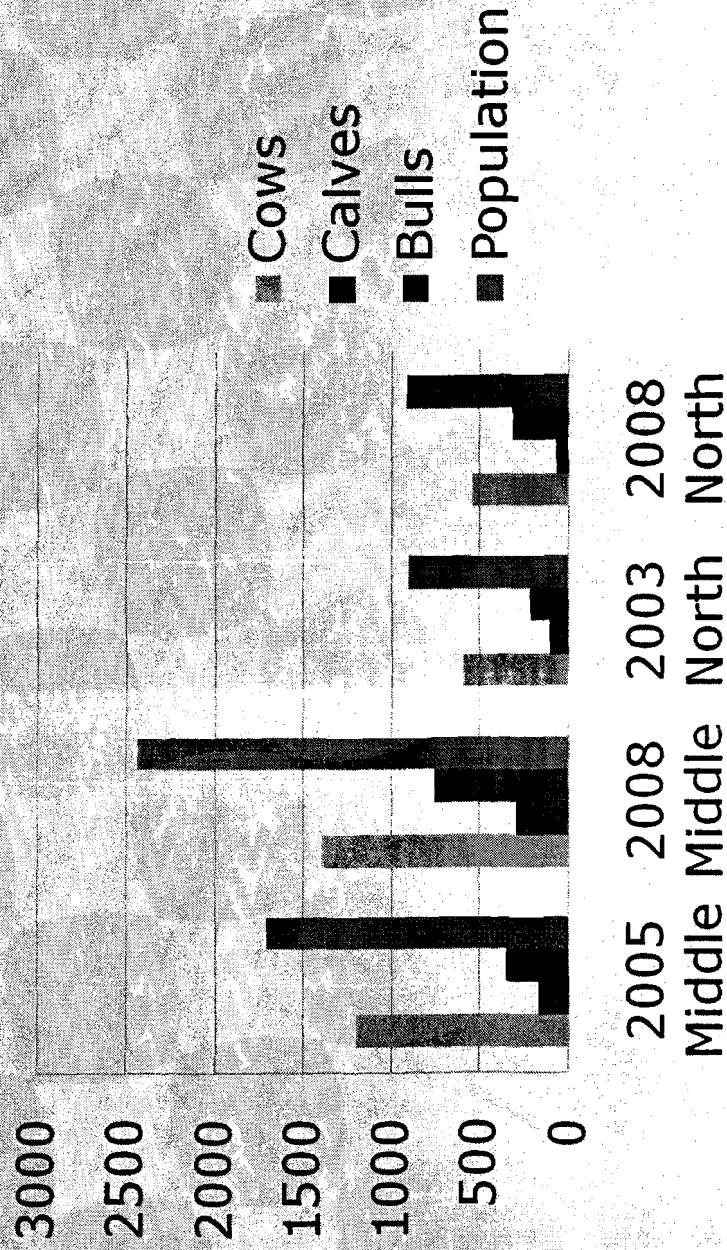
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Hunley', is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

RC 76



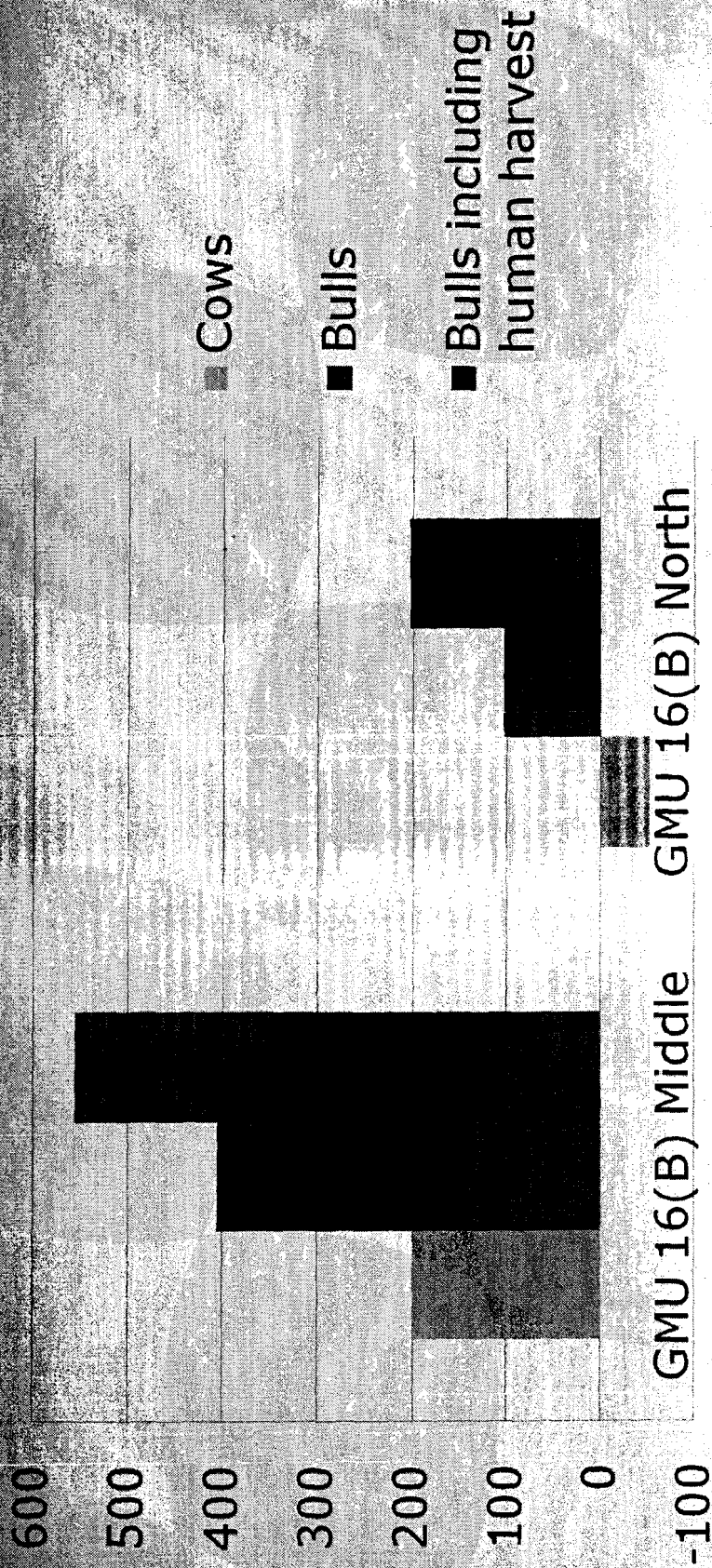
GMU 16(B) Loose Update

GMU 16B Moose Composition



Change in moose composition

Chart Title

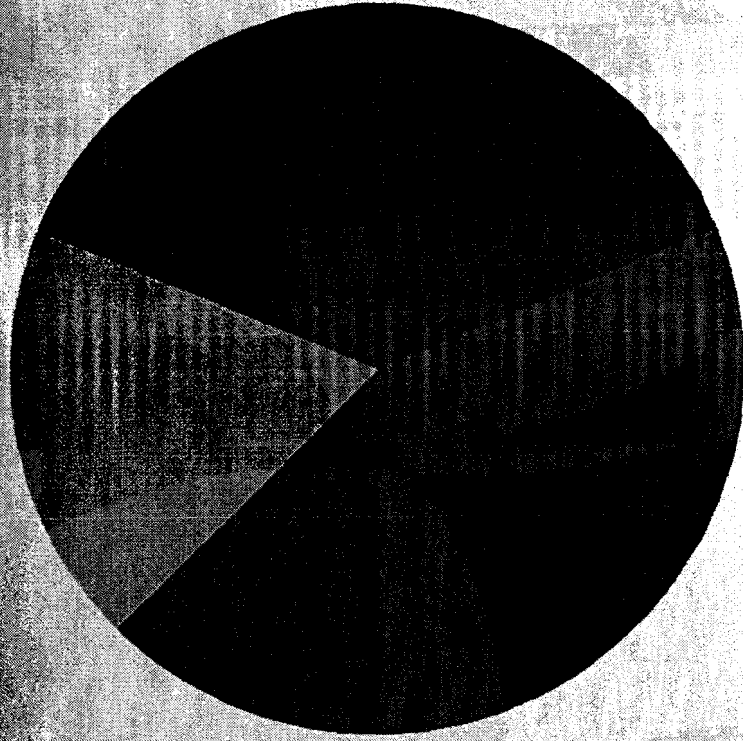


Growth Between Censuses in GMU
16(B)

- 97 Cows Fall 2007
- 81 Cows Fall 2008
- 16.5% Mortality
- 5 Killed With Calves During Calving Season
- 61 Births Observed
- 51 % Twinning Rate
- 12 Calves left Per 81 Cows in November

**Results of Cow Mortality and
Habitat Study in GMU 16(B)**

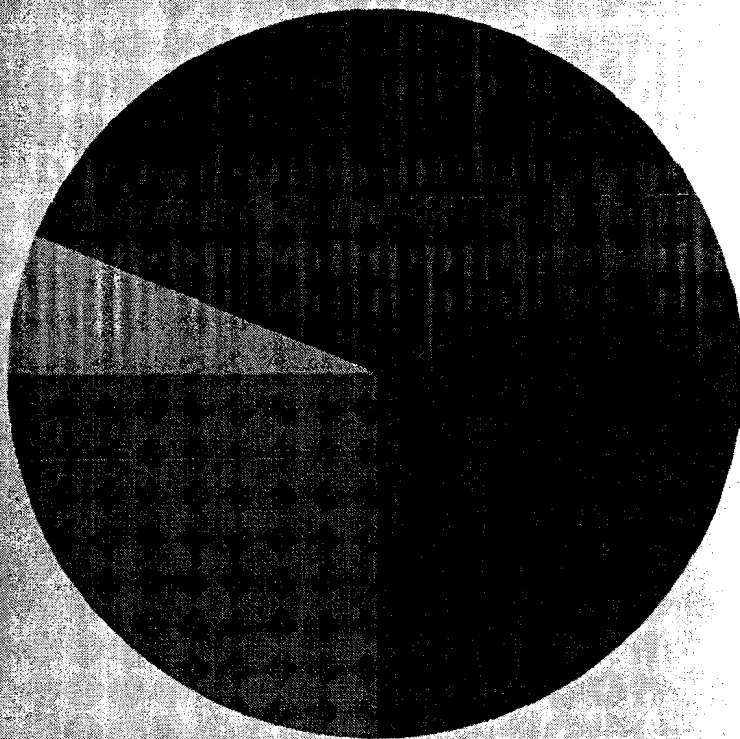
Time of Year of Deaths



- January (1)
- March (1)
- April-May (5)
- May-June (5)
- July (2)
- November (2)

GMU 16(B) Collared Moose Cows

Cause of death



■ Non Predation (1)

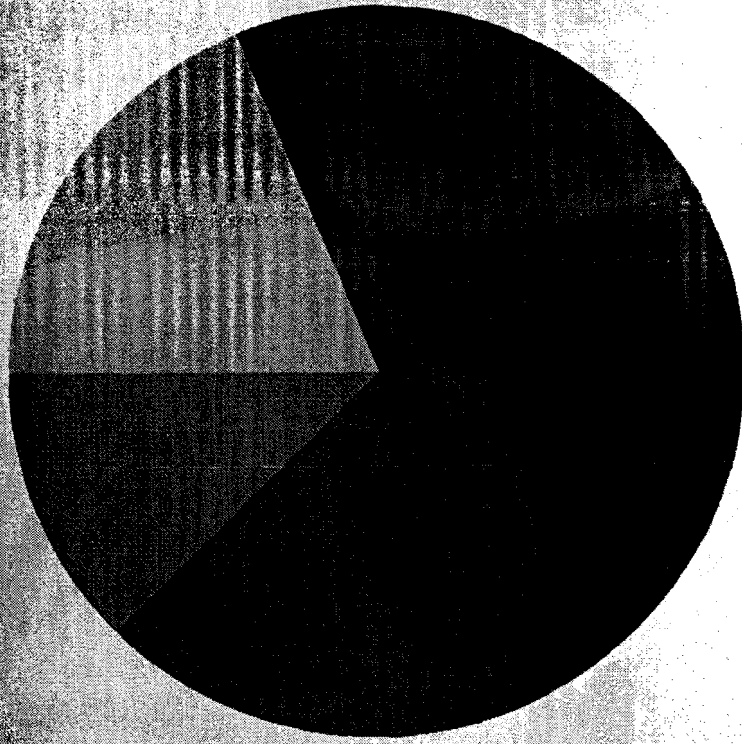
■ Unknown (6)

■ Brown Bear (5)

■ Predation Likely (4)

GMU 16(B) Collared Moose Cows

Age Class of Dead Cows



■ Short Yearling (3)

■ 2 Year Old (1)

■ Prime 3-12 Years
(10)

■ Old Over 12 Years
(2)

GMU 16(B) Collared Moose Cows

- Despite human harvest of 100-150 bulls per year in GMU 16(B) the bull population has shown substantial growth.
- Wolf reduction and increased harvest of black and brown bears has increased recruitment of calves.
- It appears protecting your moose calves is a good way to be killed by a brown bear.
- In every year (3 years) of the study summer mortality has been higher than winter mortality for cows
- Reductions in brown bear predation on cow moose would probably increase moose population sooner.
- Spending taxpayers dollars to release accidental catches of brown bears on calving grounds during black bear trapping to kill more cows and calves is a bad idea.



Unit 6 Overview

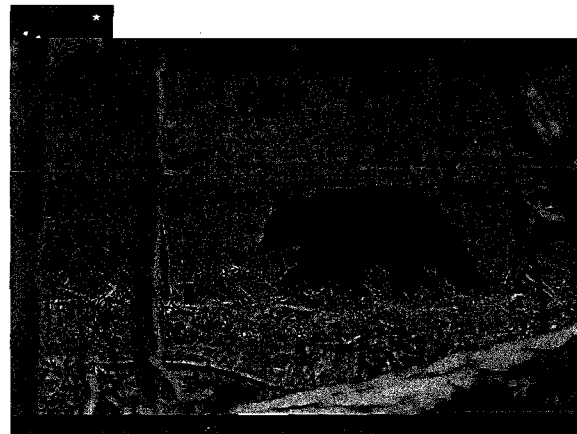


Dave Crowley

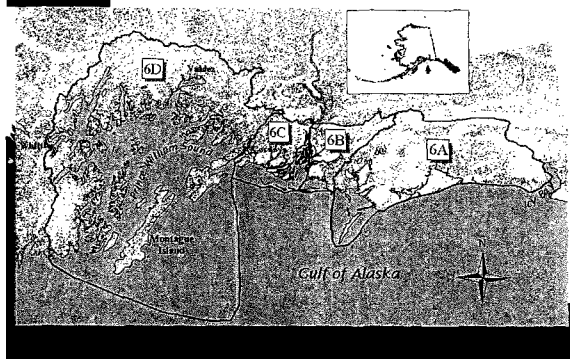
Cordova Area Wildlife Biologist

Sandy Nehl

Fish and Wildlife Program Technician



Game Management Unit 6



Black Bears

○ Status

- Population increased during 1990's, now probably stable.
- Record high harvests: 508 – 595, 2005 - 07.

○ Management

- Harvest statistics from sealing certificates
- Hunter questionnaire survey
- Random sample to determine age structure of harvest

Harvest in Unit 6D, Prince William Sound



Unit 6 Lands

- Chugach National Forest, BLM
- Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Chenega, Tatitlek and Eyak Villages
- Unit 6A: Yakataga State Game Refuge, University and Mental Health Trust



Brown Bears

○ Status

- Estimated population: 800 - 1,300 bears, stable

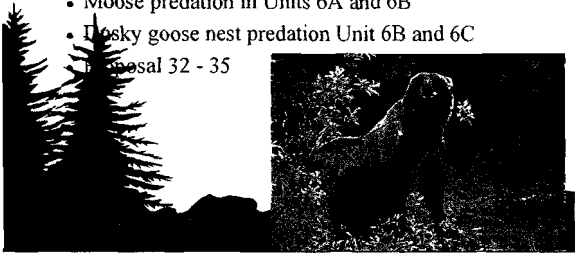
○ Management

- Harvest statistics from sealing certificates
- Units 6A-C: Sep. 1-May 31, 1 bear / year
- Unit 6D: Oct 15-May 25, 1 bear every 4 years
- Montague Is. registration hunt
- Aerial surveys, Montague and Hinchinbrook



Brown Bears

- Issues
 - Bear pops. in 6A-C can provide additional hunting opportunity
 - Moose predation in Units 6A and 6B
 - Rosky goose nest predation Unit 6B and 6C
- Proposal 32 - 35



Status

- Most important game species in Unit 6
- Number of hunters and harvest
- Population currently low, hopefully increasing

Management

- Spring pellet group survey
- Snow index
- Hunter questionnaire survey

Black-tailed Deer

- Issues
 - None

Photo by Terry Martin

Mountain Goats

- Status
 - 4,000 goats, stable
 - 18 registration hunts
 - 60 - 80 goats harvested annually, 21% nannies

Mountain Goat Management

- Actual survey of current population
- Harvested Mountain goat and 20-30% of population
- Only as 2 in harvest
- Monitor harvest closely by F&G

Issues

- Proposal of unit 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2J, 2K, 2L, 2M, 2N, 2O, 2P, 2Q, 2R, 2S, 2T, 2U, 2V, 2W, 2X, 2Y, 2Z, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3I, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O, 3P, 3Q, 3R, 3S, 3T, 3U, 3V, 3W, 3X, 3Y, 3Z, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4I, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4M, 4N, 4O, 4P, 4Q, 4R, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4V, 4W, 4X, 4Y, 4Z, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I, 5J, 5K, 5L, 5M, 5N, 5O, 5P, 5Q, 5R, 5S, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Y, 5Z, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F, 6G, 6H, 6I, 6J, 6K, 6L, 6M, 6N, 6O, 6P, 6Q, 6R, 6S, 6T, 6U, 6V, 6W, 6X, 6Y, 6Z, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G, 7H, 7I, 7J, 7K, 7L, 7M, 7N, 7O, 7P, 7Q, 7R, 7S, 7T, 7U, 7V, 7W, 7X, 7Y, 7Z, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J, 8K, 8L, 8M, 8N, 8O, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 8S, 8T, 8U, 8V, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 8Z, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9I, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9N, 9O, 9P, 9Q, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9U, 9V, 9W, 9X, 9Y, 9Z, 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F, 10G, 10H, 10I, 10J, 10K, 10L, 10M, 10N, 10O, 10P, 10Q, 10R, 10S, 10T, 10U, 10V, 10W, 10X, 10Y, 10Z, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 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Unit 6 Moose

○ Status

- Current pop. estimate: 1,200 and stable
- Harvest: 2006: 138, 2007: 181, 2008: 106

○ Management

- Aerial census, population estimation
- Drawing hunts, 4 registration, subsistence
- Drawing permit, general season

- Wolf and bear predation, Units 6A and 6B
- Proposal 39, antlerless hunting



Unit 6 Furbearers

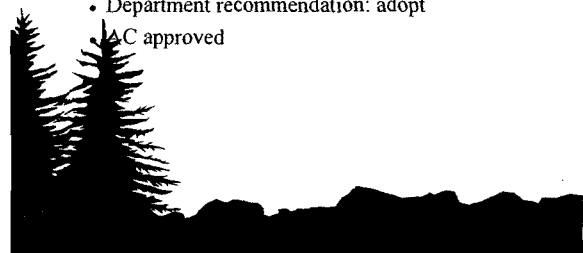
○ Status



Proposal 39

○ Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Unit 6A

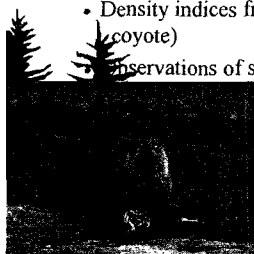
- Department recommendation: adopt
- AC approved



Unit 6 Furbearers

○ Management

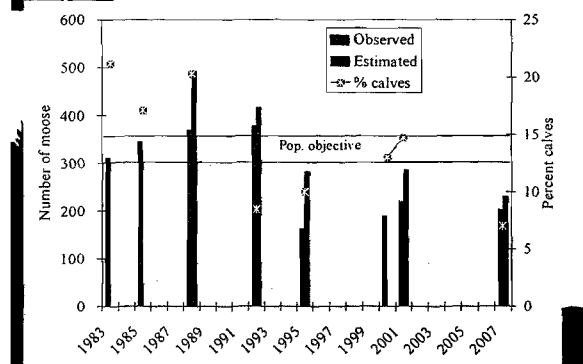
- Harvest statistics from sealing of 6 species
- Trapper Questionnaire
- Density indices from moose surveys (wolf and coyote)
- Observations of staff and others (wolf packs)

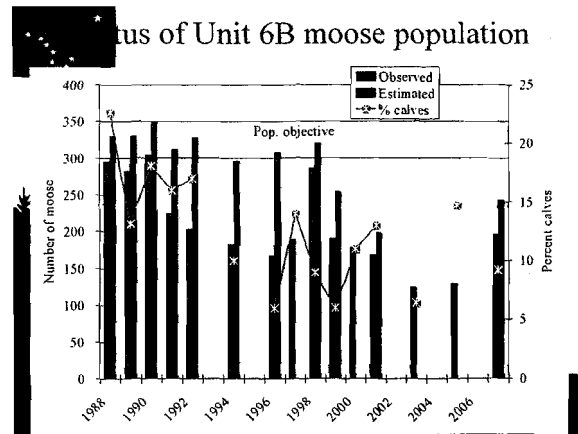
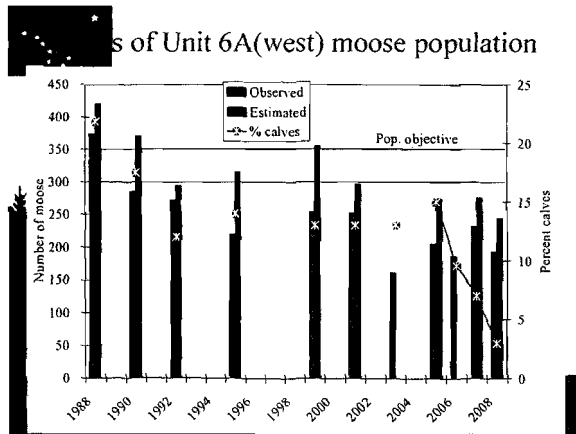


Proposal 37: lynx trapping season



of Unit 6A(east) moose population





Proposal 38.

Separate moose harvest quota by residency in Unit 6A.

- Department recommendation: Take no action

The quotas are already separate:

- 1160: Up to 30 bulls may be taken by residents only.
- 1160: Up to 5 bulls may be taken by residents only.

Proposal 40

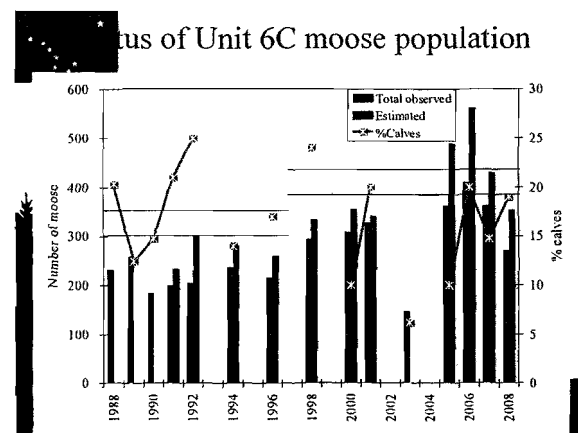
- Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Unit 6C

- Department recommendation: adopt
- AC approved

Proposal 41

- Reauthorize antlerless hunts in Unit 6B

- Department recommendation: adopt
- AC approved

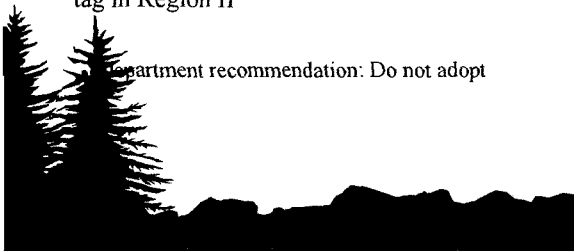




Proposal 204

- Require hunter orientation course and nanny tag in Region II

Department recommendation: Do not adopt



Recent Changes in Regulations for Unit 6D

- Shooting from boats prohibited, 2003
- Season shortened by 20 days, 2005
- Completion of bear baiting clinic required to hunt over bait in Unit 6D, 2005
- Bear baiting closure by ADFG of 2 bays heavily used for spring recreation, 2005

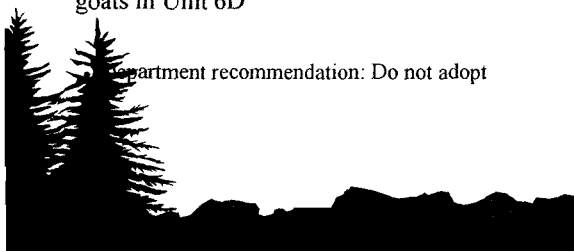
c Neil Mooney



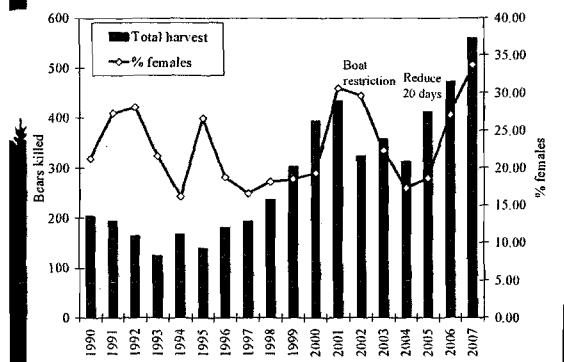
Proposal 36.

