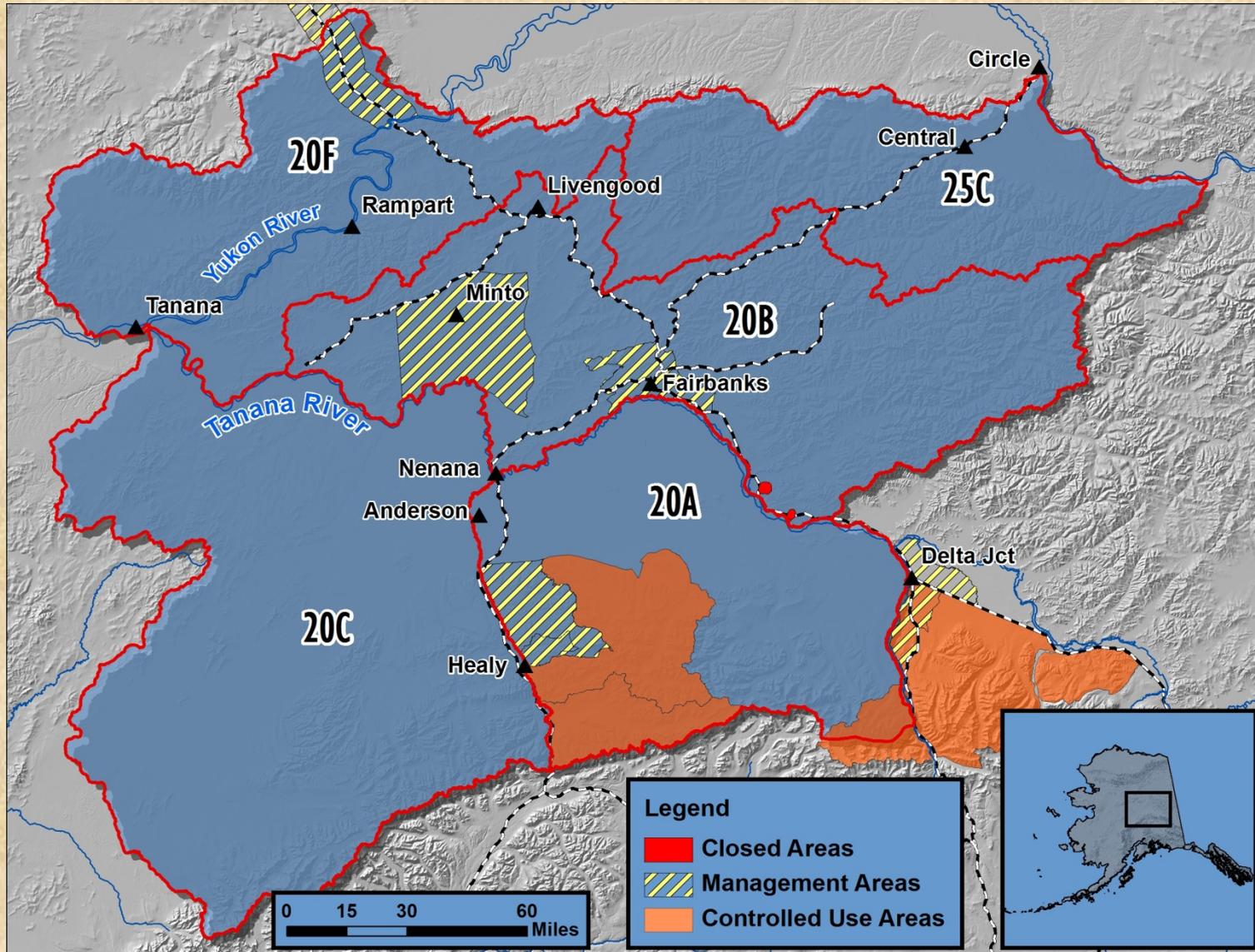
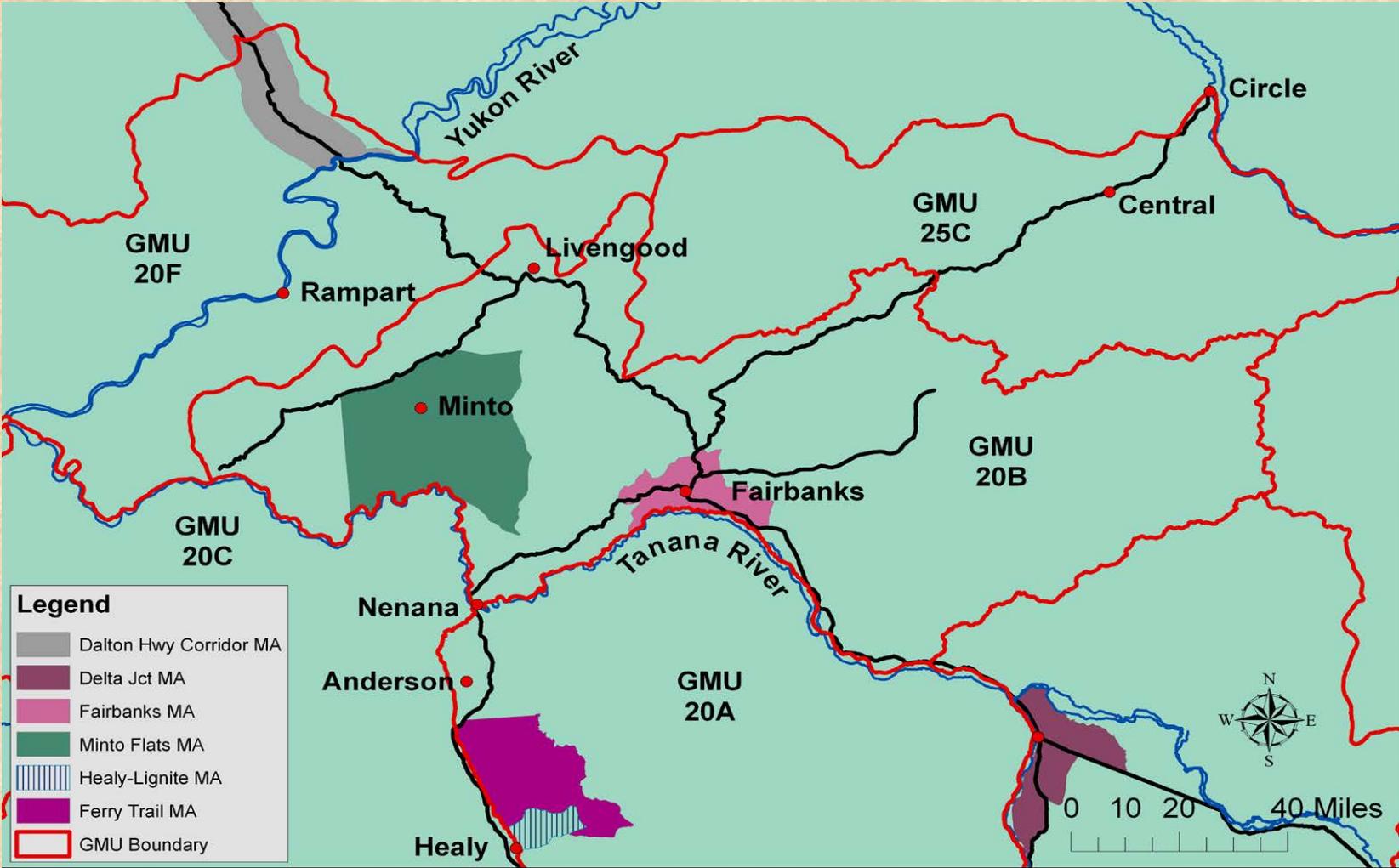


# Fairbanks Area

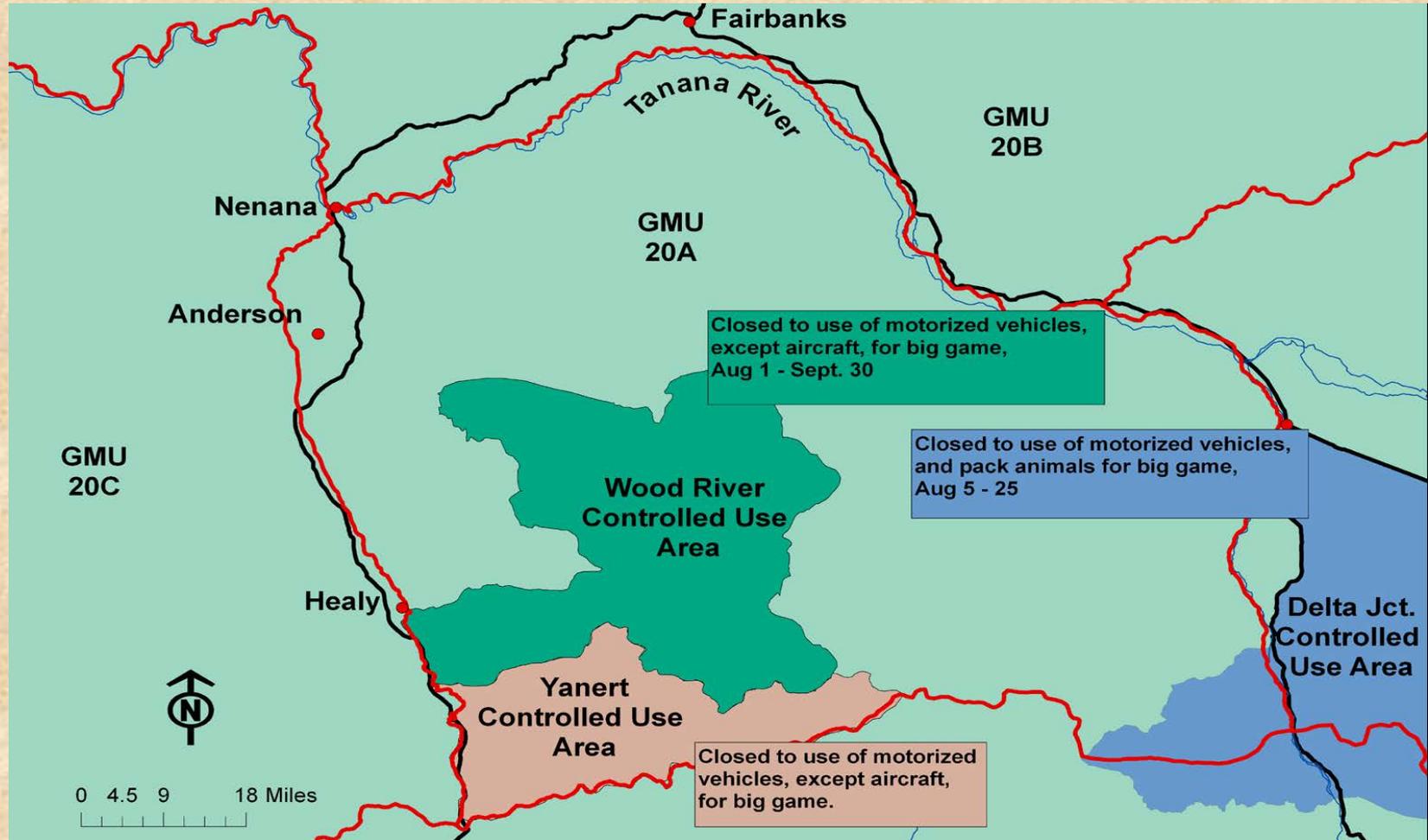


# Management Areas



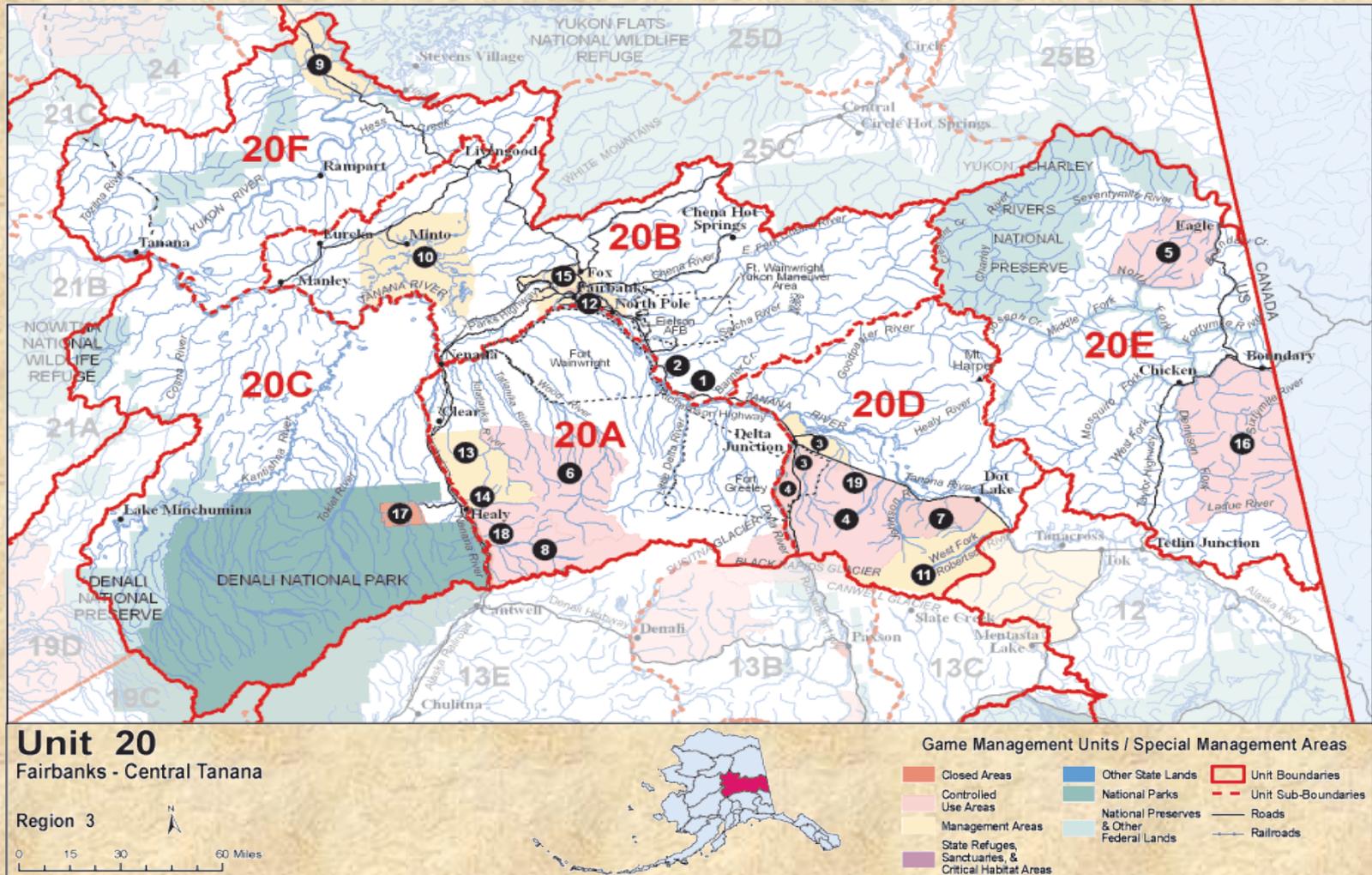
**2 PROPOSALS: 2 MFMA (2 moose)**

# Controlled Use Areas



**5 PROPOSALS: 2 WRCUA; 3 new CUAs 20A, 20C and 20F**

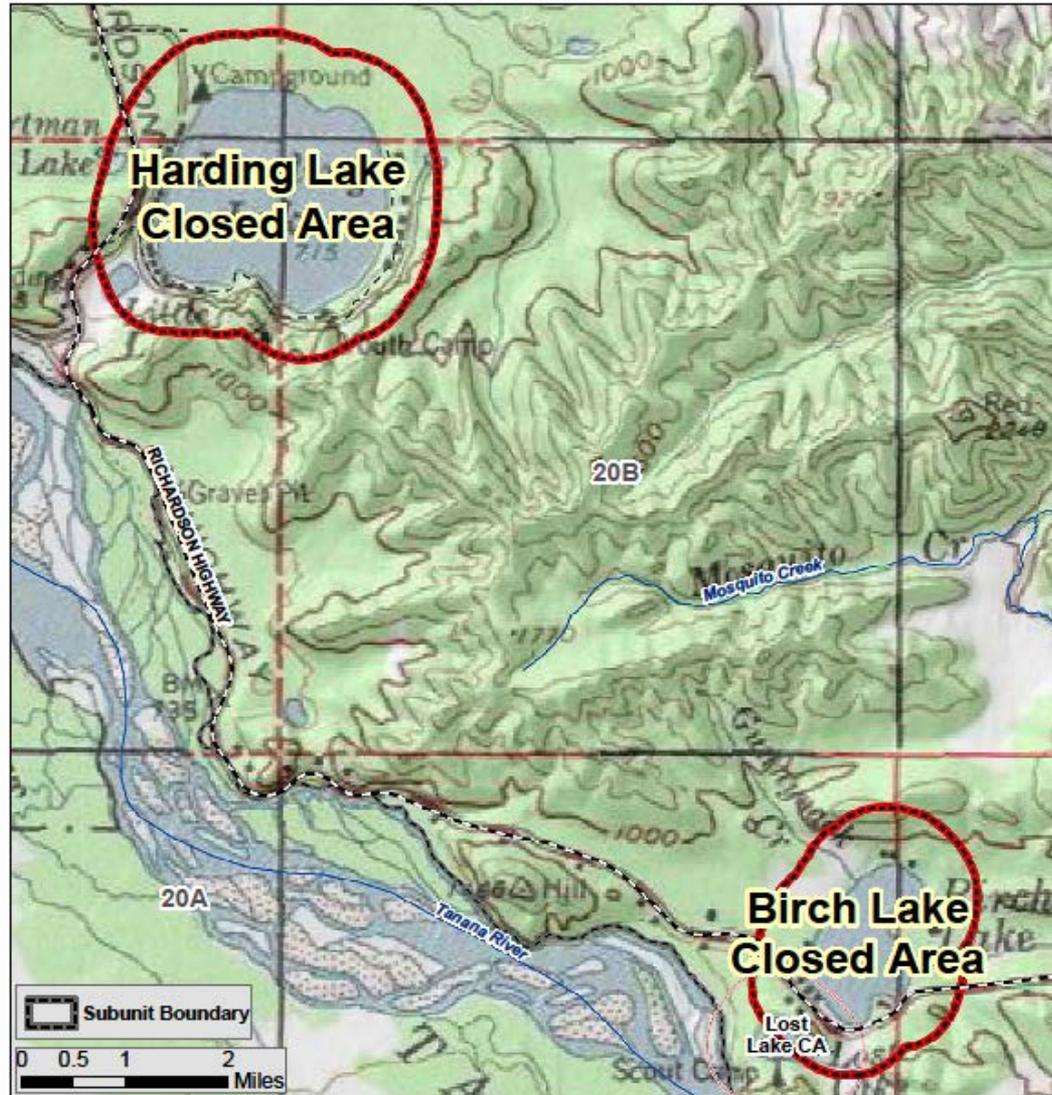
# Closed Areas



1 - Birch and Lost Lakes; 2 - Harding Lake



# Harding Lake Closed Area Birch Lake Closed Area



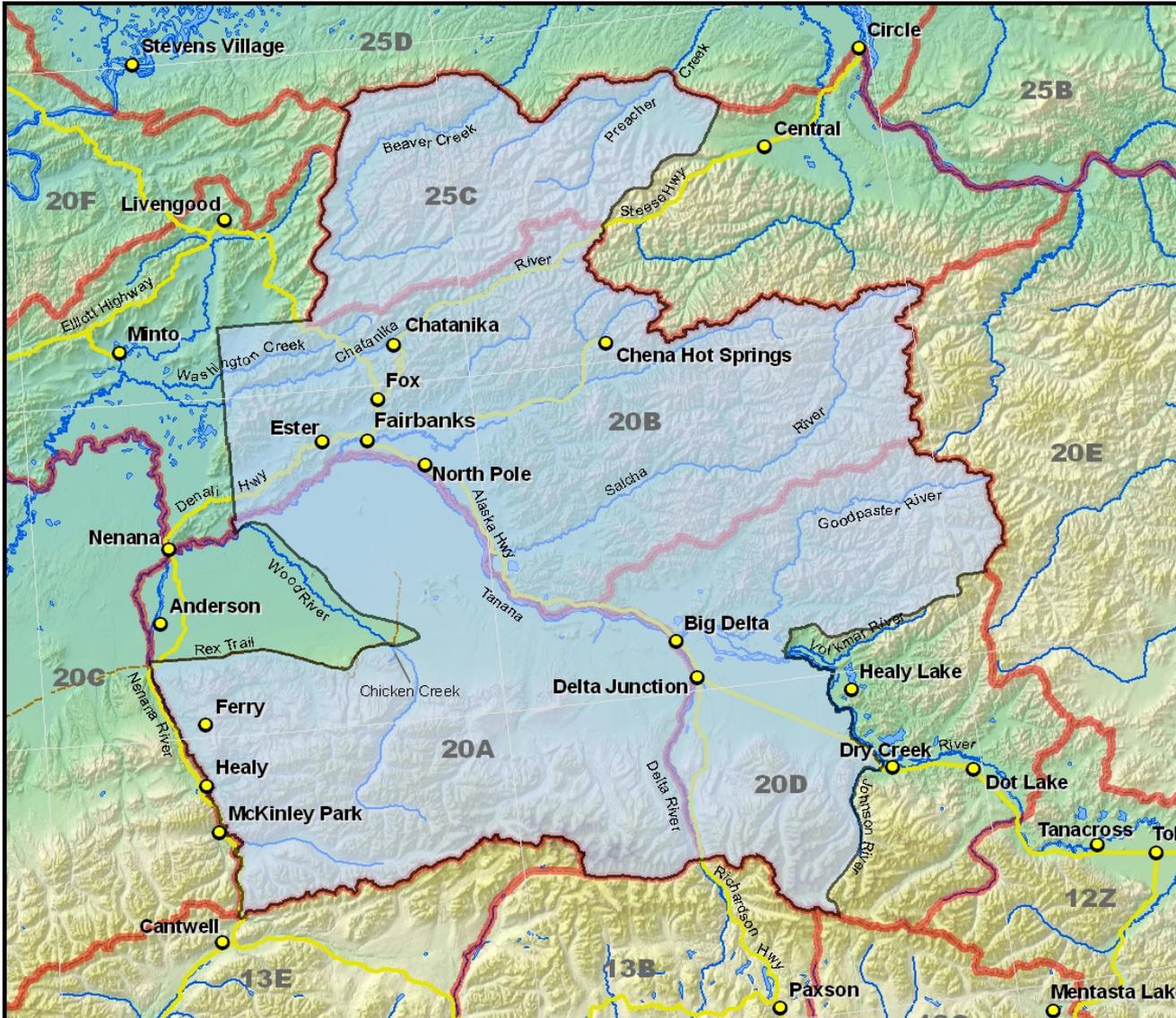
### AREA DESCRIPTION FOR: Harding Lake Closed Area

Unit 20 Harding Lake and the area within one-half mile of Harding Lake (Mile 44 Richardson Highway), is closed to the taking of big game.

### AREA DESCRIPTION FOR: Birch Lake Closed Area

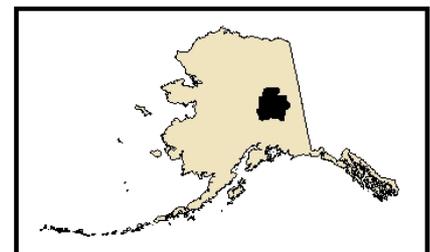
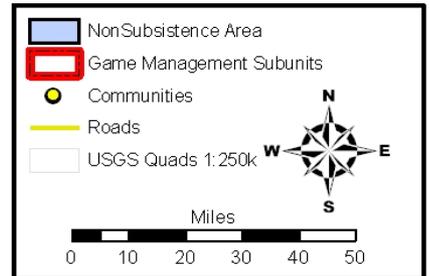
Unit 20 Birch Lake and the area within one-half mile of Birch Lake (Mile 56 Richardson Highway), is closed to the taking of big game.

# Fairbanks NonSubsistence Area



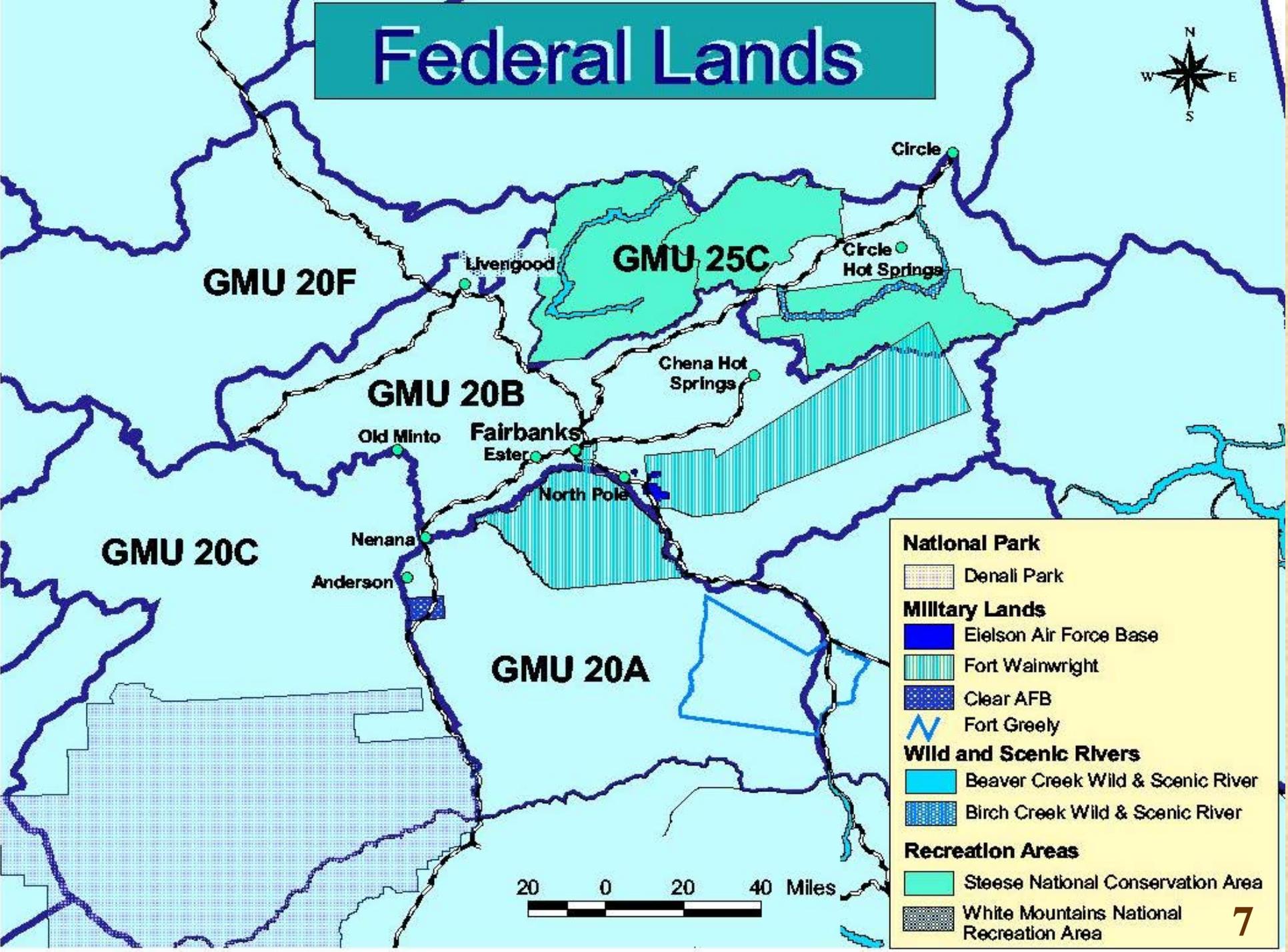
5 AAC 99.015 Joint Board nonsubsistence areas. (a) The following areas are found by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game to be nonsubsistence use areas:

(4) The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 20(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (A), east of the Wood River drainage and south of the Rex Trail but including the upper Wood River drainage south of its confluence with Chicken Creek; within Unit 20(B), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (B), the North Star Borough and that portion of the Washington Creek drainage east of the Elliot Highway; within Unit 20(D) as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (D), west of the Tanana River between its confluence with the Johnson and Delta Rivers, west of the east bank of the Johnson River, and north and west of the Volkmar drainage, including the Goodpaster River drainage; and within Unit 25(C), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(25) (C), the Preacher and Beaver Creek drainages.



Disclaimer: This map is not intended for navigational purposes.

# Federal Lands



20 0 20 40 Miles



## National Park

Denali Park

## Military Lands

Eielson Air Force Base

Fort Wainwright

Clear AFB

Fort Greely

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River

Birch Creek Wild & Scenic River

## Recreation Areas

Steese National Conservation Area

White Mountains National Recreation Area

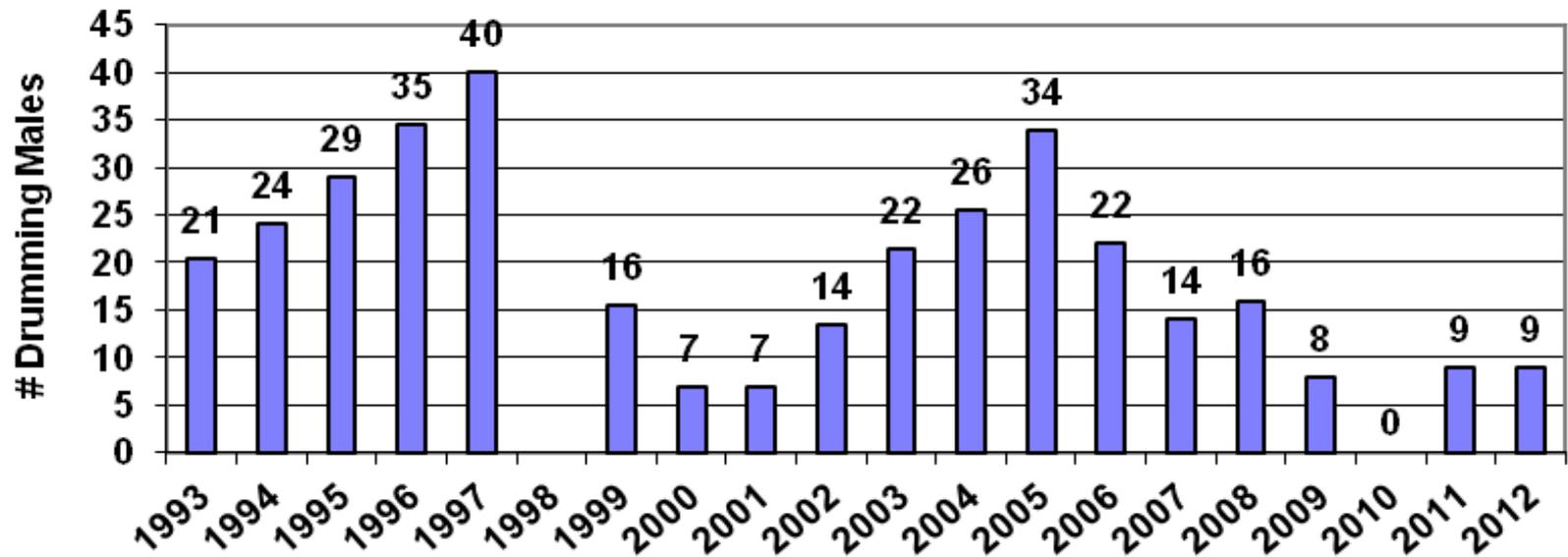
# Small Game

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- **Conduct annual Ruffed Grouse drumming count surveys**
- **Ptarmigan surveys in Unit 25C**
- **No proposals**

# Small Game

Ruffed grouse drumming counts, Clear Air Station, 1993-2012



# Furbearers

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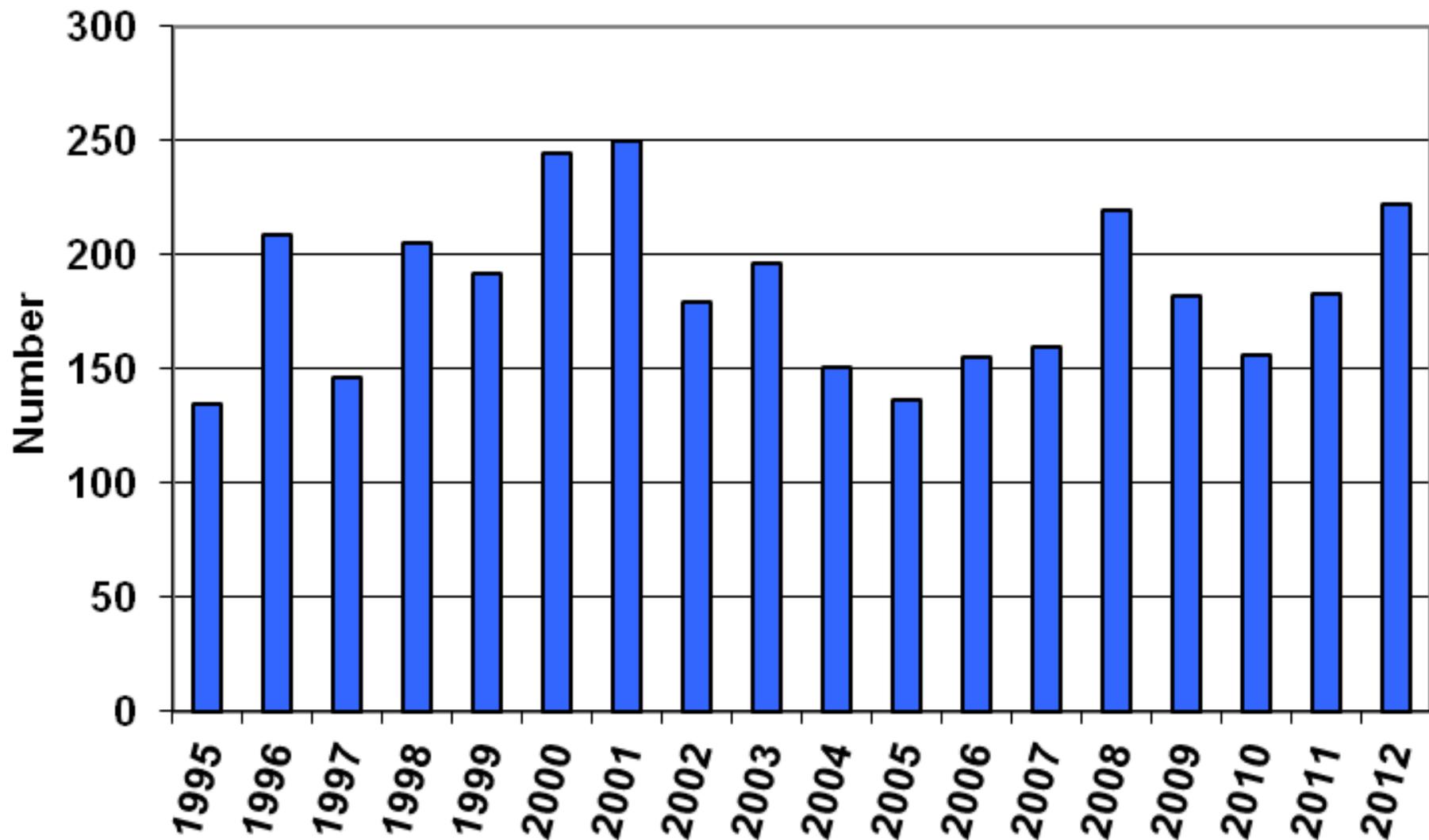
- **Lower Chena River beaver management program: balance viewing and nuisances issues; successful**
- **No proposals**

# Wolf

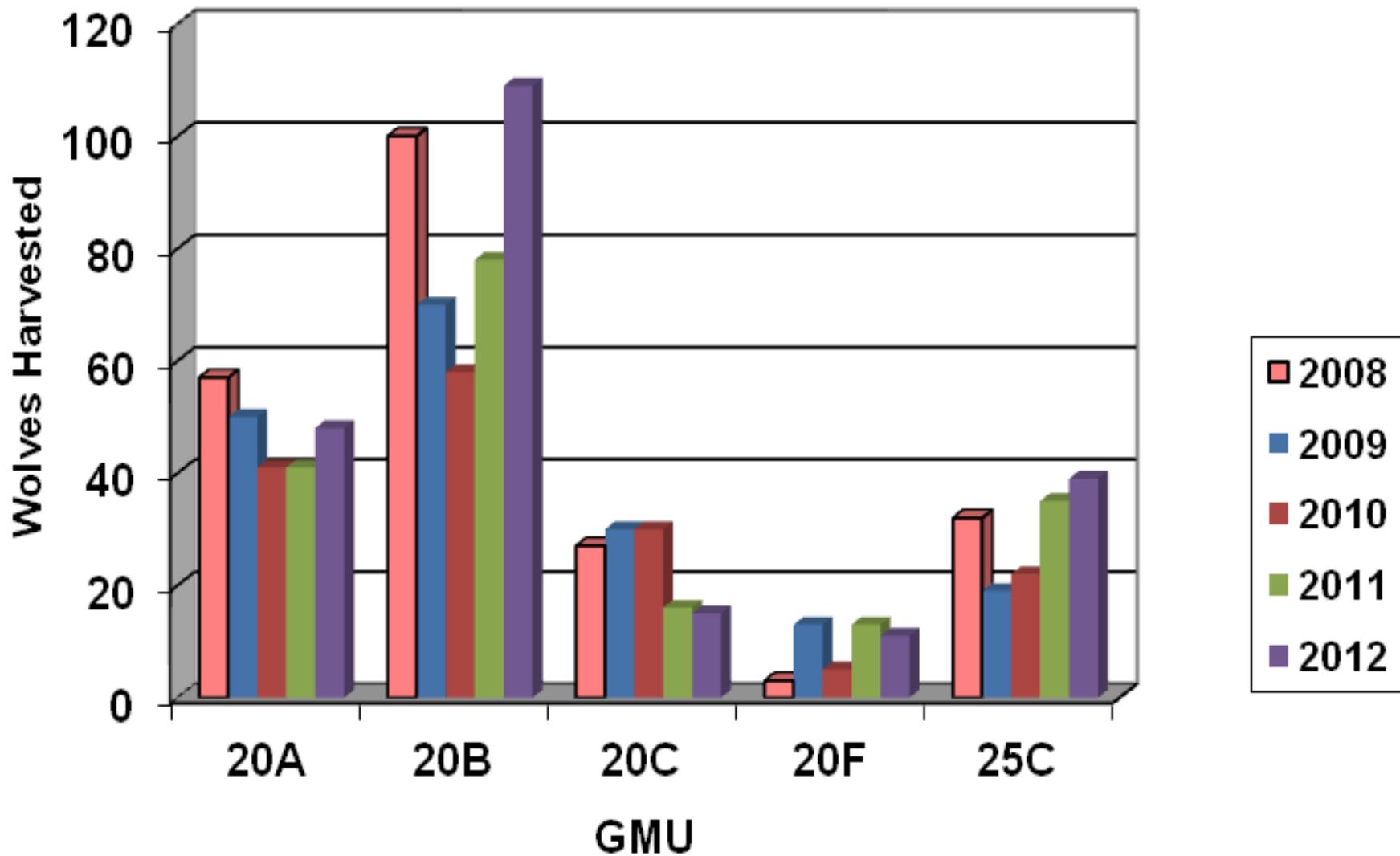
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- **Highest harvests in Units 20A and 20B**
- **Harvest declining in Unit 20A**
- **Lower harvests in Units 20C, 20F and 25C**
- **Issues:**
  - **Denali NP&P wolf buffer**
- **No proposals**

# Reported wolf harvest Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, regulatory years 1995-2012



# Reported harvest of wolves stratified by Unit, 2008-2012

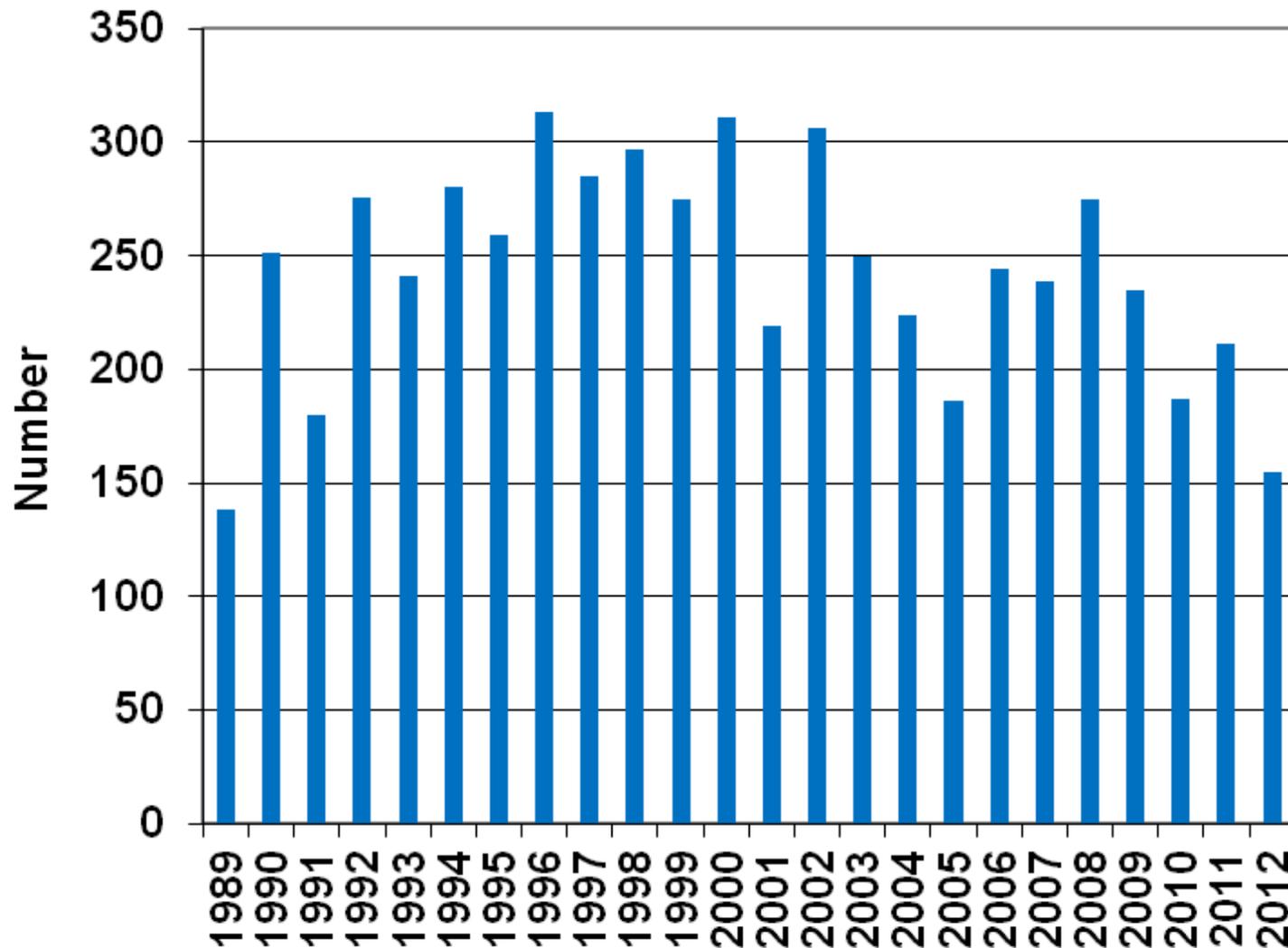


# Black Bear

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- **Common in all units**
- **Completed population estimate, Unit 20A, 2010 (153  $\geq$  1 year-old/1000 mi<sup>2</sup>)**
- **Issues:**
  - **Slight declines in harvest (possibly due to military deployments)**
  - **Late spring in 2013**
- **2 proposals:**
  - **1 to liberalize bag limit in Unit 25C**
  - **1 to remove requirement to leave evidence of sex**

# Reported black bear harvest, Units 20A, 20B, 20C and 20F, regulatory years 1989-2012

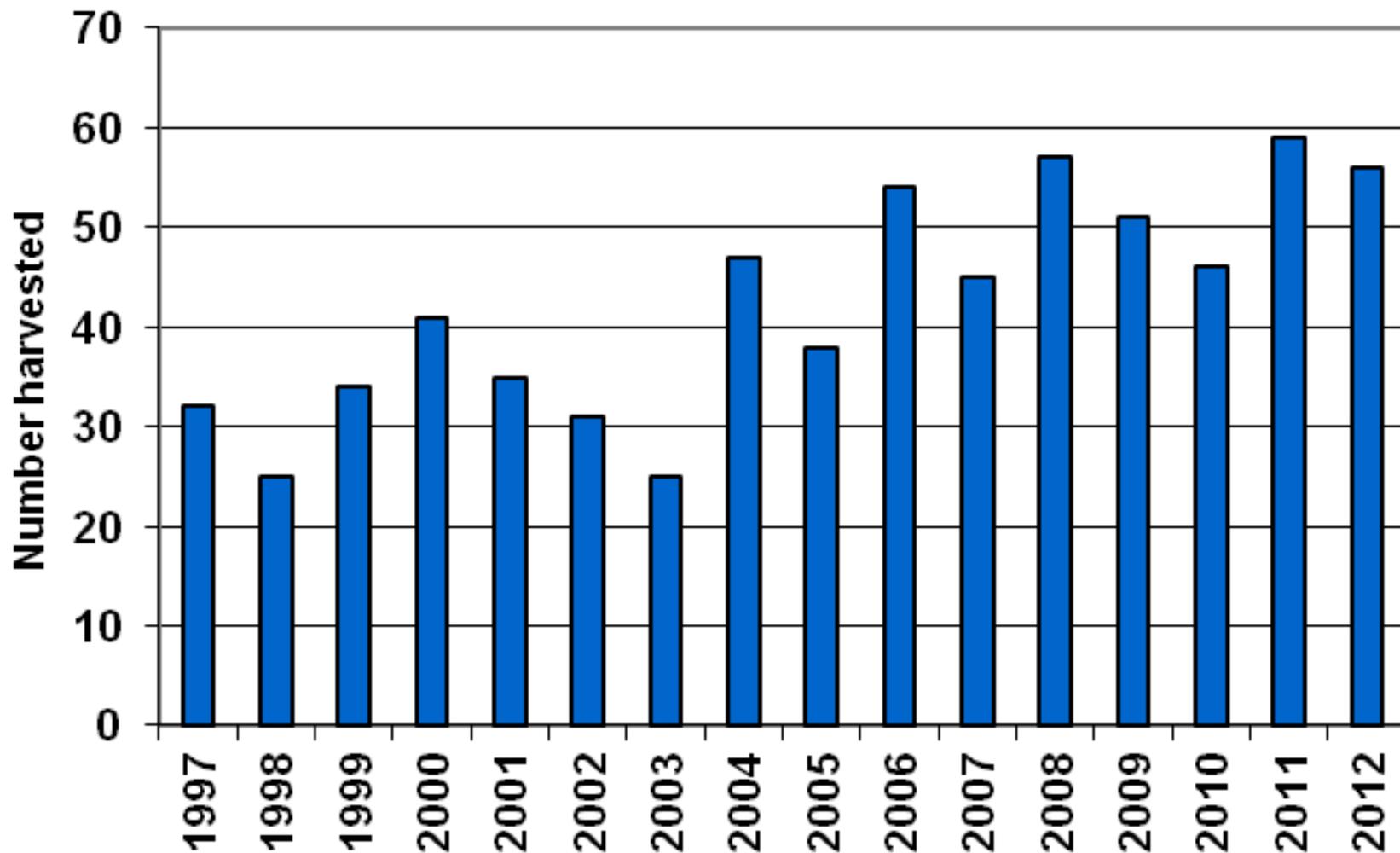


# Brown Bear

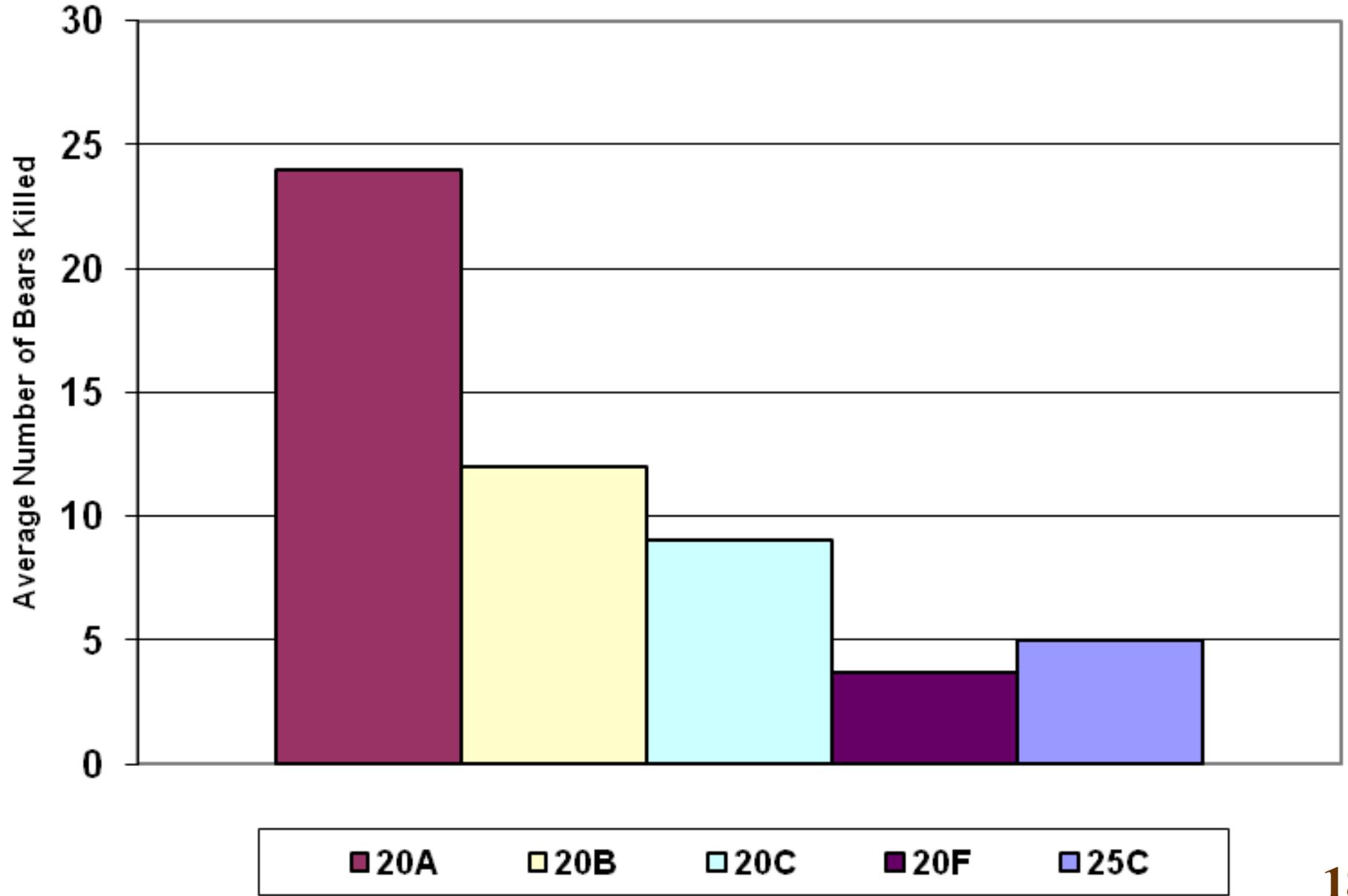
---

- **Common in all units**
- **Highest densities Alaska Range (Units 20A and 20C)**
- **Issues:**
  - **Potential overharvest in Units 20A and 20B due to high moose hunter densities**
- **2 proposals:**
  - **Allow take of grizzly bears over black bear bait stations in Units 20A and 20B**

# Reported grizzly bear harvest in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, regulatory years 1997-2012



### 3-year average reported harvest of grizzly bears in Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C, 2010-2012

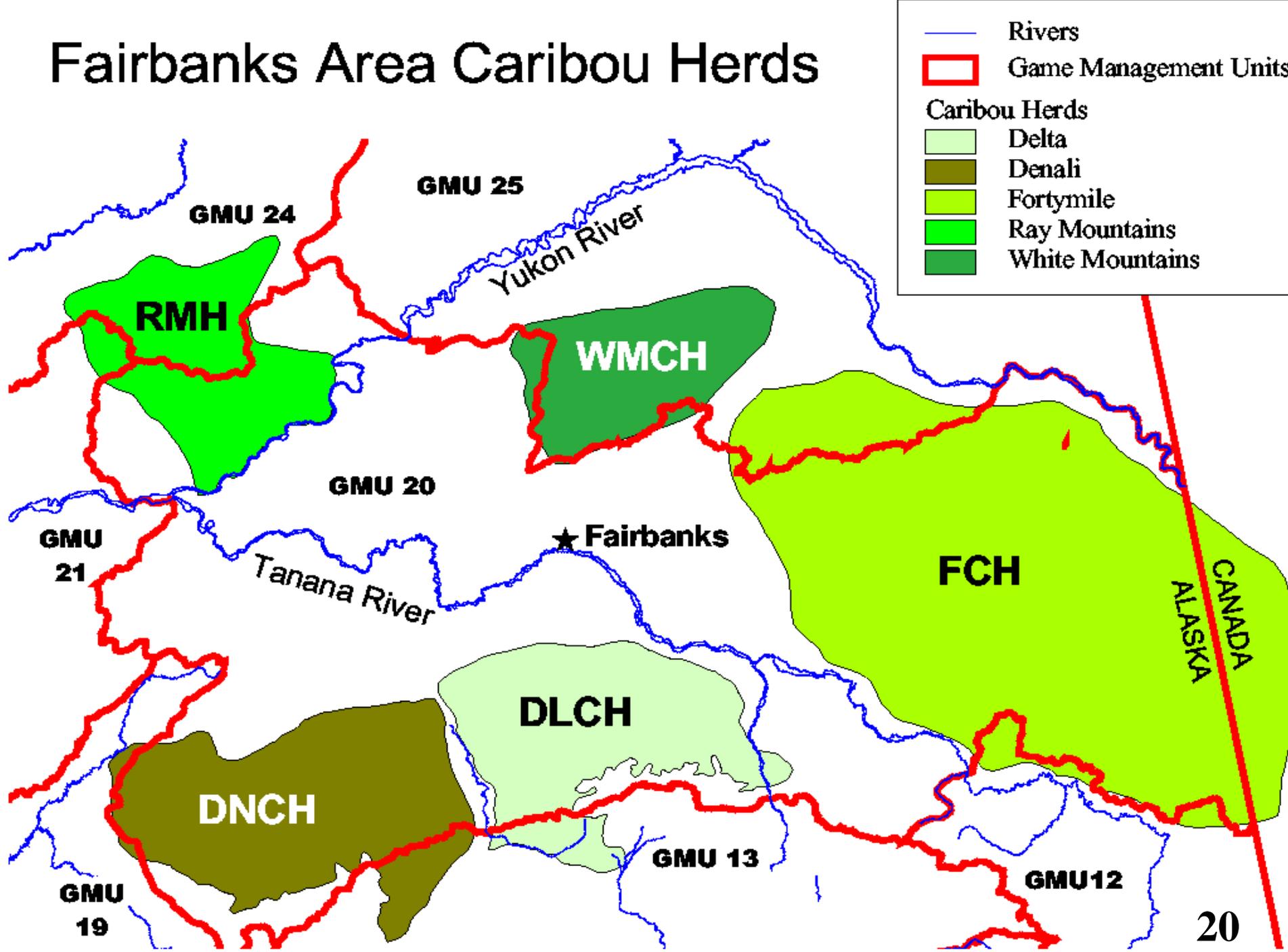


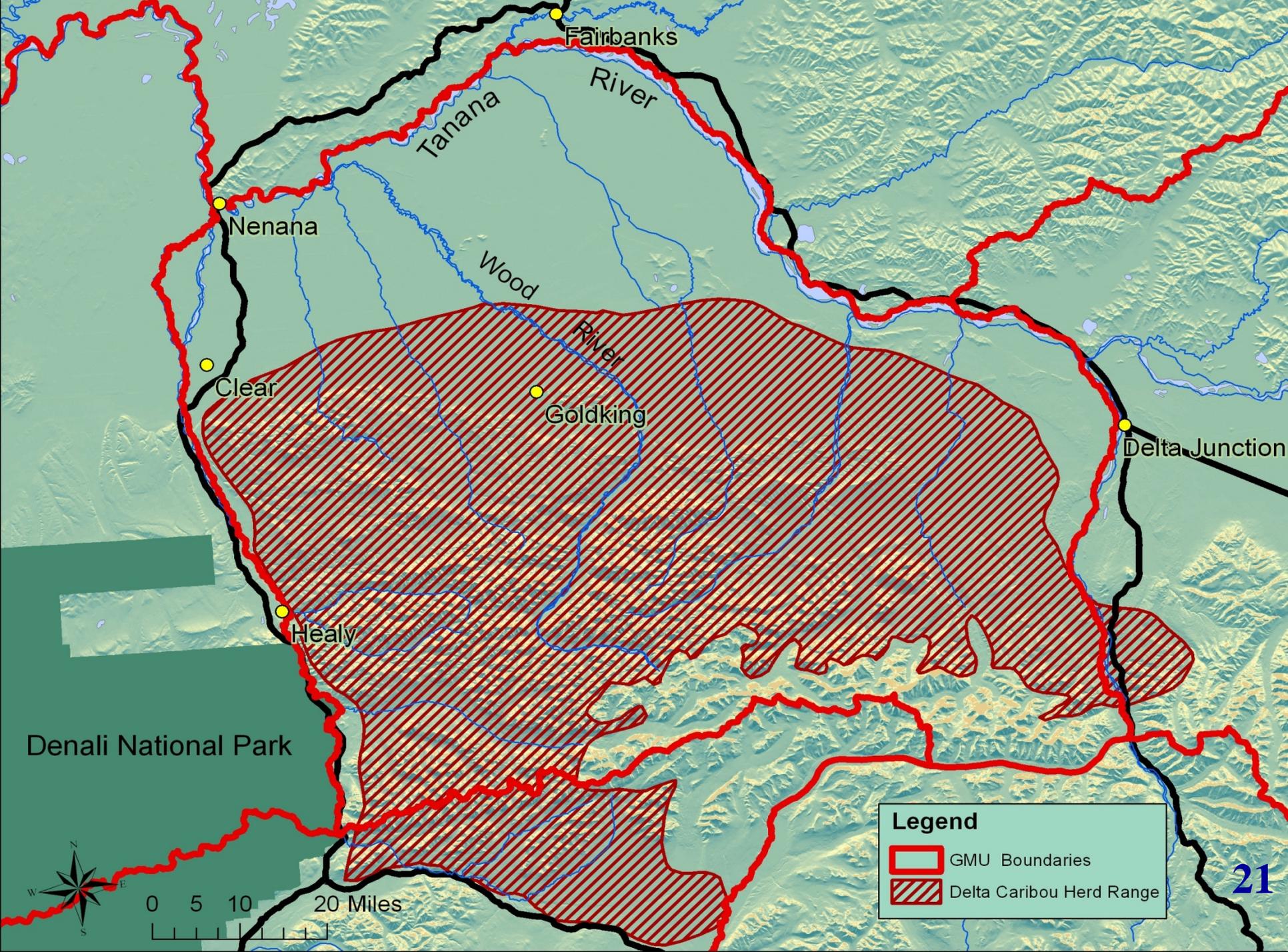
# Caribou

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- **Delta, Denali and White Mountains herds  
Fairbanks Area management  
responsibility**
- **Relatively small herds < 3000 animals**
- **Harvest is low**
- **Issues: Delta herd**
  - **Relatively low numbers**
  - **Mixing with Nelchina herd**
    - **Estimating herd size & trend problematic**
    - **Vulnerable to overharvest in Unit 13**
- **No proposals**