- Prohibit the taking of female mountain goats in Unit 6D

Department recommendation: Do not adopt

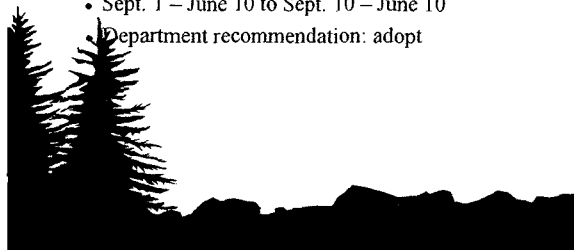


Black Bear Harvest, Unit 6D

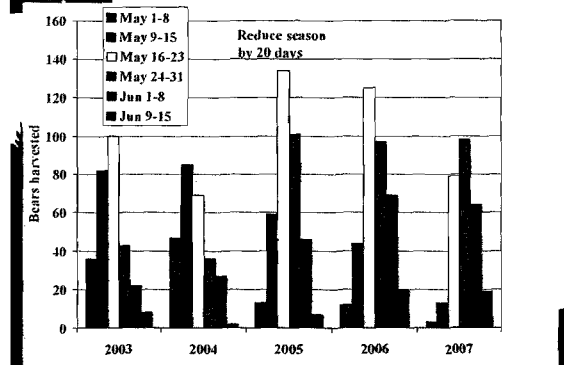


Proposal 31.

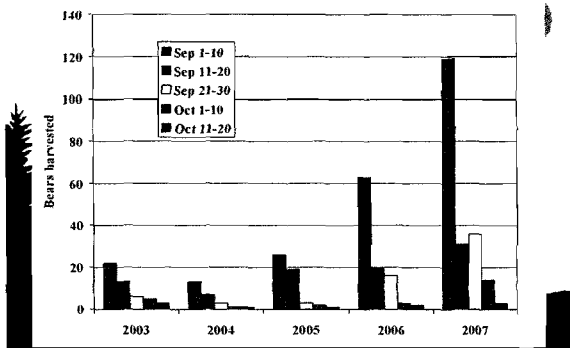
- Delay fall black bear season by 10 days:
 - Sept. 1 – June 10 to Sept. 10 – June 10
- Department recommendation: adopt



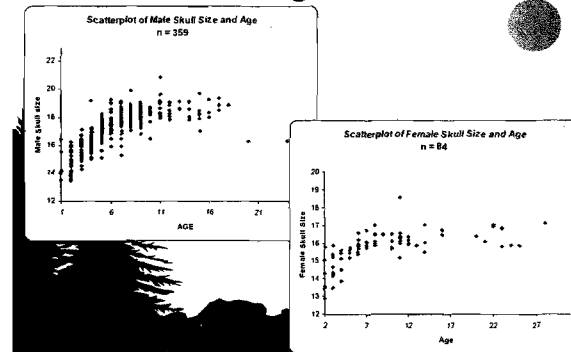
Black bear spring harvest



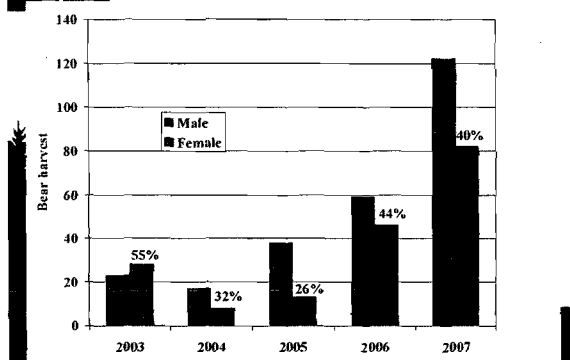
6D black bear fall harvest



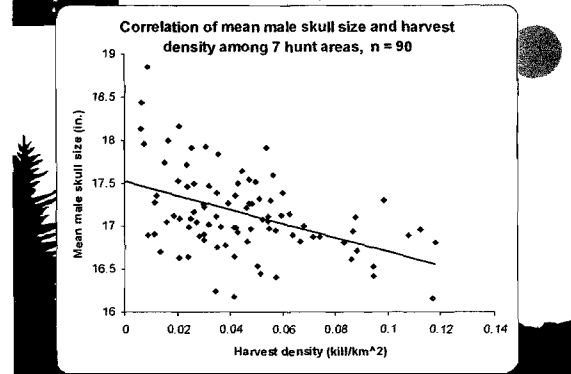
Black bear age and skull size



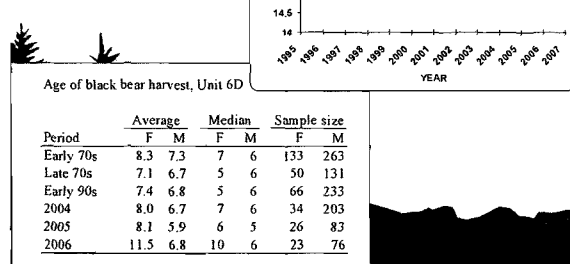
black bear harvest by sex, 6D



harvest density and skull size



Black Bear Skull Size and Age, Unit 6D



Black bear density assessment

- For each watershed or small island (UCU), predict bear density based on:
 - Sustained harvest density
 - SAK population estimate (Peacock)
 - Previous work in PWS (McIlroy, Modafferri)
 - Populations, best guesses
 - UCU's by geographic area



Black bear density assessment (cont.)

○ Results suggest an overall density of 0.6 bears/km² (0.3 – 1.25 range among areas), for a total of 3,700 bears.

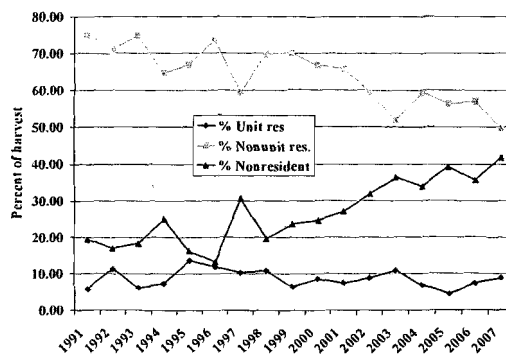
○ 2001-08 harvest was 560 bears or 15% of the estimated population.

○ Assuming a 15% carrying loss was 15 - 25%, then harvest was 17 - 19% of population.

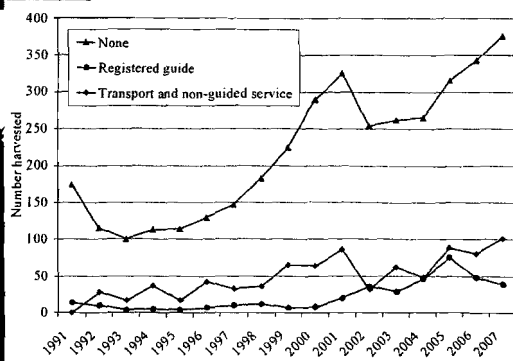
○ The harvest for black bears is



Density of spring black bear hunters



Commercial services, 6D black bears



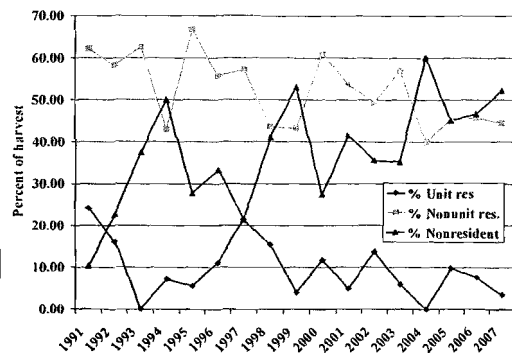
Proposal 30.

○ Changes black bear bag limit in Unit 6D to 1 bear every 2 years.

○ Department recommendation: Do not adopt



Density of fall black bear hunters



Proposal 29.

○ Wounded black bear counts as the bag limit in Unit 6D

○ Department recommendation: Adopt

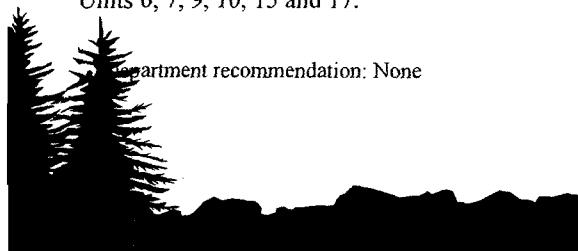
○ Provides another tool to reduce harvest



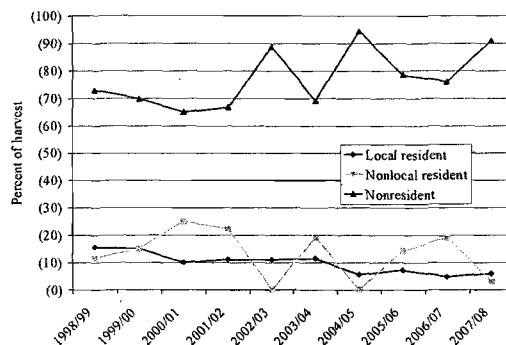
Proposal 201

- Wounded brown bear counts as bag limit in Units 6, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 17.

Department recommendation: None



Brown bear hunter residency, 6A

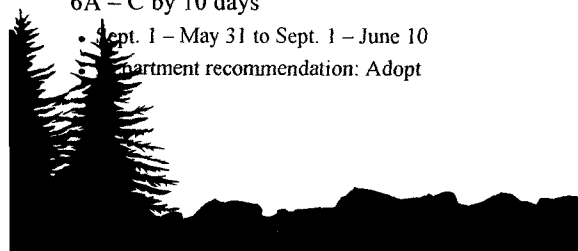


Proposal 35

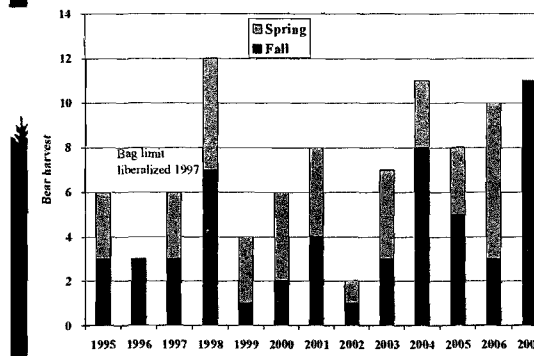
- Increase spring brown bear season in Units 6A – C by 10 days

• Sept. 1 – May 31 to Sept. 1 – June 10

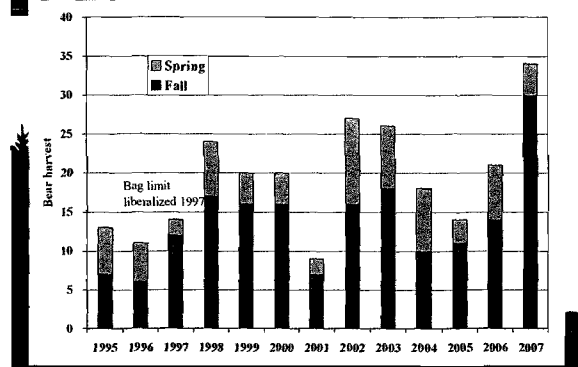
Department recommendation: Adopt



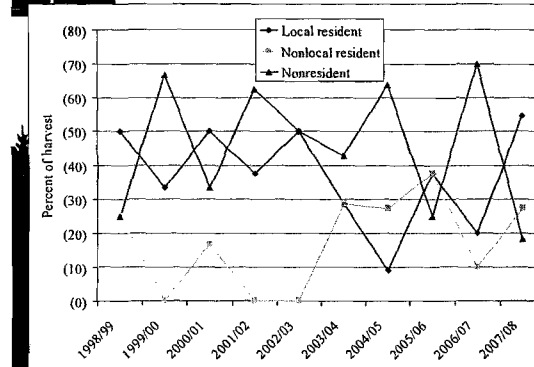
Unit 6B brown bear harvest

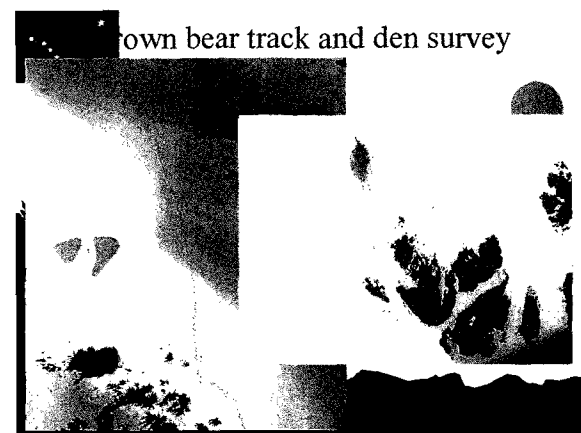
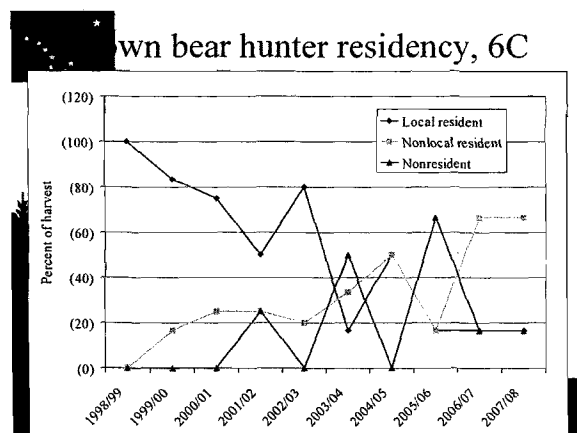
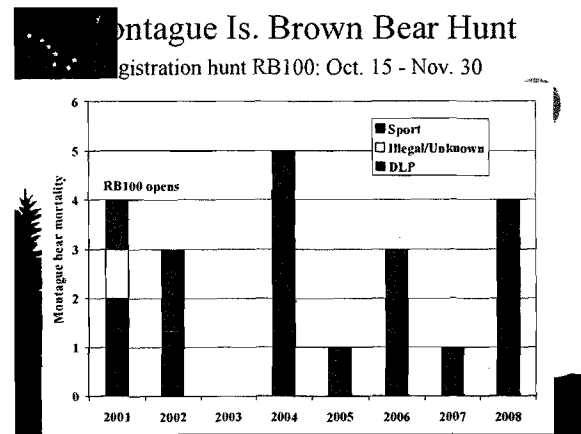
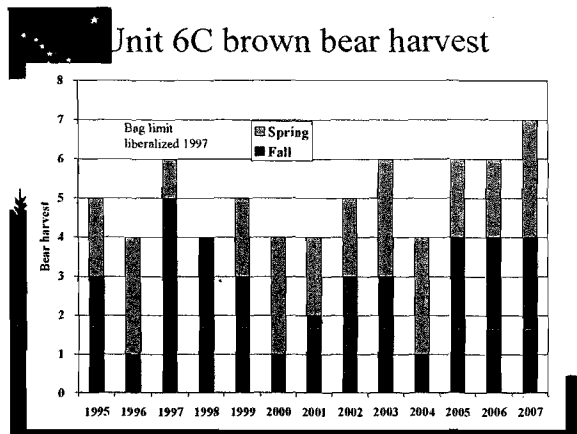


Unit 6A Brown Bear Harvest



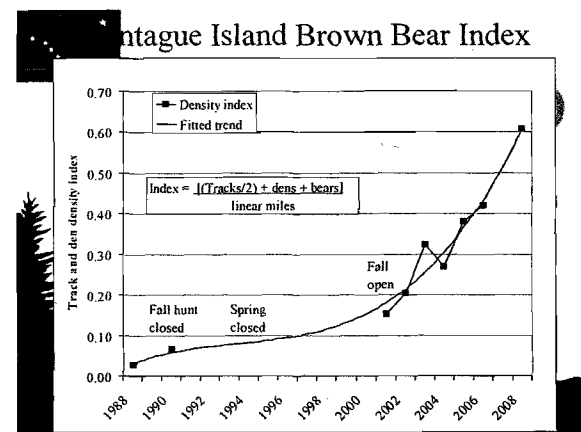
Brown bear hunter residency, 6B





Proposal 32

- Extend brown bear season on Montague Island and open to nonresidents.
- Current: Oct. 15 – Nov. 30
- Proposed: Oct. 15 – Dec. 30 and April 1 – May 31 by registration permit.
- Department recommendation: adopt

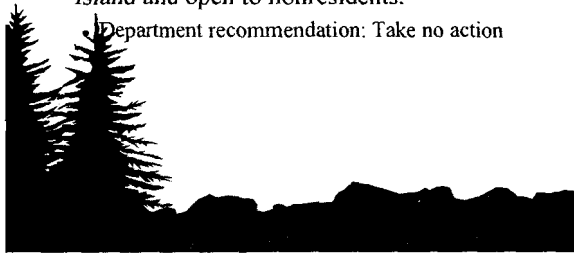




Proposal 33.

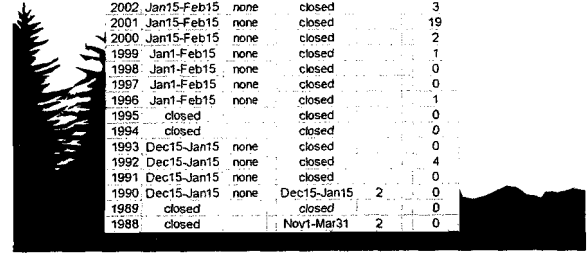
- Extend brown bear season on Montague Island and open to nonresidents.

Department recommendation: Take no action



Lynx seasons and bag limits

Reg. year	Trap		Hunt		Total harvest
	Date	Limit	Date	Limit	
2008	closed		Nov10-Jan31	2	0
2007	closed		Nov10-Jan31	2	0
2006	closed		Nov10-Jan31	2	0
2005	closed		closed		0
2004	closed		closed		0
2003	closed		closed		0
2002	Jan15-Feb15	none	closed		3
2001	Jan15-Feb15	none	closed		19
2000	Jan15-Feb15	none	closed		2
1999	Jan1-Feb15	none	closed		1
1998	Jan1-Feb15	none	closed		0
1997	Jan1-Feb15	none	closed		0
1996	Jan1-Feb15	none	closed		1
1995	closed		closed		0
1994	closed		closed		0
1993	Dec15-Jan15	none	closed		0
1992	Dec15-Jan15	none	closed		4
1991	Dec15-Jan15	none	closed		0
1990	Dec15-Jan15	none	Dec15-Jan15	2	0
1989	closed		closed		0
1988	closed		Nov1-Mar31	2	0

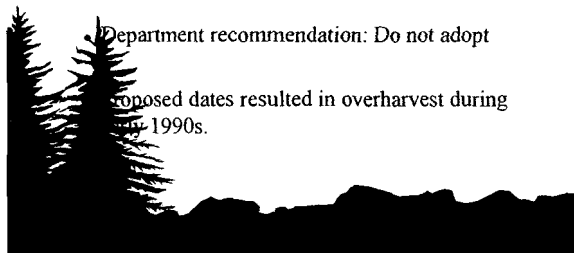


Proposal 34

- Increase brown bear season in Unit 6D

Department recommendation: Do not adopt

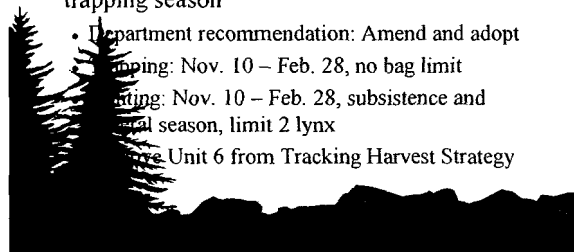
Proposed dates resulted in overharvest during the 1990s.



Proposal 37.

- Closes hunting season for lynx and opens trapping season

- Department recommendation: Amend and adopt
 - trapping: Nov. 10 – Feb. 28, no bag limit
 - hunting: Nov. 10 – Feb. 28, subsistence and personal season, limit 2 lynx
 - remove Unit 6 from Tracking Harvest Strategy



Board of Game Southcentral & Southwestern Region Meeting
February 27 – March 9, 2009
Anchorage, Alaska

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RC 78

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2	ADF&G Wildlife Conservation (WC)	Department comments
3	Tyonek AC	Meeting minutes and resolution
4	AK Maritime NWR – Will Meeks	Rat Island Overview
5	Delta, Minto-Nenana, Middle Nenana & Fairbanks AC	January 10, 2009 Joint AC meeting on 20A Anterless Reauthorization
6	US FWS	Recommendations on proposals
7	Nina Faust / Edgar Bailey	Prop 366 support
8	Upper Tanana / 40 Mile AC	Prop 237 modification
9	N. Norton Sound AC	Prop 227 & 231 support, Prop 244 oppose
10	S Norton Sound AC	Prop 227 support, Prop 244 oppose
11	Middle Nenana AC	January 19, 2009 meeting minutes
12	Billy & Pauline Ballard	Moose hunting seasons and bag limits, Prop 79, 99 & 112
13	Dorothy Lazar	Prop 28 support
14	Atmautluak Traditional Council – Moses Pavilla, Sr	GMU 18 moose hunting request for opening
15	John Schultz	Prop 24, 26, 27
16	Rod Schuh	Prop 48 oppose
17	Alison Cooke	Prop 118 support
18	Kuskokwim Corporation	GMU 19 Predator control plan
19	AK Society of Outdoor & Nature Photographers – Julie Jessen et al	Prop 42 – 45 support
20	Harriet & Dave Shaftel	Prop 20 – 28
21	Petersburg AC	Oppose Prop 241
22	ADF&G WC & Subsistence	Combined deliberation materials: Tier II Chronology, Prop 59, Prop 87 – 90, and Prop 95-96
23	ADF&G / Subsistence	C&T Use Worksheet for Caribou in GMU 8, Kodiak Island; Brown bears in GMU 10, Unimak Island; and Dall sheep in GMU 13A, Nelchina-Upper Susitna
24	ADF&G / Subsistence	Deliberation materials for Prop 87 – 90 and 96
25	GASH AC	Feb 24, 2009 Minutes re: Prop 238
26	Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas	Prop 44, 51, 64, 67, 77-78, 112, 174 and 186
27	Paul Chanek	Traps near publicly used trails
28	Otto Kulm	Prop 34 request to withdraw
29	Seldovia AC	Support for Prop 151 – 152
30	Mt Yenlo AC	Comments on proposals-Minutes of 2-25-09
31	Kenai/Soldotna AC	Comments on proposals – Minutes of 2-18-09
32	Nat'l Parks Conservation Assoc	Testimony of Jim Stratton

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34	ADF&G / WC	2009 Region II Overview
35	Defender's of Wildlife	Wade Willis testimony
36	Defender's of Wildlife – Wade Willis	Review of National Park Service comments on proposals
37	Defender's of Wildlife – Wade Willis	Review of ADF&G preferred options for revisions to predator control implementation plans
38	Lake Iliamna AC	Randy Alvarez testimony for AC
39	Ed Strabel	Support Prop 193
40	Anchorage AC – Aaron Bloomquist	Letter re: bear hunting without guides
41	Anchorage AC – Aaron Bloomquist	Comment deadline letter to Governor Palin
42	Anchorage AC – Aaron Bloomquist	Abundance based management letter
43	Anchorage AC – Aaron Bloomquist	Wood bison letter
44	GASH AC	Prop 238 support
45	Kenny Barber	Rescind comment made during testimony on Prop 79
46	Austin Ahmasuk	Prop 244 testimony
47	Senator Donald Olson	Prop 244
48	Western Interior RAC	Prop 239 comments
49	Sandra Kranich	Anchorage bear problems
50	JP “Jake” Jacobson	Prop 159 - 161
51	Central Peninsula AC	Minutes of 1-26-09 Comments on Proposals
52	Mat Valley AC	Comments on proposals
53	Tom Lamal	Prop 218
54	Tim Andrew AVCP	Moose moratorium in GMU 18
55	Tim Andrew	Conservation Biology-Demographic Side Effects of Selective Hunting in Ungulates and Carnivores
56	Mike Adams-Friends of McNeil River	Support for Proposals 42 – 45
57	Susitna Valley AC	Minutes of 1-27-09 and 2-10-09 BOG comments
58	Mark Richards	PowerPoint presentation slides
59	Dan Montgomery	Proposal 17 additional comments
60	Dan Montgomery	Proposal 44 additional comments
61	Mike Tinker	Fairbanks AC appendix to 20A Antlerless reauthorization
62	ADF&G / Boards Support	Public Testimony Final List
63	Dave Crowley	AK Chapter of Wild Sheep Foundation comments
64	Dave Crowley	Sportsmen for Habitat-AK comments
65	Joeneal Hicks	Cheesh-na Tribal Council comments
66	Doug Carney	Stoney Holitna AC testimony / comments
67	Wade Willis	Sportsmans Voice information
68	ADF&G / WC	Unit 16B Intensive Mgmt Plan Permit Details

Board of Game Southcentral & Southwestern Region Meeting

February 27 – March 9, 2009

RC Index

Anchorage, Alaska

Log # Submitted by

Topic

69	US Dept of Interior	PC 125
70	Juneau Douglas AC	Comments on proposals
71	Dan Montgomery	Comments on proposal 17
72	ADF&G Boards	Abstract of on time comments
73	Kotzebue AC	Comments on proposals
74	Mike Tinker	Joint GMU 20A AC comments
75	Don Hunley	Letter re: falconry
76	David McHoes	16B Moose Update – PowerPoint
77	ADF&G / WC	Unit 6 Overview PowerPoint
78	ADF&G / Boards	RC Log to date

**Summary of Advisory Committee Comment
on Antlerless Moose Proposals
Board of Game Southcentral/Southwest Region Meeting
February 27 – March 9, 2009**

Prepared by Boards Support Section

Proposal number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee location	Committee action (comment number)
225	1C (Berner's Bay)	Juneau-Douglas	Subunit	Support RC 70
226	5A (Nunatak Bench)	Yakutat	Subunit	
39	6A	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support, AC 23
40	6C	Copper River/PWS	Subunit	Support, AC 23
41	6B	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support, AC 23
12	7, 14C	Seward Cooper Landing Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Unit Unit Unit outside unit	Support, AC 25 Support, AC 27 Support, AC 18
7	14C (Ft. Rich.)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 27 Support, AC 18
9	14C (Birchwood MA)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 27 Support, AC 18
10	14C (EAFB)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 27 Support, AC 18
8	14C (Anch MA)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Oppose, AC 27 Support, AC 18
11	14C (Ship Creek)	Anchorage Matanuska Valley	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 27 Support, AC 18
178	14A	Matanuska Valley Anchorage	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 18 Support, AC 27
151	15C (Homer)	Central Peninsula Homer Seldovia Kenai/Soldotna	Subunit Subunit Subunit Unit	Oppose, RC 51 Support, AC 7 Support, AC 19

Summary of AC Comment on Antlerless Moose Proposals (continued)

Proposal number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee location	Committee action (comment number)
152	15A (Skilak Loop)	Kenai/Soldotna Central Peninsula Seldovia	Subunit Unit Unit	Support, AC 19 Support, RC 51
183	16B (Kalgan)	Tyonek Mt. Yenlo Susitna Valley	Subunit Unit Unit	Support, RC 57
234	20B (FMA/Minto Flats)	Fairbanks Minto-Nenana Delta	Subunit Subunit Unit	Support, AC 17
234	20B (F.M.A.)	Fairbanks	Subunit	Comments Not Yet Available
234	20B (Creamers)	Fairbanks	Subunit	Comments Not Yet Available
234	20B (east of FMA)	Fairbanks Minto-Nenana Delta	Subunit Subunit Unit	Support, AC 17
228	18	Lower Kuskokwim Central Bering Sea Lower Yukon	Unit Unit Unit	
234	20A	Middle Nenana Riv. Minto/Nenana Fairbanks Delta	Subunit Subunit Unit Unit	Support with Conditions, AC 16 & RC 5 Support with Conditions, RC 5 Support with Conditions, RC 5 Support with Conditions, AC 17 and RC 5
234	20D	Delta Fairbanks	Subunit Unit	Support, AC 17
231	22C & D	N. Norton Sound	Subunit	Support, RC 9
229	23	Kotzebue Noatak/Kivalina Lower Kobuk Upper Kobuk North. Seward Pen.	Unit Unit Unit Unit Unit	Support, RC 73
232	26A Colville River	Eastern Arctic	Unit	

LC 80

Proposal 241

Bonus Point Controlled Hunt Drawing Systems



Why a different system?

- Hunters desire better chance to draw controlled permits
- Present system lucky hunters can draw more often than unlucky hunters
- Some hunters believe that a system that rewards perseverance should be implemented

Considerations

- Requires tracking system and hunter identification
- Efficient relative to the cost of implementation
- New hunters and youth need some chance to draw controlled hunt permits
- Most western state fish and game agencies utilize some type of bonus/preference drawing system for all or a portion of their drawing hunts

Alaska – random draw

- Each application is randomly selected from all the other applications in the draw for the specific hunt (straight random draw)

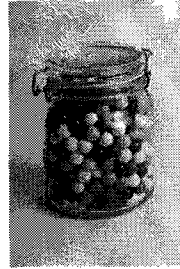


Submitted by ADFG

Alaska's system

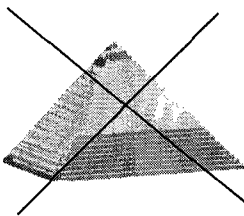
- 5 AAC 92.050 specifies permit hunt conditions and procedures
- Permits are issued by lottery
- Applications are subject to Board restrictions:
 - Only 3 hunts per species per regulatory year
 - Only 1 application for the same hunt per regulatory year
- Outcomes are subject to Board restrictions:
 - Only 1 hunt per species per regulatory year
 - Can't win the same hunt two regulatory years in a row
 - Harvest 1 bison every five regulatory years
 - Harvest 1 TMA sheep every four regulatory years

Bonus points - additional chances



- Each time an applicant is unsuccessful, during next year's lottery they receive one additional chance
- Applicants must have a unique identification number
- Winners still are selected by a random lottery

Preference points – what are they?



- Each year a hunter buys a preference point
- They have zero chance of obtaining a permit
- Accumulate points until guaranteed to be selected
- Bad for young/old/poor hunters
- Board NOT considering this system

Other State Drawing Systems

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Washington | Modified Bonus Point |
| • Idaho | Random Draw with Waiting Periods |
| • Montana | Bonus Point |
| • Oregon | Modified Preference Point |
| • California | Random Draw with Waiting Periods |
| • Nevada | Modified Bonus Point |
| • Utah | Combination Bonus and Pref. Point |
| • Arizona | Combination Bonus and Pref. Point |
| • New Mexico | Random Draw (eliminated preference) |
| • Colorado | Modified Preference Point |
| • Wyoming | Modified Preference Point |

Modified Preference Point - Oregon

Pros

- Eventually, most applicants will draw a tag
- In most cases, persistent applicants are eventually rewarded
- Hunters who have waited the longest have a better chance at drawing a tag



Modified Preference Point - Oregon

Cons

- It may take many years to draw on some hunts. In some instances, a lifetime.
- In most cases, first time applicants have a small chance to draw.
- There is still no guarantee that you will draw a tag for some hunts. By chance some people will never draw.

Modified Preference Point - Oregon

Cons (continued)

- The system discriminates against everyone with fewer points
- Costly to administer and complicated
- Identification numbers difficult/costly to accurately maintain

Oregon

- 75% of tags go to a random draw of the people with the most points
- 25% of tags are in a straight lottery draw
- Bighorn sheep drawings are random lottery draws (once in a lifetime) because there are too few tags to use a point system



Modified Bonus Points - Nevada

- Each time an applicant was unsuccessful in a drawing, he/she is entered in the next year's drawing one additional time. In Nevada points are squared +1
- Drawings are random
- Applicant has 5 choices/species
- All applicants have a unique identification number
- Hunters forfeit points if they don't apply for 2 years.



Modified Bonus Points - Nevada

Pros

- Odds are improved for the applicants with more bonus points
- First time applicants have some chance of drawing a tag



Modified Bonus Points - Nevada

Cons

- Exceptionally unlucky hunters may never draw.
- First time applicant could get drawn over someone with many bonus points.
- Might still take many years to draw tag
- Costly and complicated

Nevada – Increase your Odds

- Uses bonus point system on all tags for all species since 1993.
- Bonus points squared to increase odds of drawing (1999).
- Initially had a preference point system (1971-1993). Changed because some hunts had a 10 year waiting period.



Alaska – considerations

Alaska – 23,366 applicants (for all drawing permit hunts)

- Number of applicants for sheep drawings – 6,211 for 628 permits (includes ram and ewe permits)
- Number of applicants for bison drawings – 10,074 for about 160 permits (bull and cow permits)
- Each application can have up to three drawing hunt choices
- Each choice will have a separate opportunity to draw (i.e., each choice has a different random number generated for the draw)
- Currently have limited waiting periods for some hunts and a few species

Delta Bison – Bonus Points

DI403		70 permits			
Number of Applicants	Years Applied	Chances to Win	Chance of winning		
553	6	3,318	0.014261	or	1.43%
1,633	5	8,167	0.011884		1.19%
1,528	4	6,112	0.009507		0.95%
1,699	3	5,097	0.007130		0.71%
1,888	2	3,775	0.004754		0.48%
2,152	1	2,152	0.002377		0.24%
9,453		28,621			

Managing expectations

- Expectations - unsuccessful applicants frustrated by their lack of success
- Laws of probability
- No perfect system
- Establishing a bonus point system will take time before the effects are realized

Summary

- Preference and bonus point systems are costly and can be complicated.
- By increasing the odds in favor of one group of applicants, you are decreasing the odds of others (e.g., young hunters).
- No matter which system you use, there are still no guarantees of drawing a tag.
- It takes several years for the systems to have any effect (to build up points).

No perfect system

- No drawing method is perfect
- Each method has pros and cons
- Several states report satisfaction with their systems and they all report that they still have some dissatisfied hunters
- No matter which system is in use, there will be unhappy hunters who did not get drawn
- Numerous states recommend avoiding any move towards a bonus/preference drawing system

Board of Game Proposal 241

1. Current license to apply – already exists
2. Must use consistent hunter identification –
 - Currently don't have hunter ID number
3. Accumulate 1 point for each year unsuccessful
 - Assume not squared per some states
4. Lose points if applicant does not apply for 2 consecutive years
5. If unable to hunt must still apply
 - Must have hunting license
 - Apply for each species?

Board of Game Proposal 241

6. Points return to zero once applicant *receives* permit
 - Even if don't hunt, lose points

Board of Game Proposal 241

7. Drawing conditions
 - A. 50/50 split in allocating permits
 - 1) 50% for everyone
 - 2) 50% for bonus points
 - 1) Can only apply for one or the other
 - B. 1 Additional chance for each bonus point
 - C. No party applications
 - D. No transfers
 - E. All Bison drawing hunts –
 - Other species

Additional allocation issues

8. Resident versus nonresidents – separate pools
9. Next of Kin?
10. Accumulate points by hunt/species
 - If by species then multiple bonus points for all hunts?
 - Can she/he switch drawing permit hunts and still accumulate points?
11. What if hunt area changes/splits/deleted?
 - Big issue in other states

Additional allocation issues

12. What if not all hunts for a species are drawing?
13. Does application have to be hunt specific?
14. Separate application fee?
15. Online applications only?

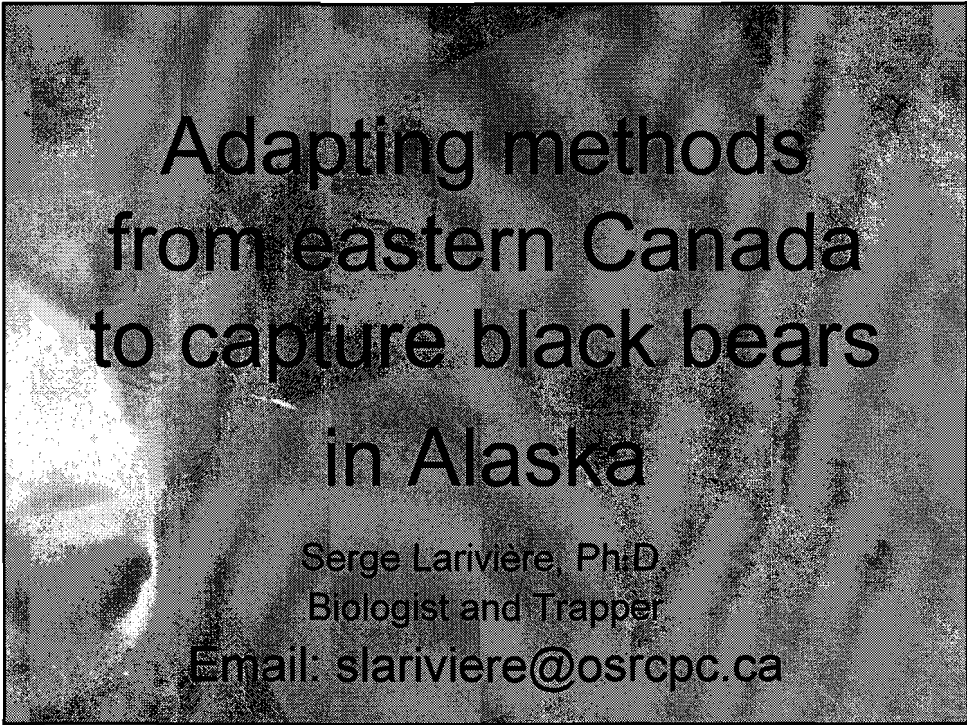
Fee system

AS 16.05.346

The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the department for the hunting of bison and musk oxen is \$10.

“ . . . The permit application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is conducted is \$5.”

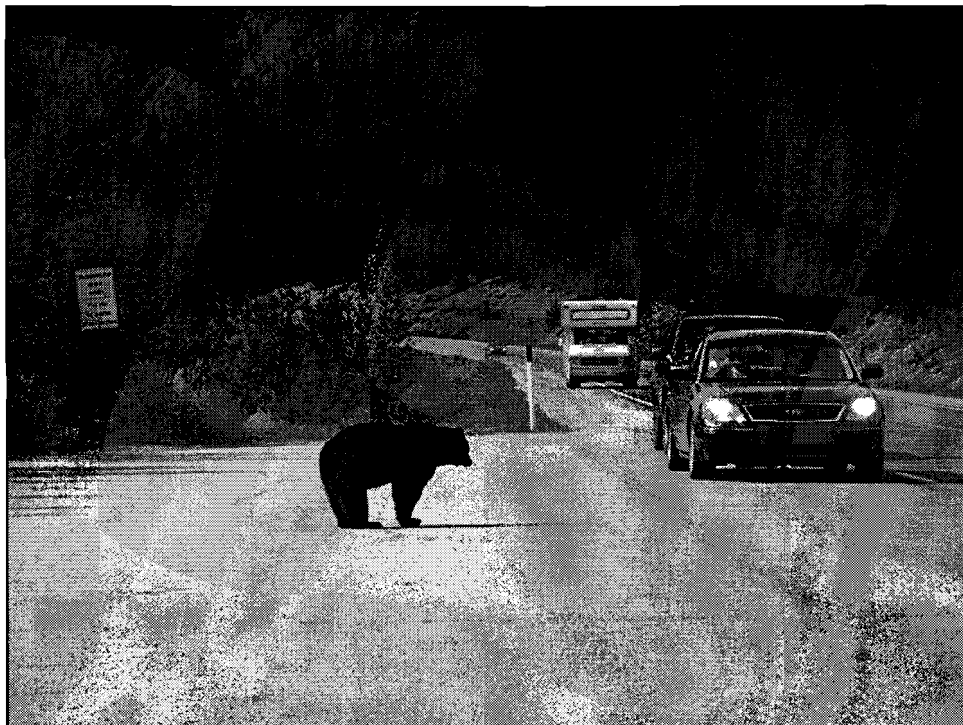
RC 81



Adapting methods from eastern Canada to capture black bears in Alaska

Serge Larivière, PhD
Biologist and Trapper
Email: slariviere@osrcpc.ca









Overview

- Basics of bear trapping
- Trap models and sets
- Selectivity
- After the catch



Autumn or Spring / Summer ?

Spring / Summer is easier

- Bears more predictable
- Bears respond to bait better
- Males more mobile
- Activity only increases with time
- Less interference from other users
- Fewer competing activities for trappers

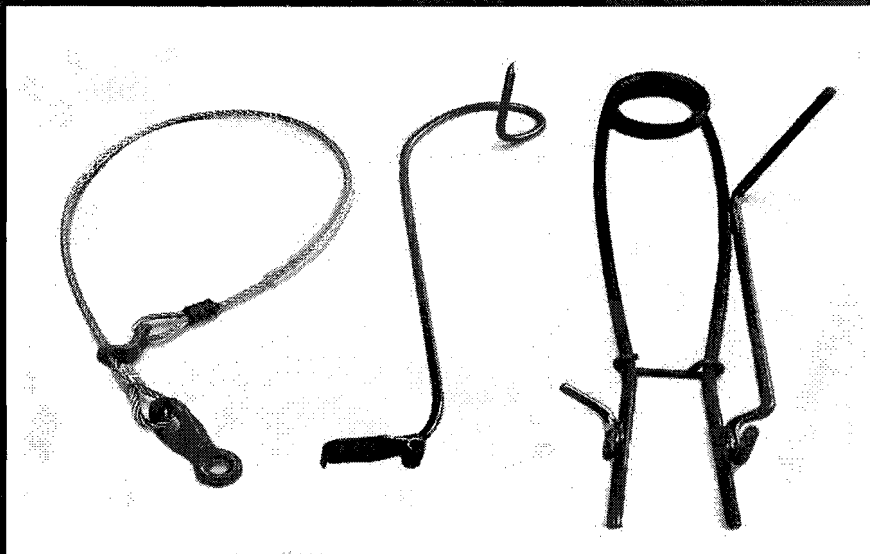
The basics of modern bear trapping

- Access to good bear populations
- Easily accessible locations (to carry equipment and catch)
- Pre-baiting stations
- Conspicuous sets
- Safe, humane, restraining traps

"Typical" bear trap



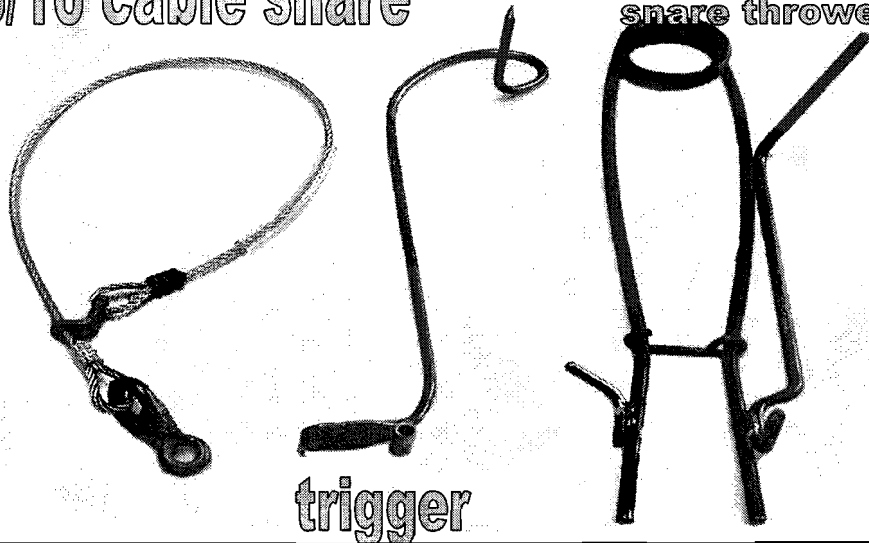
Modern bear "trap"



Modern bear "trap"

3/16 cable snare

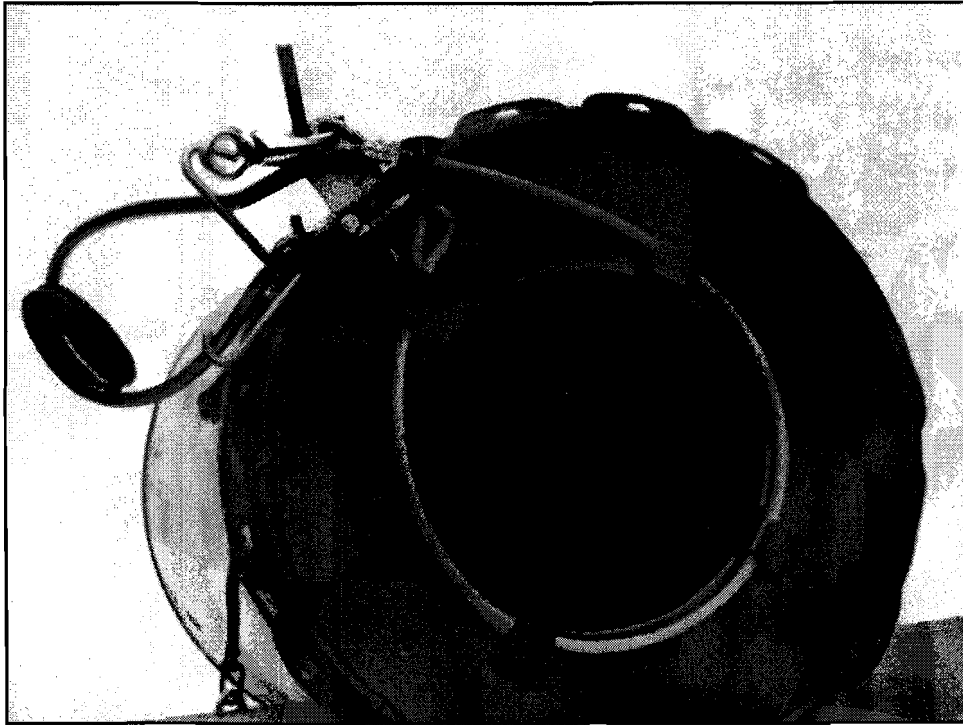
spring-activated
snare thrower



trigger

Trap types

- 2 basic types of foot-snares
- All same principle = close cable on bear foot
- Pail/bucket traps or Ground traps



Pail snares

- Pull trigger (Sauvageau M-15)
- Push trigger (GG bear trap)
- Low cost (about \$50)
- Requires a pail
- Faster and less work to set
- Bear specific (fewer incidentals)
- Higher visibility (theft?)
- Slightly less effective (refusals)



Ground foot-snares

- More extensive set construction
- Can be set as trail sets or baited sets
- More secretive (but more time to set)
- More effective, but less selective (all size bears)
- More prone to catch and hold incidentals



Ground foot-snares

- Two types of ground snare throwers
- Specific snare thrower (Commercial or Homemade - cost \$50-\$100)
- Old bodygripping trap (#280s or 330s – cost? \$10-20)

Easiest way to catch a bear

- Actual sets are time consuming, but yield high success so the easiest way is:
- 1- Prebait
- 2- Rebait after first bear visit
- 3- Set after second bear visit

Step 1: Pre-bait

- Strong smelling, bear-only baits
- Smear baits increase attraction
- Many baits deployed over target area
- Deployment and regular visits
- After the first visit, provide edible bait





Top locations

- Waterside is # 1
 - Rivers, lakes, creeks
- Gravel pits
- Junctions of forest roads
- Near predictable foraging areas (natural or not)



Other pre-baiting tricks

- Carcasses under logs or rocks
- Rotting meat bait in pails or bags hung off the ground
- Huge baits (ungulate carcasses) carried in spring by snowmobile