# Fairbanks Area Caribou Herds





Fairbanks

Tanana River

Nenana

Wood River

Clear

Goldking

Delta Junction

Healy

Denali National Park

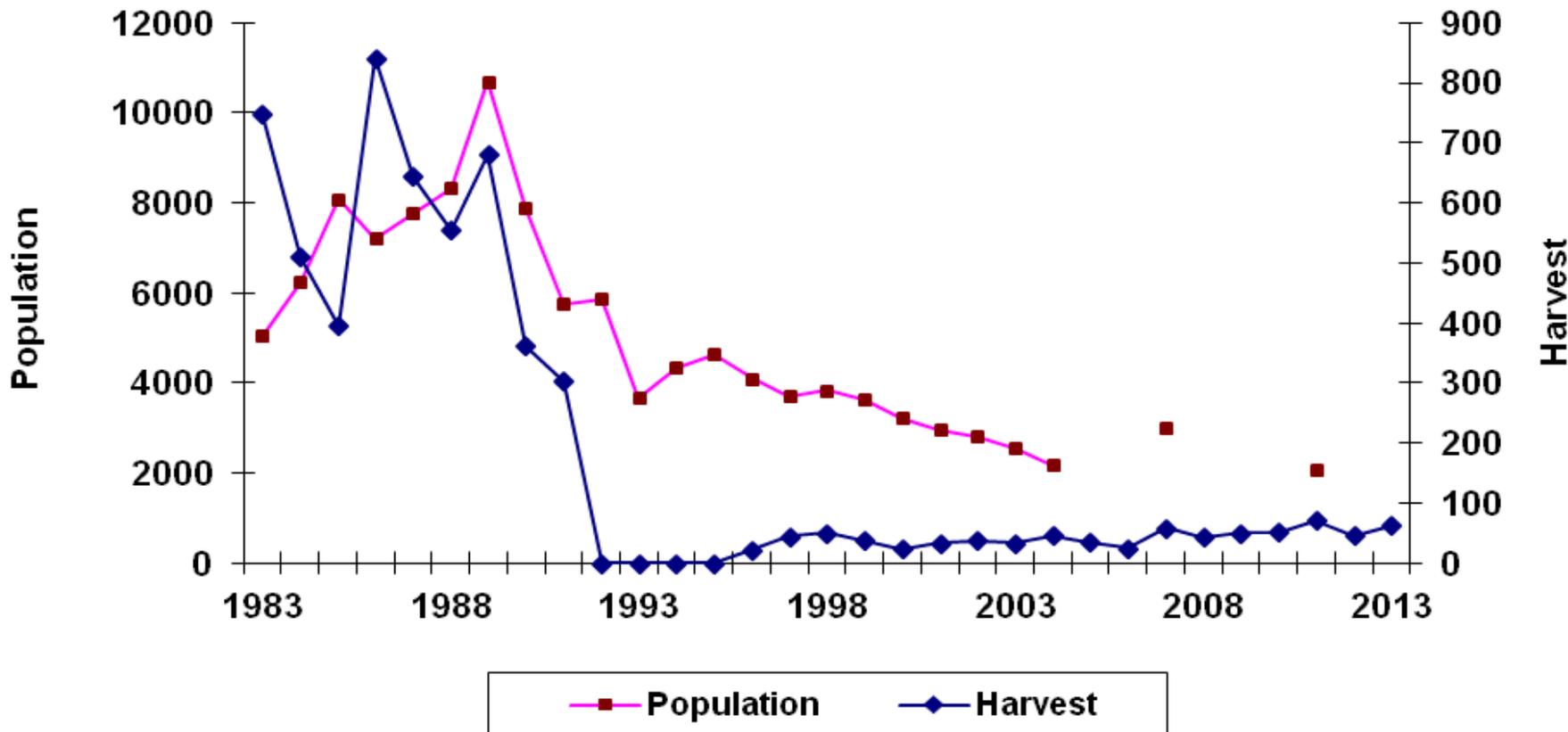
**Legend**

-  GMU Boundaries
-  Delta Caribou Herd Range



0 5 10 20 Miles

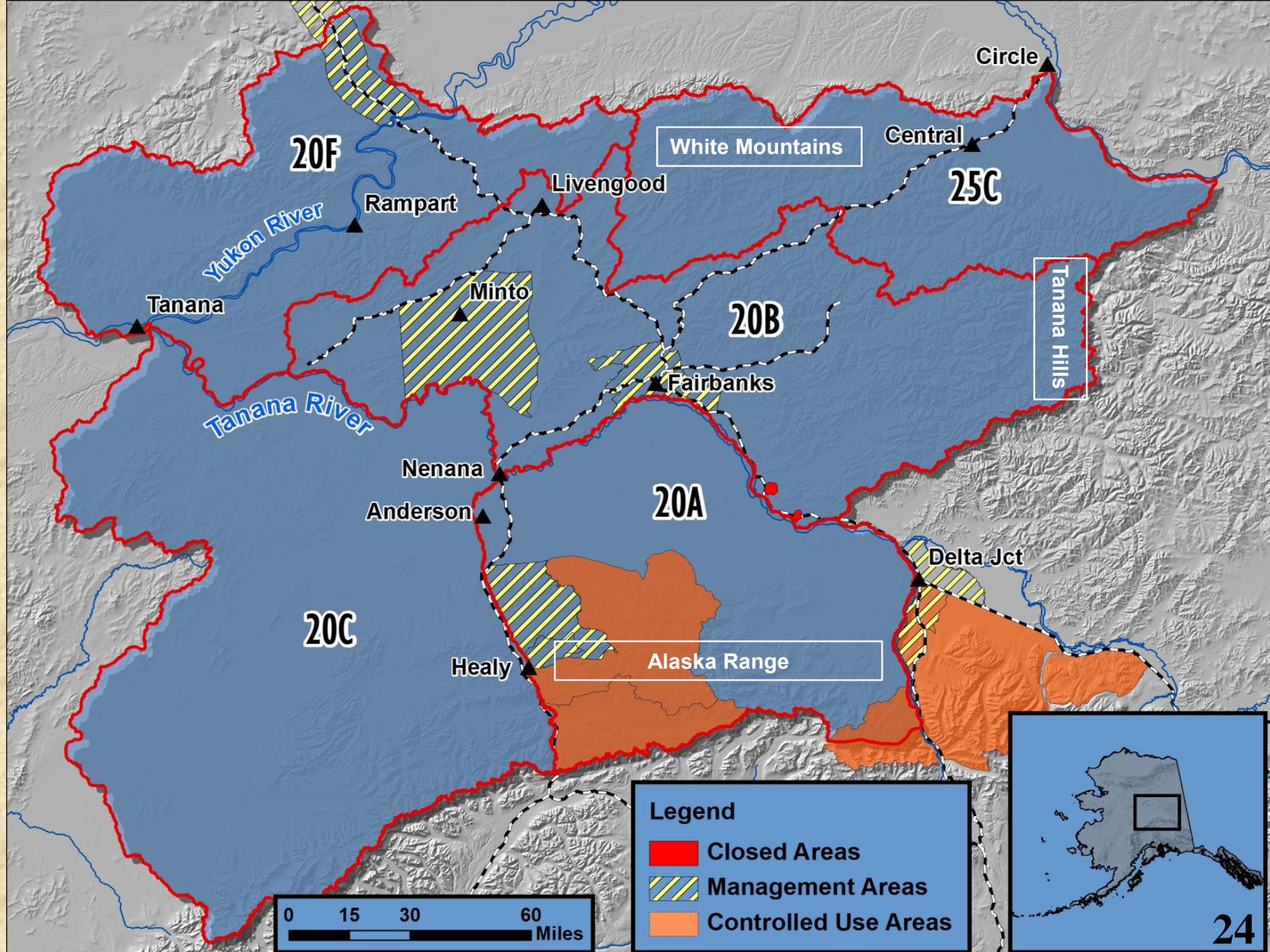
### Population size and harvest, Delta Caribou Herd, 1983-2013



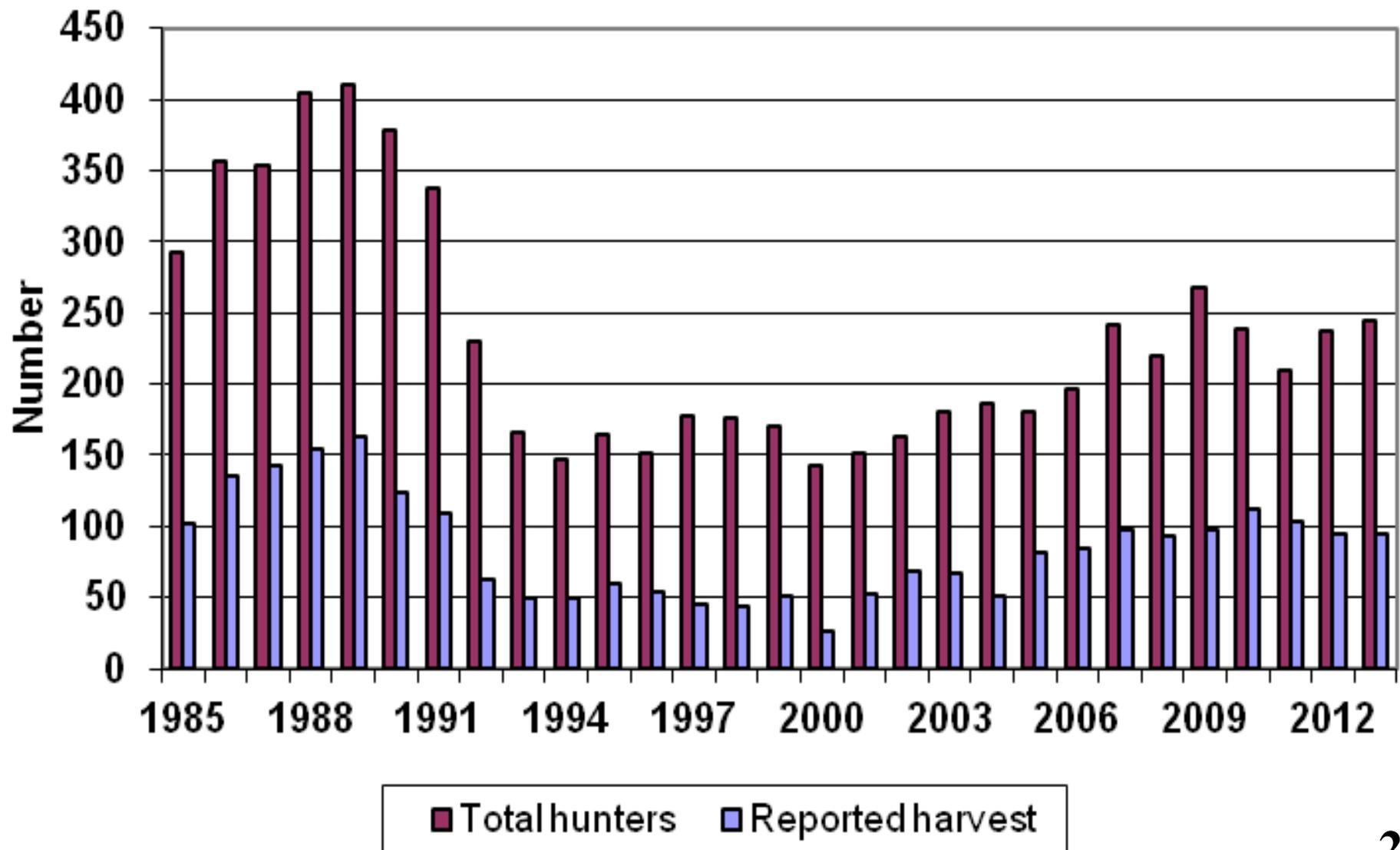
# Sheep

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- **Populations appear to be stable to slightly increasing**
- **Units 25C (White Mountains) and 20B (Tanana Hills) – effort and harvest relatively low**
- **Unit 20A (Alaska Range) - effort and harvest increasing through 2009**
- **1 proposal (Unit 20 youth hunt)**



# Reported sheep harvest and hunters, Unit 20A, 1985-2013



# Moose

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- **High moose densities in Units 20A and 20B**
- **Long-term, ongoing research in Unit 20A**
- **Issues:**
  - **Unit 20A:**
    - **Antlerless moose hunts**
    - **Moose numbers/distribution – public skepticism**
    - **IM harvest mandates – public needs to be better informed**
  - **Unit 20B**
    - **Moose/human conflicts high, especially in the Fairbanks MA**
    - **Minto Flats MA**
- **16 Proposals (Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F):**
  - **5 Department; 11 public**

# **During 1997-2005, GMU 20A moose exhibited the lowest nutritional status reported to date for wild, noninsular, North American populations**

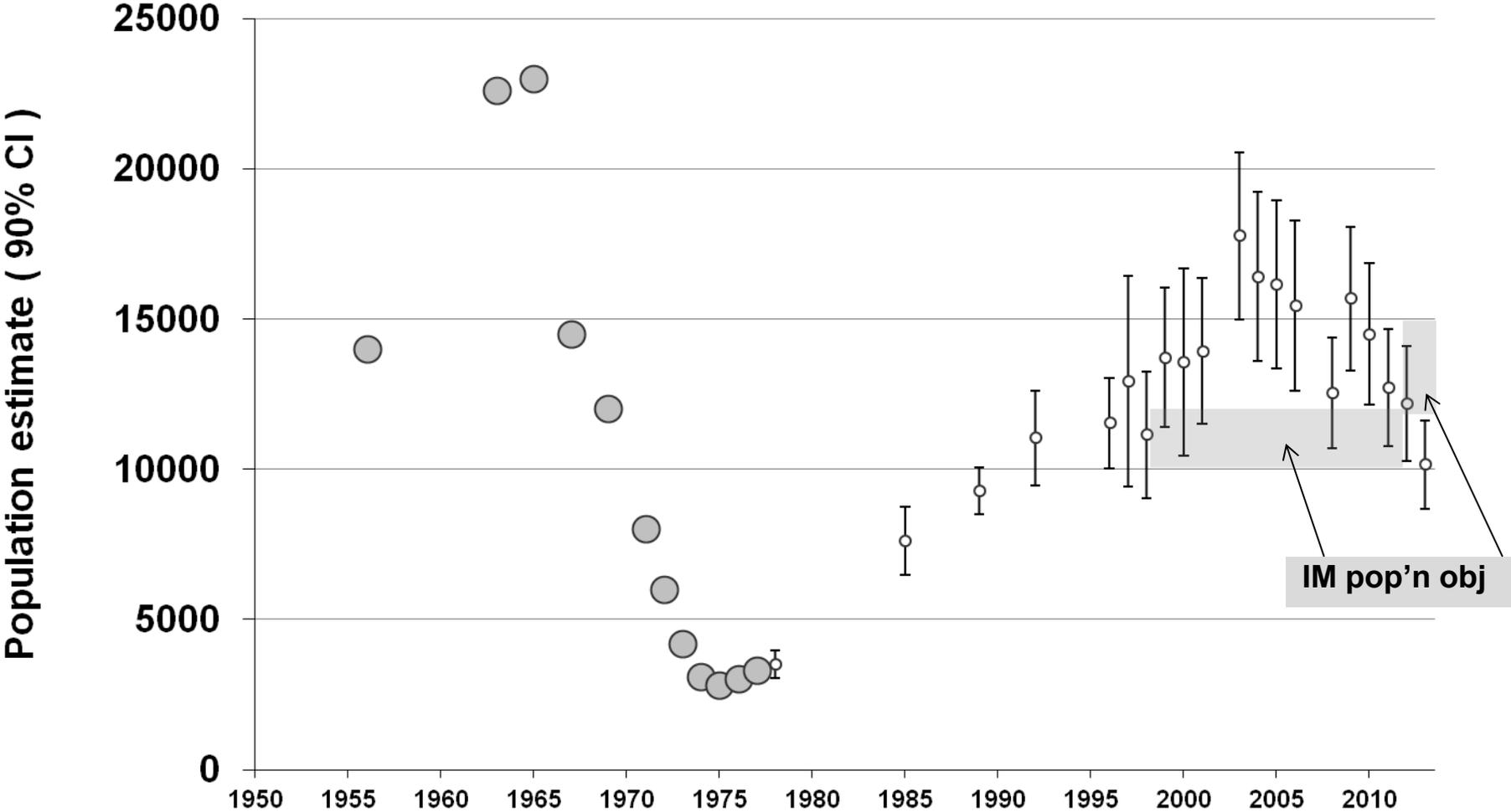
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- Delayed reproduction until  $\geq$  36 months**
- Lowest parturition rate among 36-month-old moose (29%)**
- Lowest average multi-year twinning rates (7%)**
- Delayed twinning until  $\geq$  60 months**
- Lowest female, short-yearling weights (155 kg)**
- Highest browse biomass removal rates (42%)**

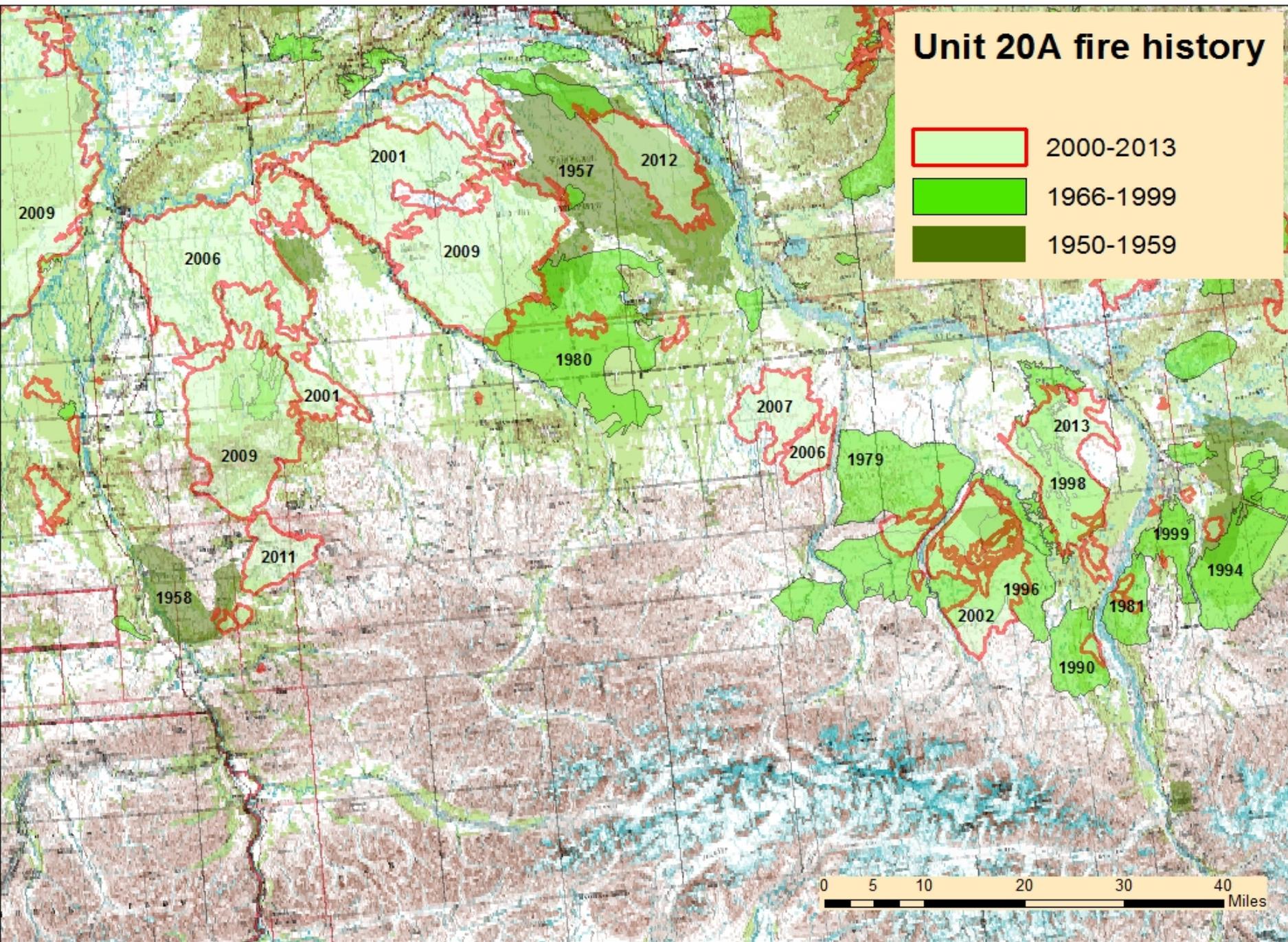


**BOERTJE, R.D., K. A. KELLIE, C. T. SEATON, M. A. KEECH, D. D. YOUNG, B. W. DALE, L. G. ADAMS, and A. R. ADERMAN. 2007. Ranking Alaska moose nutrition: signals to begin liberal antlerless harvests. Journal of Wildlife Management 71: 1494–1506.**

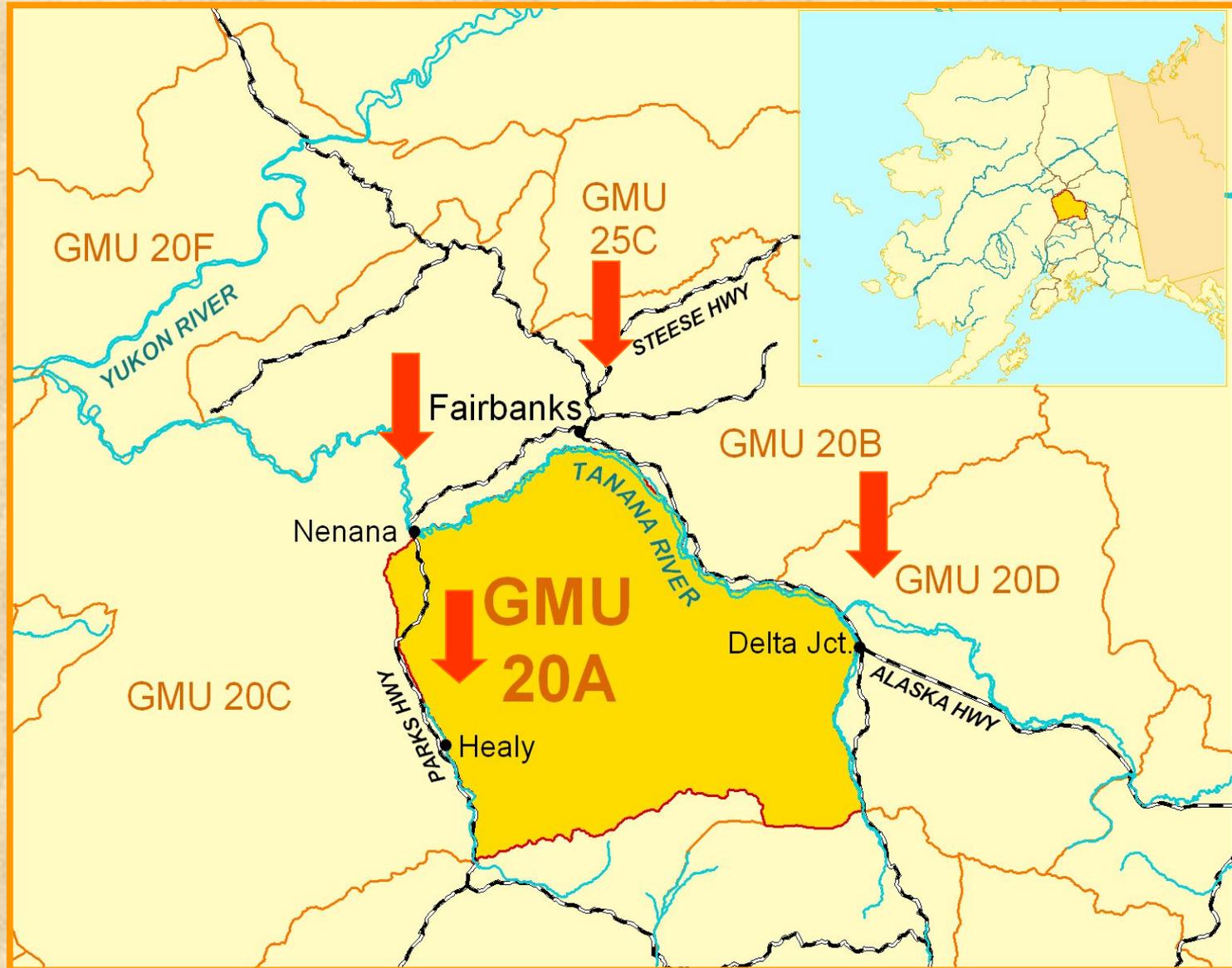
# GMU 20A moose population trend, 1956-2013



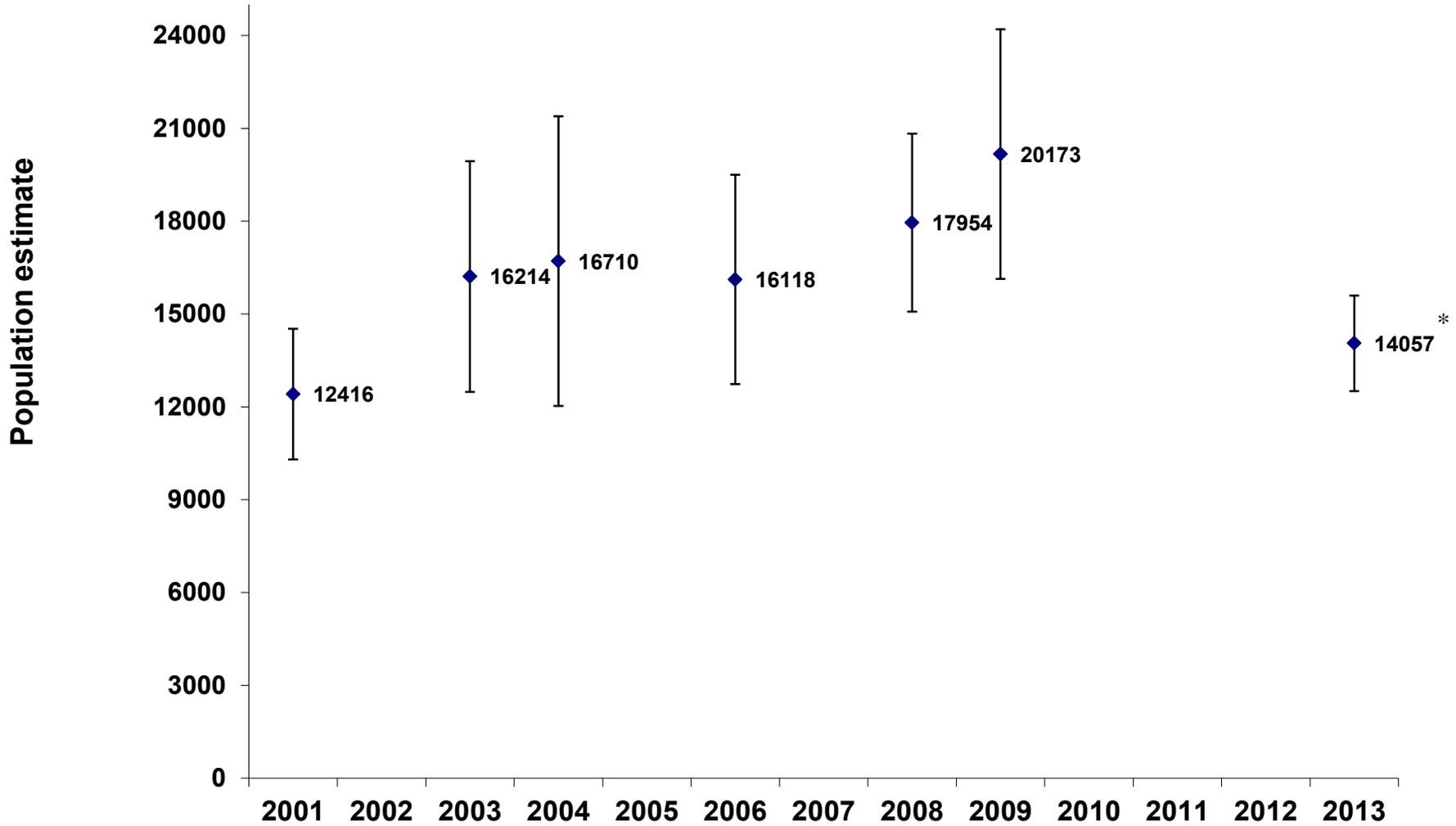
# Unit 20A fire history



# Affected Fish and Game Advisory committees, antlerless moose hunt reauthorizations, GMU 20A

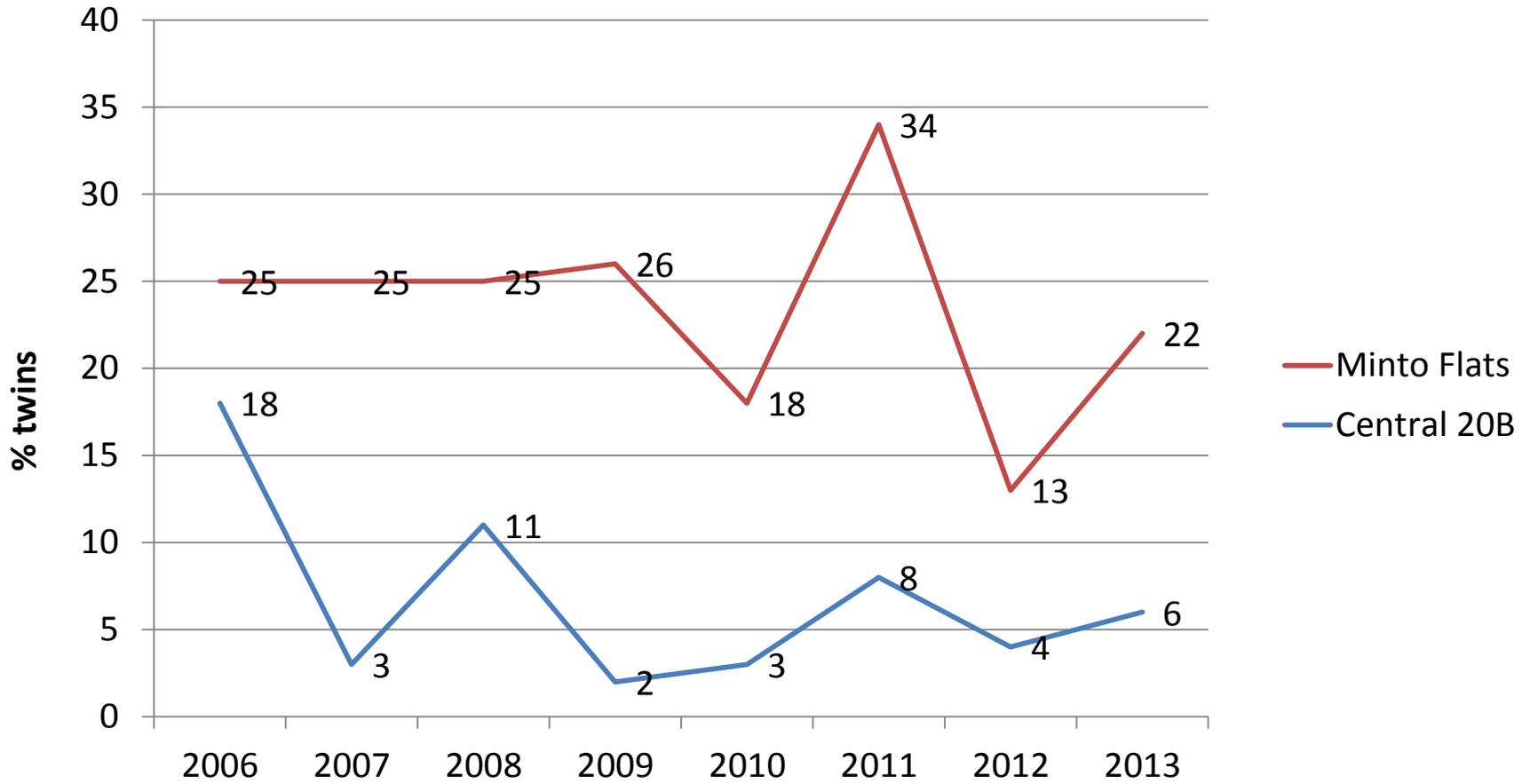


# Unit 20B moose population estimates 2001-2013

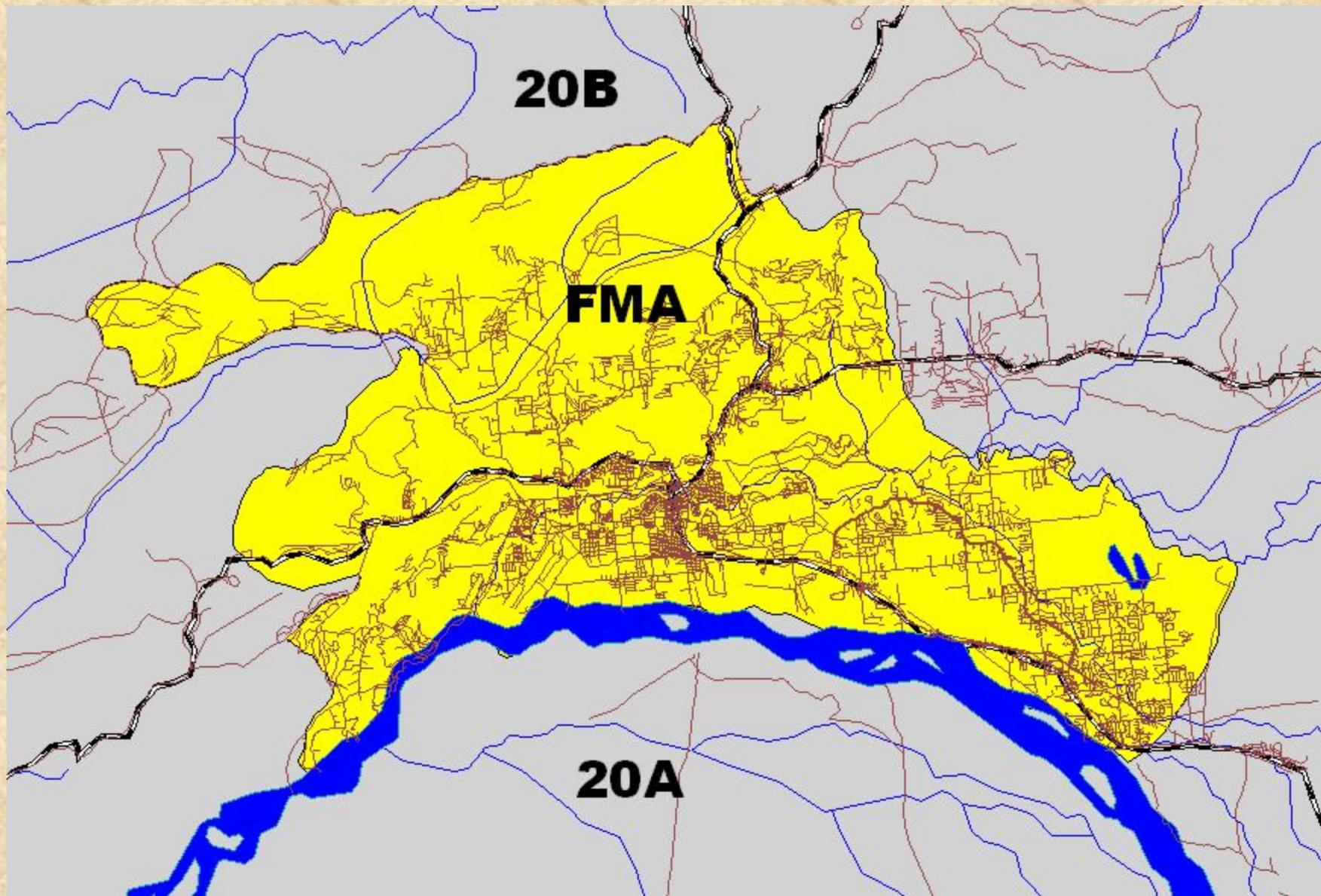


\* Combined estimates : Unit 20B East (2012) and Unit 20B Central and West (2013)