Step 2: Rebait after first visit

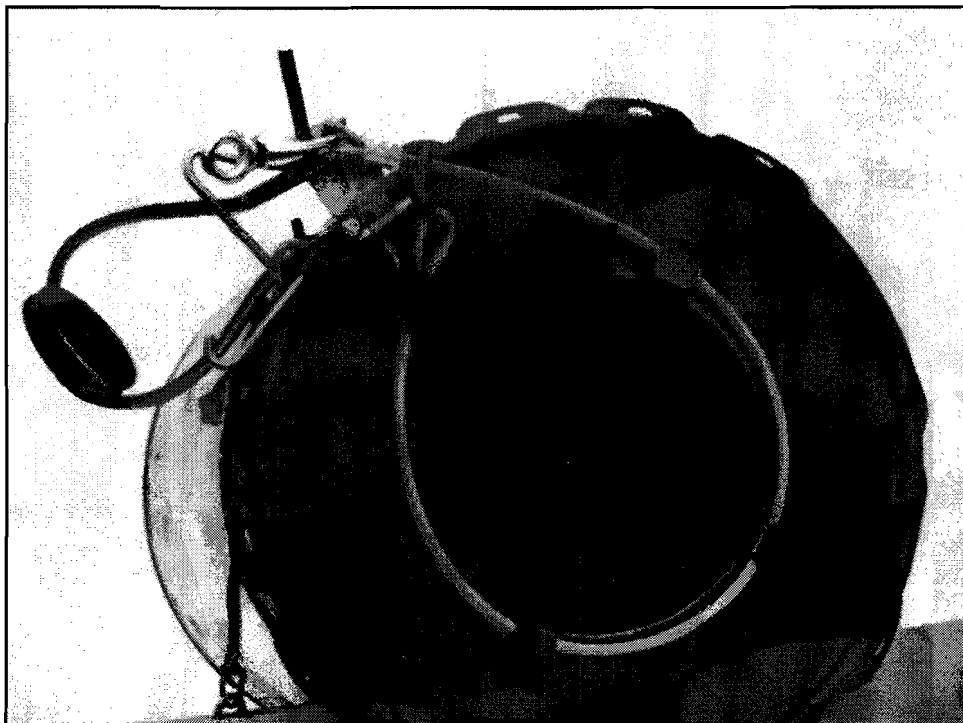
- Switch from loud baits to edible baits
- Best food baits?
 - Beaver carcasses
 - Pastries, donuts, sweets, etc
 - Fish
 - Used frying oil or farm-grade molasses as smear-type bait

Confirm bear species before setting



Step 3: Set after second visit

- That bear WILL come back
- 3 options: pail set, cubby set, or trail set
- Double sets a worthy practice



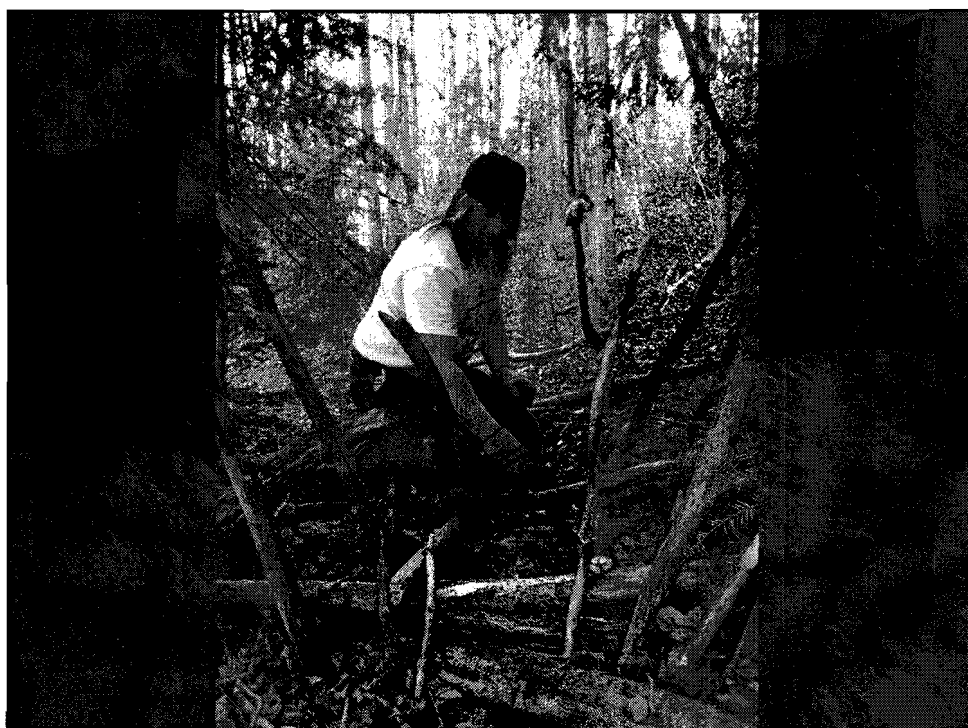




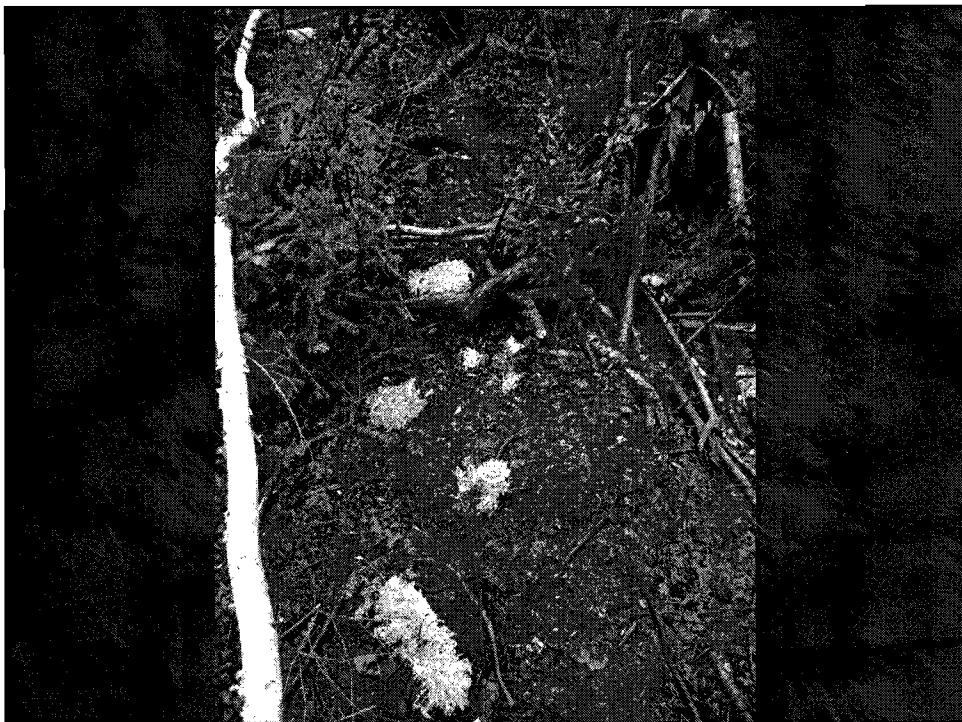














p 24

Selectivity issues

- Location
 - High use areas for black bears
 - Pre-baiting commitment
 - Confirm identity with remote cameras

Remote cameras: a great tool



Selectivity issues (..2)

- Traps
 - Hole size in pail cover
 - Loop size at set (eg. 220 vs. 330)
 - Loop size closed
 - (stop, rubber sleeve)

Best tricks to avoid grizzlies?

- Confirm identity during pre-baiting (tracks, other sign, or with remote cameras)
- Avoid sets where grizzlies are detected
- Pre-bait more, gang set location, stay one night or two
- Reduce hole size in pail cover
- Have access to immobilizing agents and trained personnel just in case



Step 4: After the Catch

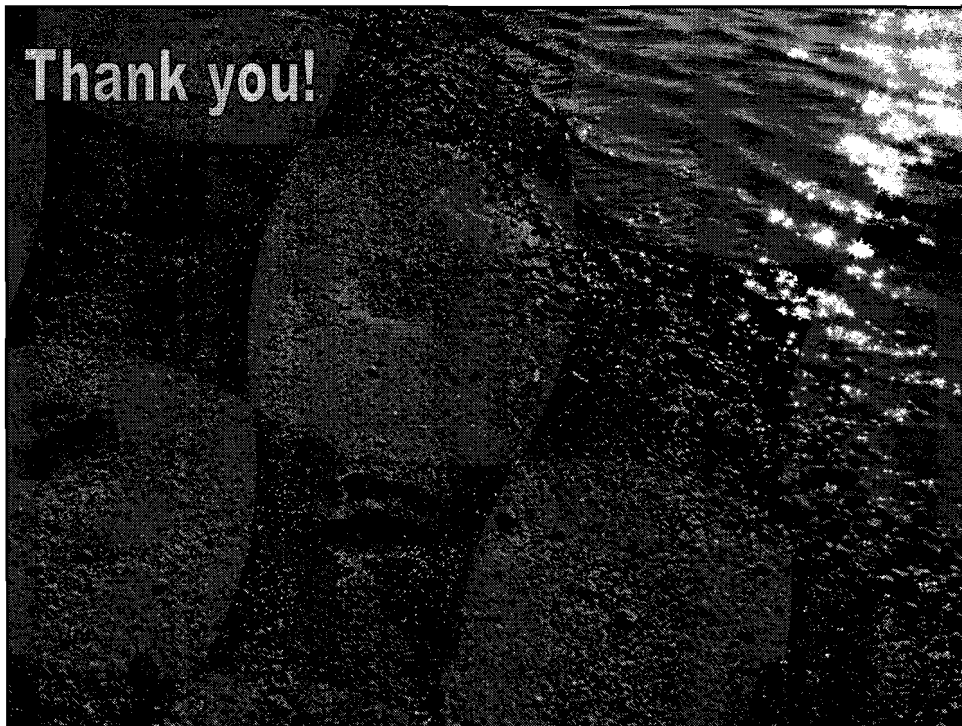
- Sets and cable destroyed
- Locations can be reset
- Good locations produce yearly



Closing remarks

- Foot-snaring bears is an easy and humane way to capture black bears for fur, population control, AND research
- Good judgment and animal identification during pre-baiting probably easiest way to avoid (reduce) catches of grizzly bears

Thank you!



Proposal 246

**Require Black Bear Harvest Ticket
where sealing is required**

Adopt

Proposal 246

SAAC 92.010. (1) For black bear; a person may not hunt black bear in a unit with black bear sealing requirements, except in a permit hunt, [IN UNITS 1-5] unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket).

Proposal 197

**No Black Bear Sealing Outside
Road System**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 245

**Require IBEP for taking Black
Bear over bait Statewide**

Adopt

Proposal 245

SAAC 92.003. (g) a person may not take a black bear over bait [IN UNIT 7 AND UNITS 14-16] with a bow and arrow unless the person has successfully completed a department – approved bow – hunting course.

Proposal 199

**Modify Black Bear Baiting
to June 30 for
Units 7, 14A, 14B, 15, and 16A**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 198

**Modify Guiding Requirements for
Baiting Black Bear in Region II**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 222

**Prohibit shooting within 50 feet of
roads
Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 16A**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 110

**Restrict Aircraft for Sheep Hunting
in Units 13 and 14 and/or
Create Controlled Use Area in 14C**

No Recommendation

Proposal 221

**Modify Same Day Airborne
For Big Game in Region II
24 hour rule
12:00 noon rule**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 220

**Prohibit harvest of game spotted
while being transported aboard an
aircraft or vessel**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 205

Rescued Moose Transplants

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 244

Full Metal Jacket Bullets

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 202

**Reauthorize the Brown Bear Tag
Fee Exemption**

**Adopt
(required action)**

**Current Units in Region II
with exemption:**

**Unit 11
Units 13 and 16A
(Outside Denali State Park)
Unit 16B
Units 9B, 9E portion and 17
(Subsistence registration hunts)**

Proposal 200

**Bears taken from
Predator Control Areas
do not count towards bag limit**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 223

**Guide Client Agreements
Sheep, Goat, Brown Bear
Drawing Hunts**

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 111

**Guide Client Agreements
Sheep and Goat
Drawing Hunts in 13D, 14A and 14C**

Take No Action

Proposal 203

**Limit Non Resident Goat Permits
Units 7, 8 and 13-15
10% of unit total**

No Recommendation

Proposal 240

**Allow 6 Drawing Permit
Applications per species**

Adopt

Proposal 241

Bonus Points

No Recommendation

Proposal 115

**Bonus Points
Bison in Units 11 and 13**

Take No Action

Proposal 243

**Create hunts for
Disabled Veterans**

No Recommendation

Proposal 242

**Create hunts for
Disabled Veterans**

Take no Action

Proposal 206

**Establish Late-Season Archery hunts
Sept. 20 – 30 Nov. 1 - 10
Require hunters to select weapon type
at time of license purchase**

Do not Adopt

Proposal 207

**Establish Youth Hunts during Winter
Any Moose
Units 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16
Unit 14C hunts guided**

Do not Adopt

Proposal 194

**Expand coyote hunting seasons and
bag limits throughout Region II**

No Closed Season/10 per day

Amend and Adopt

**Current hunting season
for coyotes:**

Region II Aug. 10—Apr. 30

Unit 9 Aug. 10—May 25

10 Coyotes

Proposal 195

**Expand coyote hunting seasons and
bag limits throughout Region II**

No Closed Season/No Limit

Take No Action

GMU 11 and 13 AREA OVERVIEW

RC 83



Board of Game

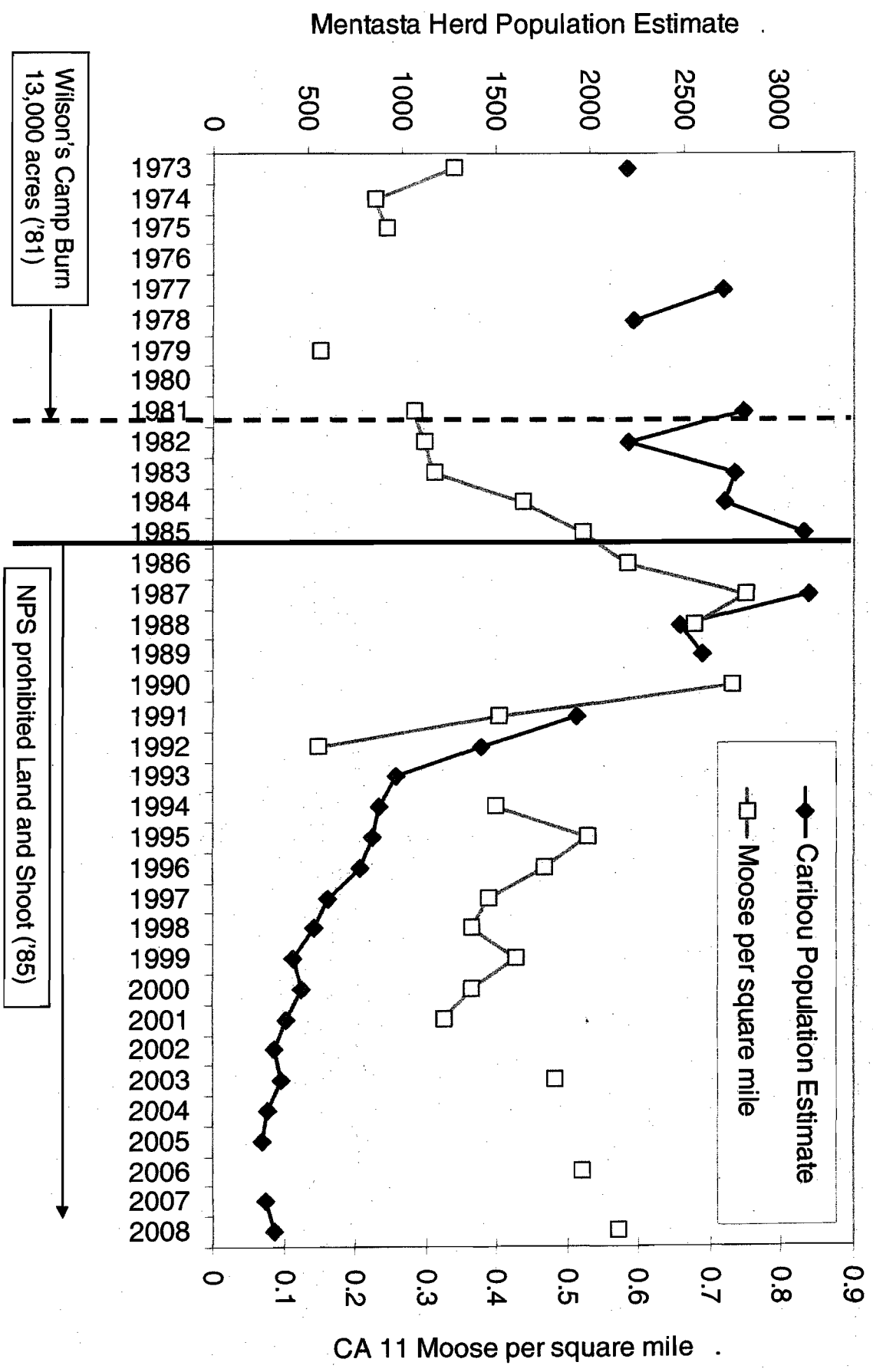
27 Feb-9 March 2009

Glennallen

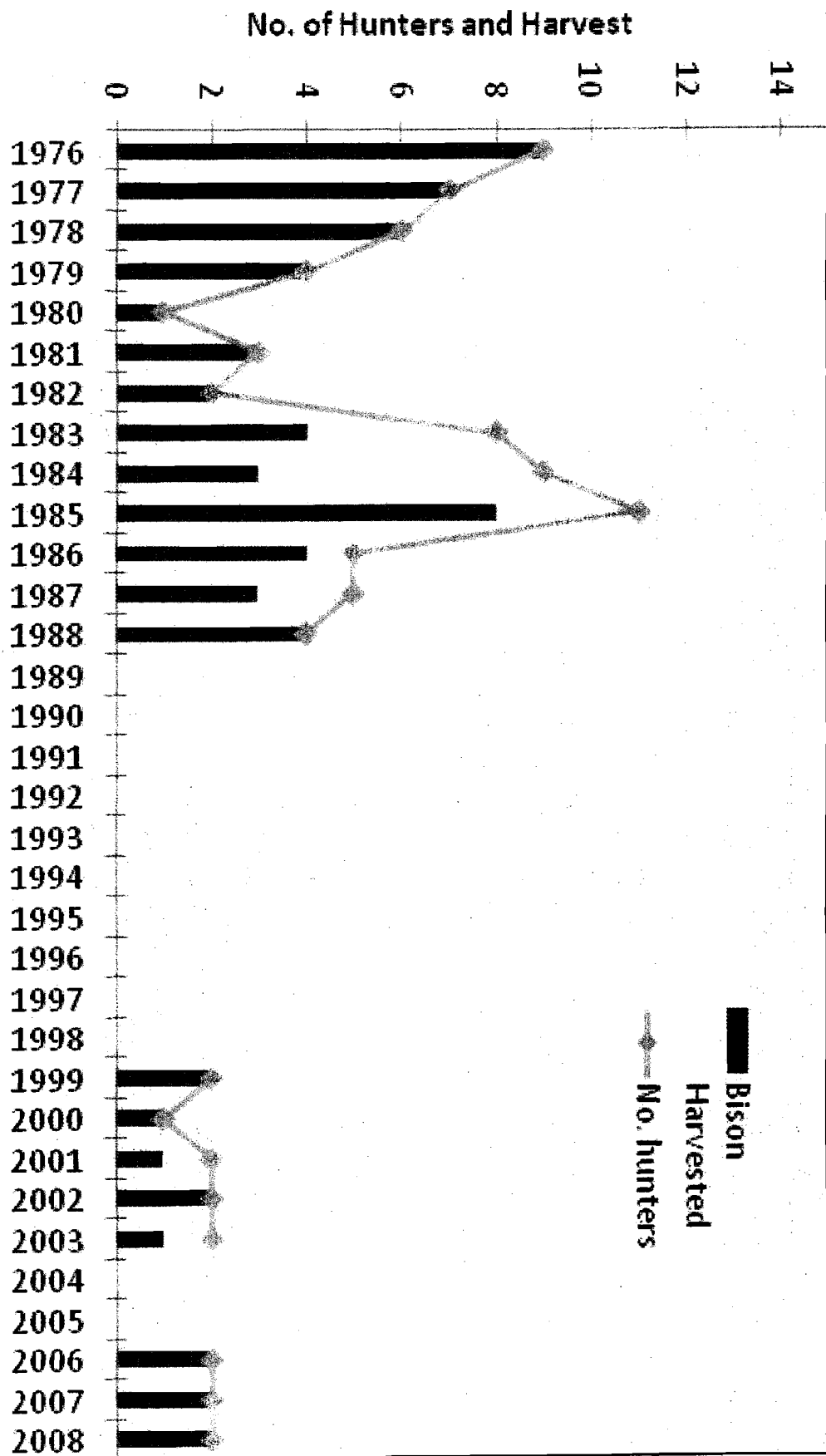
Bob Tobey

Becky Schwanke

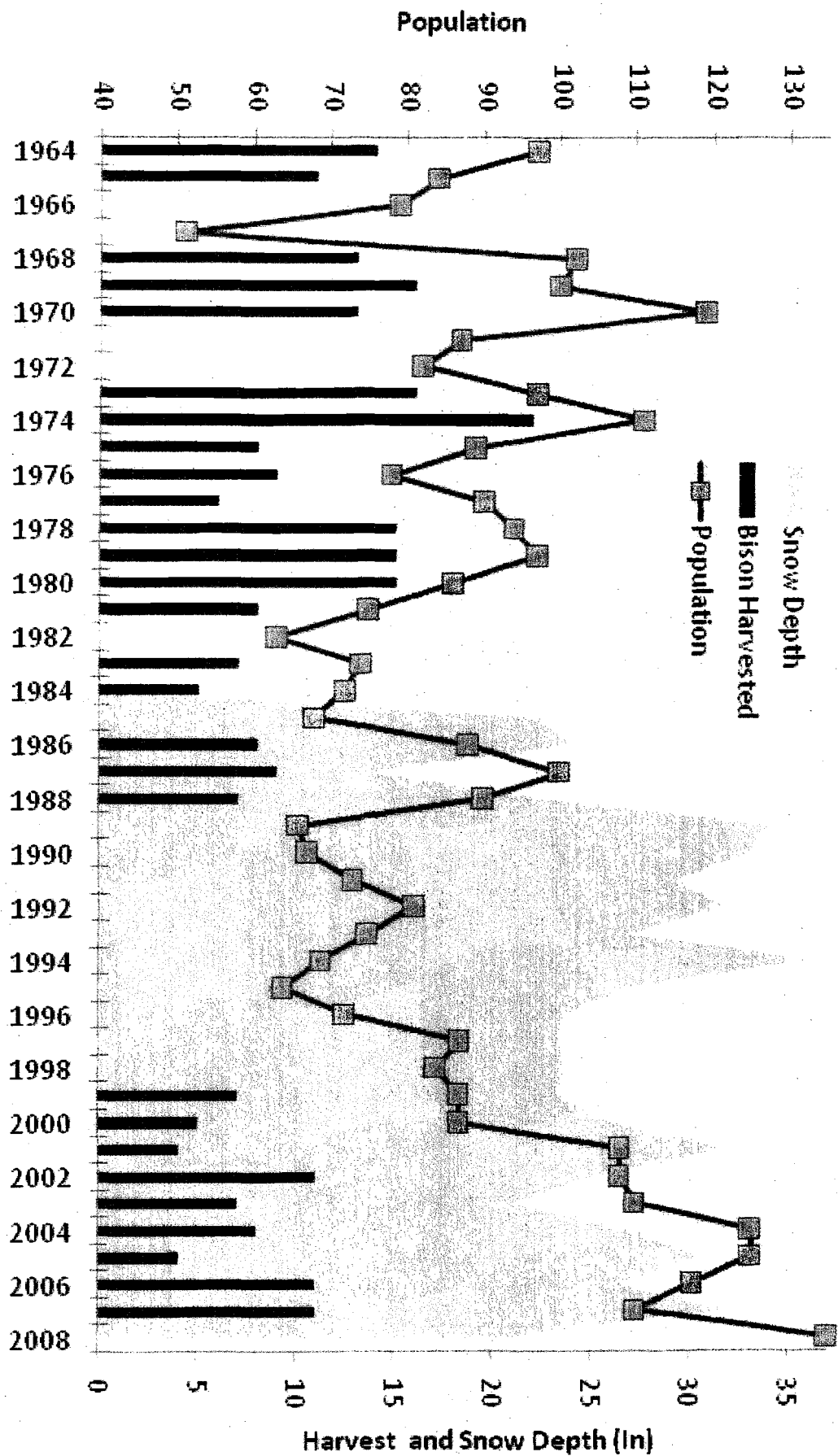
Moose and Caribou in Unit 11 Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve



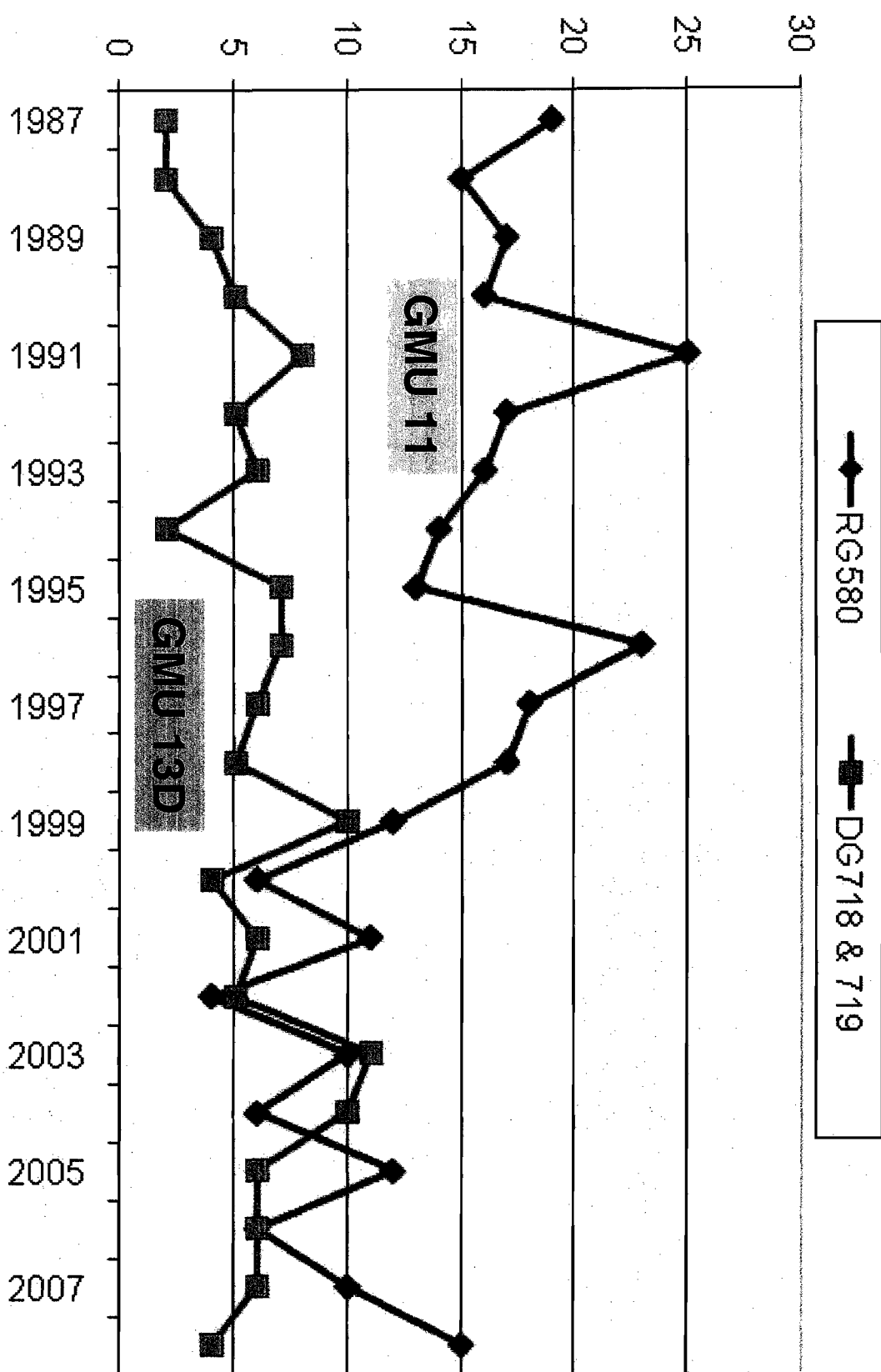
CHITINA RIVER BISON HERD HARVEST AND EFFORT



COPPER RIVER BISON HERD HARVEST AND POPULATION SIZE



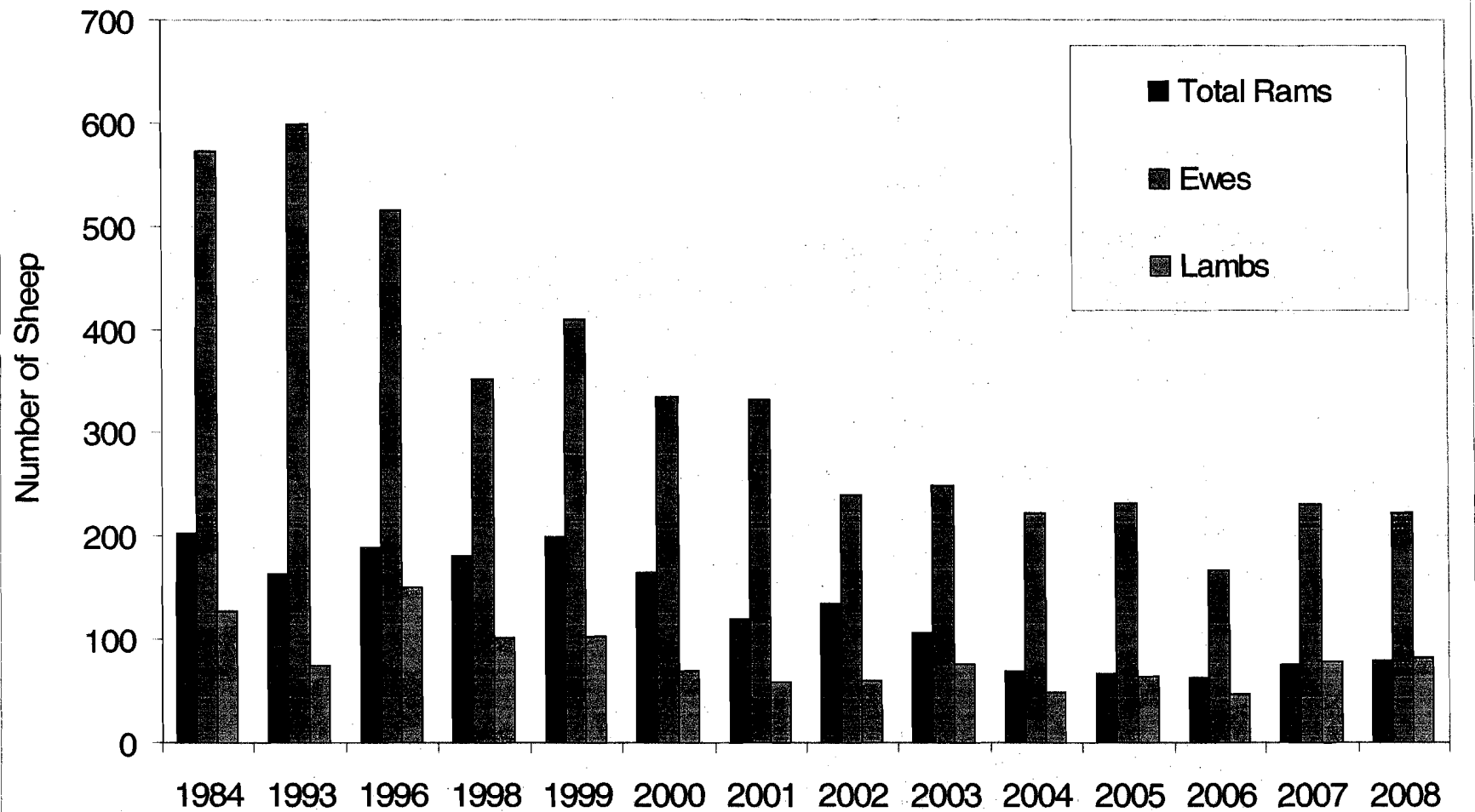
Mt Goat Harvests in GMUs 11 & 13



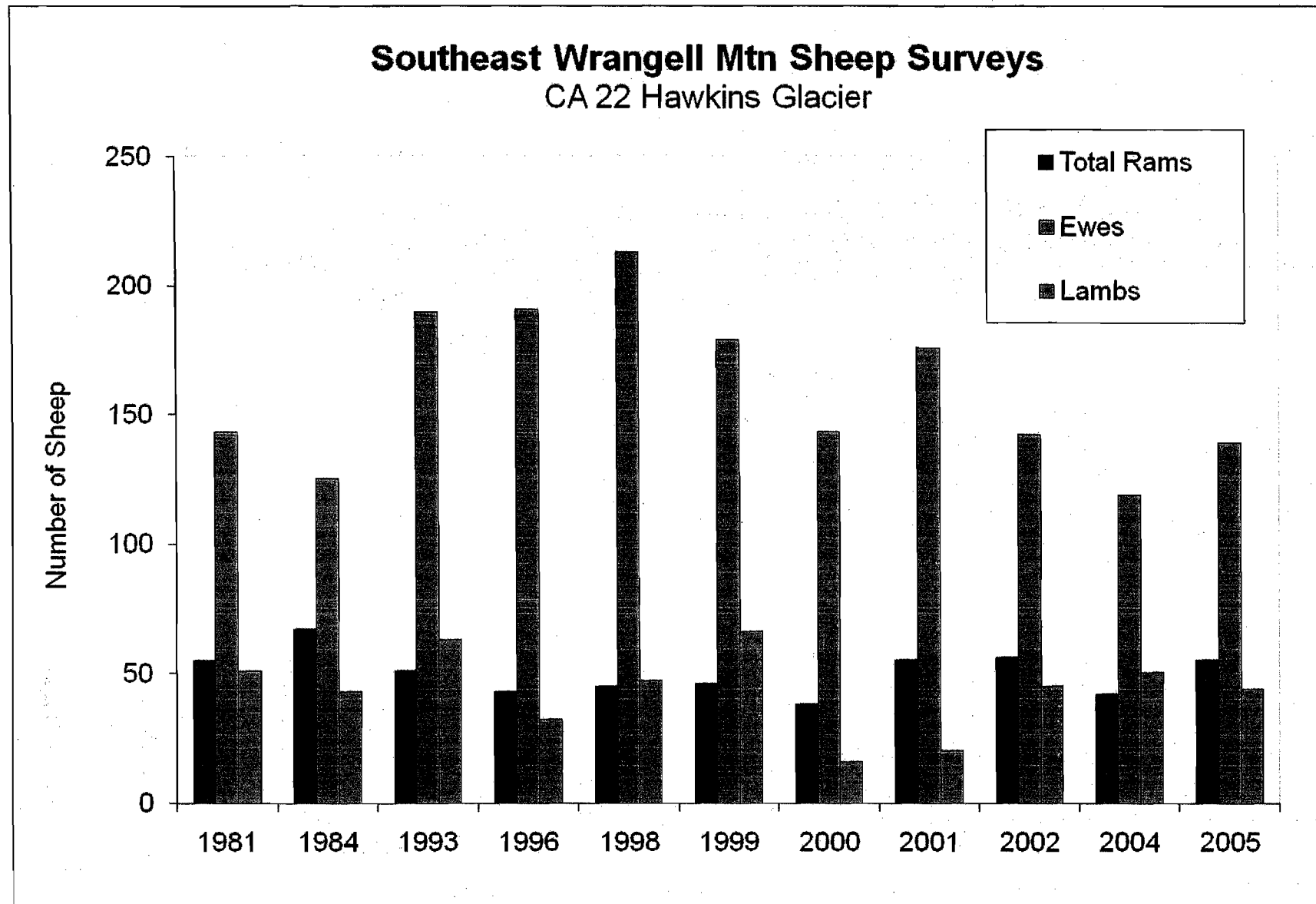
Sheep - GMU 11

Southwest Wrangell Mtn Sheep Surveys

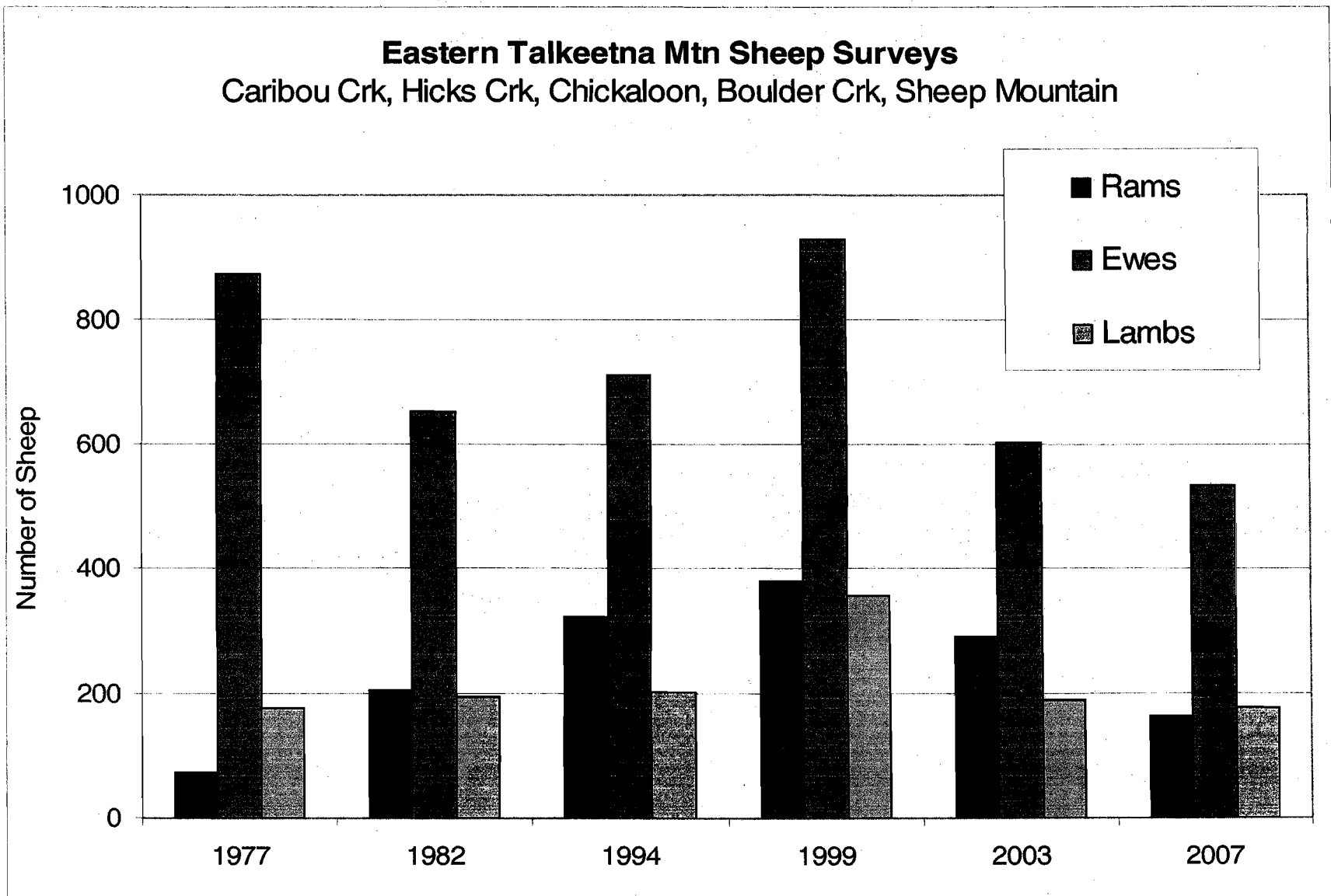
CA 11 AND CA 12 Kuskulana to Dadina



Sheep - GMU 11

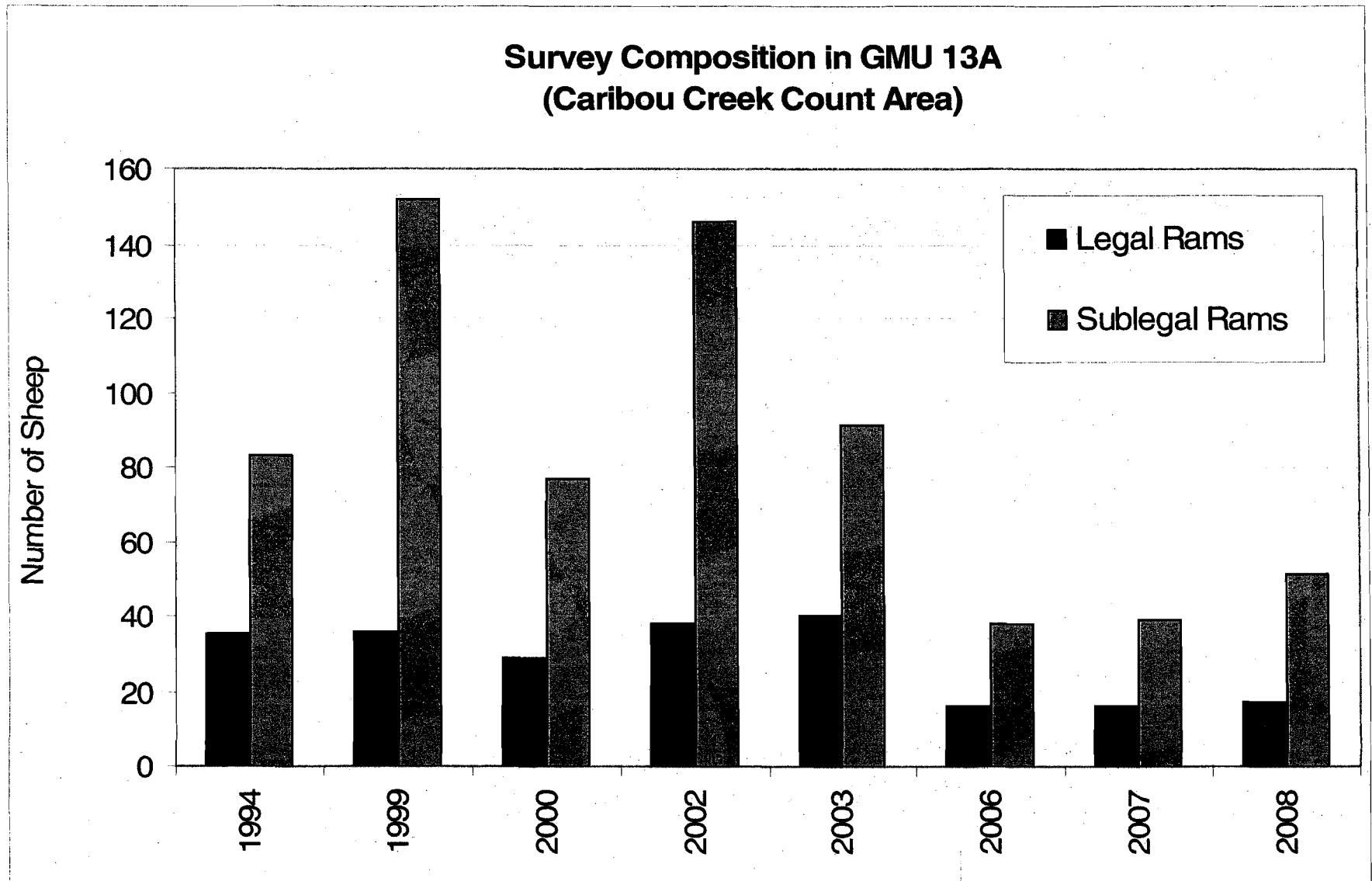


Sheep in GMU 13A – Eastern Talkeetna Mountains

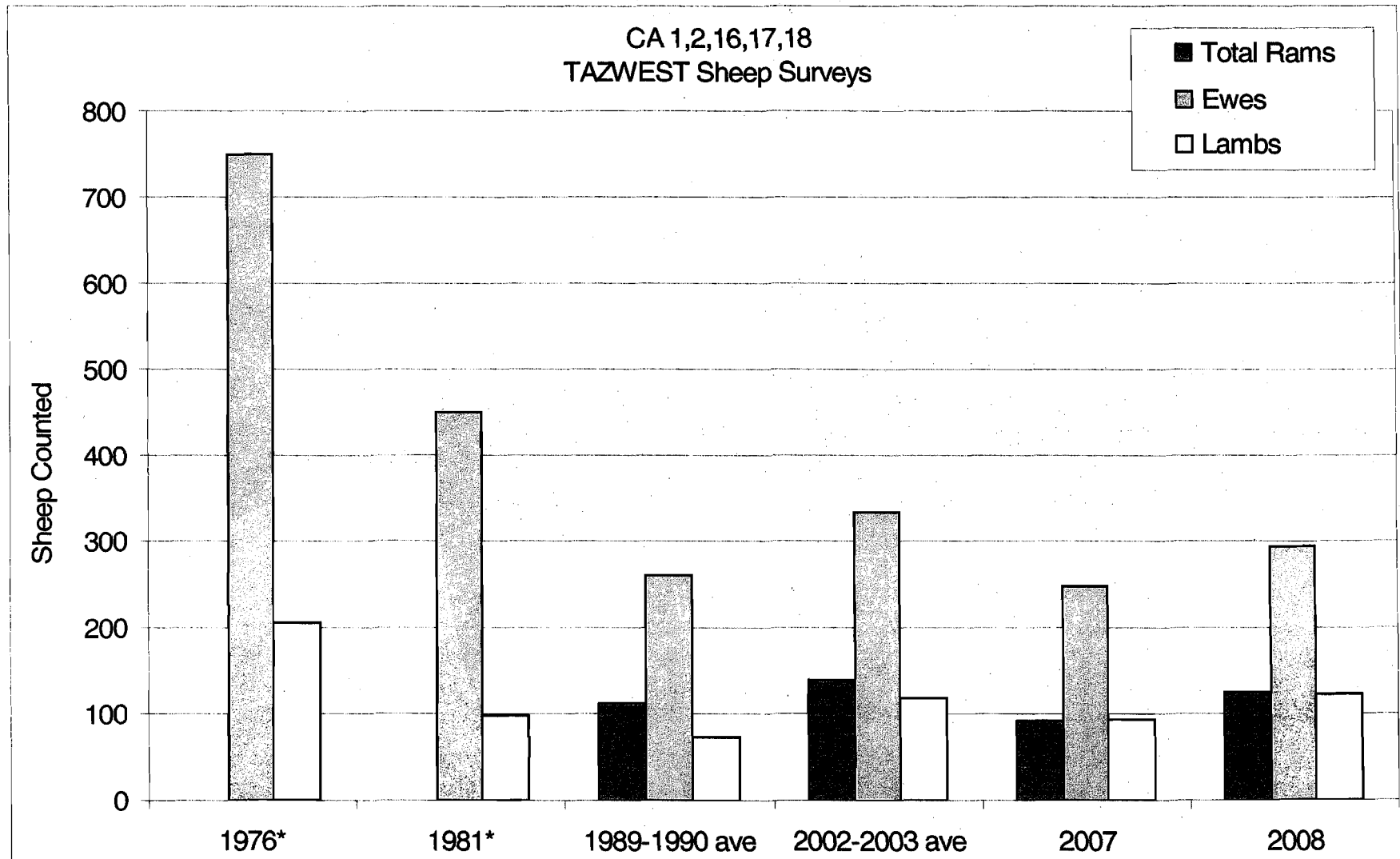


* In 1977, sublegal rams were included in the ewe category

Sheep in GMU 13A – Eastern Talkeetna Mountains

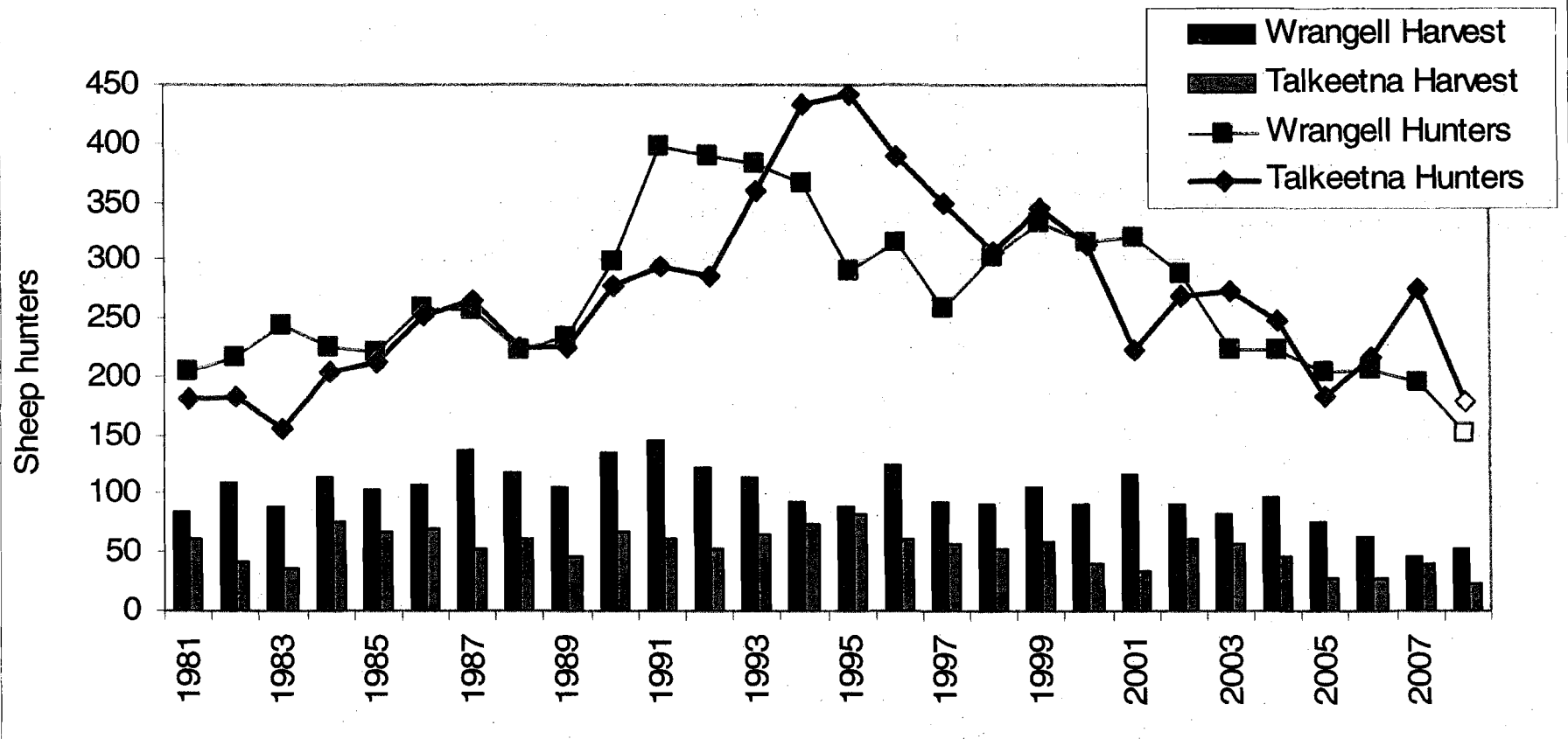


Sheep in GMU 13D West – Chugach Mountains

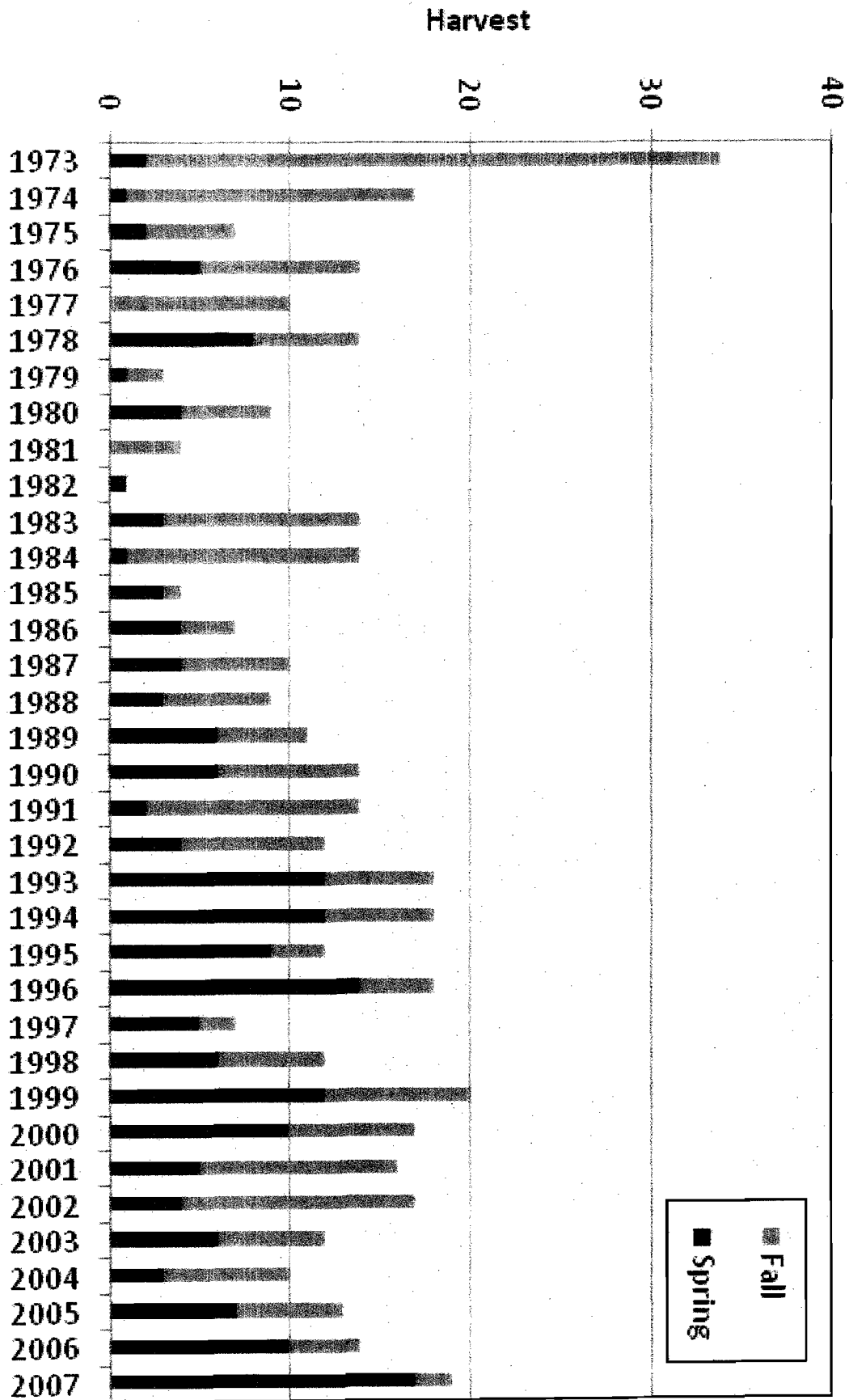


Overflow sheep hunters?

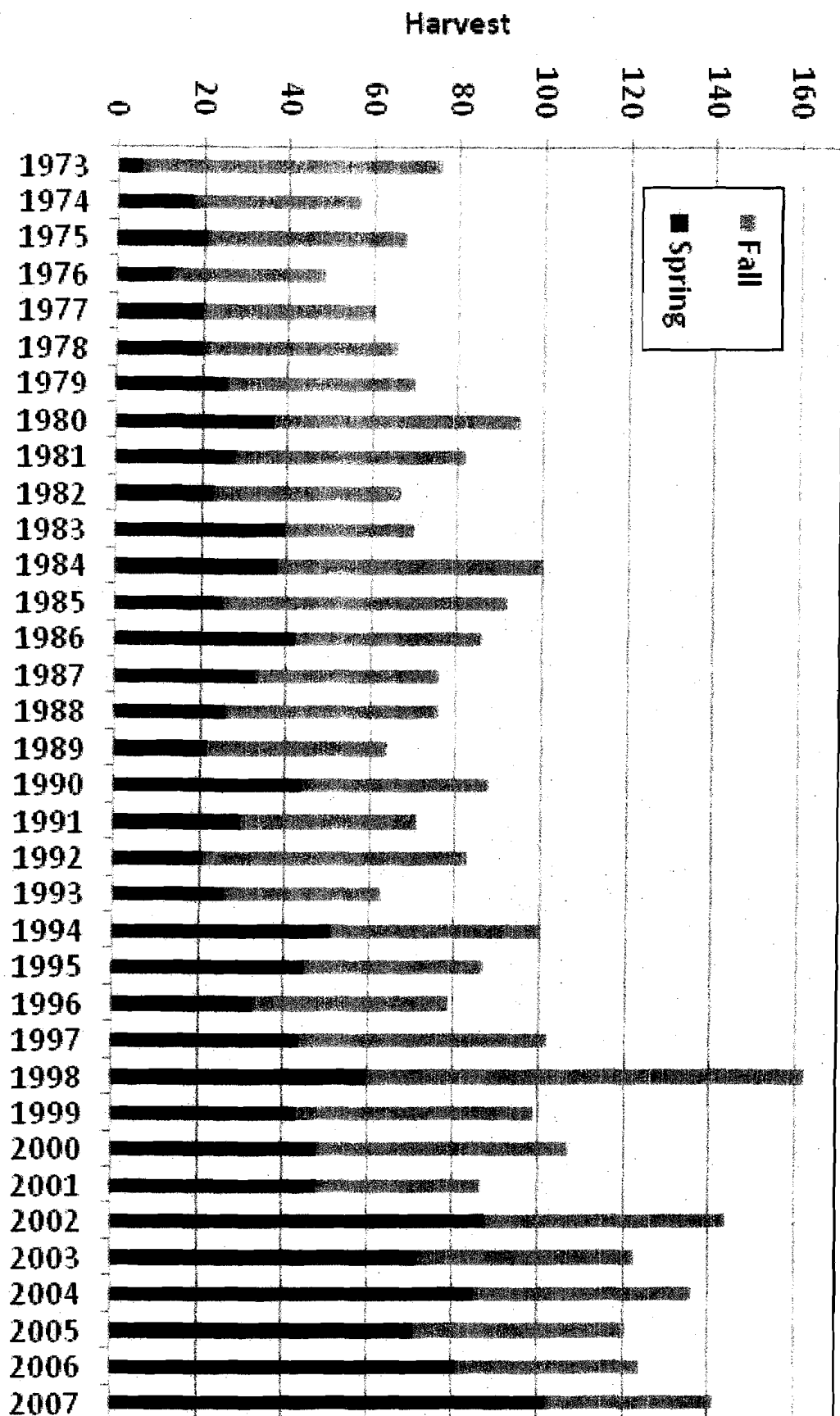
Sheep Hunters and Harvest
13A & E Talkeetna and Unit 11 Wrangell Mountains