# Twinning Rates, Unit 20B, 2006-2013

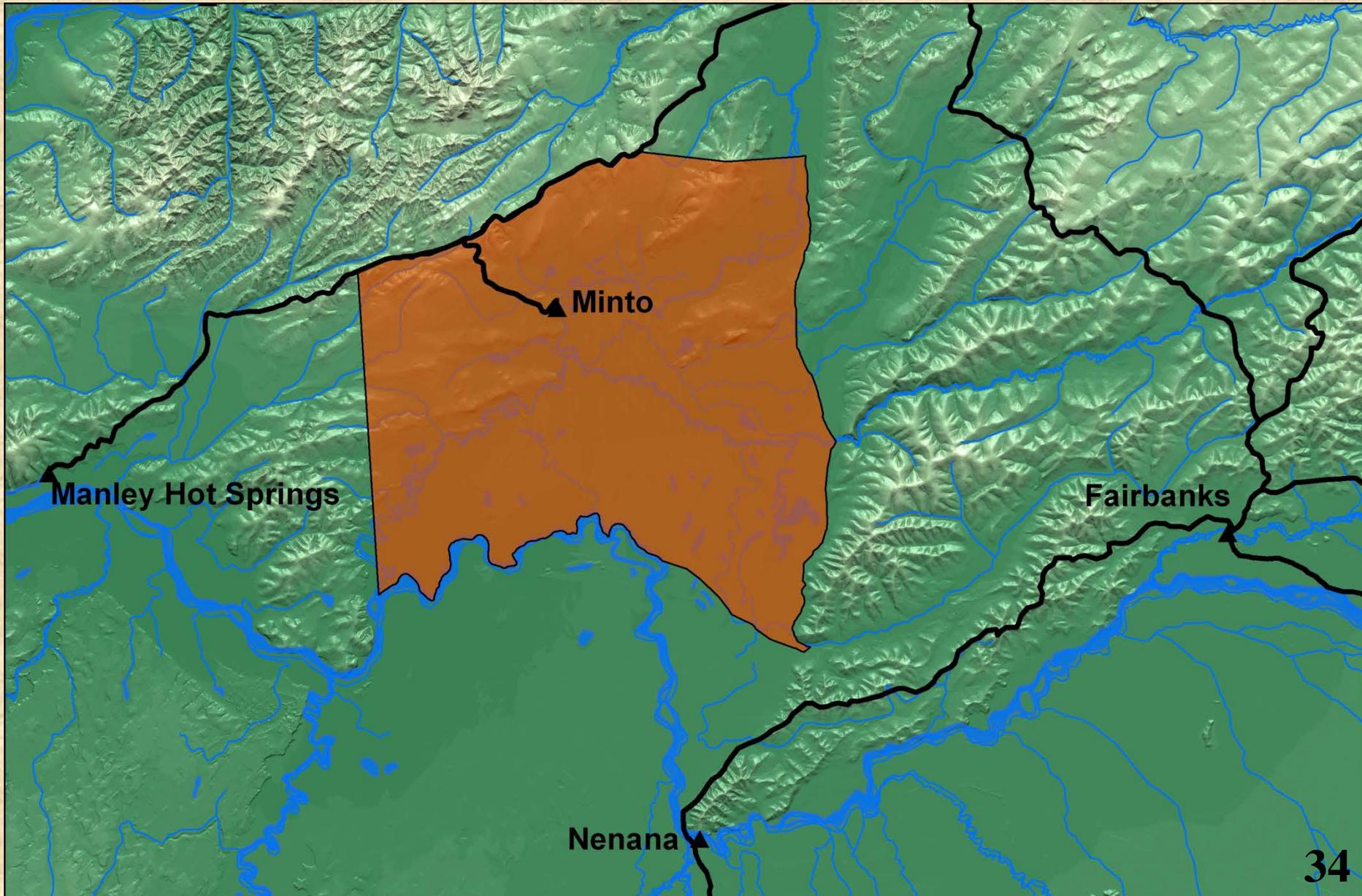


# Road density, Fairbanks Management Area



# Location of Minto Flats MA moose registration hunt RM785

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# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.
  - However, the department recommends suspending antlerless hunts during 2014-2015 regulatory year.
- Keeps antlerless hunts on the books.
- Allows the targeted moose hunt to proceed, if adopted (Proposal 101).

## DEPARTMENT POSITION: SUPPORT

Supported by all affected advisory committees (Delta, Fairbanks, Middle Nenana, and Minto-Nenana)



GMU 20F

GMU 25C

YUKON RIVER

STEESE HWY

Fairbanks

GMU 20B

Nenana

GMU 20D

GMU 20A

TANANA RIVER

Delta Jct.

GMU 20C

PARKS HWY

Healy

ALASKA HWY

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- One antlerless moose by drawing permit (up to 2,000 permits may be issued) Aug. 15–Nov. 15 or by registration permit Aug. 25–Feb. 28; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf.
- **2013-2014 Regulatory Year**
  - **Drawing permit hunt**
    - Aug. 15 – Nov. 15
    - 439 permits issued
  - **Registration permit hunt (General)**
    - Oct. 1 – Feb. 28
    - 199 permits issued
  - **Registration permit hunt (Subsistence)**
    - Aug. 25 – Jan. 28
    - 25 permits issued

# **Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **If adopted, this proposal would allow the department to continue to provide harvest tools and options for moose management (e.g., targeted moose hunt).**

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## BACKGROUND:

- Goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations.
- Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of habitat to support current populations.

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## BACKGROUND: (Con't)

- **Purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A:**
  - **Regulate population growth;**
  - **Meet the IM mandate for high levels of harvest;**
  - **Provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity for success in obtaining moose for subsistence uses in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area (i.e., Western Tanana Flats) .**

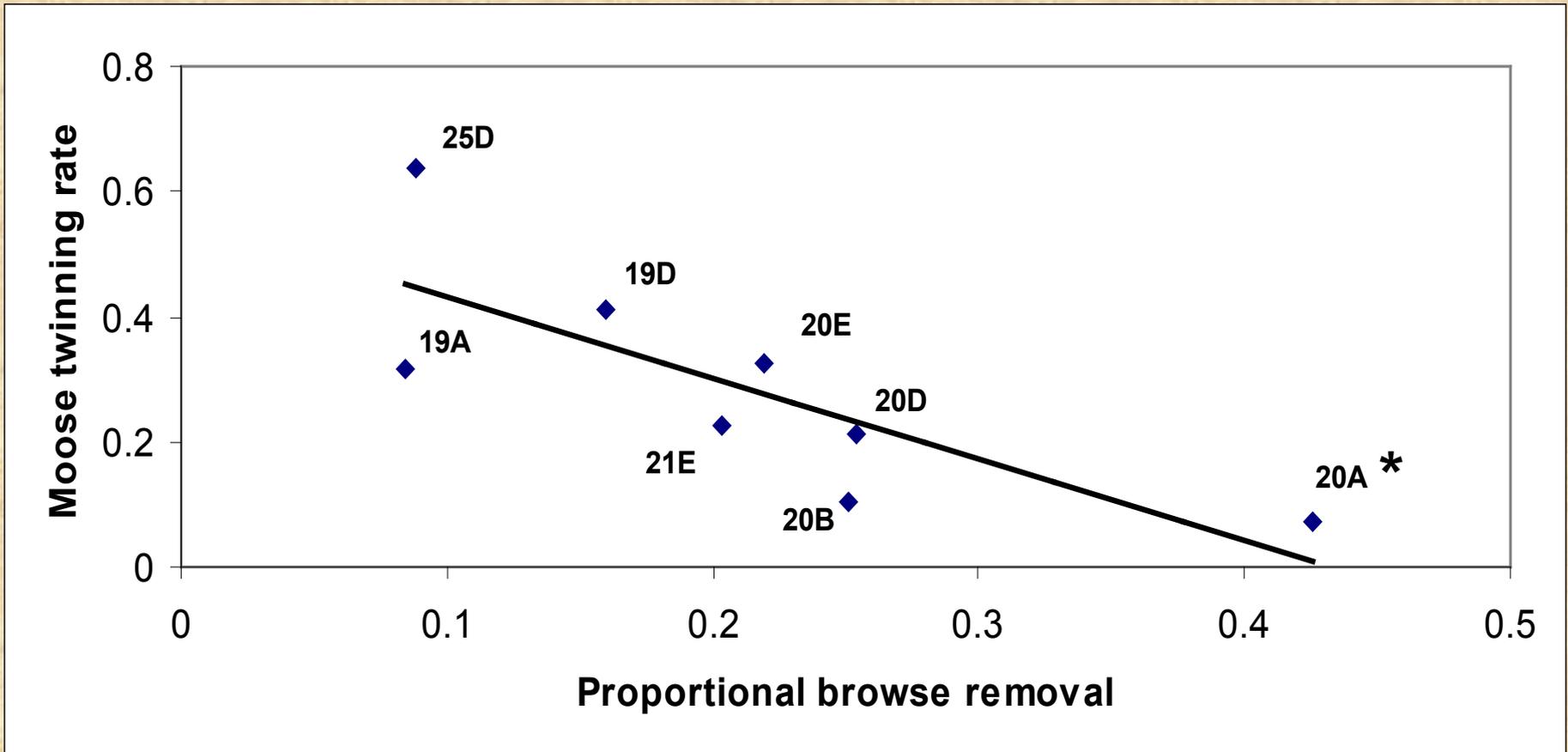
# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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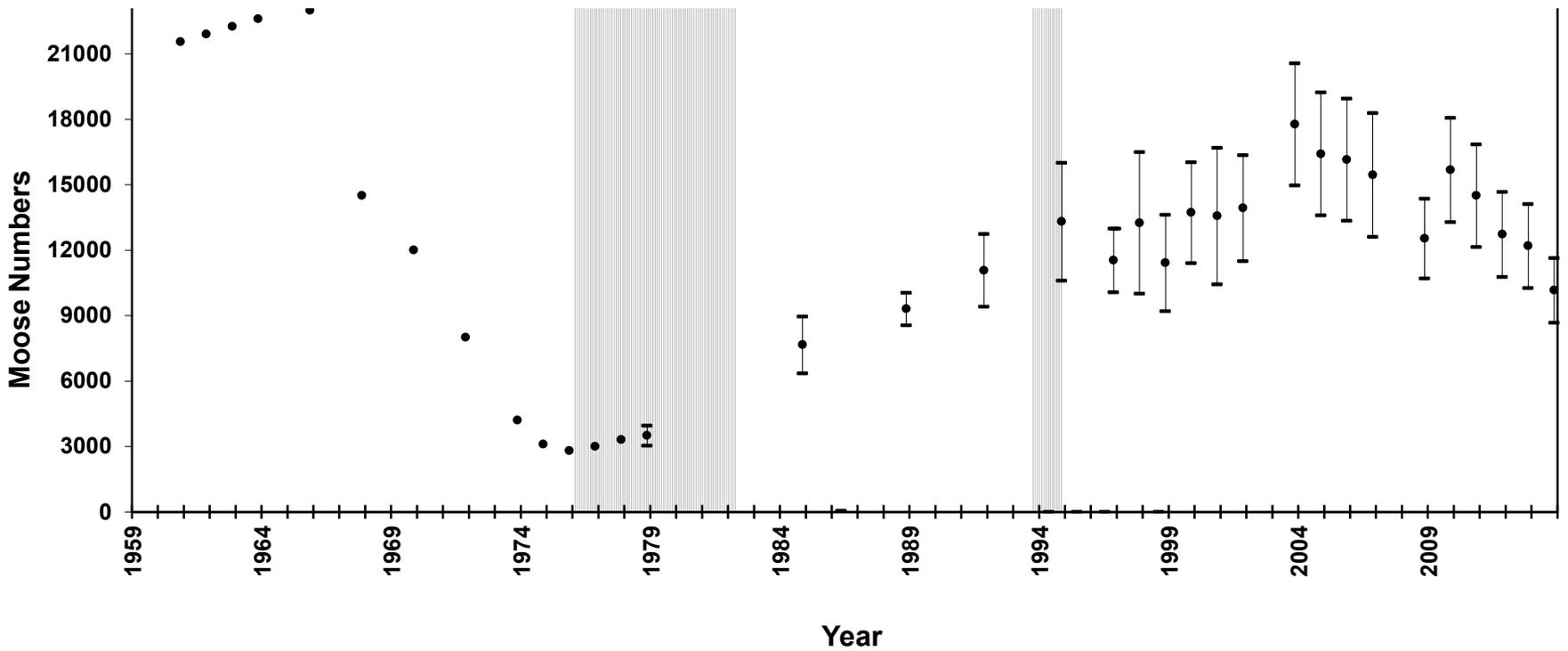
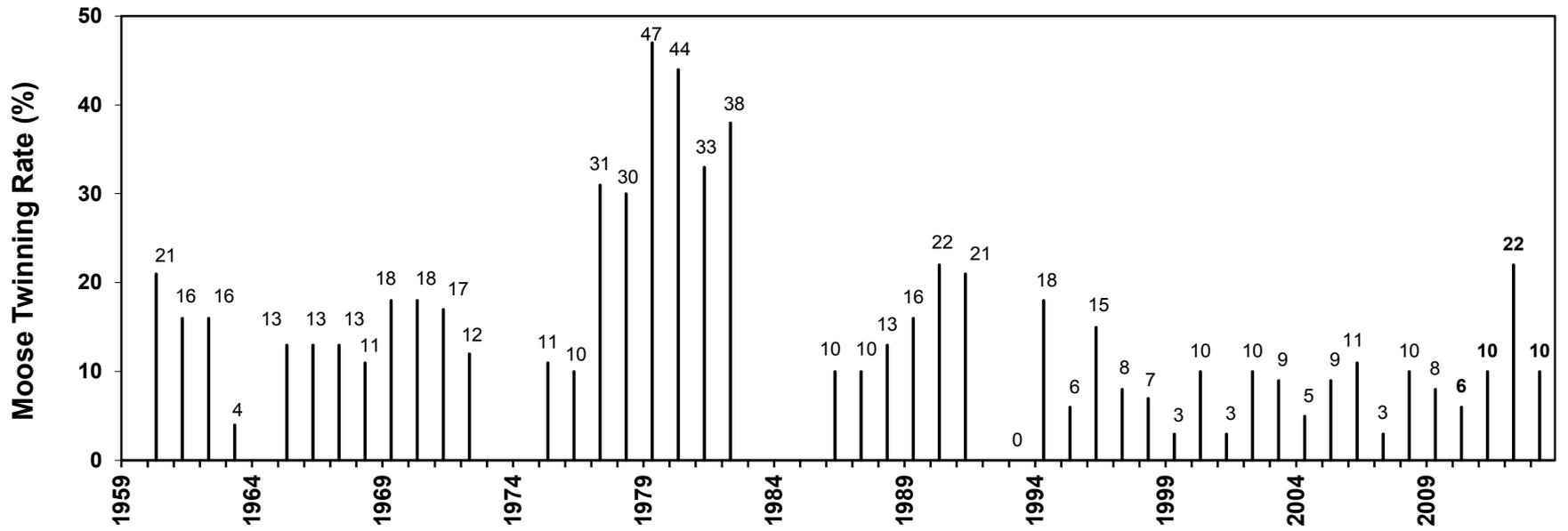
## BACKGROUND: (Con't)

- In 2003, the number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,766 (14,975-20,558; 90% CI).
- Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage.
- The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities.
- In 2013, the number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 10,156 (8678–11,633; 90% CI) moose.

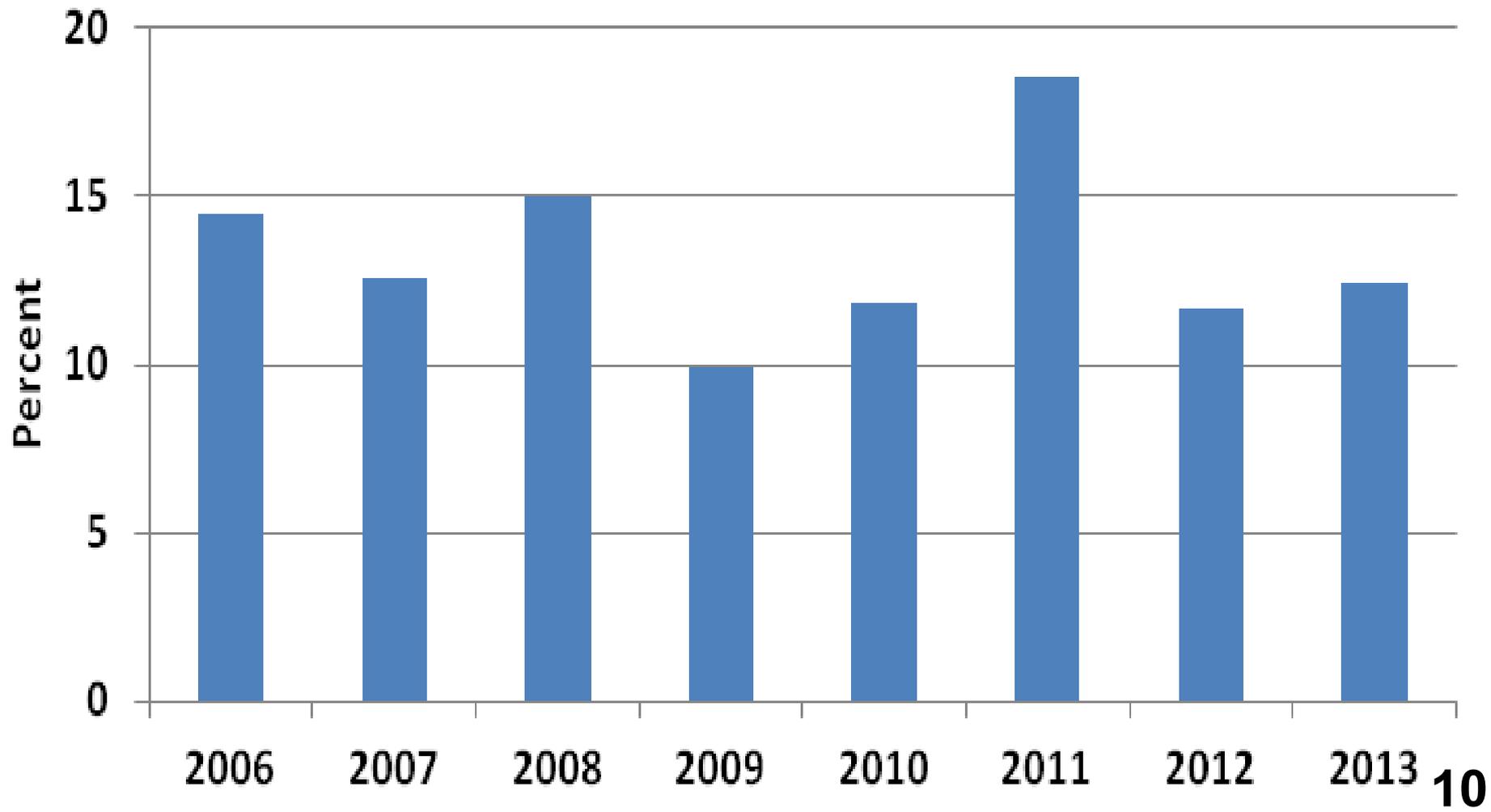
# Relationship between moose twinning and browse removal rates



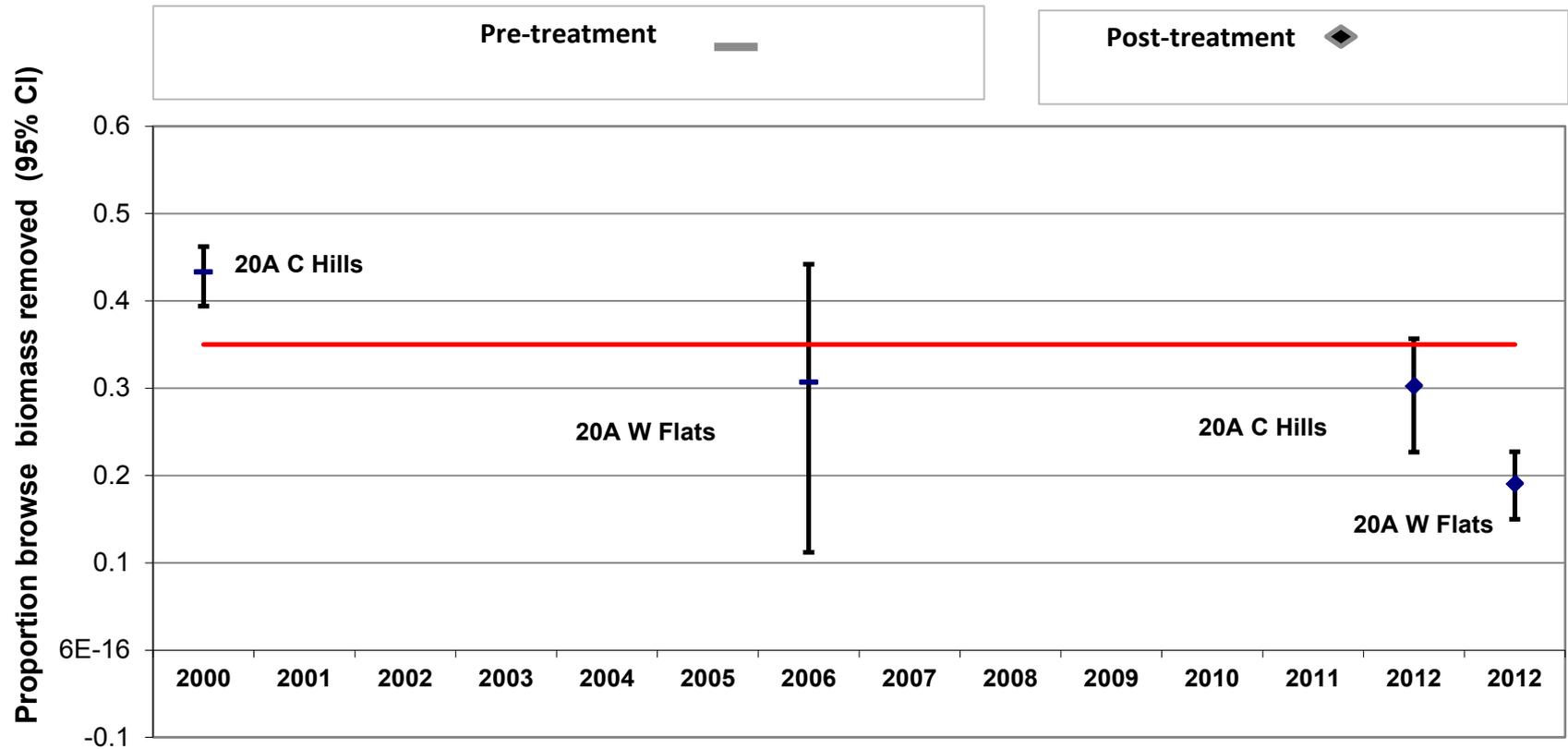
\* Mean twinning rate, central Unit 20A, 1997-2005; browse removal Unit 20A winter 1999-2000



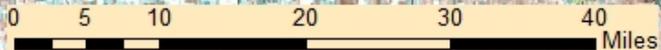
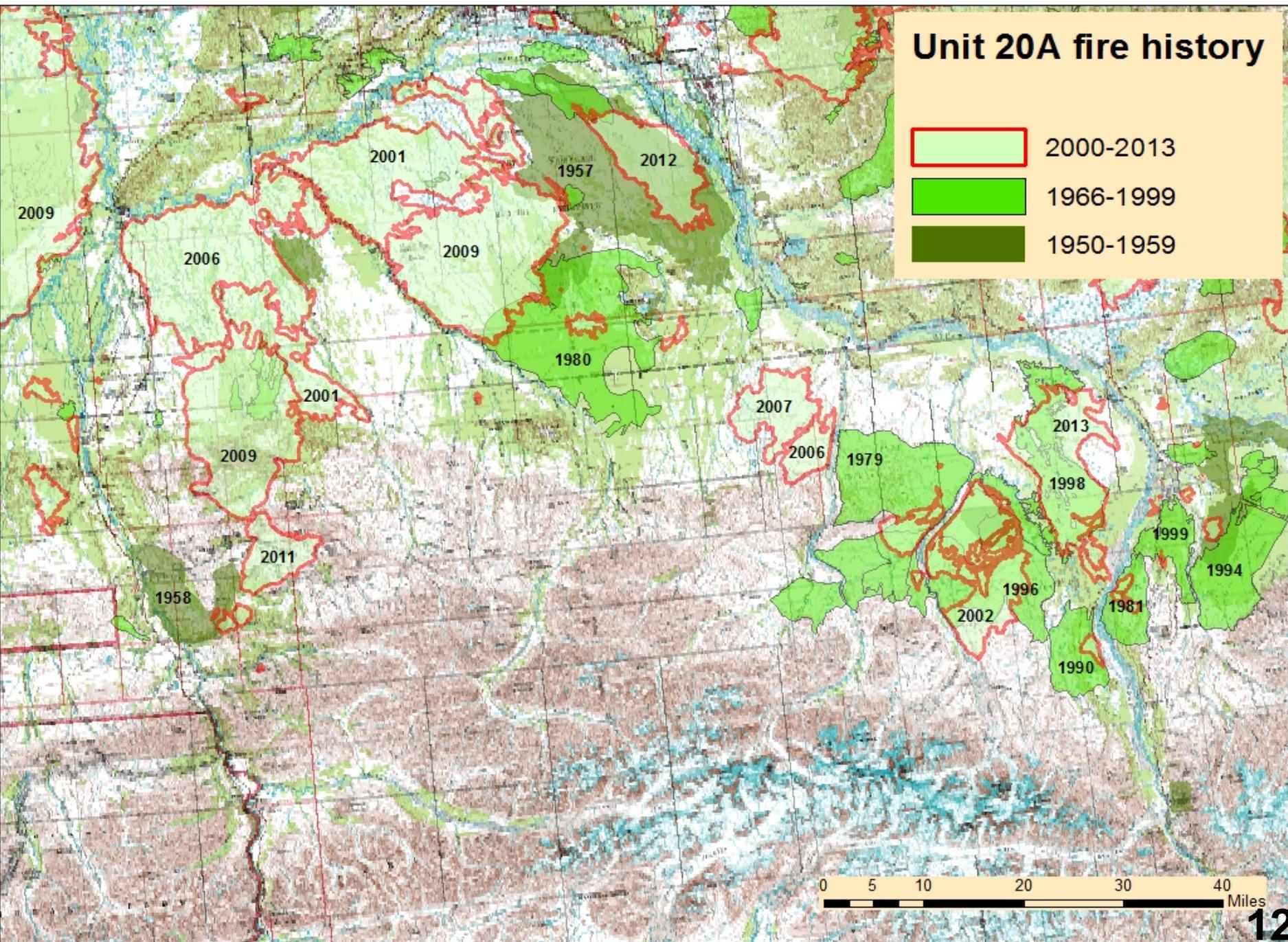
# Twinning rates on the Tanana Flats, Unit 20A, 2006-2013



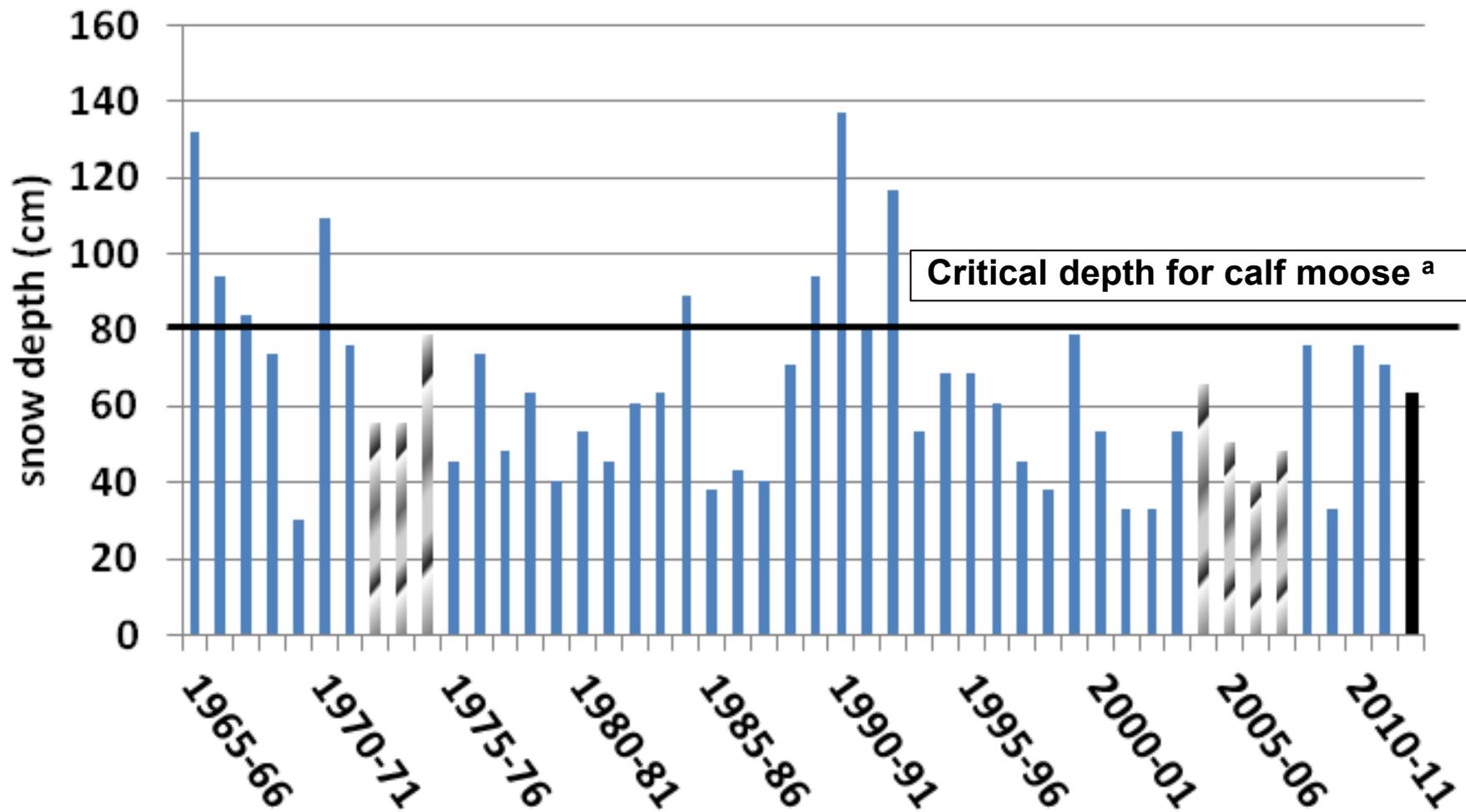
# Browse Removal by Moose, Unit 20A



# Unit 20A fire history



# Maximum accumulated snow depth (cm), winters 1965-66 through 2012-13, Fairbanks, AK



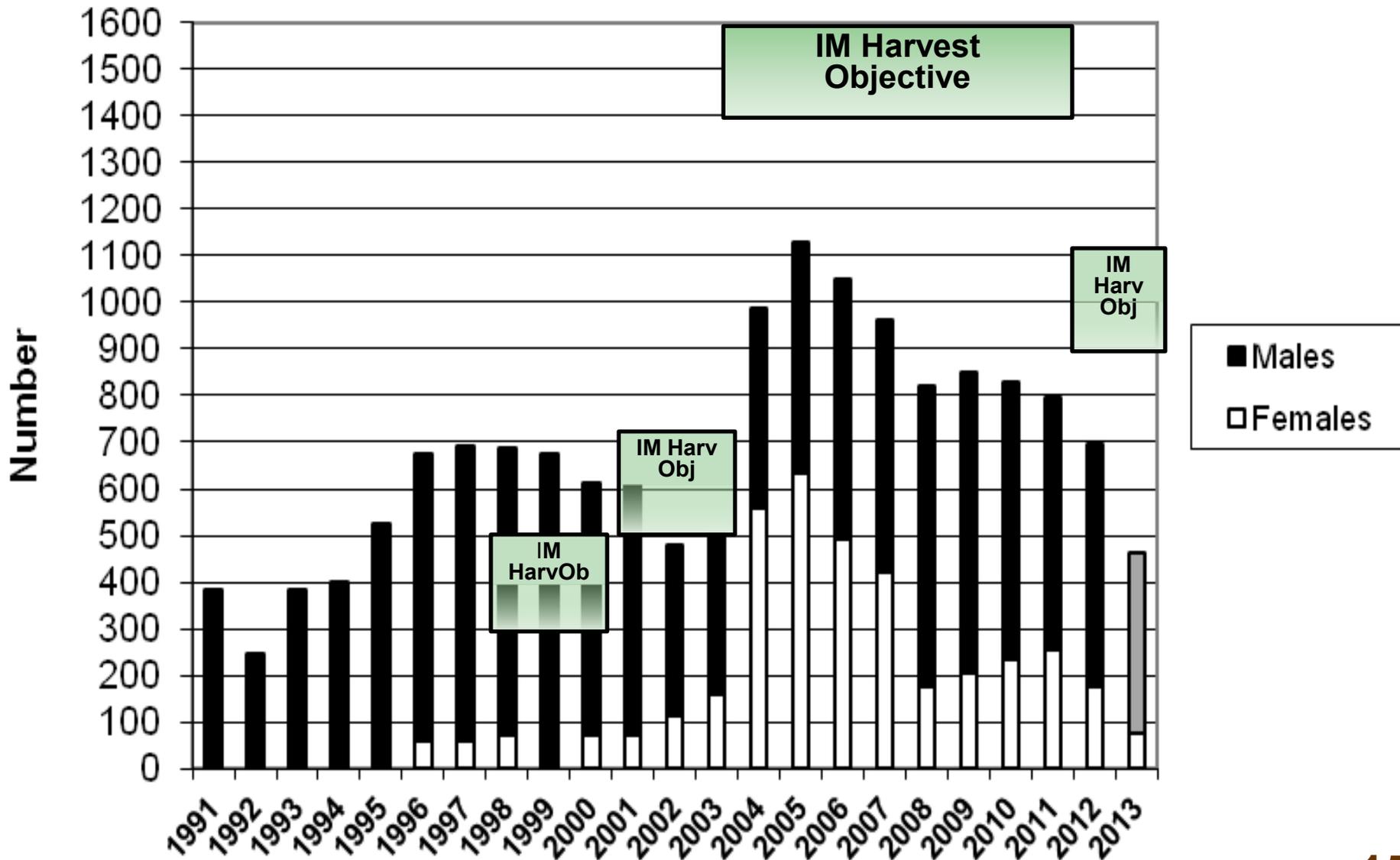
<sup>a</sup> Coady, J. W. 1974. Influence of snow on behavior of moose. Nat. Can (Que.) 101:417-436

# Mortality Observations of Radiocollared Moose, Unit 20A, 2012-2013

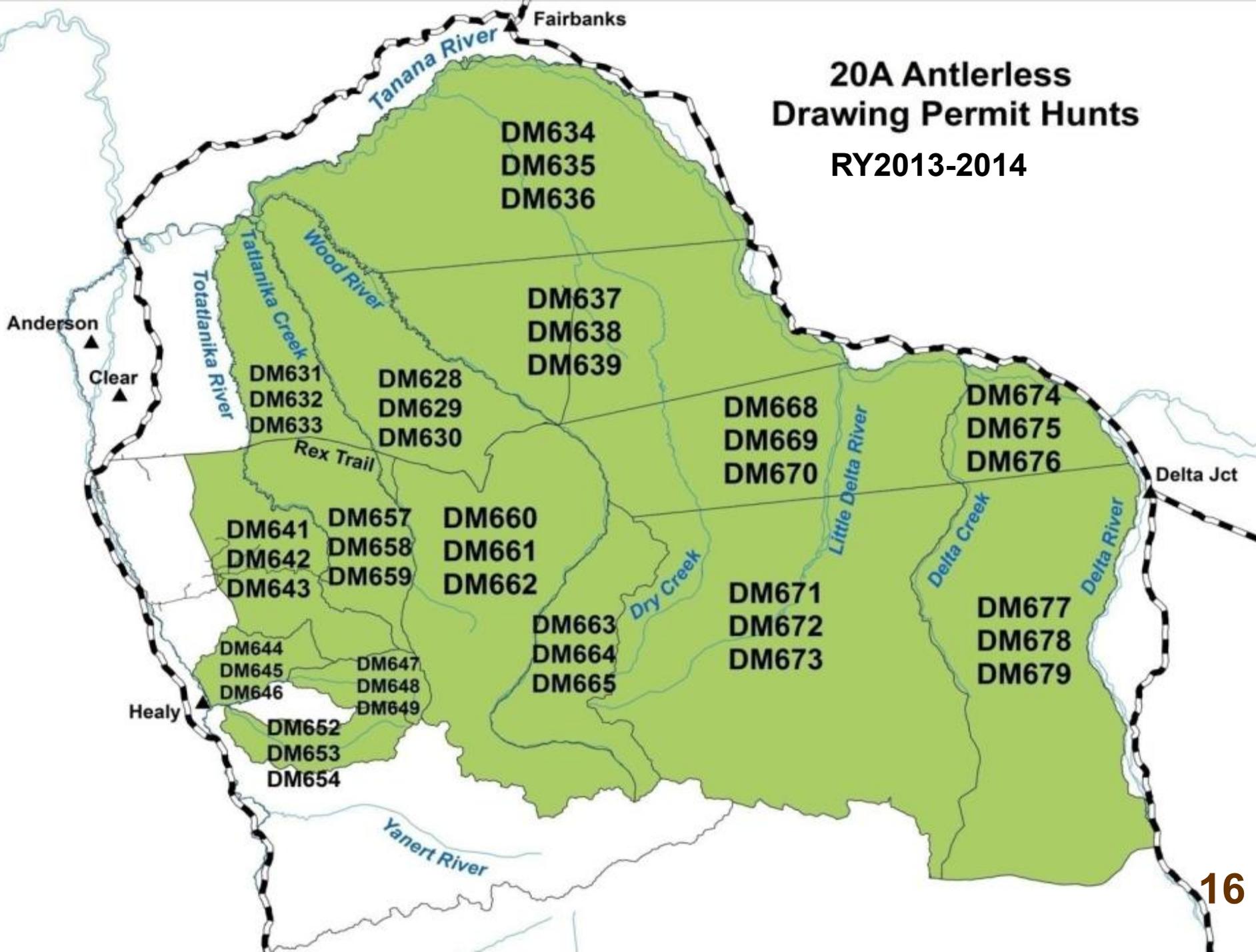
- Spring 2013 was the latest on record
- The prolonged winter may have caused slightly higher mortality
- More mortality among old-age radiocollared moose:
  - 2012: 1 prime-age moose & 6 old-age moose
  - 2013: 2 prime-age moose & 13 old-age moose
- Nov 2013 GSPE survey shows lower recruitment for 2012 calves (winter mortality?):
  - 2012 ylg:cow ratio: 18:100
  - 2013 ylg:cow ratio: 14:100



# Reported harvest of moose in Unit 20A, 1991-2013



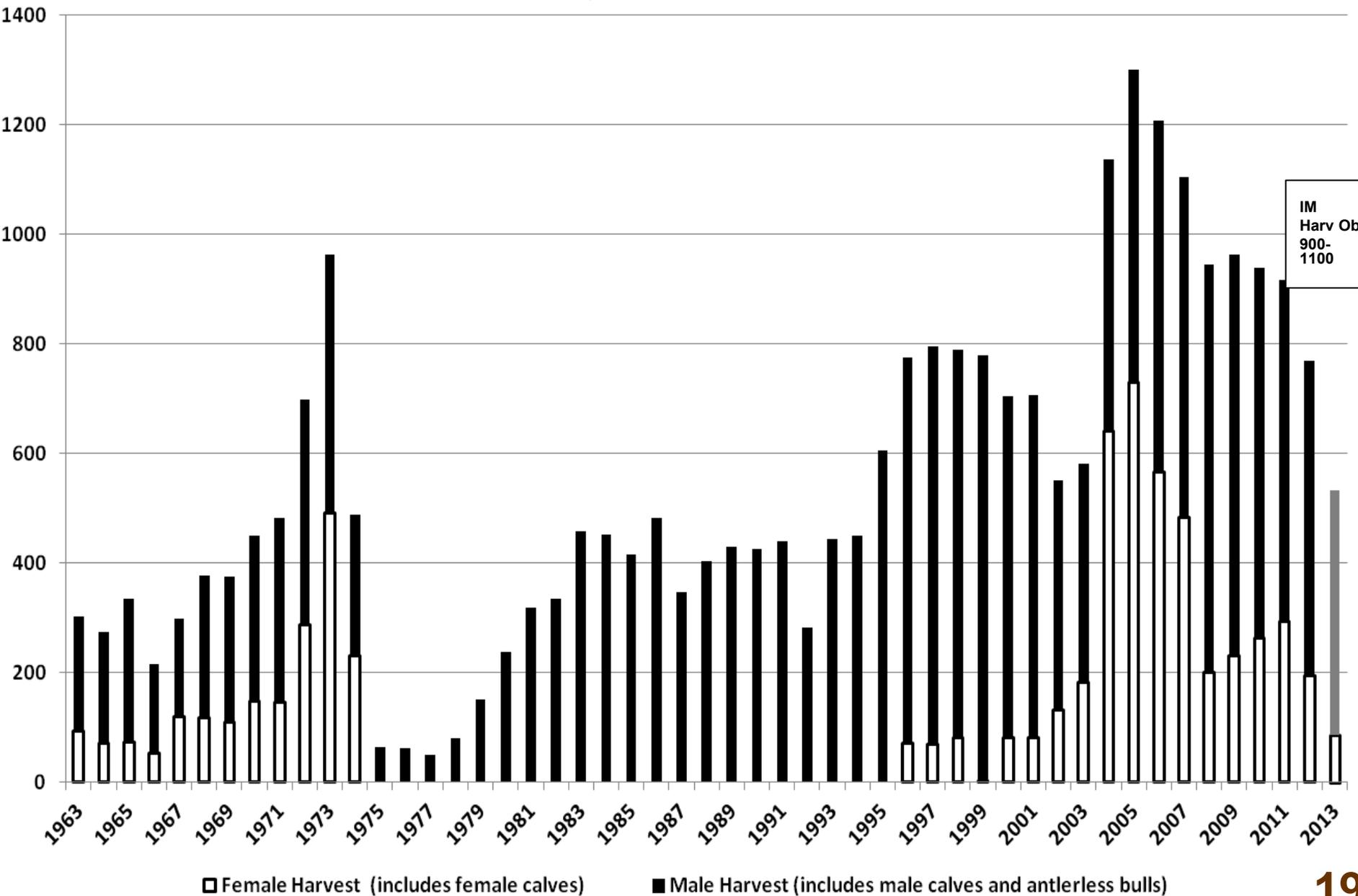
# 20A Antlerless Drawing Permit Hunts RY2013-2014



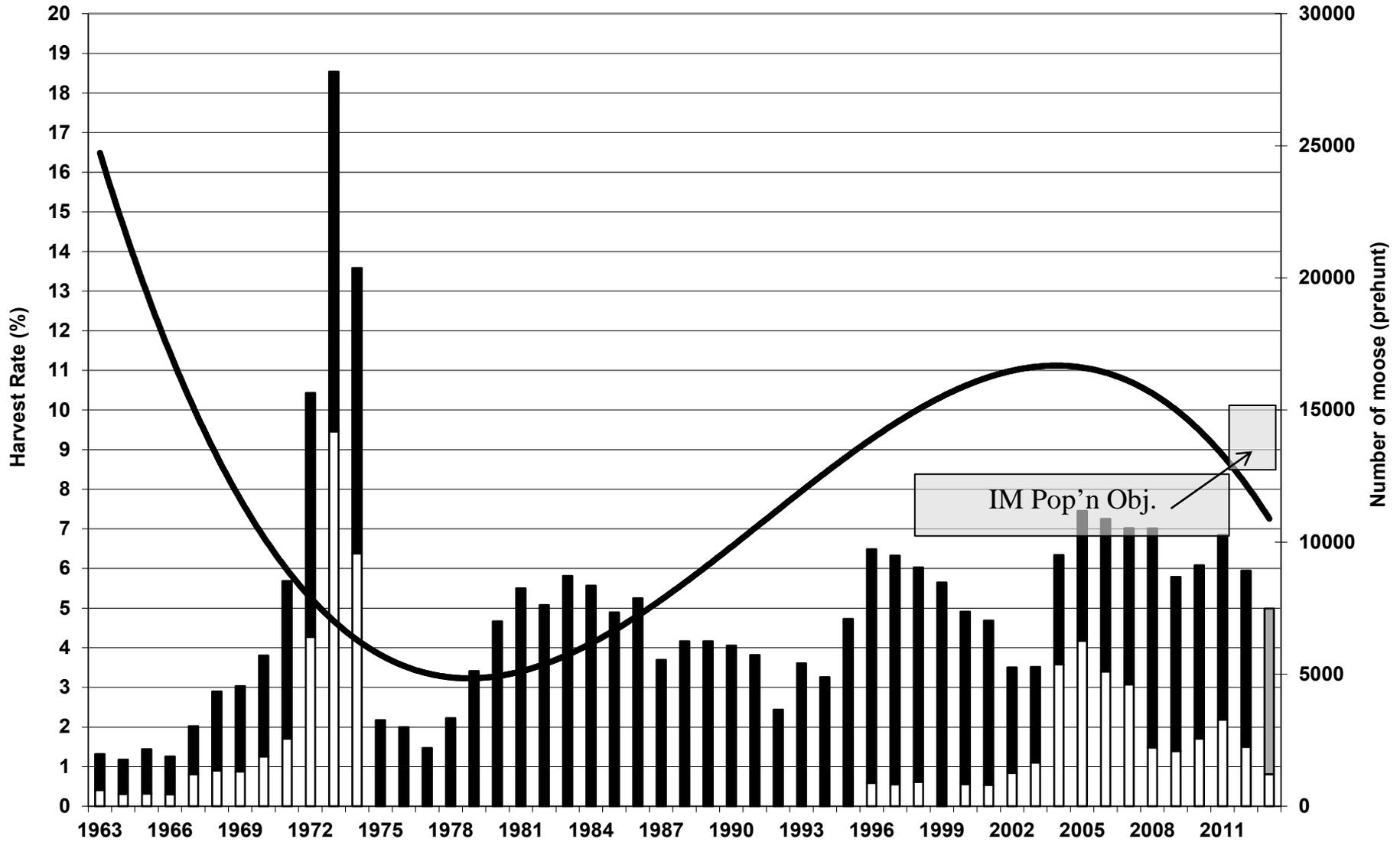




# Moose harvest (includes 15% nonreporting) stratified by sex, Unit 20A, 1963-2013



# Prehunt moose population (smoothed) and harvest trends by sex, Unit 20A, 1963-2013



Female Harvest Rate

Male Harvest Rate

Population Trend

Poly. ( Population Trend)

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- Our objective is to manage moose numbers within the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose (adopted in 2012) while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for density-dependent responses.
- For RY 2014-2015 we are not recommending any harvest of female moose (except nuisance or injured moose in the targeted hunt, if adopted) primarily because of the 2013 population estimate and 5-year population trend.
- This is consistent with the department's more conservative approach as the moose population in Unit 20A was reduced and approached 12,000 animals.

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## 2012-2013 Recommendations:

- Calculate Unit 20A antlerless harvest goals using:
  - Lower 90% CI (11,156 moose) rather than point estimate (12,724 moose)
  - 2.0% (223 antlerless moose) rather than 2.5% (279 antlerless moose)
- Reduce Zone 2 antlerless harvest from 2.5% (43) to 1.5% (26) of lower 90% CI (1727 moose)
- Close registration hunt RM764 in Zone 2
- Conduct registration hunt RM764 only in foothills (Zones 4, 5, 6), if needed, to meet harvest goals in those zones
- End antlerless registration hunt RM764 by Nov. 30
- Retain registration subsistence hunt RM768 (50 permits) in western Tanana Flats (Aug 25-Feb 28)

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## 2013-2014 Recommendations:

- Reduce antlerless harvest to  $\leq 120$  antlerless moose (1% of 12,000)
- Obtain as much harvest as possible during drawing permit hunts (15 Aug-15 Nov)
- Distribute harvest across the unit to lessen impact in any one area (emphasis on providing hunting opportunity)
- Conduct registration hunt RM764 only in Zones 5, if needed, to meet harvest goal in that zone
- Retain registration subsistence hunt RM768 in western Tanana Flats (Aug 25-Feb 28), but reduce permits from 50 to 25
- Increase “any bull” permits from 800 to 1000 to increase hunting opportunity and harvest

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: Cont'd)

- Department assured the public we were cognizant of mistakes made during liberal antlerless hunts conducted in 1970s.
- To demonstrate the department is managing responsibly, prudent to suspend antlerless hunts next regulatory year.
- Because the moose population appears to be declining with only conservative female harvests, moose to wolf ratios are approaching the threshold of 30:1, and the 2013 population estimate and harvest numbers are below IM objectives, the department proposes preparing an IM Predator Control Feasibility Assessment to be presented to the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting in 2015.

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: Cont'd)

- This would give the department time to conduct an intensive GSPE moose survey with sightability correction trials, during November 2014.
- This also would give the department time to work with Fish and Game advisory committees and the public in developing a predator control plan if deemed feasible and necessary.
- Other issues:
  - ANS western Tanana Flats (50-75 moose). The board should consider the effect of this proposal on reasonable opportunities for subsistence in those portions of Unit 20A outside of the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area, as well as general hunting opportunity in the Non-subsistence Area.
  - Draw hunt dilemma

# Proposal 97 – Unit 20A Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.
  - However, the department recommends suspending antlerless hunts during 2014-2015 regulatory year.
- Keeps antlerless hunts on the books.
- Allows the targeted moose hunt to proceed, if adopted (Proposal 101).

## DEPARTMENT POSITION: SUPPORT

Supported by all affected advisory committees (Delta, Fairbanks, Middle Nenana, and Minto-Nenana)

# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Change the bag limit for moose to “any bull” in Unit 20A, except close to roads or other areas if needed to limit harvest.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: OPPOSED

AC positions: 0-2-3



GMU 20F

GMU 25C

YUKON RIVER

STEESE HWY

Fairbanks

GMU 20B

Nenana

TANANA RIVER

GMU 20D

GMU 20A

Delta Jct.

GMU 20C

PARKS HWY

Healy

ALASKA HWY

# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- Residents:
- **General season harvest ticket**
  - one bull, spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines in the Wood River Controlled Use Area (CUA), Yanert CUA, and Ferry Trail Management Area (MA).
  - one bull, spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 brow tines on at least one side in the remainder of Unit 20A.
- **Drawing permit (up to 1,000 permits unit wide, including up to 75 muzzleloader permits in combination with nonresident hunters)**
  - any bull

# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? (Cont'd)

- Nonresidents:
- **General season harvest ticket**
  - one bull, spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines
- **Drawing permit (up to 75 permits in combination with resident hunters)**
  - one bull, spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines, by muzzleloader

# **Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **The harvest of bull moose would increase and exceed sustainable limits.**

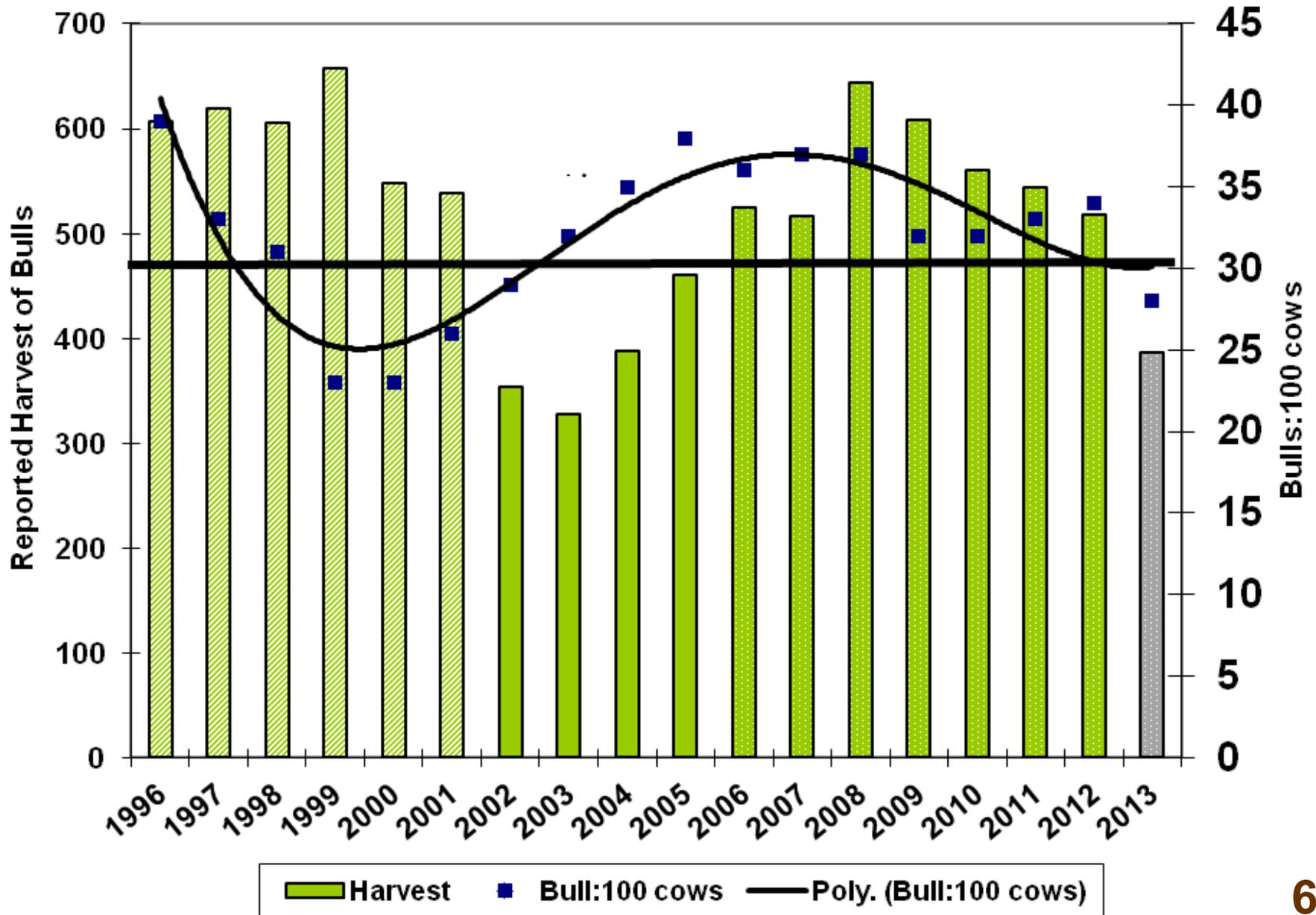
# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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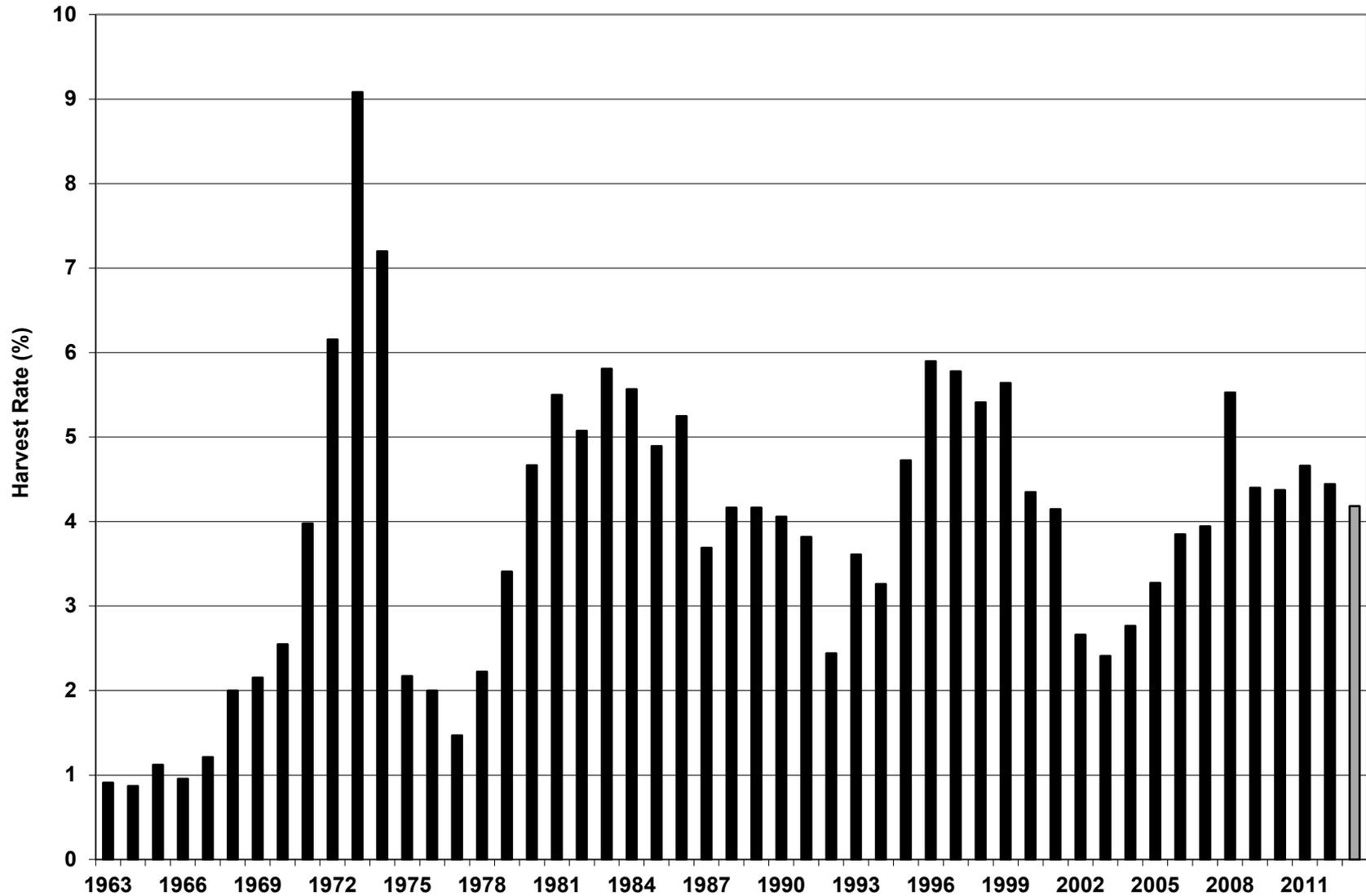
## BACKGROUND:

- The bag limit was changed from “any bull” (except the Ferry Trail MA and Yanert CUA, where antler restrictions were already in place) to spike-fork/50-inch regulation unit wide in 2002 due to overharvest of bull moose and declining bull-to-cow ratios that had fallen below the management objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows.
- Unit wide antler restrictions were effective in reducing reported harvests to sustainable levels (i.e., from 534–669 bulls to 328–461 bulls, 1996–2001) and the recovery of bull-to-cow ratios to desirable levels (i.e., from the low- to mid-twenties, 1999–2001 to mid- to high-thirties, 2004–2005).