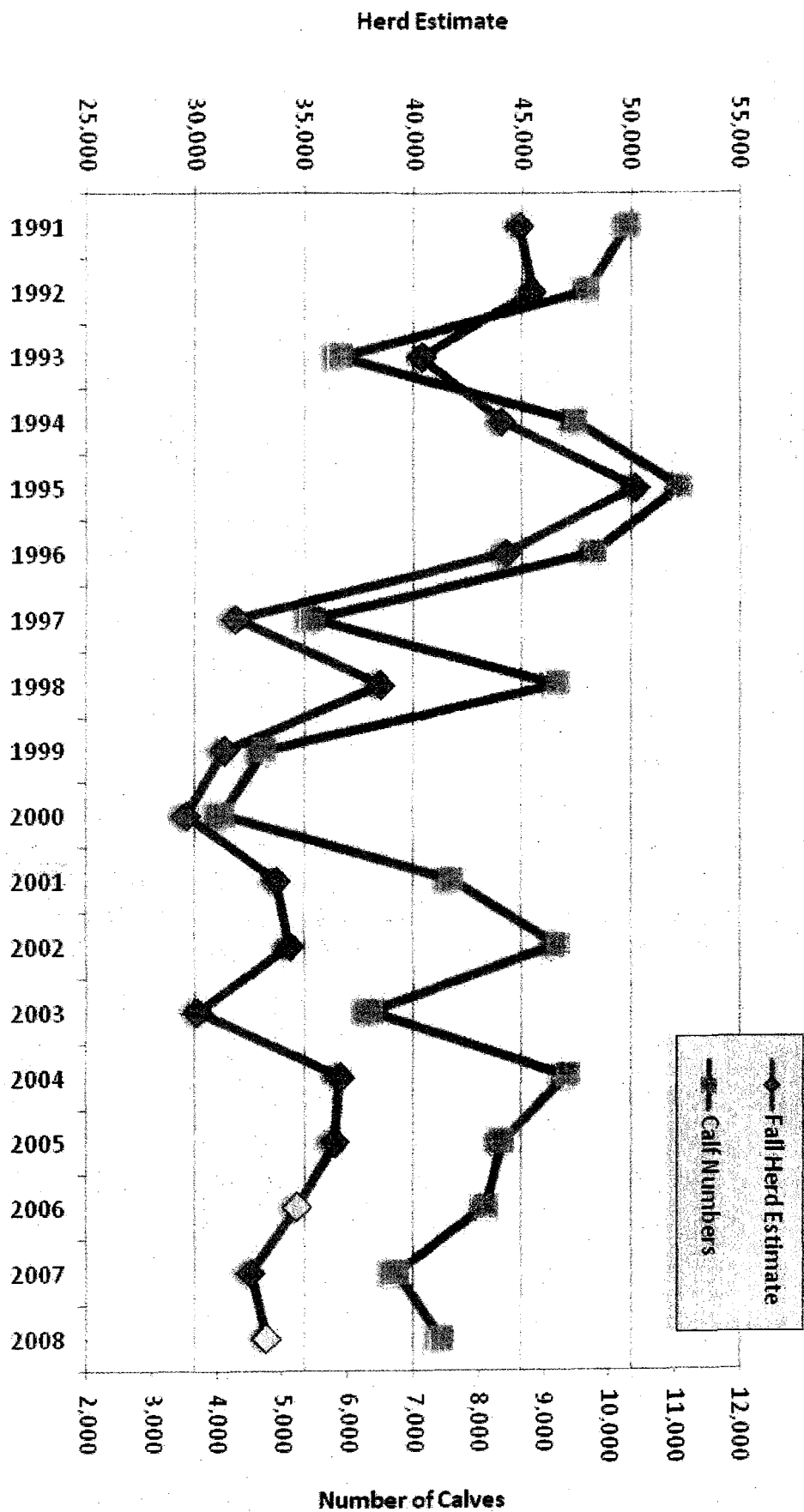
Black Bear Harvest - Unit 11



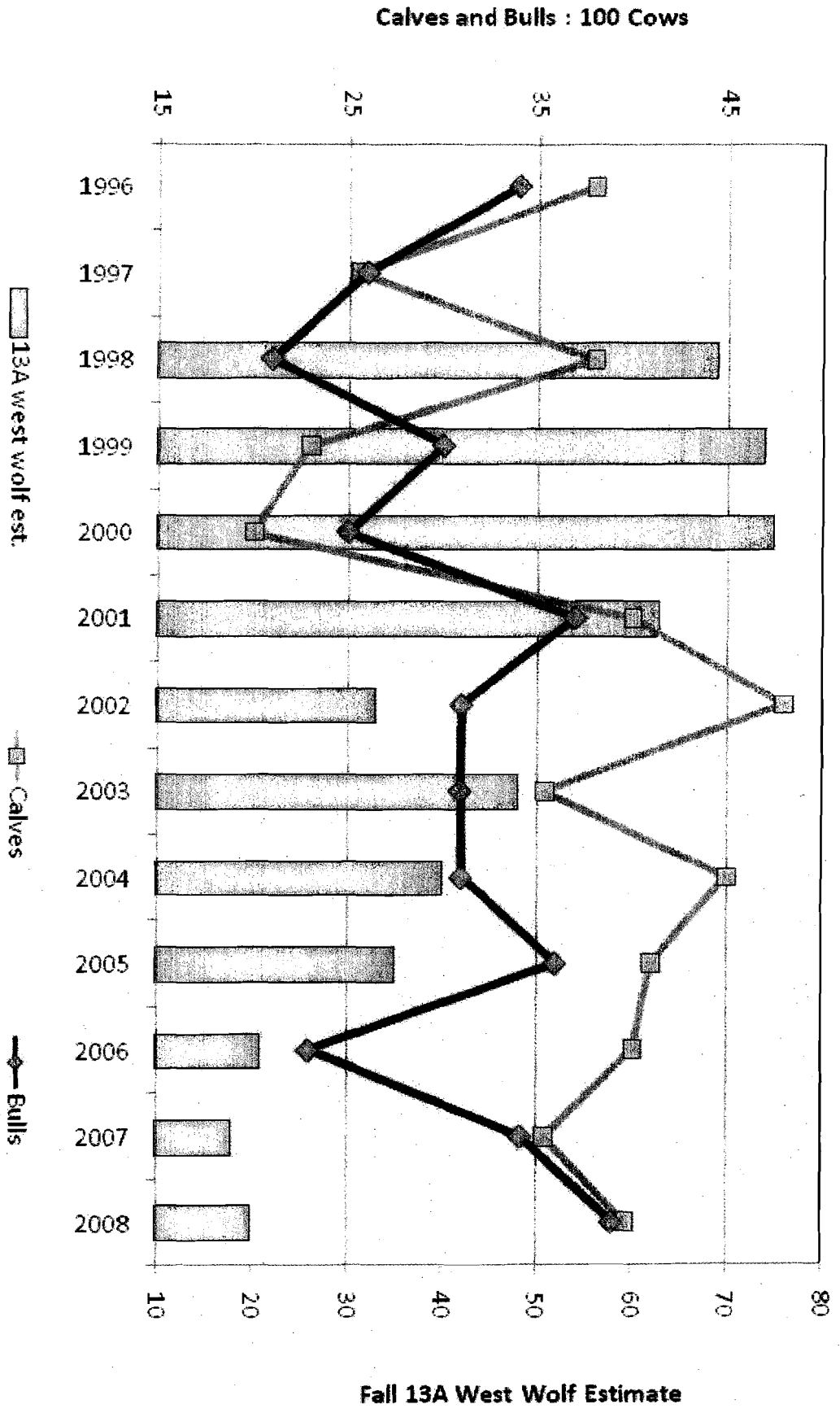
Black Bear Harvest - Unit 13



Nelchina Caribou Herd Population Estimates and Calf Numbers



Nelchina Caribou Fall Composition and Wolf Estimates



**NELCHINA CARIBOU HERD
RADIO LOCATIONS
12-14 January 2009**

Legend

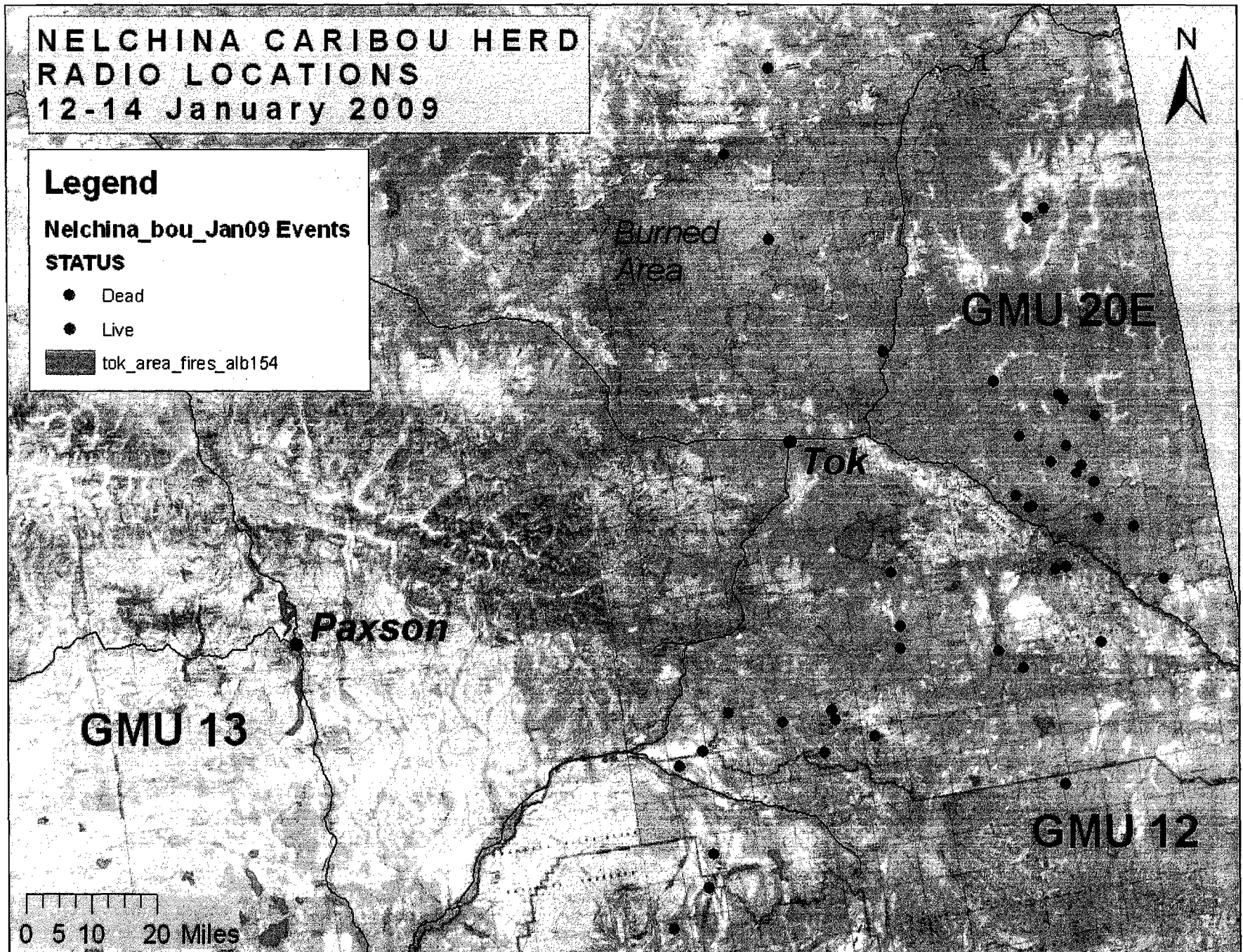
Nelchina_bou_Jan09 Events

STATUS

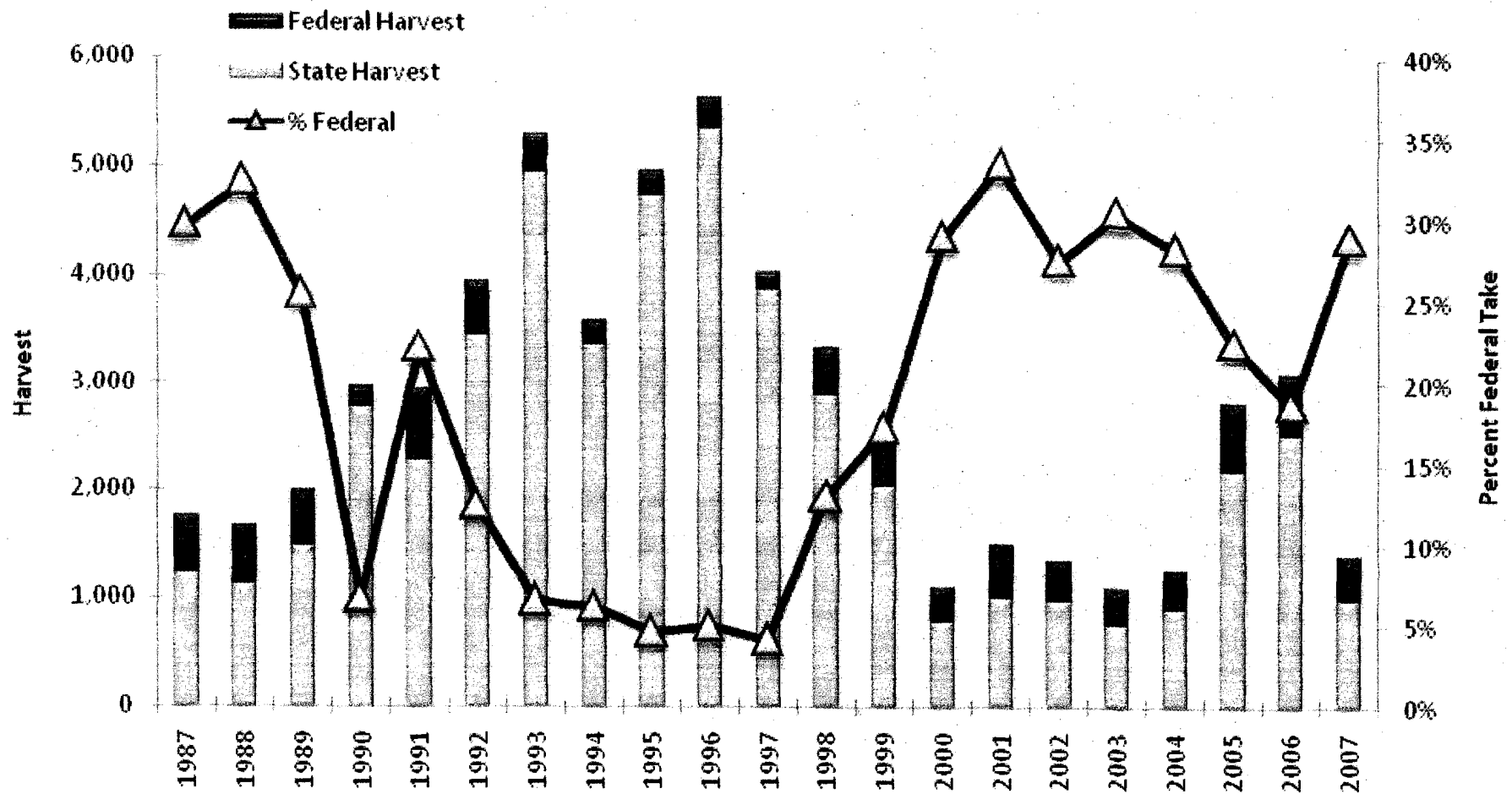
• Dead

• Live

tok_area_fires_alb154



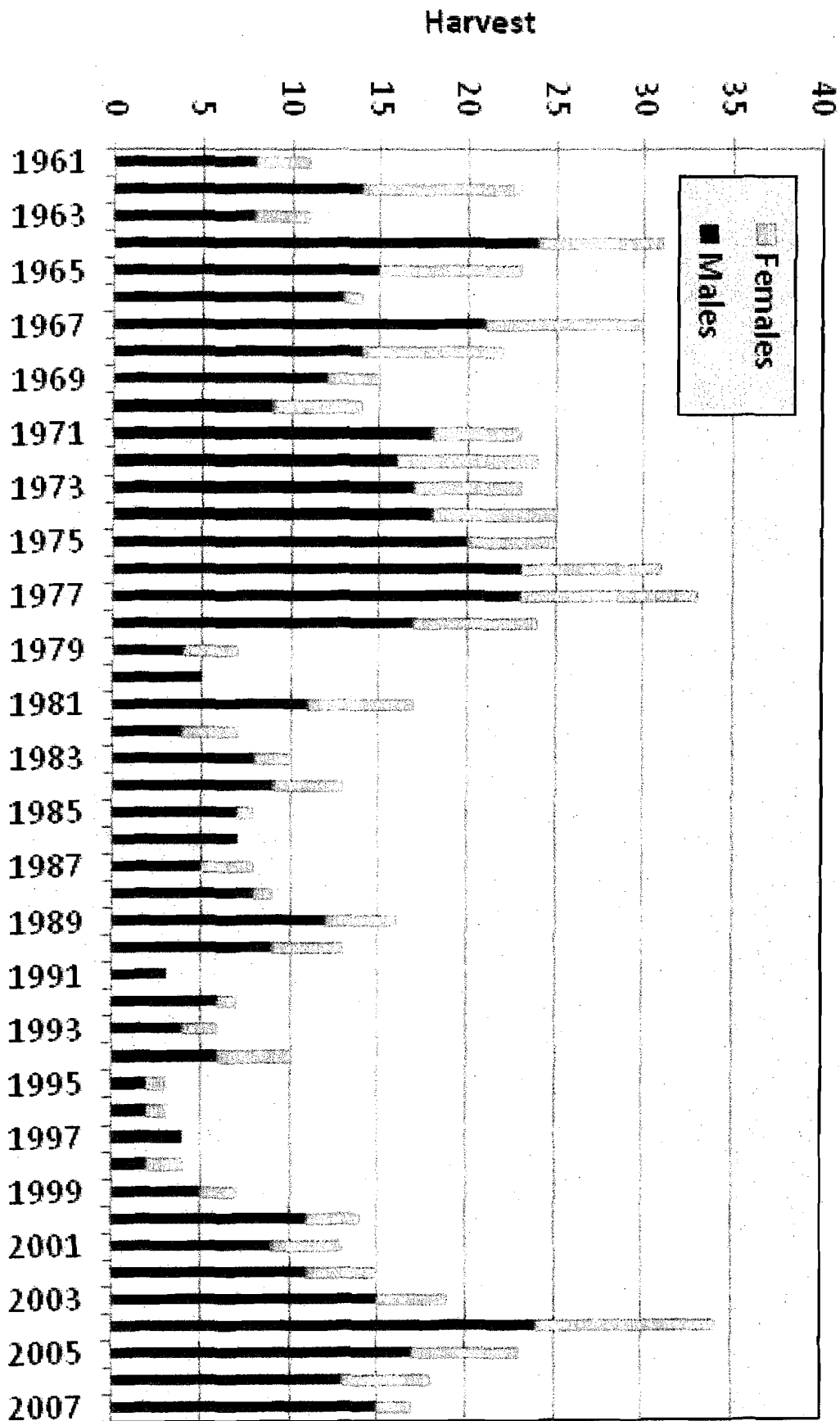
NCH HARVESTS



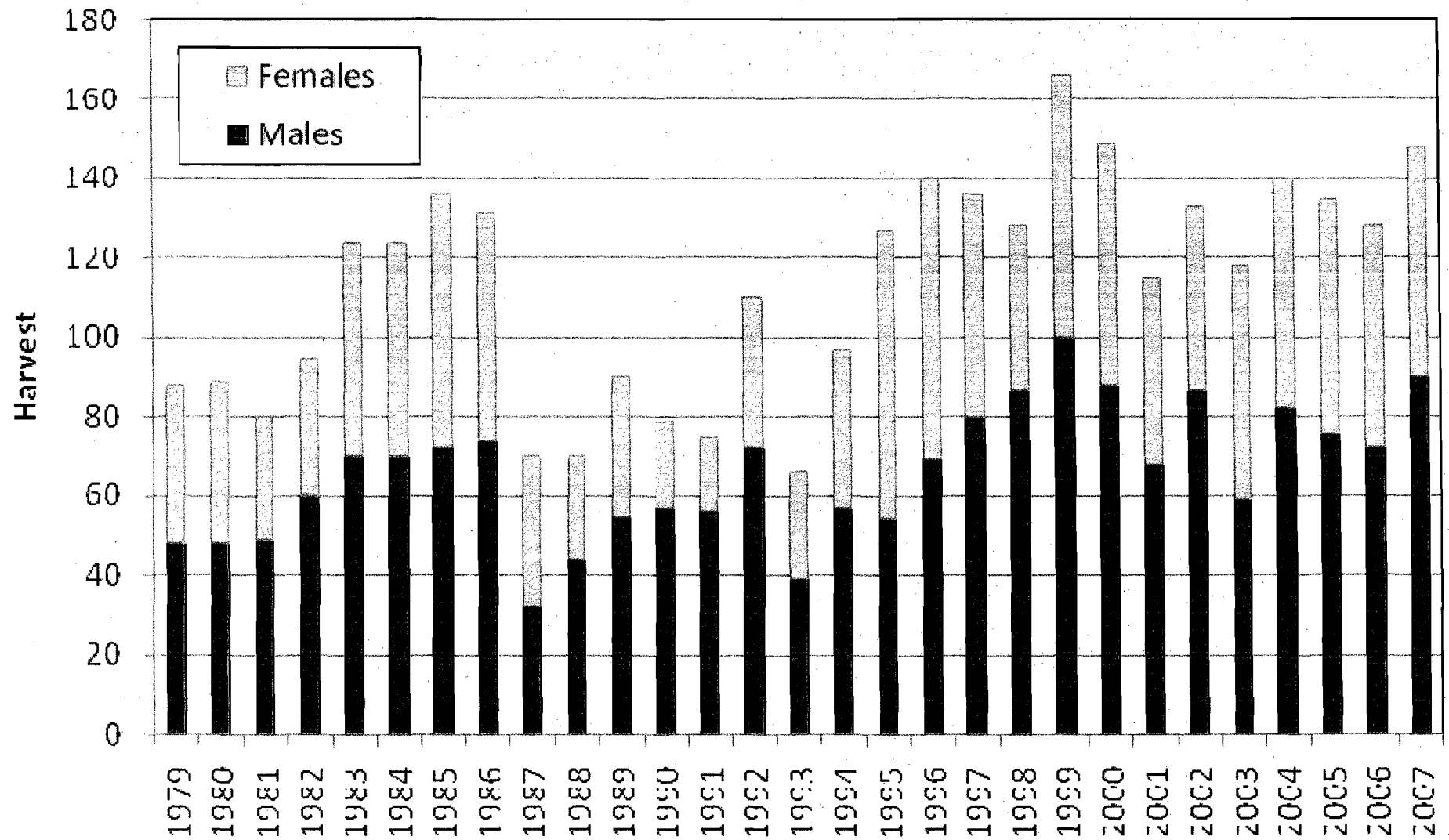
Tier II hunt (2500 permits) was closed before the winter season opened.

Preliminary total harvest is: 962 bulls, 350 cows, 8 unk = 1320 [1000 bulls, 400 cows (Quota)]

BROWN BEAR HARVEST - GMU 11



BROWN BEAR HARVEST - GMU 13



1 Bear / 4 Years	1 Bear / Year	1 Bear / 4 Years	1 Bear / Year		
September Season Opening			8/10 Opening	6/15 Closure	12mo season

Melchiana Brown Bear Project

***GMU 13A
Spring 2008***

Photo taken by pilot Jerry Lee



Nelchina Bears 2006-2008

Bears observed on kills