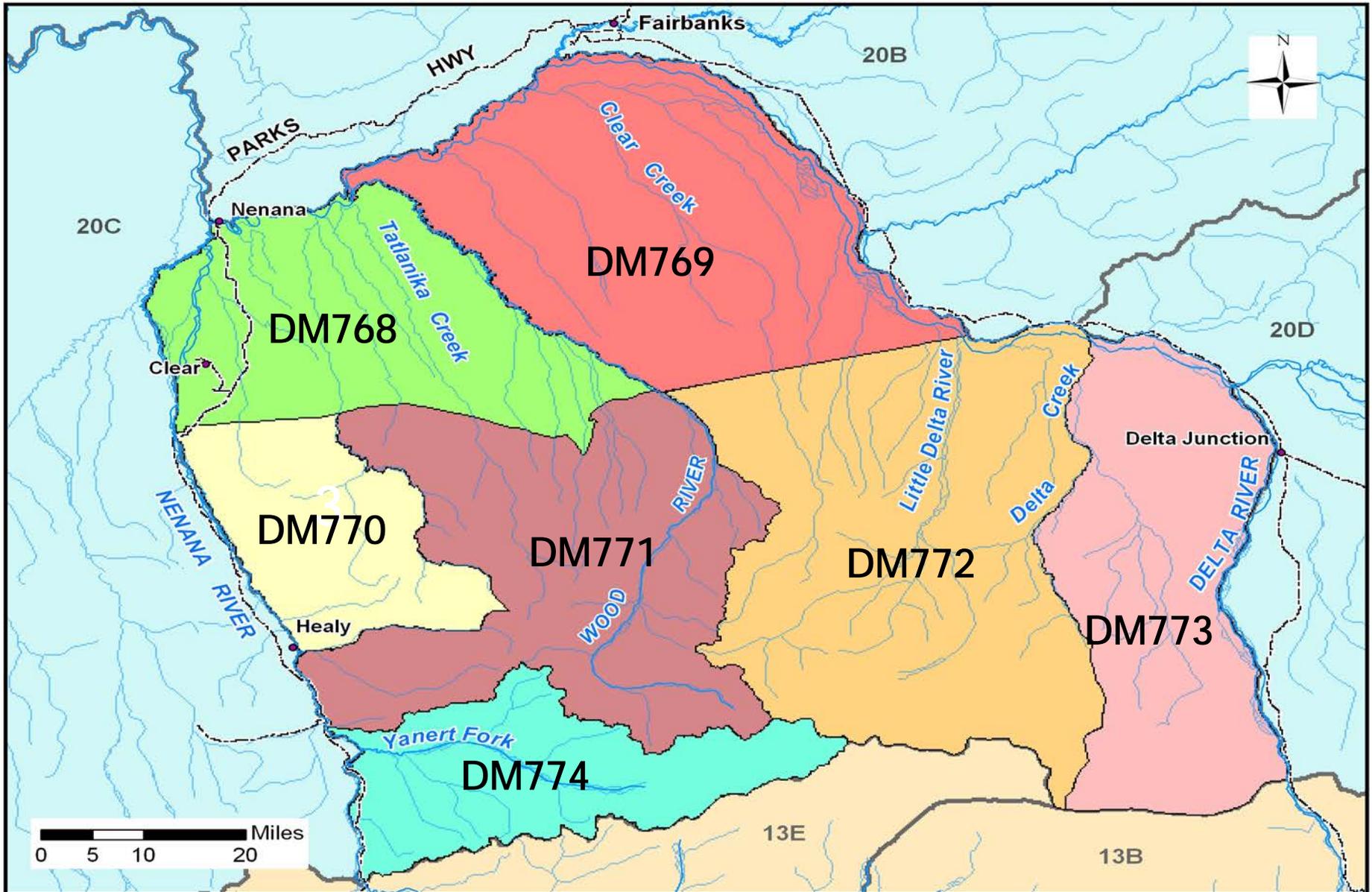
**Bull:cow ratios and reported harvest of bull moose in GMU 20A, 1996-2013**



# Harvest trends of male moose, Unit 20A, 1963-2013



# Unit 20A any bull moose hunt areas, 2006-2014



# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to conservation concerns.
- Liberalizing the bag limit without commensurate reductions in season length would result in overharvest of bull moose and subsequent decline in bull-to-cow ratios.
- If this proposal were adopted, the general season (25 days) would need to be reduced dramatically to limit harvest to sustainable levels.
- An “any bull” bag limit would attract additional hunters to the unit, although the exact number would be difficult to predict.

# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: (Cont'd)

- This regulation would likely still require antler restrictions in portions of the unit (i.e., high access areas near roads and major trails).
- The proposer states that antler restrictions result in higher rates of wanton waste, which has been demonstrated in studies of deer in the lower 48 states.
- However, the department's position is that antler restrictions may reduce wounding rate loss because, in general, hunters are forced to take a closer look at bulls' antlers to determine if they are legal, leading to better shot placement and, ultimately, lower wounding rates, which may more than offset losses attributed to wanton waste.

# Proposal 98 – Unit 20A Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Change the bag limit for moose to “any bull” in Unit 20A, except close to roads or other areas if needed to limit harvest.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: OPPOSED

AC positions: 0-2-3

# Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

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## PROPOSED BY:

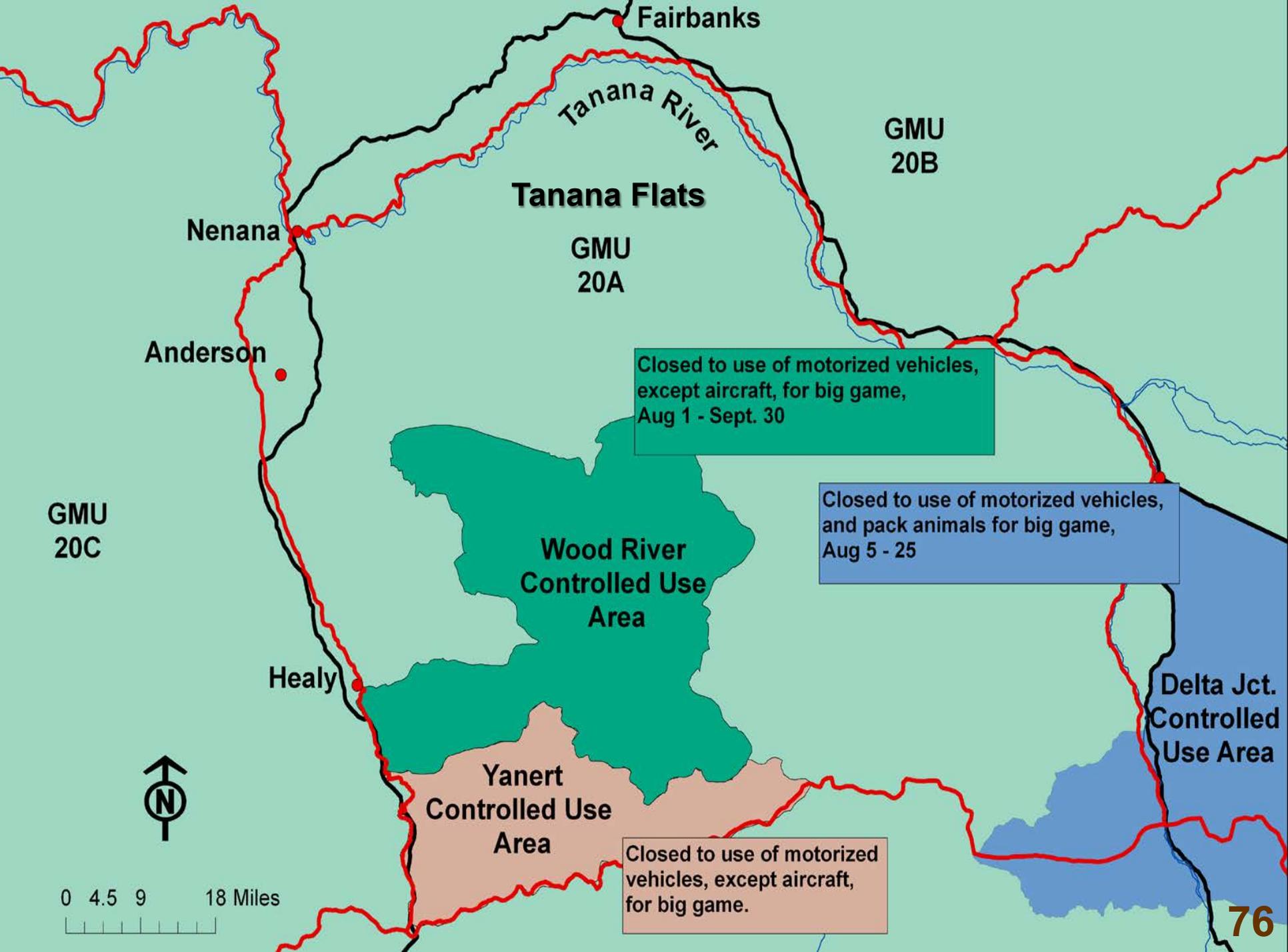
- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Remove the Wood River Controlled Use Area (WRCUA) in Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 0-2-3



Closed to use of motorized vehicles, except aircraft, for big game, Aug 1 - Sept. 30

Closed to use of motorized vehicles, and pack animals for big game, Aug 5 - 25

Closed to use of motorized vehicles, except aircraft, for big game.

GMU 20C

GMU 20B

GMU 20A

0 4.5 9 18 Miles



# **Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

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## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle, except aircraft, for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game, from August 1 through September 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Parks Highway, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.**

# **Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **Conflicts between hunters using airplanes, horses, and foot travel and those using motorized transportation (e.g. ATVs, ORVs, etc.) would likely increase.**

# Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

---

## BACKGROUND:

- The WRCUA was established in 1976 to include the Yanert drainage to the south and the Tanana Flats to the north. Its purpose was to reduce conflicts between ATV users and airplane and horse users. Boats and aircraft were the only motorized access allowed for hunting.
- In 1977, the Tanana Flats portion was removed.
- In 1983, the Yanert drainage was removed and made into the Yanert Controlled Use Area with year-round restrictions on use of motorized vehicles for big game hunters, except aircraft. The same year, the WRCUA's current boundaries were adopted (with the exceptions that the boundary along the Wood River downstream from Snow Mountain Gulch was clarified in 2000 and the western boundary was changed and changed back again in the early 2000s) and motorized vehicles, except aircraft, were restricted from use for the purpose of hunting big game during Aug. 1-Sept. 30.

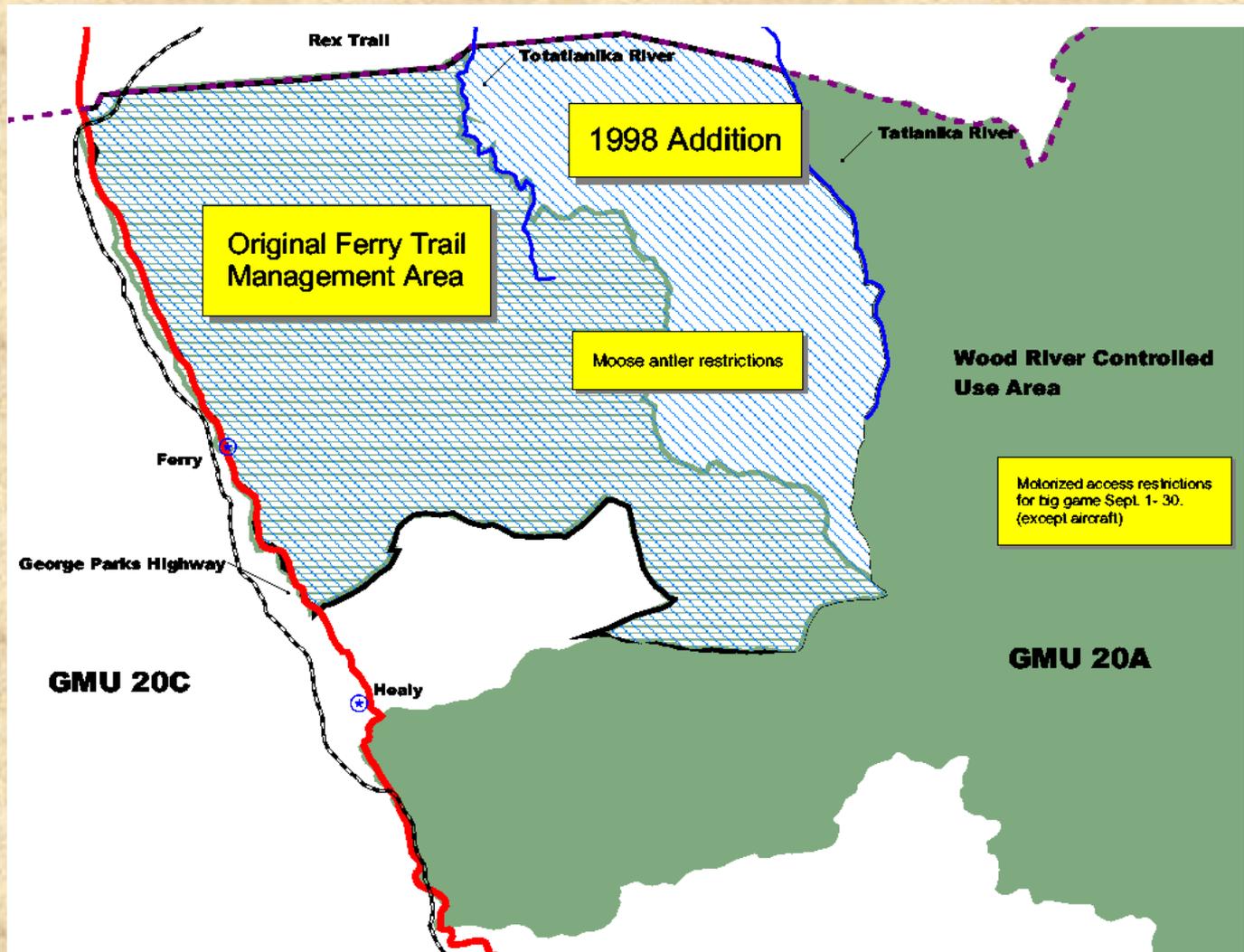
# Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

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## BACKGROUND:

- Most hunters currently access the area via aircraft and horse. Since its inception, the WRCUA has had substantial use by guides accessing the area by aircraft and horseback for moose, sheep, caribou, and grizzly bear.
- A portion of the area covered under this proposal was open to motorized access in 1998 and 1999 after the board passed a proposal by the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Within 2 years, that same committee proposed that vehicle restriction be reinstated in that area and the board accommodated their request.
- Regarding moose, antler restrictions already in place would prevent overharvest of bull moose. Opening the area to motorized access in September would likely increase the harvest of antlerless moose and help meet harvest objectives for that area (Zone 4). However, during September, antlerless hunts in this area are by drawing permit only; thus, increases in antlerless harvest would likely be modest.

# WRCUA/Ferry Trail MA Boundary, 1998 and 1999



# Proposal 132 (2002) – Clarify/modify NE and western boundaries of the WRCUA.



# **Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **This is an allocation and user conflict issue among hunters using different modes of transportation and should therefore be determined by the board.**
- **If this proposal is adopted, there may be substantial increases in use of the area and in user conflicts and modest increases in harvests.**
- **Moose antler and sheep horn restrictions and moose and caribou drawing permits already in place would prevent overharvest of those species.**

# Proposal 99 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Remove the Wood River Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 0-2-3

# Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

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## PROPOSED BY:

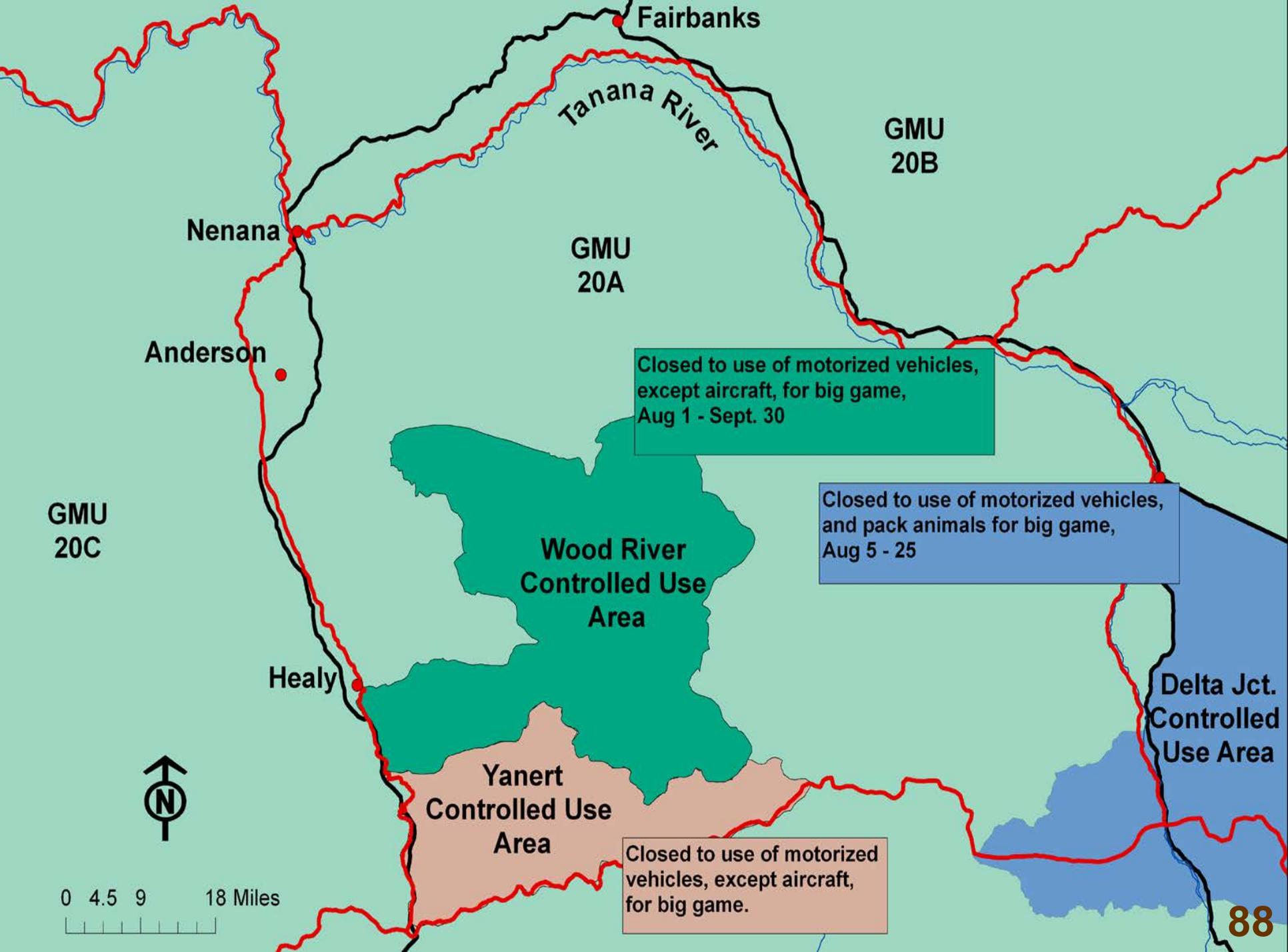
- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

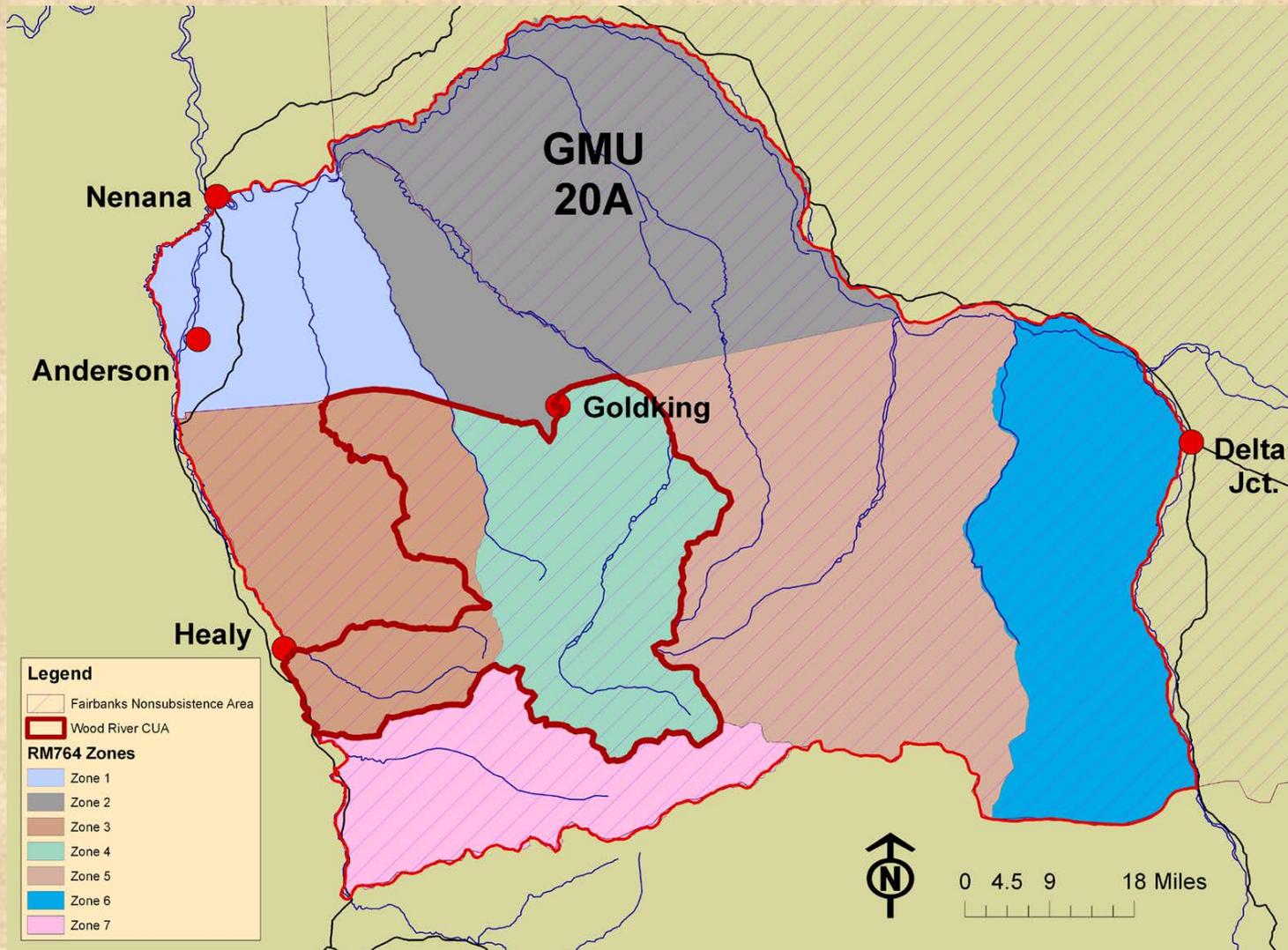
- Move the northeast boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area (WRCUA) in Unit 20A from the east bank to the west bank of the Wood River.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 0-2-3



# Proposal 147 (2006) – Eliminate or Change Boundaries of WRCUA.



# **Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

---

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle, except aircraft, for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game, from August 1 through September 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Parks Highway, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.**

# **Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **Access by off-road vehicles (e.g., ATVs, ORVs, etc.) along the east side of the Wood River would be allowed, which would result in conflicts between vehicle users and hunters using rafts, airplanes, and horses along this stretch of the Wood River.**

# Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

---

## BACKGROUND:

- The WRCUA was established in 1976 to include the Yanert drainage to the south and the Tanana Flats to the north. Its purpose was to reduce conflicts between ATV users and airplane and horse users. Boats and aircraft were the only motorized access allowed for hunting.
- In 1977, the Tanana Flats portion was removed.
- In 1983, the Yanert drainage was removed and made into the Yanert Controlled Use Area with year-round restrictions on use of motorized vehicles for big game hunters, except aircraft. The same year, the WRCUA's current boundaries were adopted (with the exceptions that the boundary along the Wood River downstream from Snow Mountain Gulch was clarified in 2000 and the western boundary was changed and changed back again in the early 2000s) and motorized vehicles, except aircraft, were restricted from use for the purpose of hunting big game during Aug. 1-Sept. 30.

# Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

---

## BACKGROUND:

- Most hunters currently access the area via aircraft and horse. Since its inception, the WRCUA has had substantial use by guides accessing the area by aircraft and horseback for moose, sheep, caribou, and grizzly bear.
- A portion of the area covered under this proposal was open to motorized access in 1998 and 1999 after the board passed a proposal by the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Within 2 years, that same committee proposed that vehicle restriction be reinstated in that area and the board accommodated their request.
- Regarding moose, antler restrictions already in place would prevent overharvest of bull moose. Opening the area to motorized access in September would likely increase the harvest of antlerless moose and help meet harvest objectives for that area (Zone 4). However, during September, antlerless hunts in this area are by drawing permit only; thus, increases in antlerless harvest would likely be modest.
- The eastern boundary was clarified (east bank of the Wood River) in 2002.

# Proposal 132 (2002) – Clarify NE boundary of the WRCUA.





**A**

**B**

Image Landsat  
© 2013 Google  
Image © 2014 DigitalGlobe

Google earth

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# **Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area**

---

## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **This is an allocation and user conflict issue among hunters using different modes of transportation and should therefore be determined by the board.**
- **If this proposal is adopted, there may be increases in use of the area and in user conflicts and modest increases in harvests.**
- **Moose antler and sheep horn restrictions and moose and caribou drawing permits already in place would prevent overharvest of those species.**

# Proposal 100 – Unit 20A Controlled Use Area

---

## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Move the northeast boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area (WRCUA) in Unit 20A from the east bank to the west bank of the Wood River.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 0-2-3

# Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

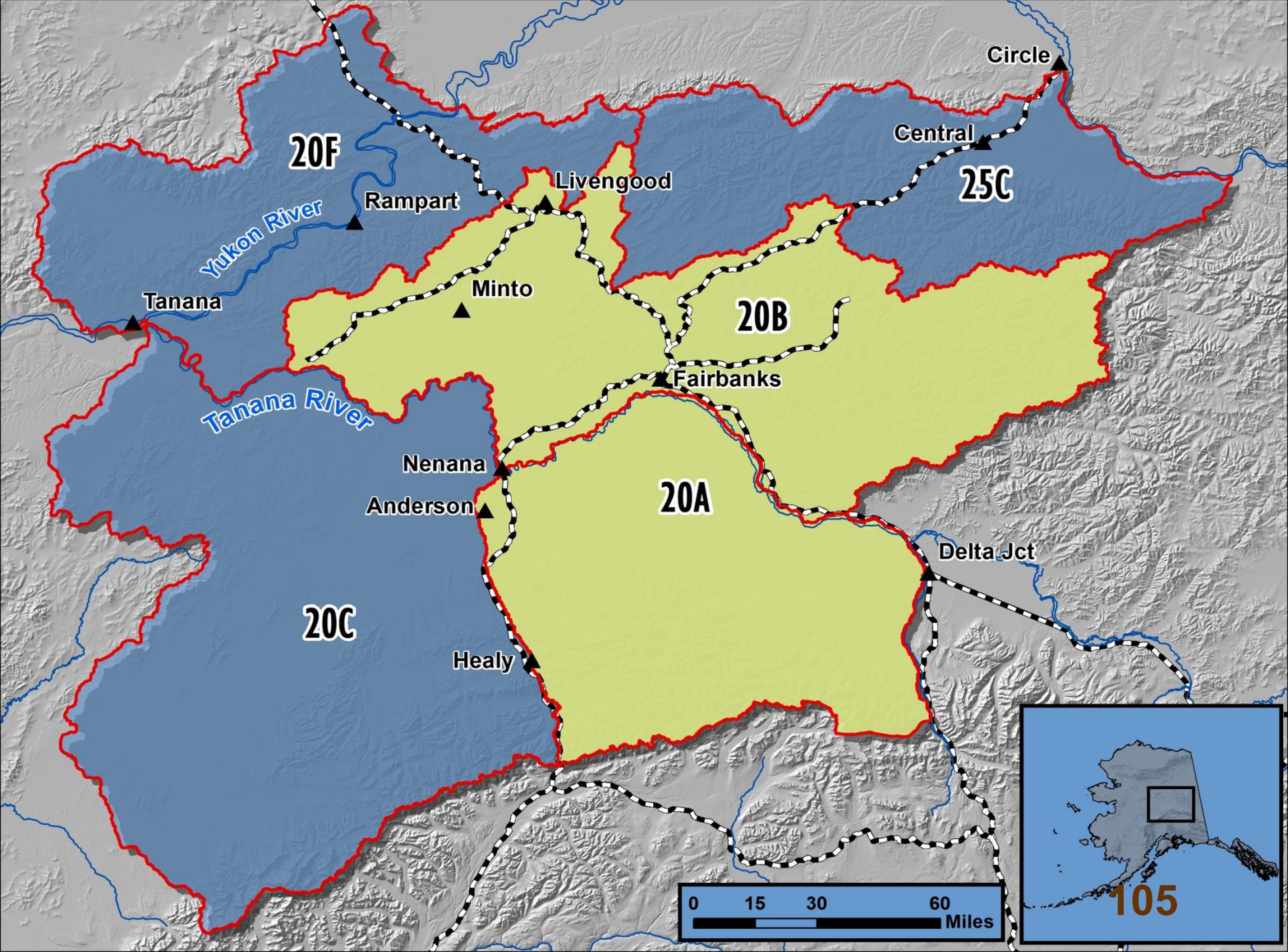
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Create targeted moose hunts in Units 20A and 20B.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: SUPPORT

AC positions: 3-0-2



20F

Circle

Central

25C

Yukon River

Rampart

Livengood

Tanana

Minto

20B

Fairbanks

Tanana River

Nenana

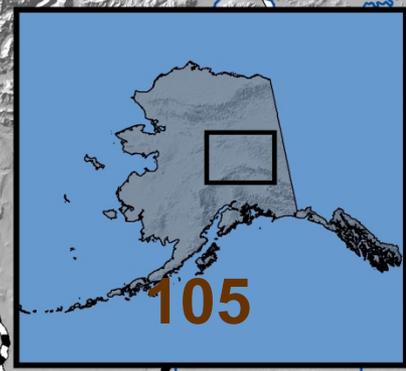
Anderson

20A

Delta Jct

20C

Healy



# **Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **There are no targeted moose hunts in Units 20A or 20B.**
- **Targeted hunts occur in Units 14A and 14B.**

# **Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **The department would have an effective management tool to allow hunting of moose in situations where there are public safety or nuisance concerns.**
- **Residents in Units 20A and 20B will likely benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.**
- **These seasons will likely provide additional moose for human consumption, and hunters who obtain a targeted hunt permits will benefit.**

# Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## BACKGROUND:

- Targeted permit hunts have been an effective management tool in Unit 14A to address public safety and nuisance moose concerns in very small areas.
- The department would also like to use targeted hunts as an option for resolving these situations in Units 20A and 20B.
- With high moose numbers in Units 20A and 20B, human–moose conflicts commonly arise, including many calls each year related to injured moose along roadways and in residential areas, and aggressive moose (particularly in Fairbanks residential areas).
- Roughly 150 moose are hit annually in Units 20A and 20B with 60-80 of those hit in the Fairbanks Management Area (MA) portion of Unit 20B.

# Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)

- The department also responds to approximately 70 nuisance or aggressive moose situations annually.
- The high moose populations in these units can sustain harvest of these moose, benefitting both the moose populations and humans.
- Targeted hunts would provide meat to hunters and alleviate some of the human–moose problems now occurring.
- Targeted hunts would also allow the use of bow and arrow to harvest moose in areas where local ordinances or ADF&G regulations (i.e., Fairbanks MA) prohibit the use of firearms.

# Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- The department submitted this proposal, with the intention of using targeted hunts primarily to reduce moose–vehicle collisions by harvesting moose that habitually spend time along roadways and have a high likelihood of being injured by highway vehicles or have already been injured.
- In addition, we believe this will be a valuable tool to resolve nuisance moose situations in the Fairbanks MA, particularly during deep snow winters when moose-human conflicts increase.
- Targeted hunts would be implemented by selecting hunters at random from an applicant pool.
- They will be required to respond quickly to harvest moose from specifically defined “targeted” moose–vehicle collision or nuisance areas.

# Proposal 101 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Create targeted moose hunts in Units 20A and 20B.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: SUPPORT

AC positions: 3-0-2

# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

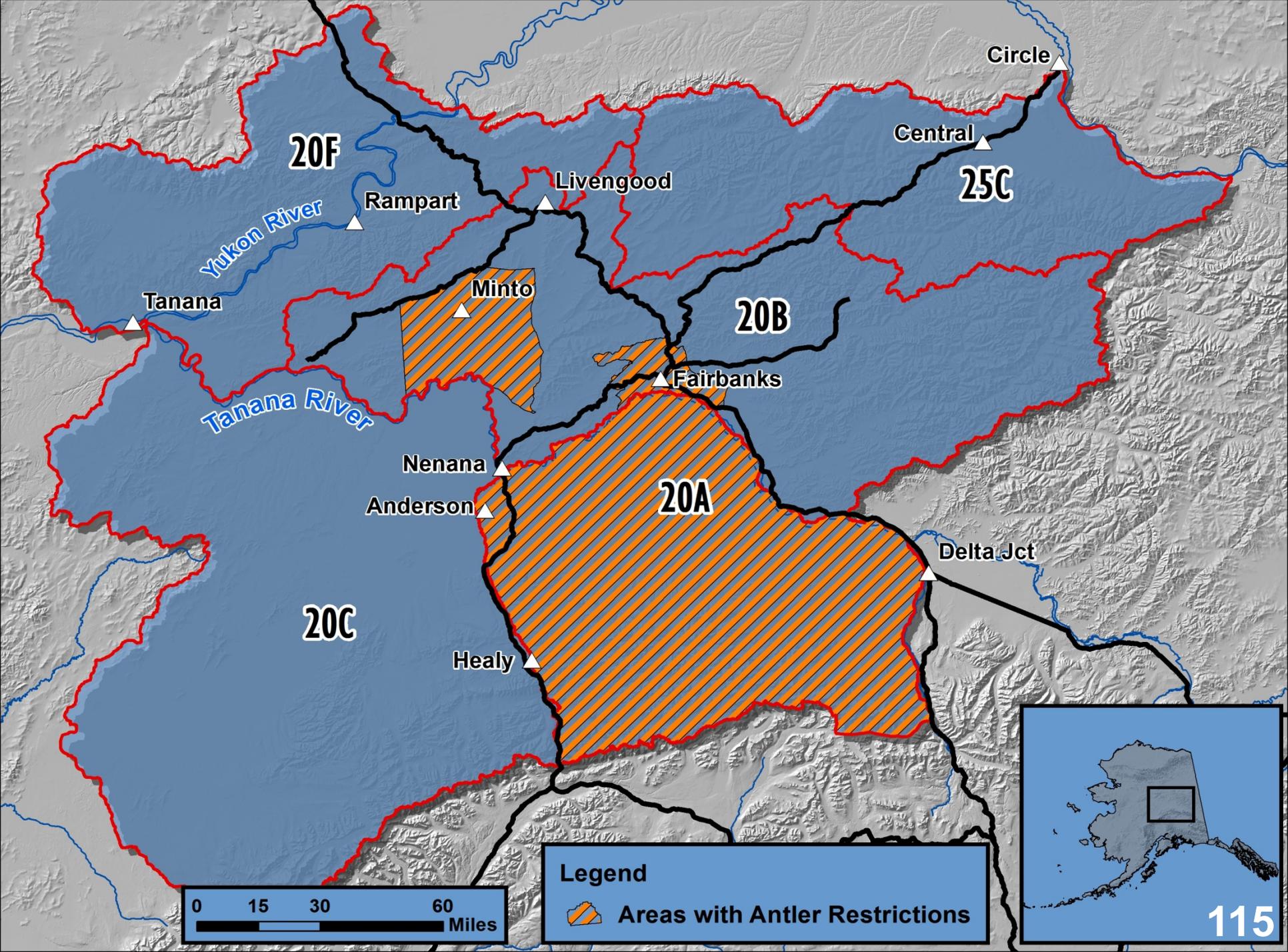
- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Allow the take of any bull moose in Unit 20A and the antler-restricted portions of Unit 20B by utilizing 2 harvest tickets in the possession of 2 hunters, both of which must be in the field at the same time.
- The proposer's statement that this hunt would benefit those opposing antlerless hunts suggests that he is interested in changing the bag limit for resident hunters only.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: OPPOSE

AC positions: 0-3-2



20F

Circle

Central

25C

Yukon River

Rampart

Livengood

Tanana

Minto

20B

Tanana River

Fairbanks

Nenana

20A

Anderson

Delta Jct

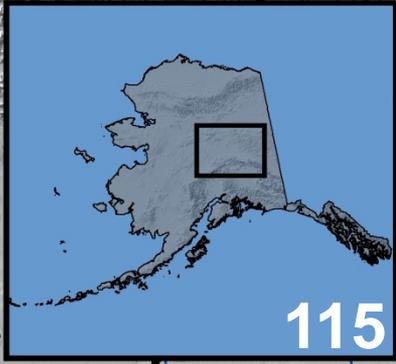
20C

Healy

Legend



Areas with Antler Restrictions



# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

### Unit 20A (Resident season for moose):

- spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines in the Wood River Controlled Use Area (CUA), Yanert CUA, and Ferry Trail Management Area (MA);
- 3 brow tines on at least one side (Remainder of Unit 20A);
- unit wide “any bull” bag limit by drawing permit (up to 1,000 permits).

### Unit 20B (Resident season for moose):

- spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines (Minto Flats MA);
- spike-fork or greater antlers (Fairbanks MA);
- any bull (remainder of Unit 20B).

# **Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **Harvest of bull moose would increase and exceed sustainable limits.**

# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## BACKGROUND:

- In Unit 20A, the bag limit was changed from any bull (except the Ferry Trail MA and Yanert CUA, where antler restrictions were already in place) to spike-fork/50-inch, regulation unit wide in 2002 due to overharvest of bull moose and declining bull-to-cow ratios that had fallen below the management objective.
- Unit wide antler restrictions were effective in reducing reported harvests to sustainable levels (i.e., from 534–669 bulls to 328–461 bulls, 1996–2001) and the recovery of bull-to-cow ratios to desirable levels (i.e., from the low- to mid-twenties, 1999–2001 to mid- to high- thirties, 2004–2005).
- In the antler-restricted portion of Unit 20B (i.e., the Minto Flats Management Area) antler restrictions have been in place for decades and have been successful in maintaining bull-to-cow ratios at desirable levels (i.e., = 31 bulls:100 cows, 1994–2010).

# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- Liberalizing the bag limit on bulls without reductions in season length would likely result in overharvest of bull moose and subsequent decline in bull-to-cow ratios.
- Thus, if this proposal were adopted, the department would request that the general season be shortened.
- A bag limit of any bull would attract additional hunters to these units, although precise numbers would be difficult to predict.
- The department would also request that antler restrictions in portions of the units (i.e., high access areas near roads and major trails) be retained.

# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- The department's current harvest reporting system would result in duplicate and inflated harvest numbers.
- The department would need to design a new harvest reporting program to accommodate this regulation.
- Adoption of this regulation would likely create enforcement issues and challenges.
- There would be additional cost to the department to design and administer a general season harvest reporting scheme that would accurately capture 2 hunters reporting the take of one moose on separate harvest reports.

# Proposal 102 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Allow the take of any bull moose in Unit 20A and the antler-restricted portions of Unit 20B by utilizing 2 harvest tickets in the possession of 2 hunters, both of which must be in the field at the same time.
- The proposer's statement that this hunt would benefit those opposing antlerless hunts suggests that he is interested in changing the bag limit for resident hunters only.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: OPPOSE

AC positions: 0-3-2

# Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

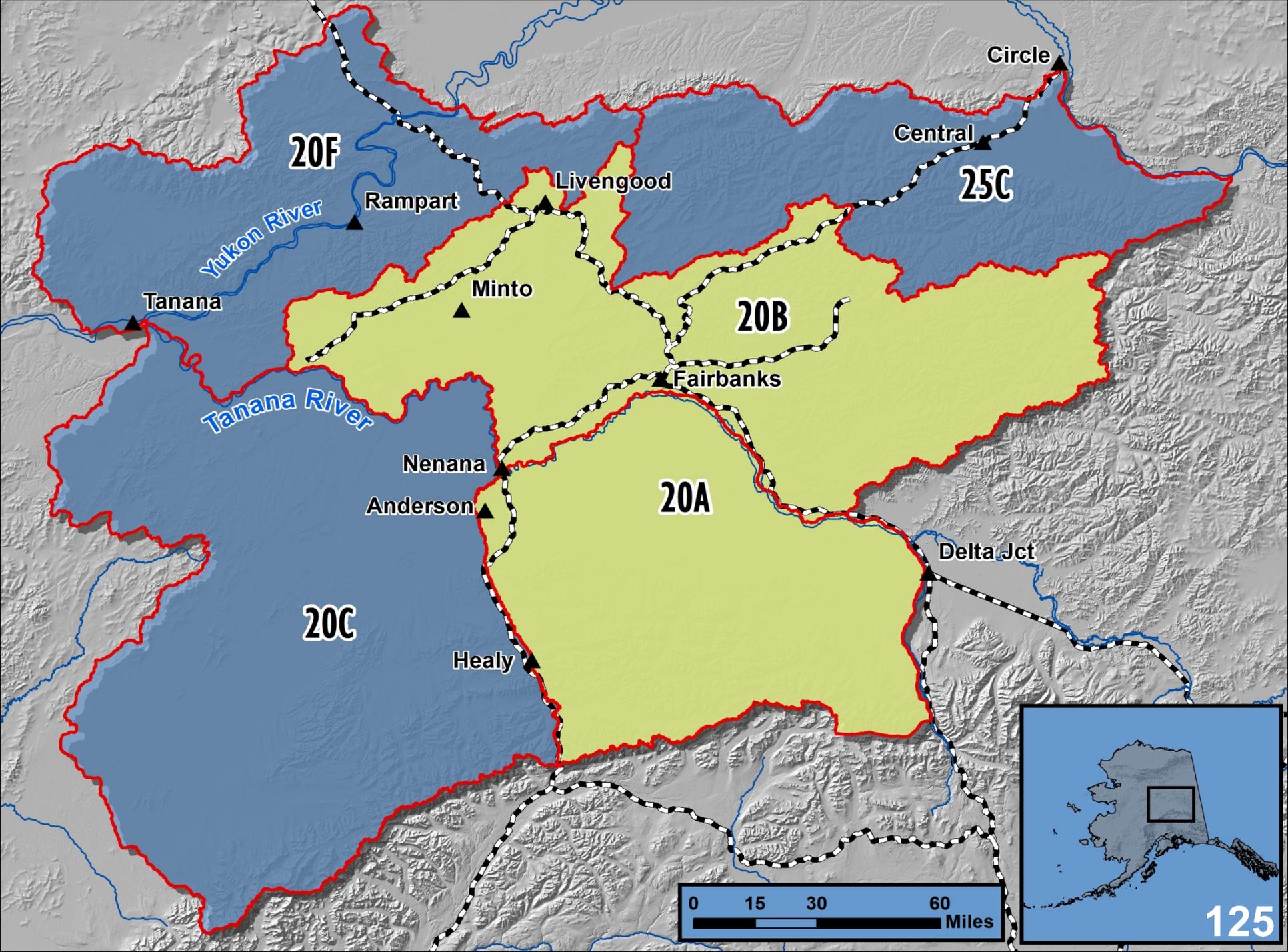
- Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Limit the number of times a person can proxy hunt for moose in Units 20A and 20B to not more than once per regulatory year.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 2-1-2



20F

Central

25C

Yukon River

Rampart

Livengood

Tanana

Minto

20B

Fairbanks

Tanana River

Nenana

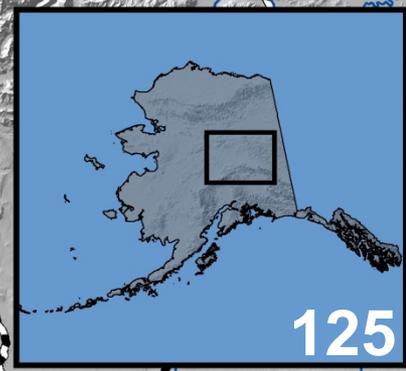
Anderson

20A

Delta Jct

20C

Healy



# **Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **There is no limit to the number of times or number of moose a person may take by proxy in Units 20A and 20B, but a person may not be a proxy for more than one beneficiary at a time.**

# **Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **The proposal would shift allocation of moose from hunters using multiple proxies to those preferring not to proxy or only preferring a single proxy.**
- **It is not known whether people requiring proxies to obtain food will have trouble finding suitable proxy hunters under the change, but it is a possibility.**

# Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## BACKGROUND:

- Some individuals are harvesting multiple moose during antlerless moose registration hunts.
- During the 2004–2012 hunting seasons, an average of 18 of 347 (5%) cow moose harvested in Unit 20A were taken by proxy and 7 of 222 (3%) harvested in Unit 20B. were taken by proxy.
- Limiting the number of proxies may affect the ability of some Alaskans to obtain moose for food.

# **Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **The department is neutral on the allocation of proxy hunting among users.**
- **The board should consider the effect of this proposal on reasonable opportunities for subsistence in those portions of 20A and 20B outside of the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area, as well as general hunting opportunity in the Non-subsistence Area**

# Proposal 103 – Unit 20A, 20B Moose

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Limit the number of times a person can proxy hunt for moose in Units 20A and 20B to not more than once per regulatory year.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 2-1-2

# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **PROPOSED BY:**

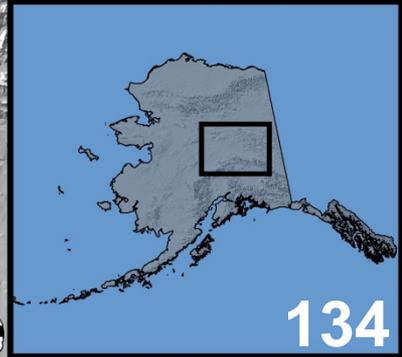
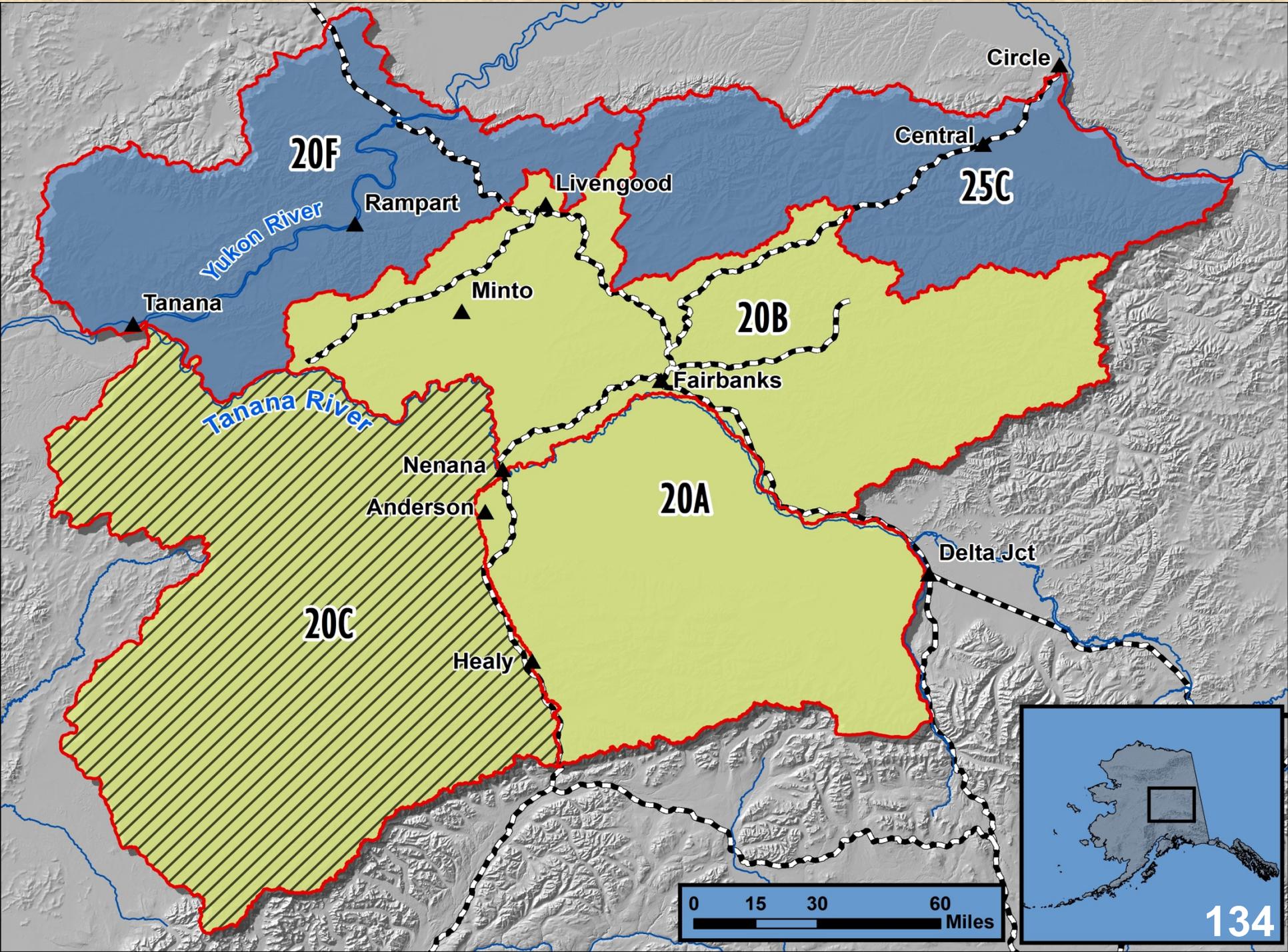
- **Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee**

## **WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?**

- **Allow harvest of brown bears at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B.**

**DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL**

**AC positions: 1-1-3**



# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **Harvest of brown bear at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B is prohibited.**
- **Black bear baiting is authorized during April 15–June 30.**

# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **Hunters would have additional opportunity to harvest a brown bear in Units 20A and 20B.**
- **Additional opportunity would likely lead to an increase in the harvest of brown bears in these units.**

# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **BACKGROUND:**

- **Take of brown bears over bait authorized in the Interior in Units 12, 20C, 20E and 21D.**
- **Units 12, 20C and 20E have only a spring bear baiting season.**
- **Units 20A and 20B had 68 and 479 registered black bear bait stations during spring 2013.**
- **Unit 20C, 5 brown bears were reported taken over bait at 105 registered black bear bait stations during spring 2013.**
- **Applying baiting effort and harvest information from Unit 20C, the estimated harvest of brown bear over bait would be approximately 3 bears in Unit 20A.**

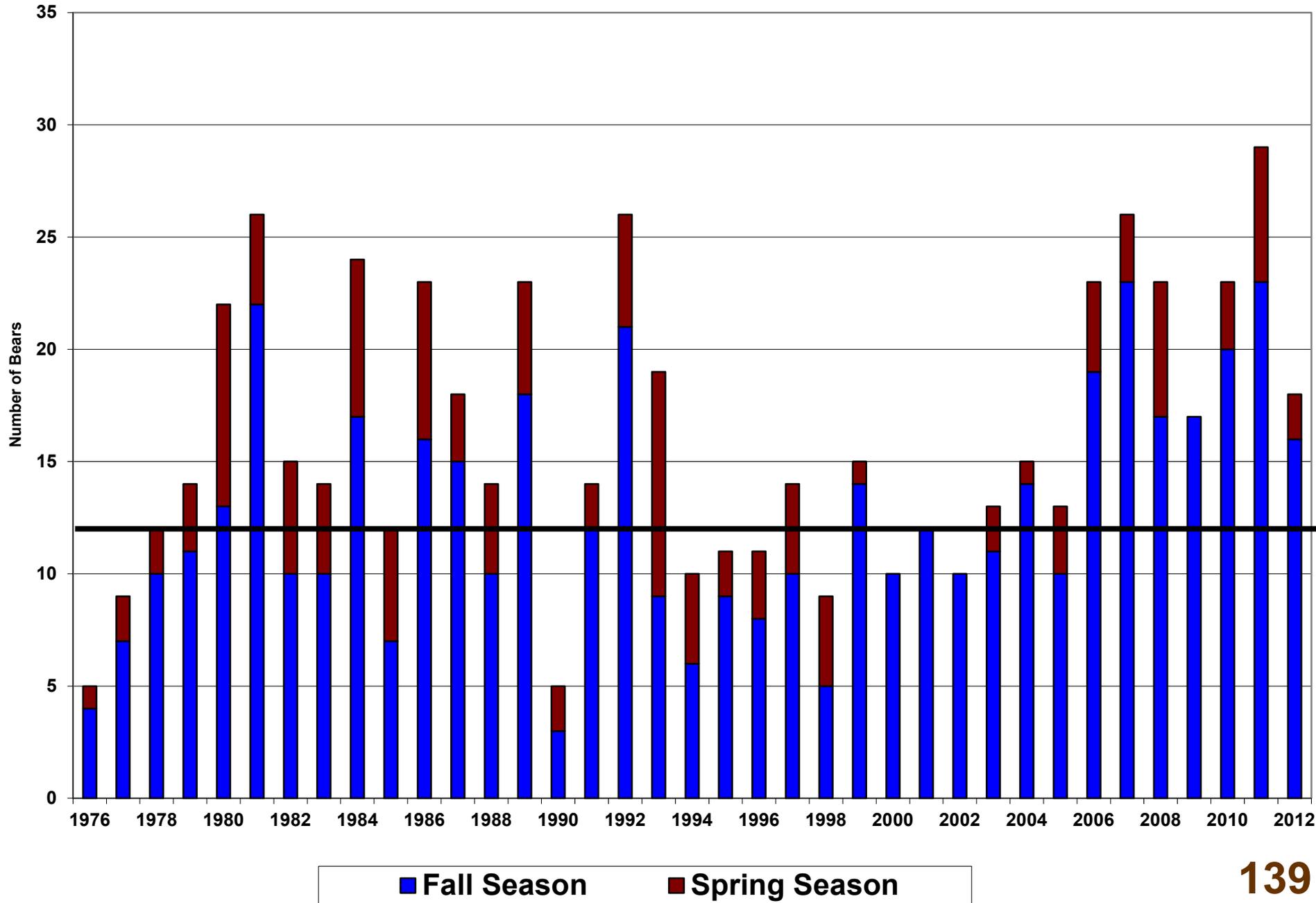
# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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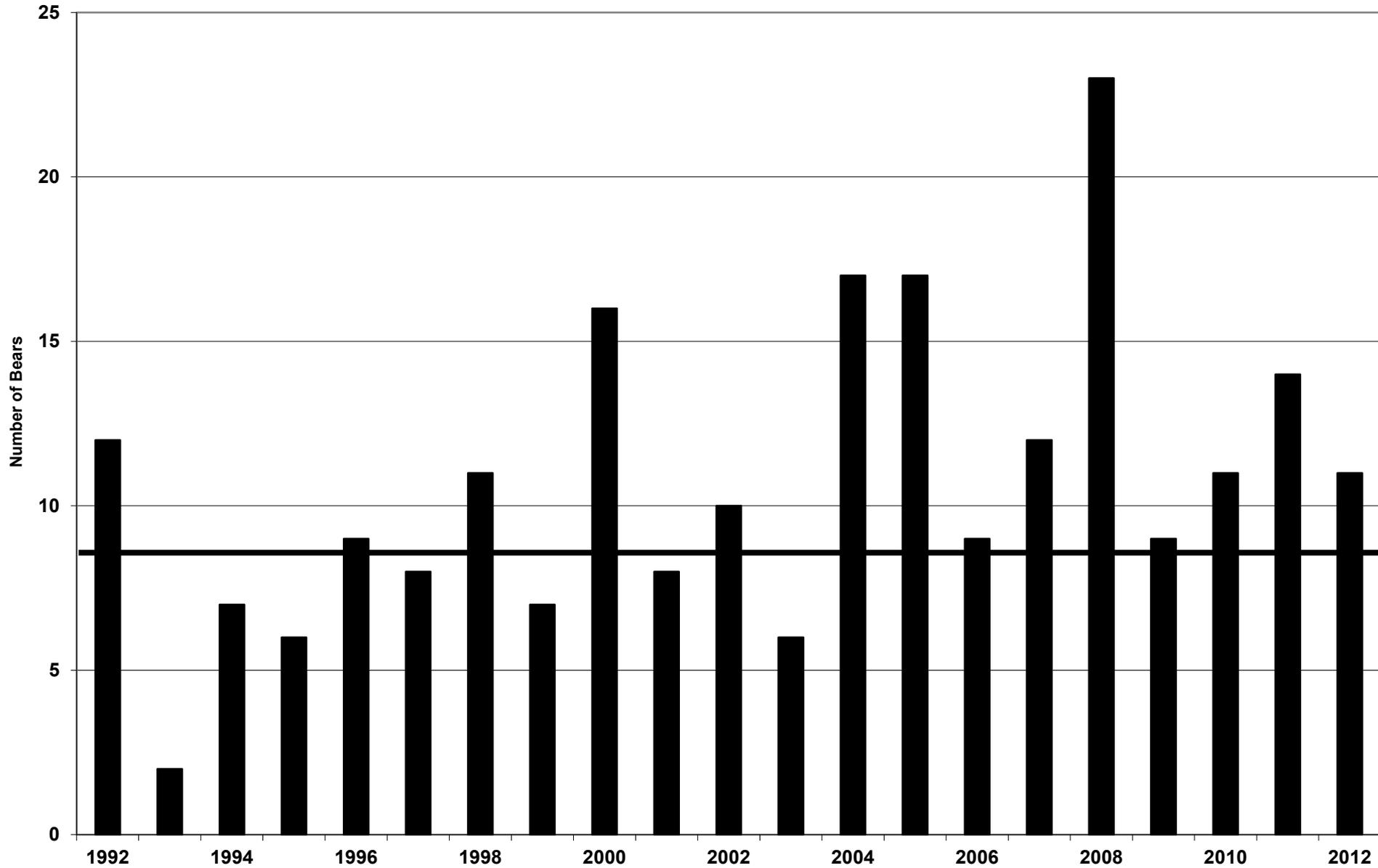
## **BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)**

- **In Unit 20A, an outdated estimate of sustainable harvest at an 8% harvest rate is 12 brown bears, while reported harvest during RY08–RY12 averaged 23 annually.**
- **In Unit 20B, we estimate harvest of brown bears over bait would be approximately 23 bears.**
- **In Unit 20B, an outdated estimate of sustainable annual harvest at 8% is 9 brown bears, while reported take during RY08–RY12 averaged 13 annually.**

# Reported harvest of grizzly bears, Unit 20A, 1976-2012



# Reported harvest of grizzly bears, Unit 20B, 1992-2012



# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **This proposal would increase opportunity to harvest brown bears and likely lead to increased harvest in these units.**
- **Increased take of brown bears near populated areas (i.e., Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, Ester, Nenana, Clear–Anderson, and Healy) may reduce bear–human conflicts and take in defense of life and property (DLP).**

# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **The department would monitor grizzly bear harvests closely, particularly during the first year, and take action if needed.**
- **Because the department already issues a large number of black bear baiting permits for these units, additional cost to the department to administer this hunt is expected to be minimal.**

# PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- If the board wishes to adopt salvage requirements with this proposal, the department requests standardization of the requirements for both black and brown bears in Units 20A and 20B.
  - Current black bear salvage requirements in Unit 20A are:
    - » January 1–May 31, edible meat.
    - » June 1–December 31, either the hide or edible meat
  - Current black bear salvage requirements in Unit 20B are:
    - » January 1–May 31, hide, skull, and edible meat.
    - » June 1–December 31, skull and either the hide or edible meat.