or never observed on kills

Legend

bear kills 06 through 08 Eyama

• kill

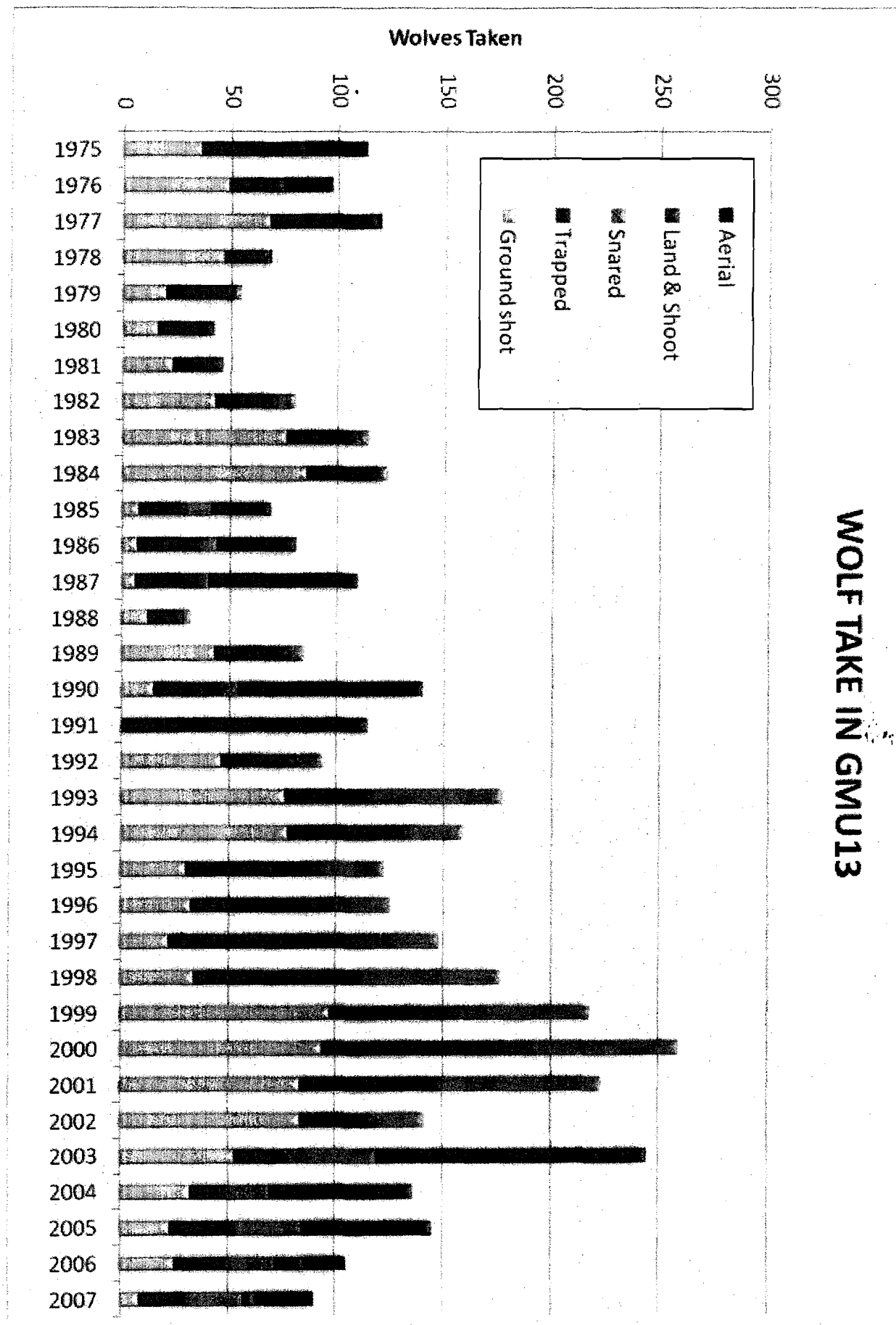
• not

13a_west_bearstudy/2008

0 3.5 7 14 km 0 2 4 6 8 miles

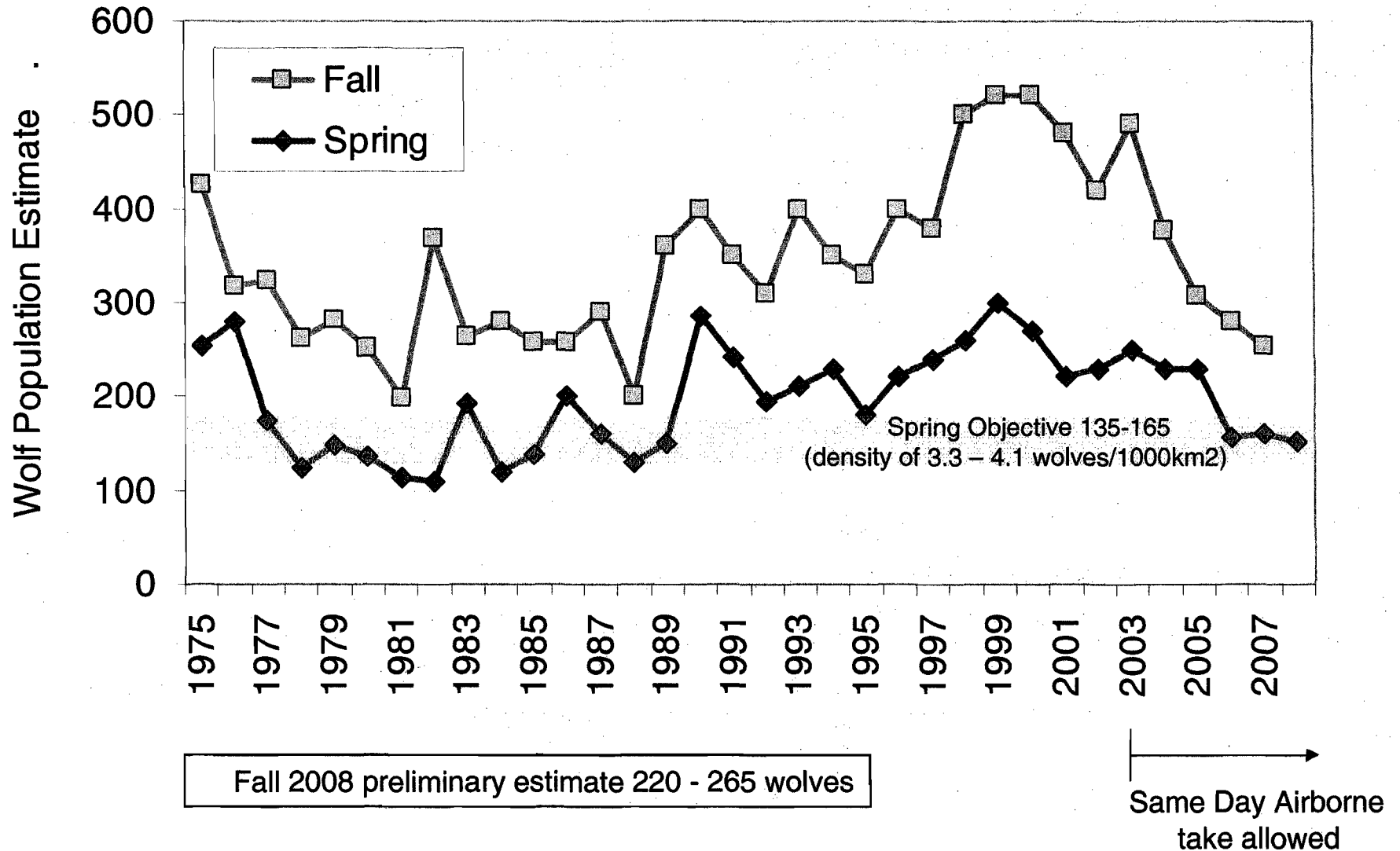


WOLF TAKE IN GMU13

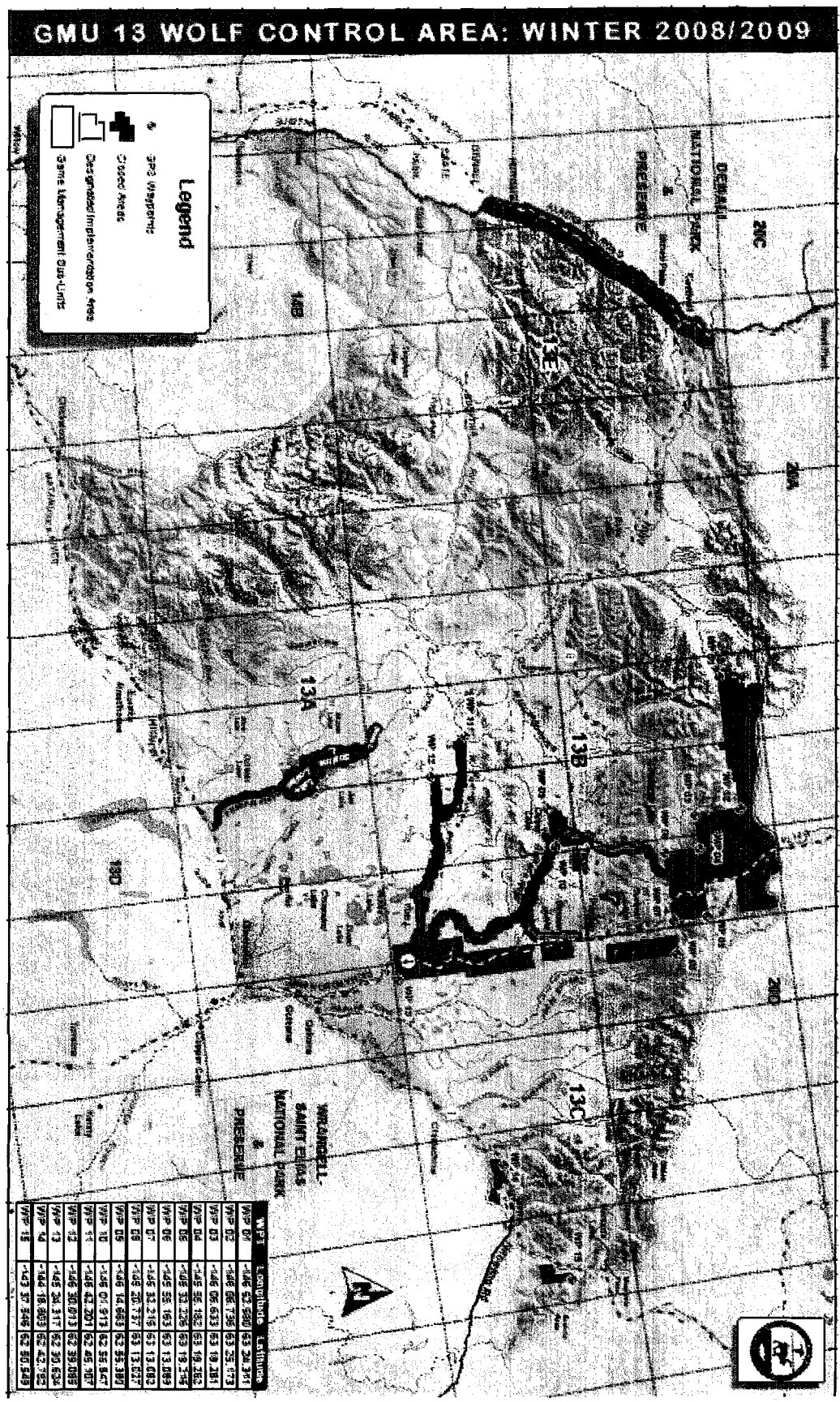


Wolves GMU 13

The Spring 2008 estimate of 153 wolves is within the long-term population objective of 135-165 wolves for the third year in a row since 1989

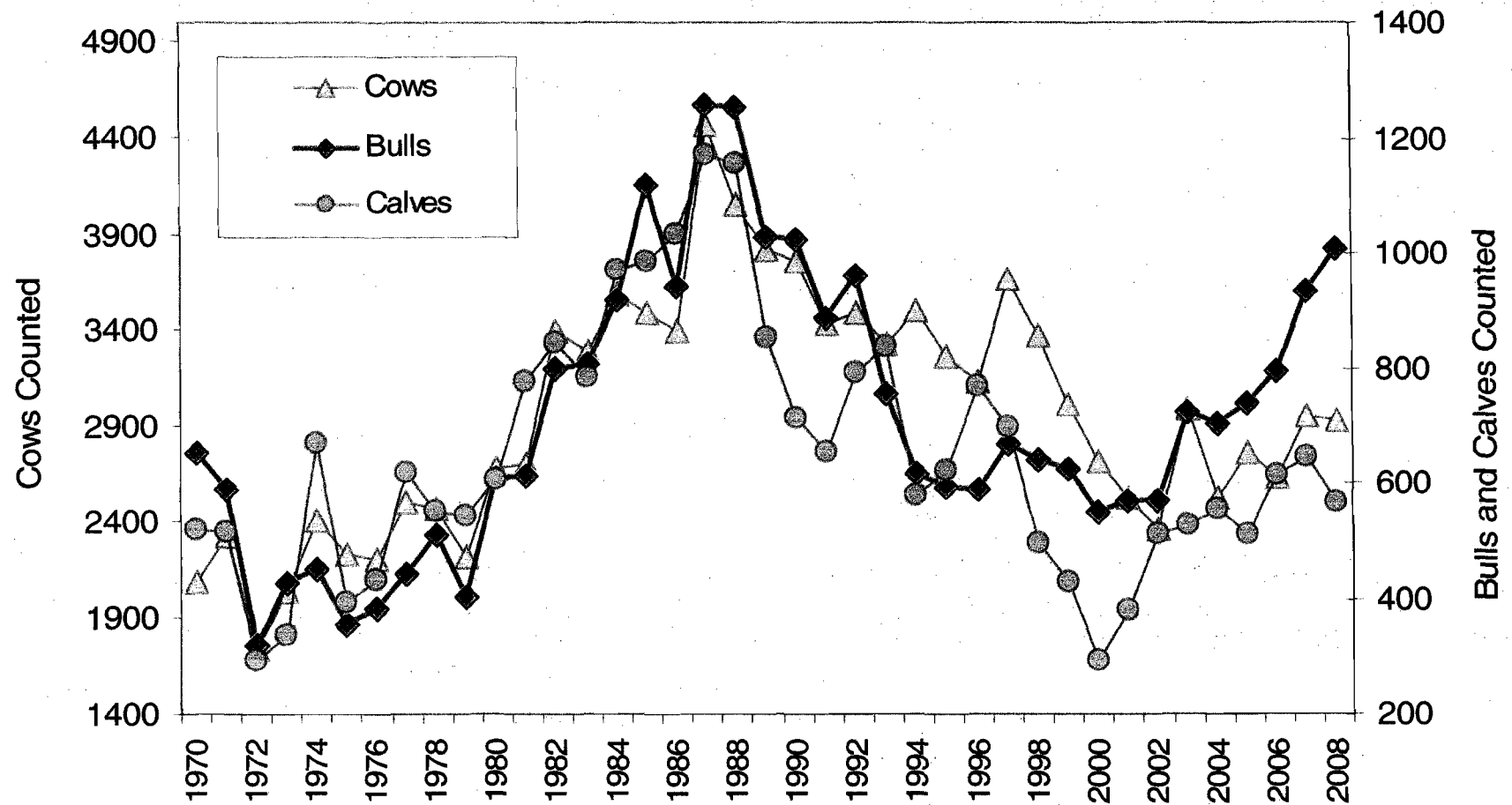


GMU 13 Wolf Control Implementation Plan Area



Moose Counts in Unit 13

BULLS, COWS, and CALVES COUNTED
IN GMU 13 CONTINUOUS COUNT AREAS (CA 3,5,6,10,13,14,15 AND 16)



Moose in Unit 13

Unit 13 Objectives:

25 bulls: 100 cows

> 10 yrl bulls: 100 cows

25 calves: 100 cows (13A)

30 calves: 100 cows (13B, C, E)

600 moose available for subsistence
(obj. range 975 – 2000)

November 2008 Surveys

34.8 bulls: 100 cows

11.7 yrl bulls: 100 cows

17.5 calves: 100 cows (A)

20.1 calves: 100 cows (B,C,E)

> 700 preliminary estimate
[under current hunting regs]

Moose Counts in Unit 13 cont.

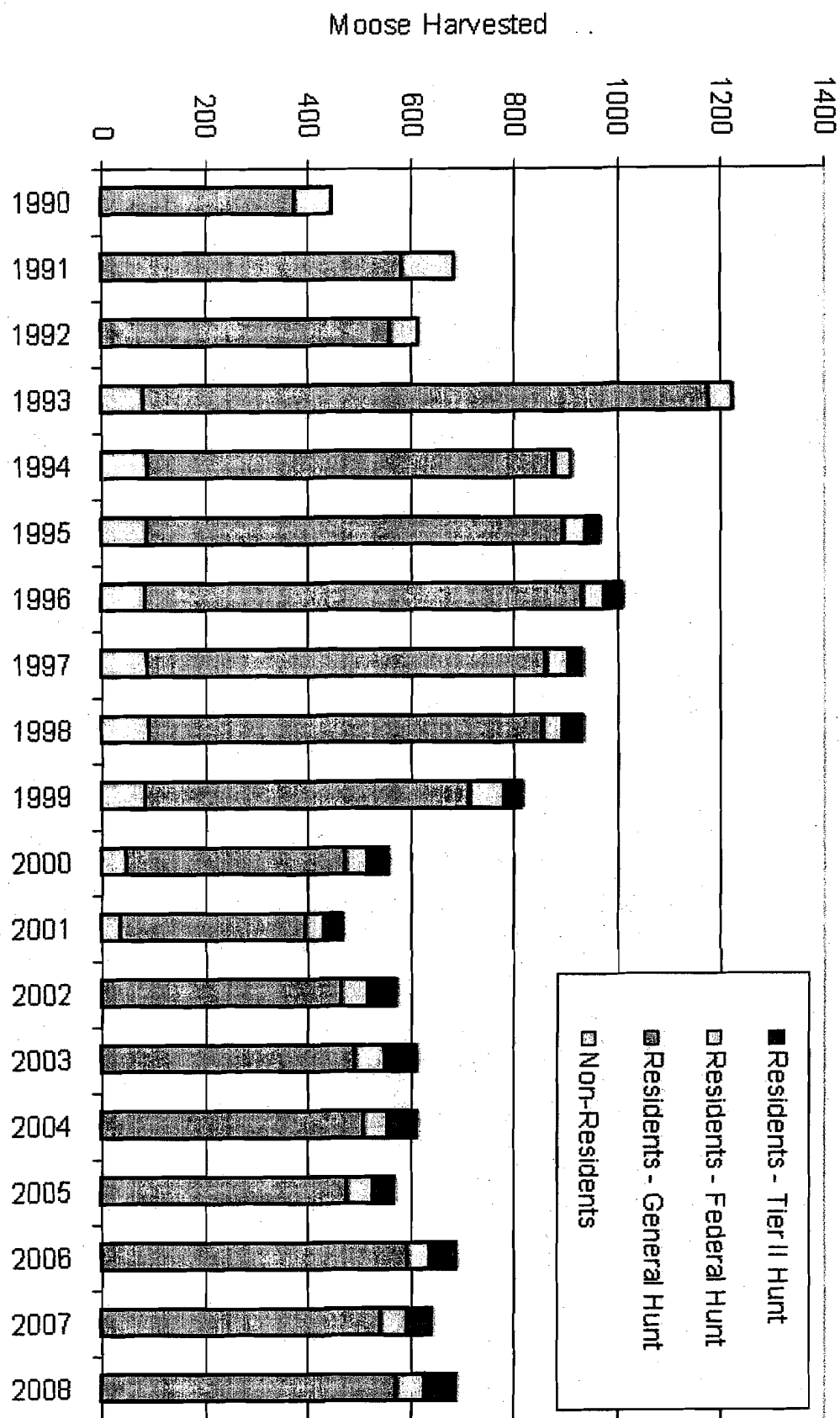
What has changed since the Wolf Implementation Plan was adopted in 2000?

Observations in standardized continuous count areas:

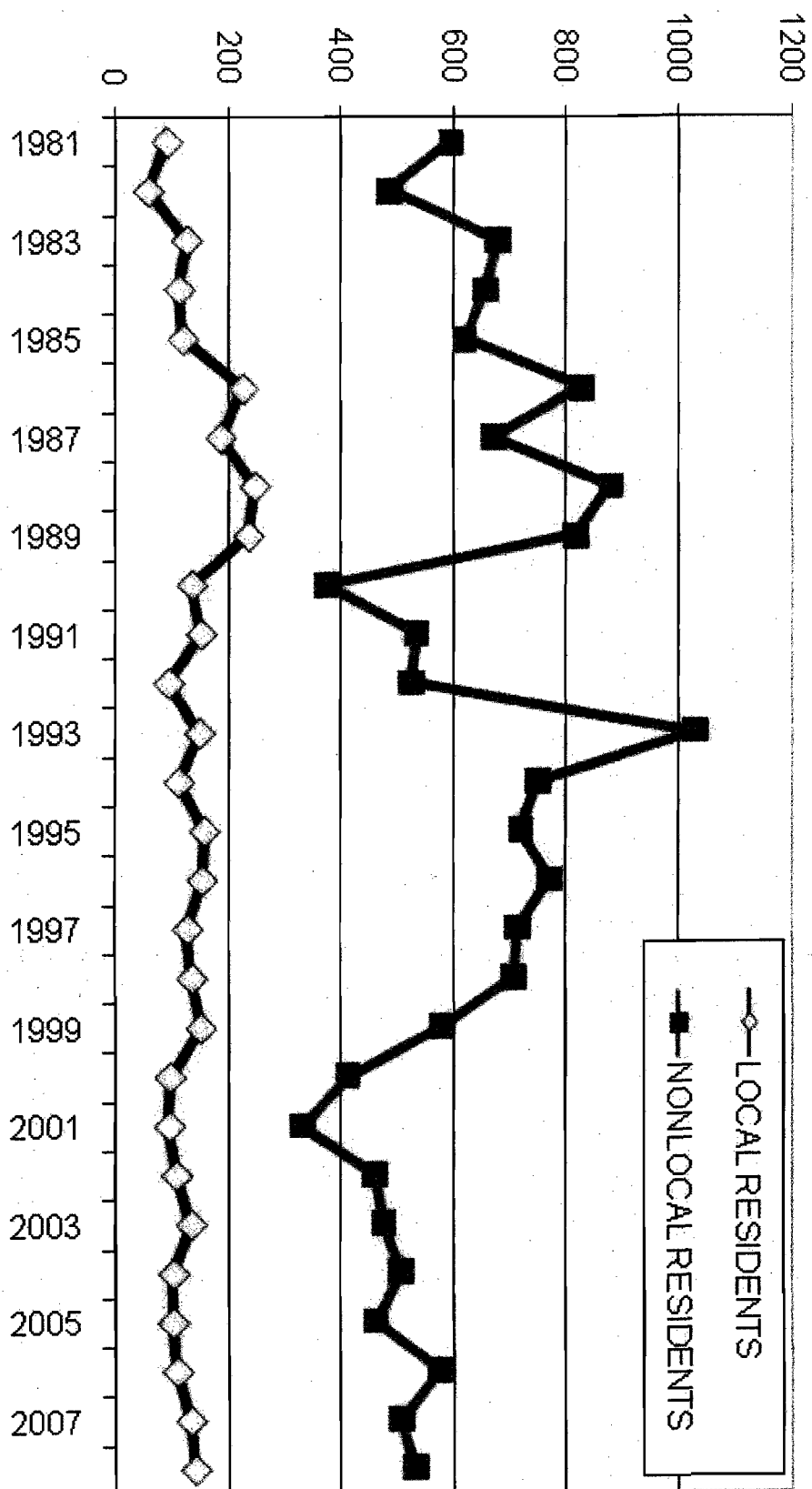
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Ave. annual % Change</u>
Bulls	547	1011	Up 85%	11%
Yrl Bulls	78	341	Up 337%	42%
Calves	292	563	Up 93%	12%
Cows	2710	2907	Up 7%	1%
<i>Total moose</i>	<i>3549</i>	<i>4481</i>	<i>Up 26%</i>	<i>3%</i>

[Severe deep snow and increased winter mortality documented in 1999-2000, 2000-01, and in 2004-05]

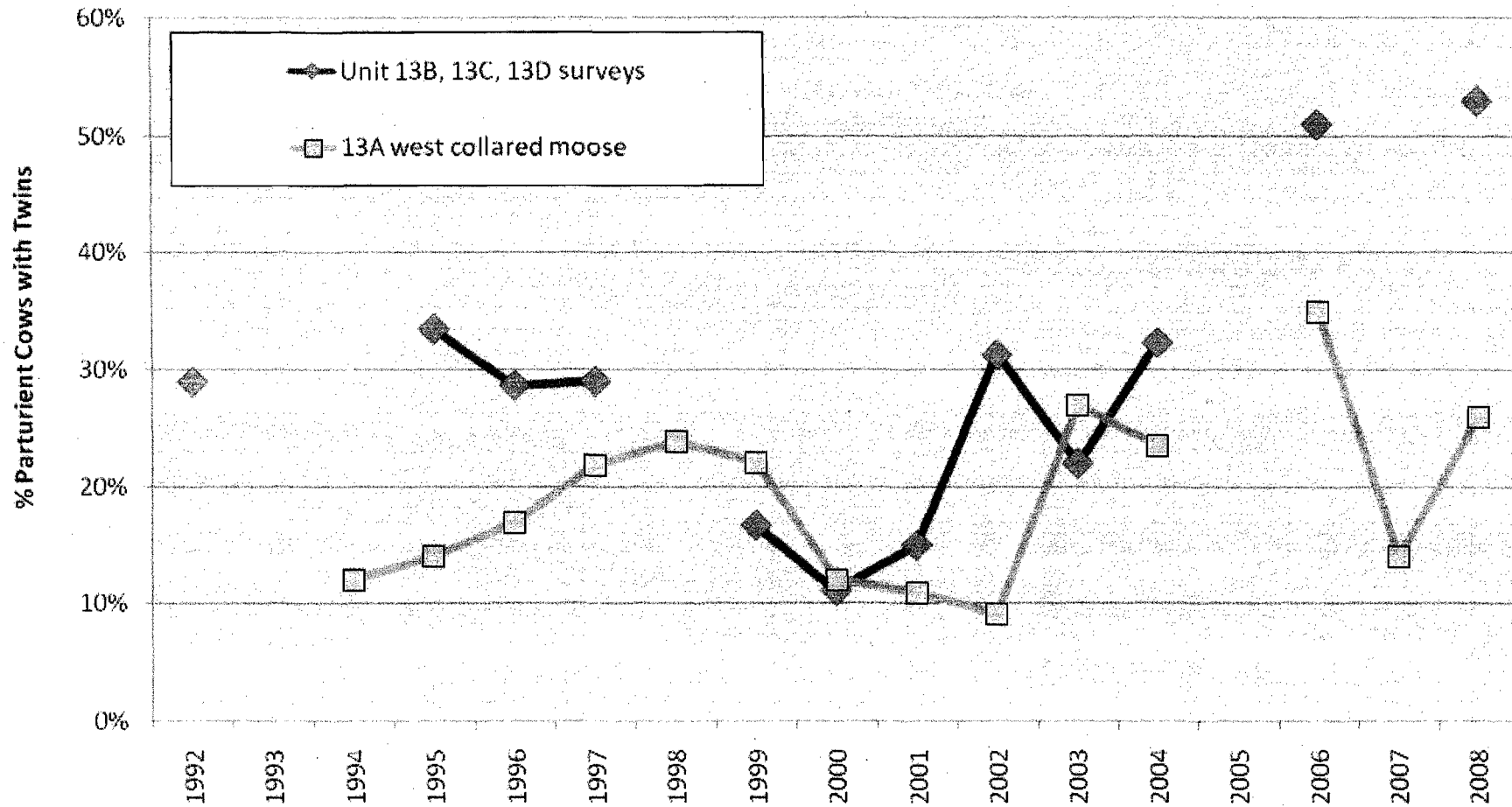
Unit 13 Bull Moose Harvest



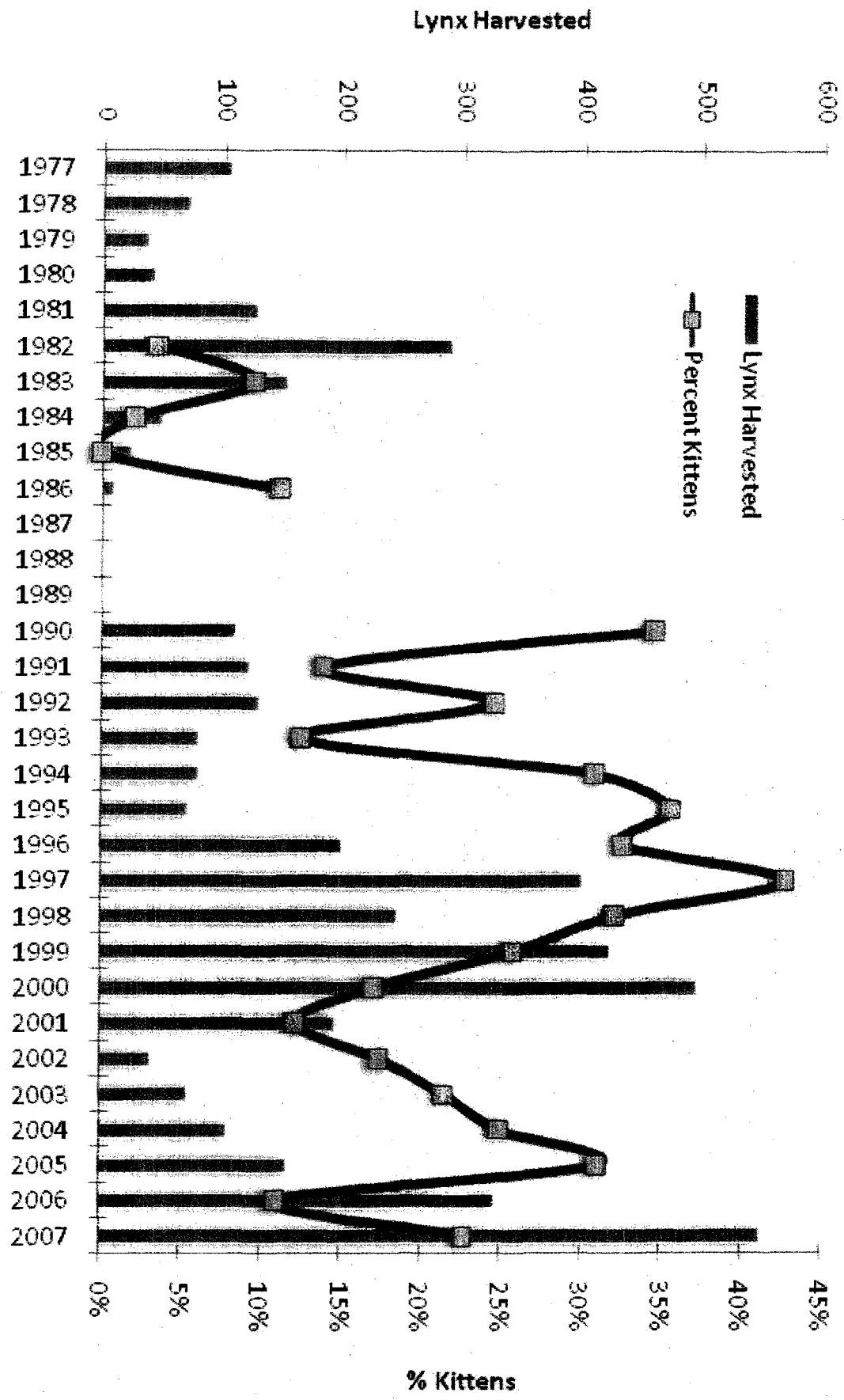
UNIT 13 MOOSE HARVEST (ALL HUNTS) BY ALASKA RESIDENCY



GMU 13 MOOSE TWINNING
Twinning flights from Unit 13B, 13C, and 13E and
Radio-collared moose in 13A west

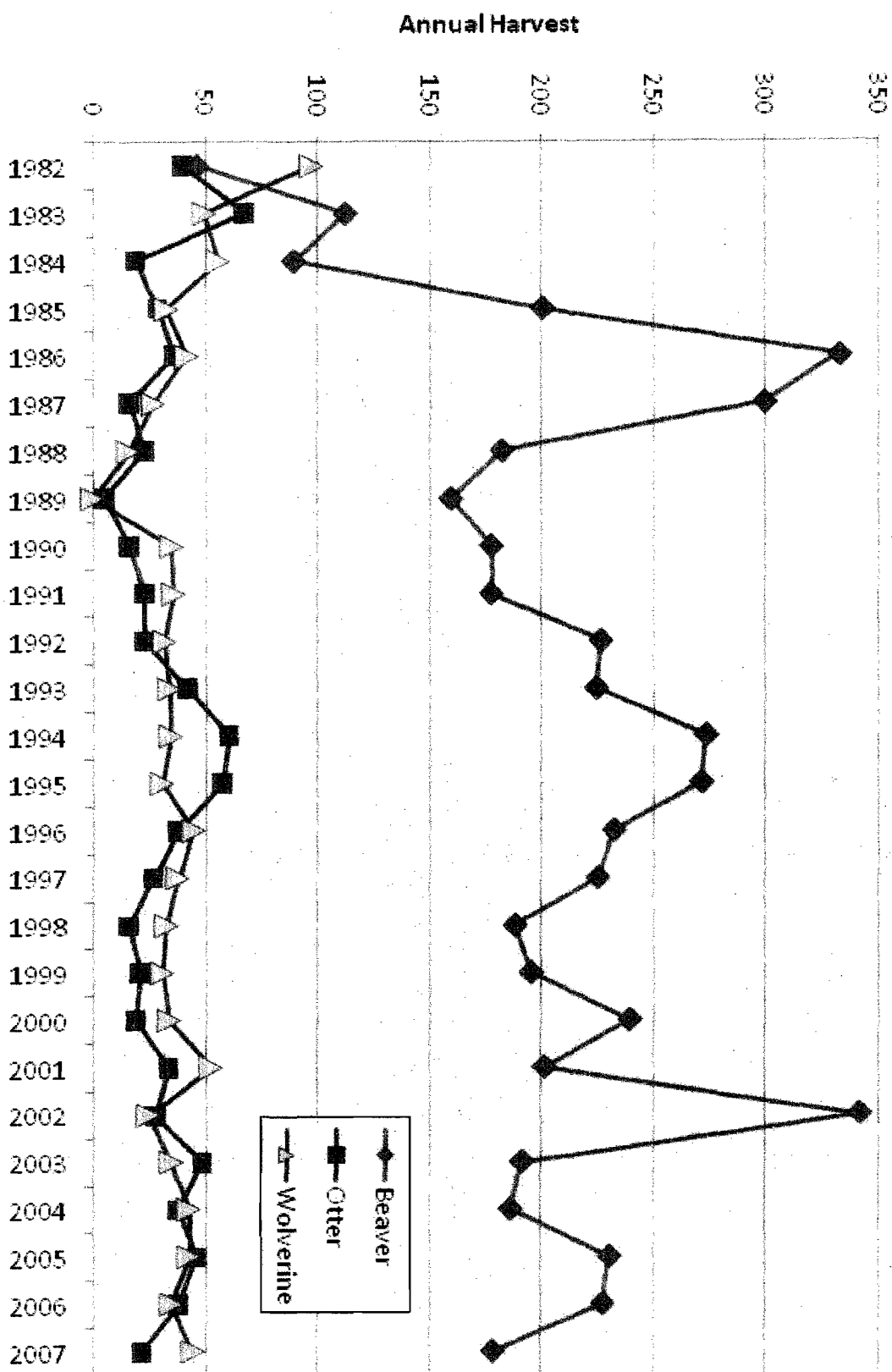


GMU 13 LYNX HARVEST AND % KITTENS

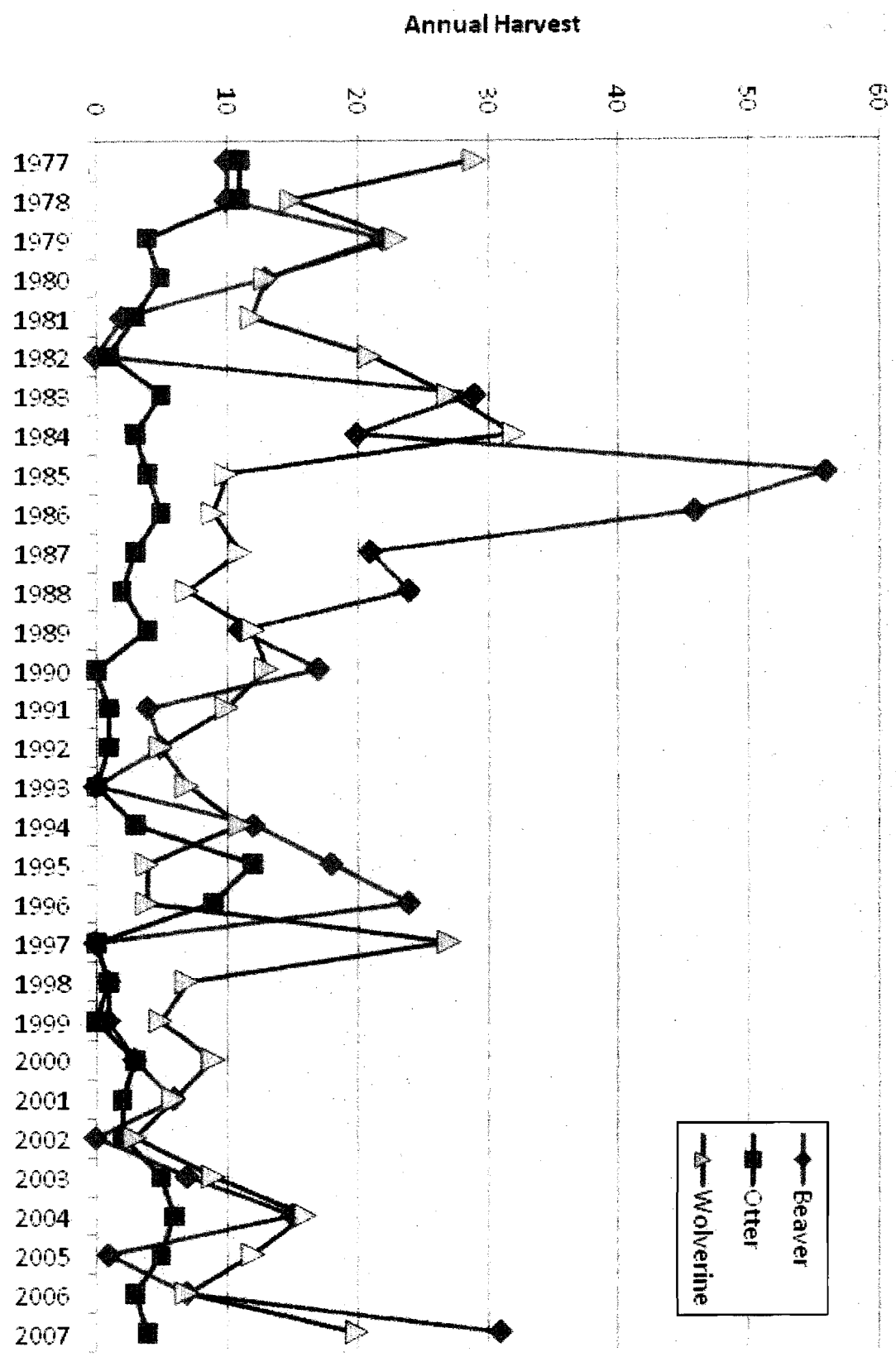


Furbearer Harvests

GMU 13 - Beaver, Otter, and Wolverine



Furbearer Harvests **GMU 11 - Beaver, Otter, and Wolverine**



**GMU 13B Ptarmigan country
Eastern Denali Highway**