# **PROPOSAL 104 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **PROPOSED BY:**

- **Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee**

## **WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?**

- **Allow harvest of brown bears at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B.**

**DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL**

**AC positions: 1-1-3**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **PROPOSED BY:**

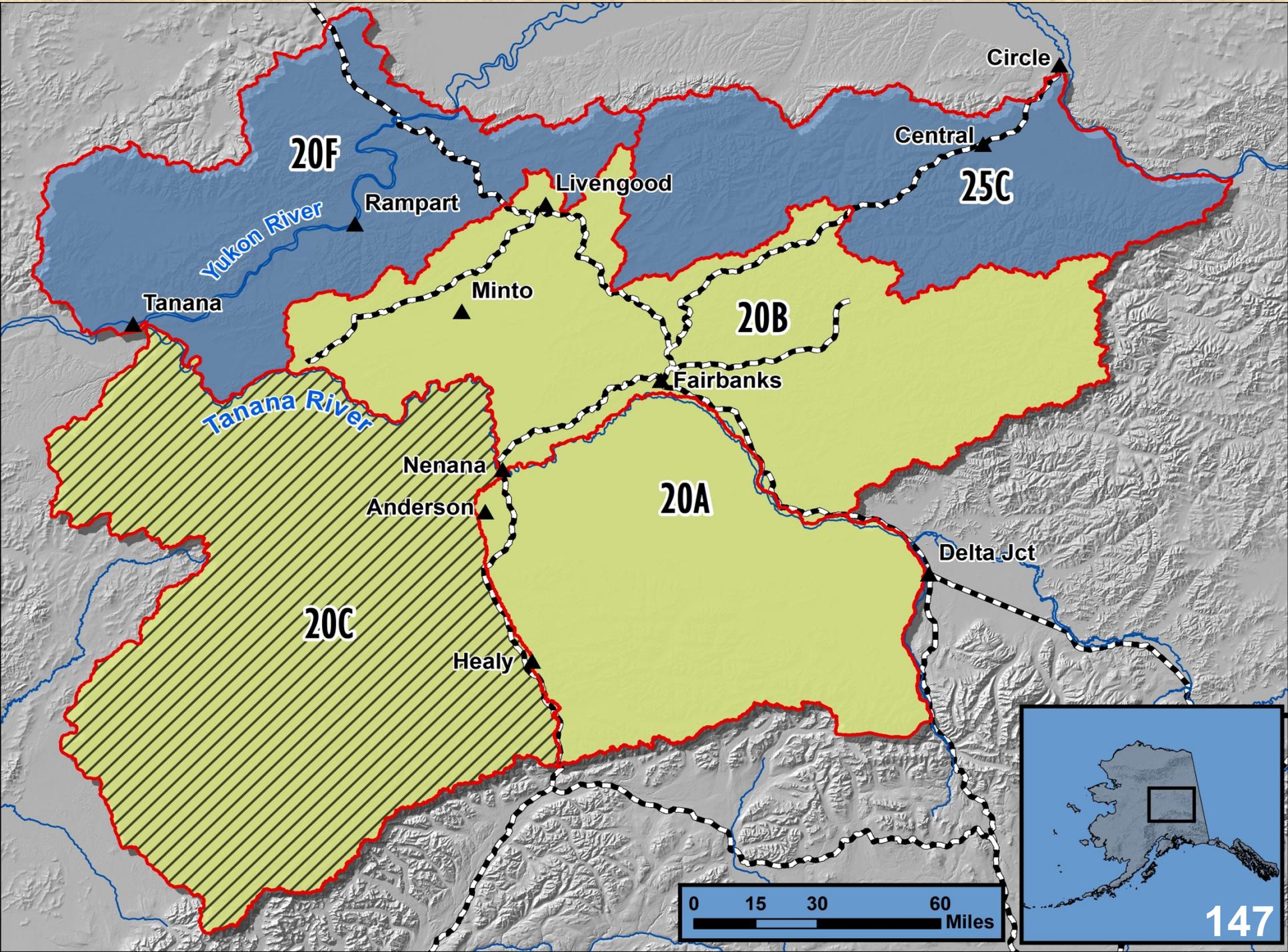
- **Public**

## **WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?**

- **Allow harvest of brown bears at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B.**

**DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL**

**AC positions: 1-1-3**



# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- **Harvest of brown bear at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B is prohibited.**
- **Black bear baiting is authorized during April 15–June 30.**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF ADOPTED?**

- **Hunters would have additional opportunity to harvest a brown bear in Units 20A and 20B.**
- **Additional opportunity would likely lead to an increase in the harvest of brown bears in these units.**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **BACKGROUND:**

- **Take of brown bears over bait authorized in the Interior in Units 12, 20C, 20E and 21D.**
- **Units 12, 20C and 20E have only a spring bear baiting season.**
- **Units 20A and 20B had 68 and 479 registered black bear bait stations during spring 2013.**
- **Unit 20C, 5 brown bears were reported taken over bait at 105 registered black bear bait stations during spring 2013.**
- **Applying baiting effort and harvest information from Unit 20C, the estimated harvest of brown bear over bait would be approximately 3 bears in Unit 20A.**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **BACKGROUND: (Cont'd)**

- **In Unit 20A, an outdated estimate of sustainable harvest at an 8% harvest rate is 12 brown bears, while reported harvest during RY08–RY12 averaged 23 annually.**
- **In Unit 20B, we estimate harvest of brown bears over bait would be approximately 23 bears.**
- **In Unit 20B, an outdated estimate of sustainable annual harvest at 8% is 9 brown bears, while reported take during RY08–RY12 averaged 13 annually.**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **This proposal would increase opportunity to harvest brown bears and likely lead to increased harvest in these units.**
- **Increased take of brown bears near populated areas (i.e., Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, Ester, Nenana, Clear–Anderson, and Healy) may reduce bear–human conflicts and take in defense of life and property (DLP).**

# **PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear**

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## **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

- **The department would monitor grizzly bear harvests closely, particularly during the first year, and take action if needed.**
- **Because the department already issues a large number of black bear baiting permits for these units, additional cost to the department to administer this hunt is expected to be minimal.**

# PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear

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## DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

- If the board wishes to adopt salvage requirements with this proposal, the department requests standardization of the requirements for both black and brown bears in Units 20A and 20B.
  - Current black bear salvage requirements in Unit 20A are:
    - » January 1–May 31, edible meat.
    - » June 1–December 31, either the hide or edible meat
  - Current black bear salvage requirements in Unit 20B are:
    - » January 1–May 31, hide, skull, and edible meat.
    - » June 1–December 31, skull and either the hide or edible meat.

# PROPOSAL 105 – Units 20A, 20B Brown Bear

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## PROPOSED BY:

- Public

## WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

- Allow harvest of brown bears at registered black bear bait sites in Units 20A and 20B.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NEUTRAL

AC positions: 1-1-3



**Steve DuBois 158**

# Proposal 106

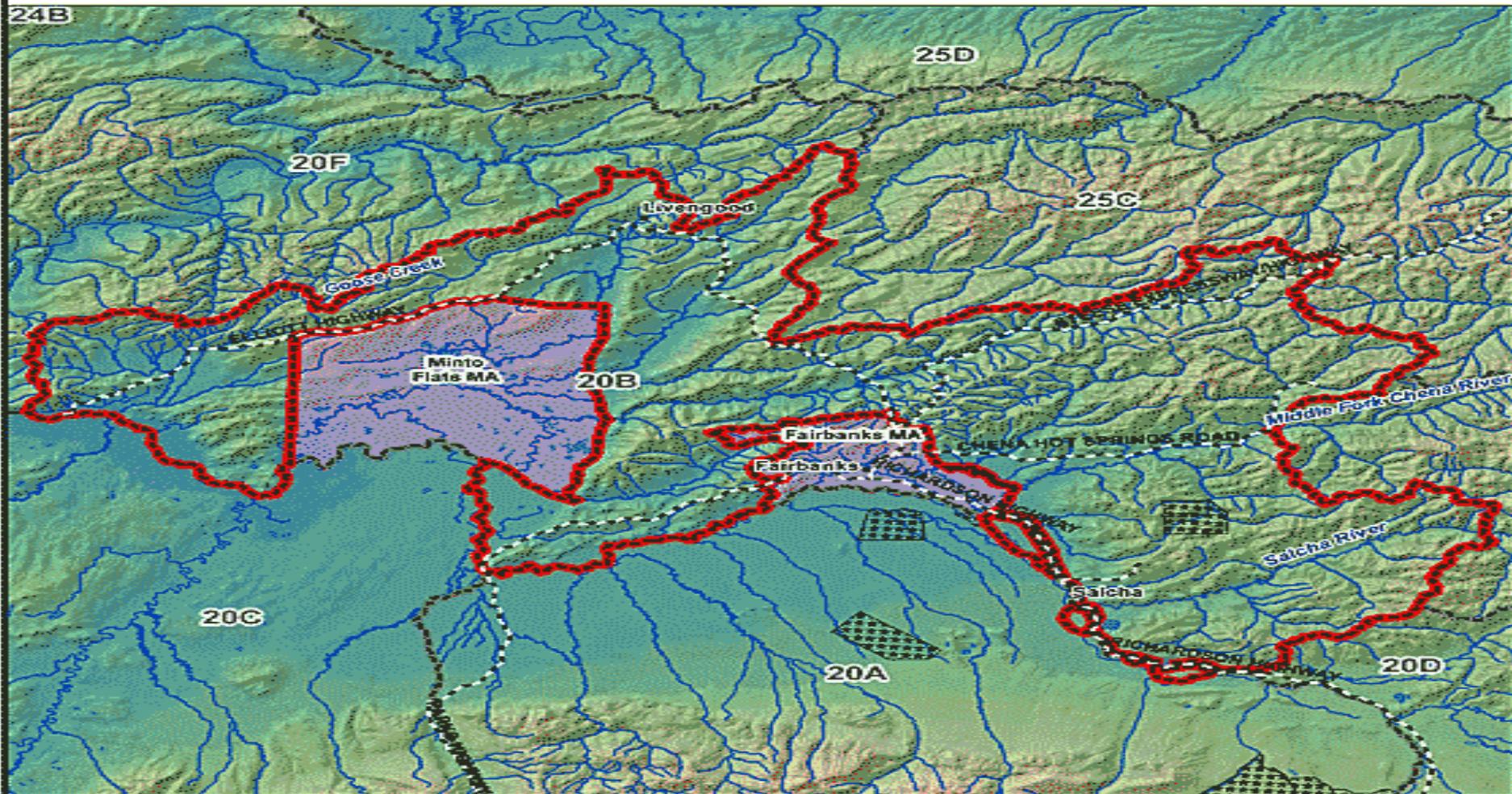
**What would the proposal do?** Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.

Department position: **Support**

Minto/Nenana and Fairbanks AC: Support

# Unit 20B, Remainder Moose - General Hunt

Residents and Nonresidents - *Harvest Ticket Required*



AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 20B, remainder.



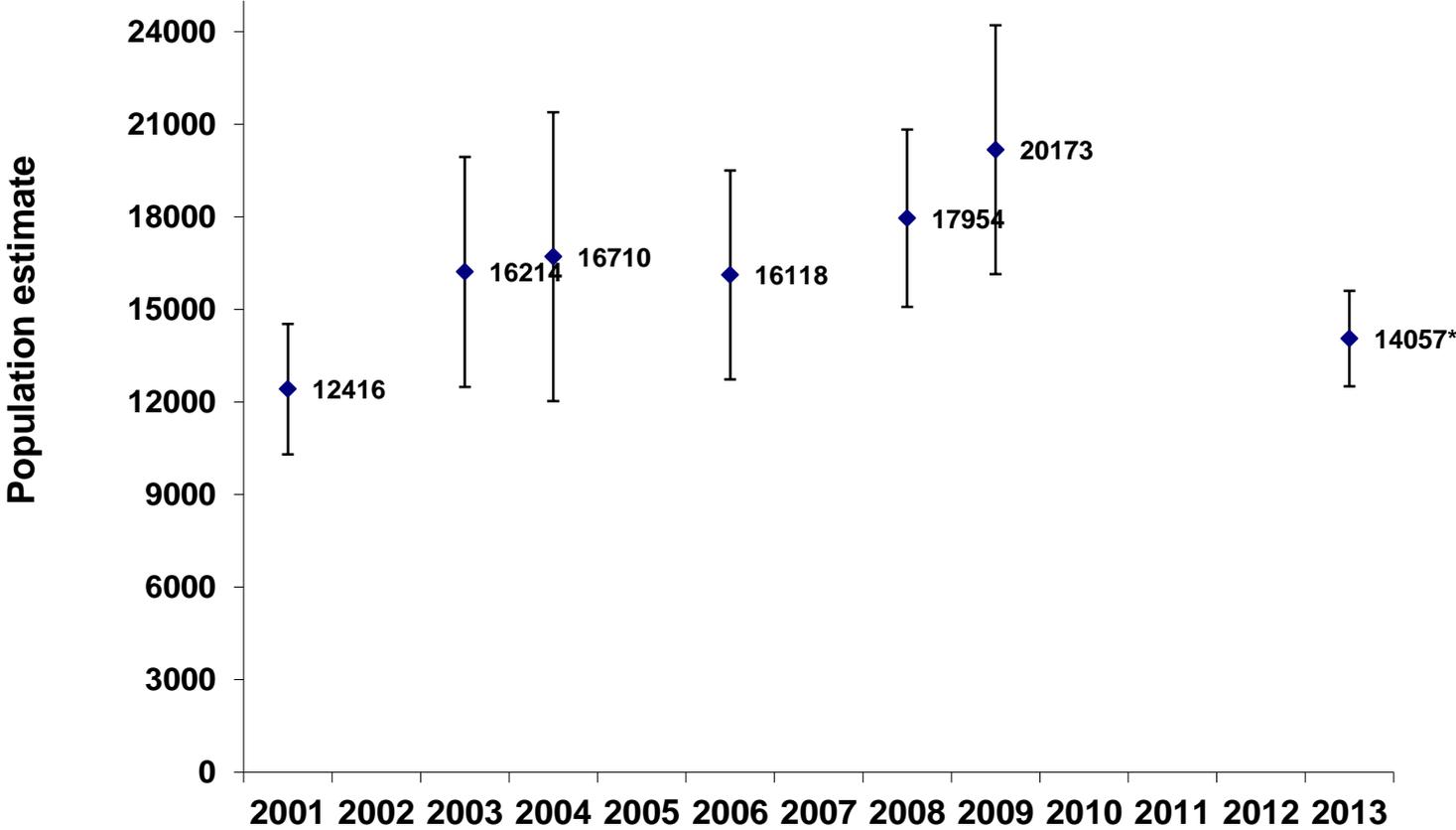
# Proposal 106

2013 population data:

Moose population estimate w/ SCF = 14,057 +/- 14%

90% CI = 12,021-16,092 moose

# GMU 20B moose population estimates 2001-2013



\*Combined estimate: Unit 20B East (2012) and Unit 20B Central and West (2013)

# Bull:Cow ratios

- Western 20B = 33:100
- Central 20B = 24:100
- Eastern 20B = 40:100

The goal is to have a bull:cow ratio of 30:100.

# Calf:Cow/Yearling:Cow Ratios

## Western 20B

Calf:Cow = 33:100

Yearling:Cow = 12:100

## Central 20B

Calf:Cow = 30:100

Yearling:Cow = 12:100

## Eastern 20B

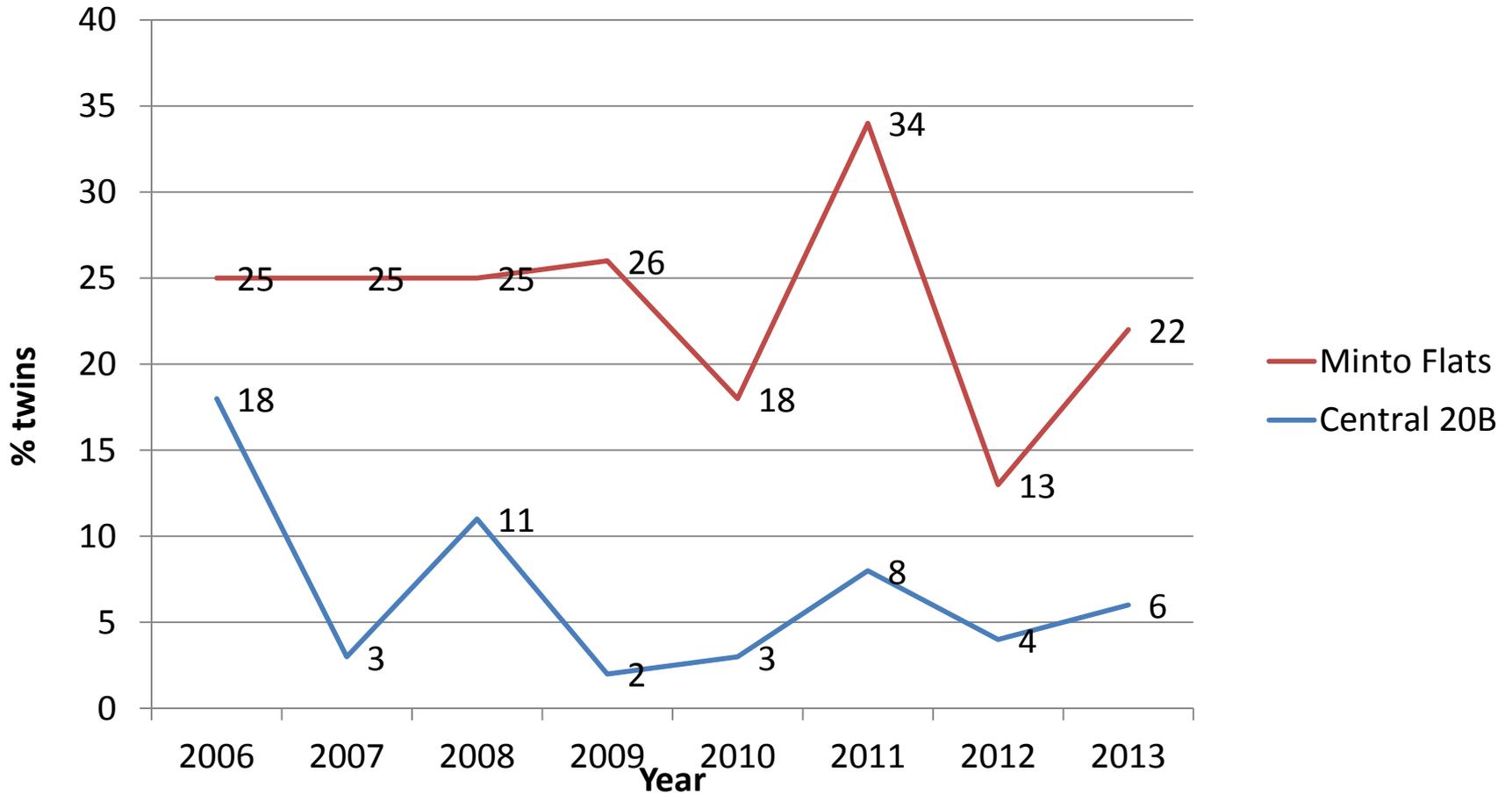
Calf:Cow = 36:100

Yearling:Cow = 15:100

# Unit 20B Moose Condition

- Three methods used in Unit 20B to determine nutritional health of moose.
  - Twinning surveys
  - Browse removal surveys
  - Calf weights

# 20B Twinning Rates



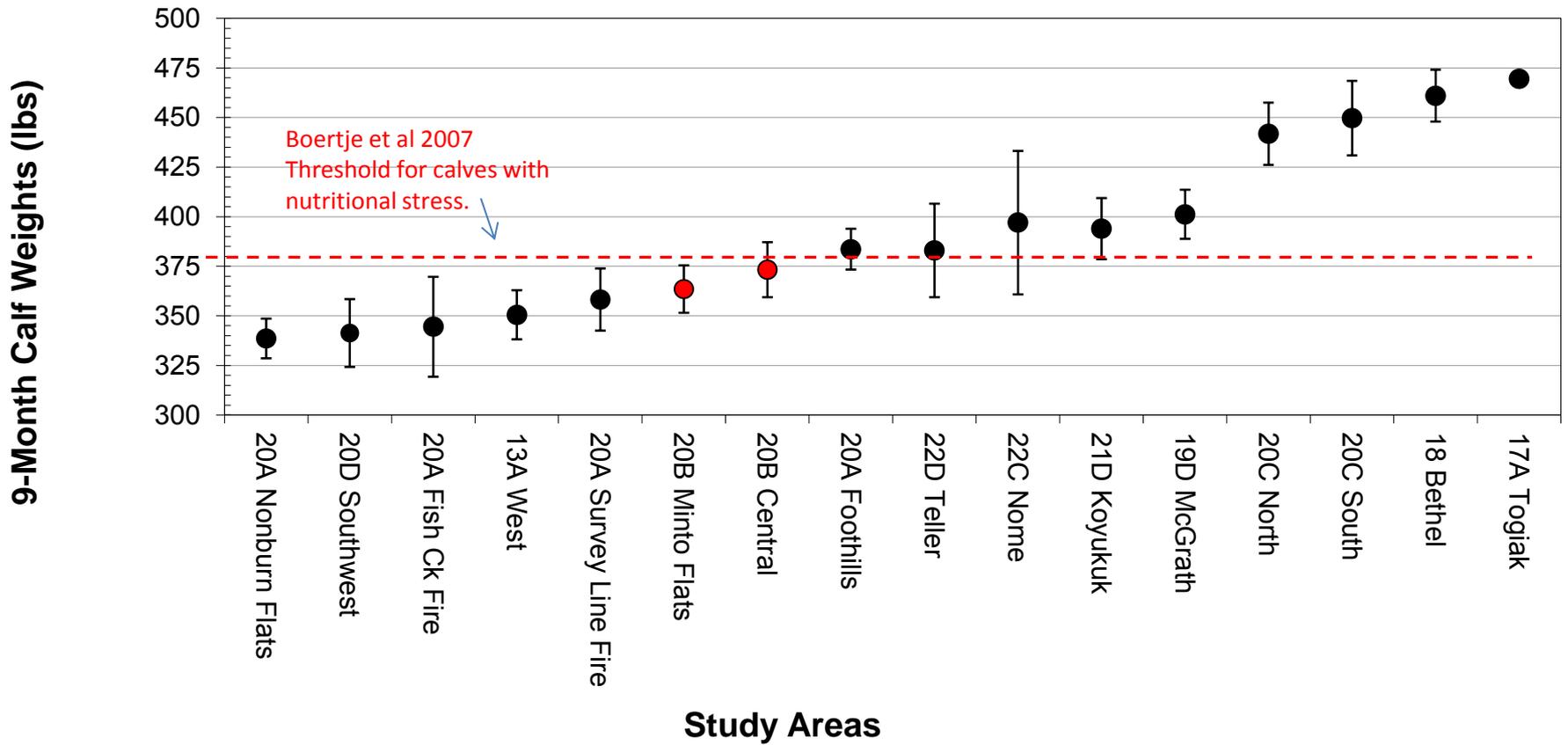
# Browse surveys

Central 20B = 26% removal rate

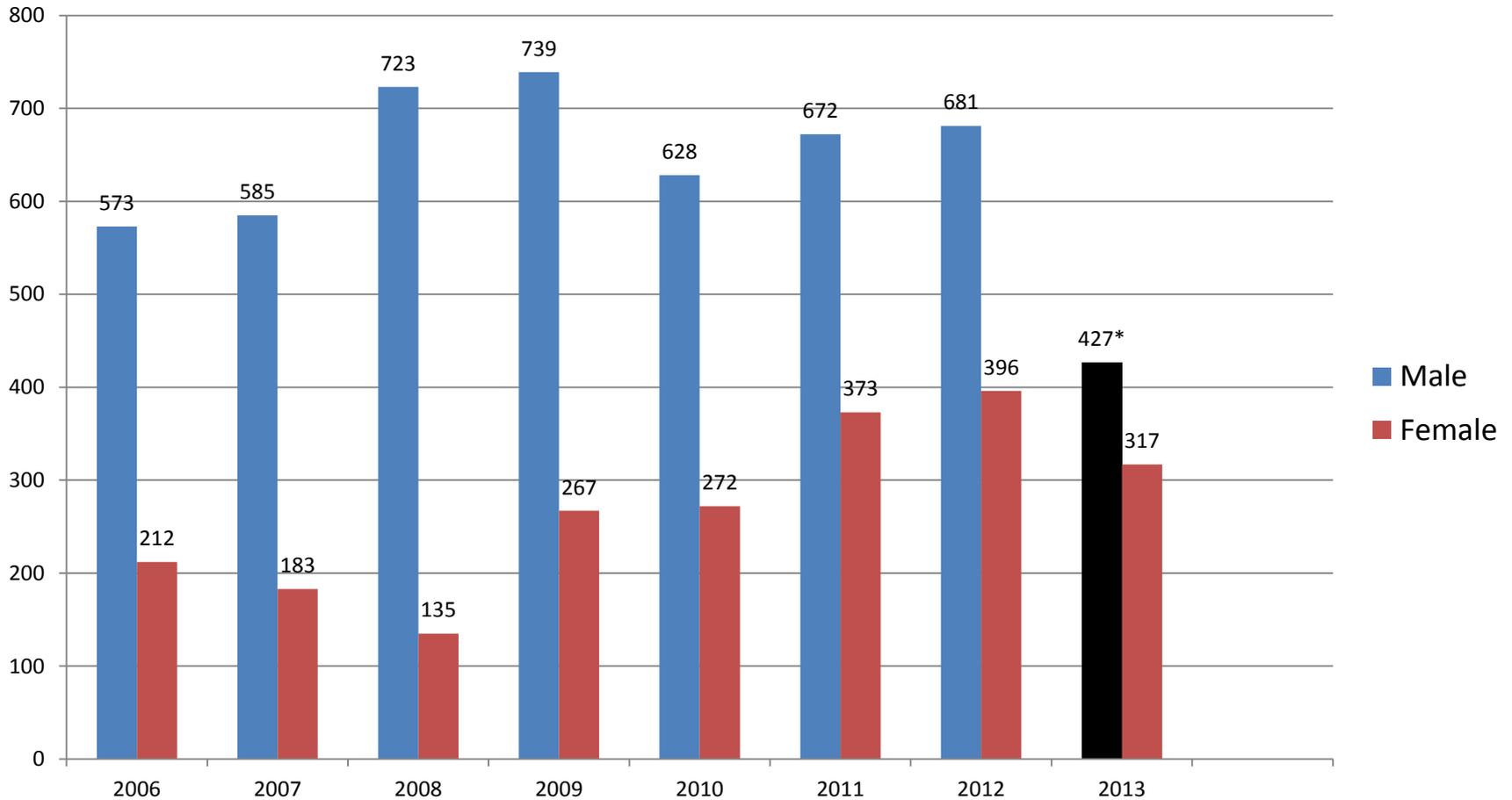
20B MFMA = 29% removal rate

Both rates are moderate, amongst the highest in the region but below that of Unit 20A.

# Calf weights



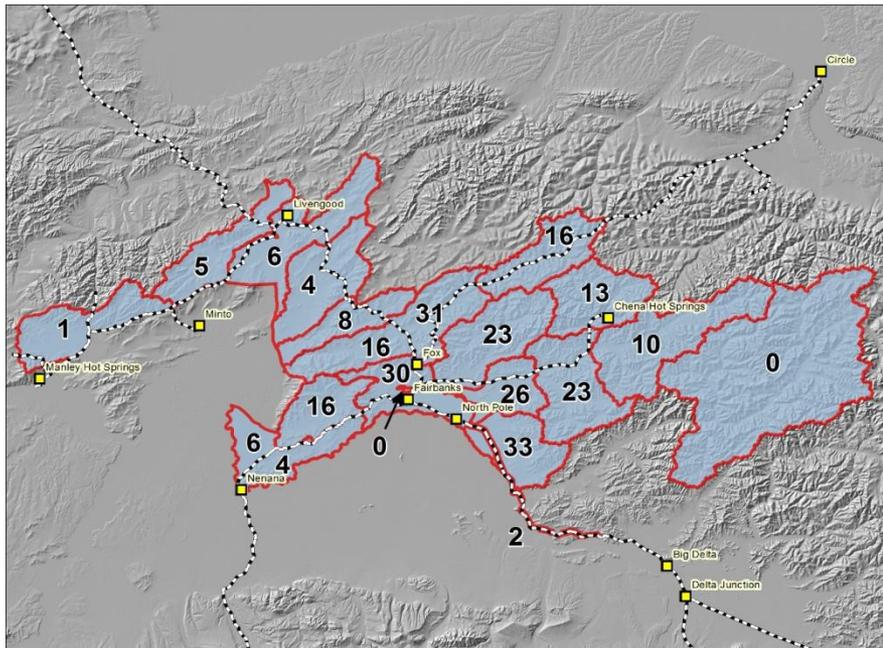
# Unit 20B Harvest



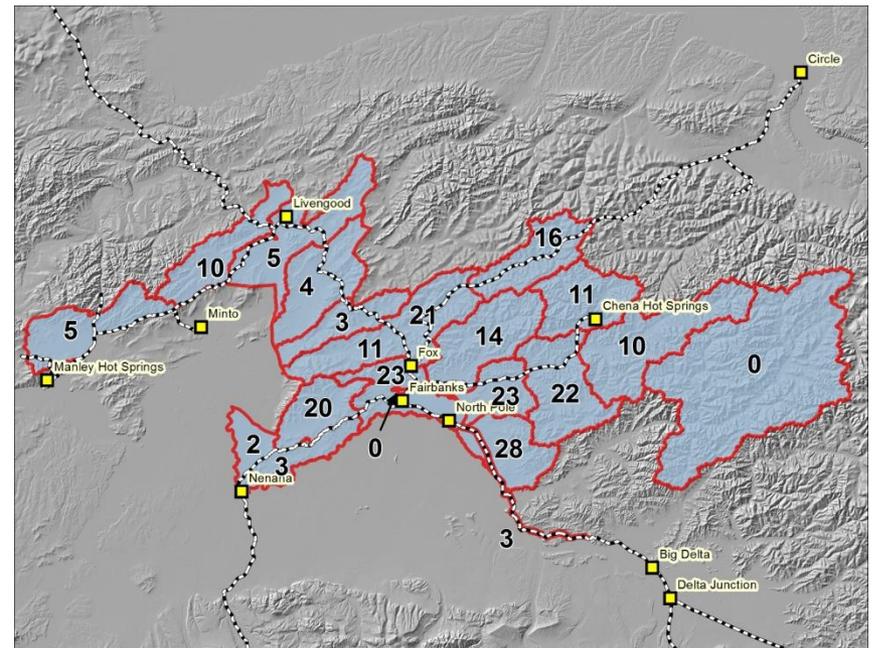


# Drawing permit harvest in 2012 and 2013

## 2012 Drawing permit harvest



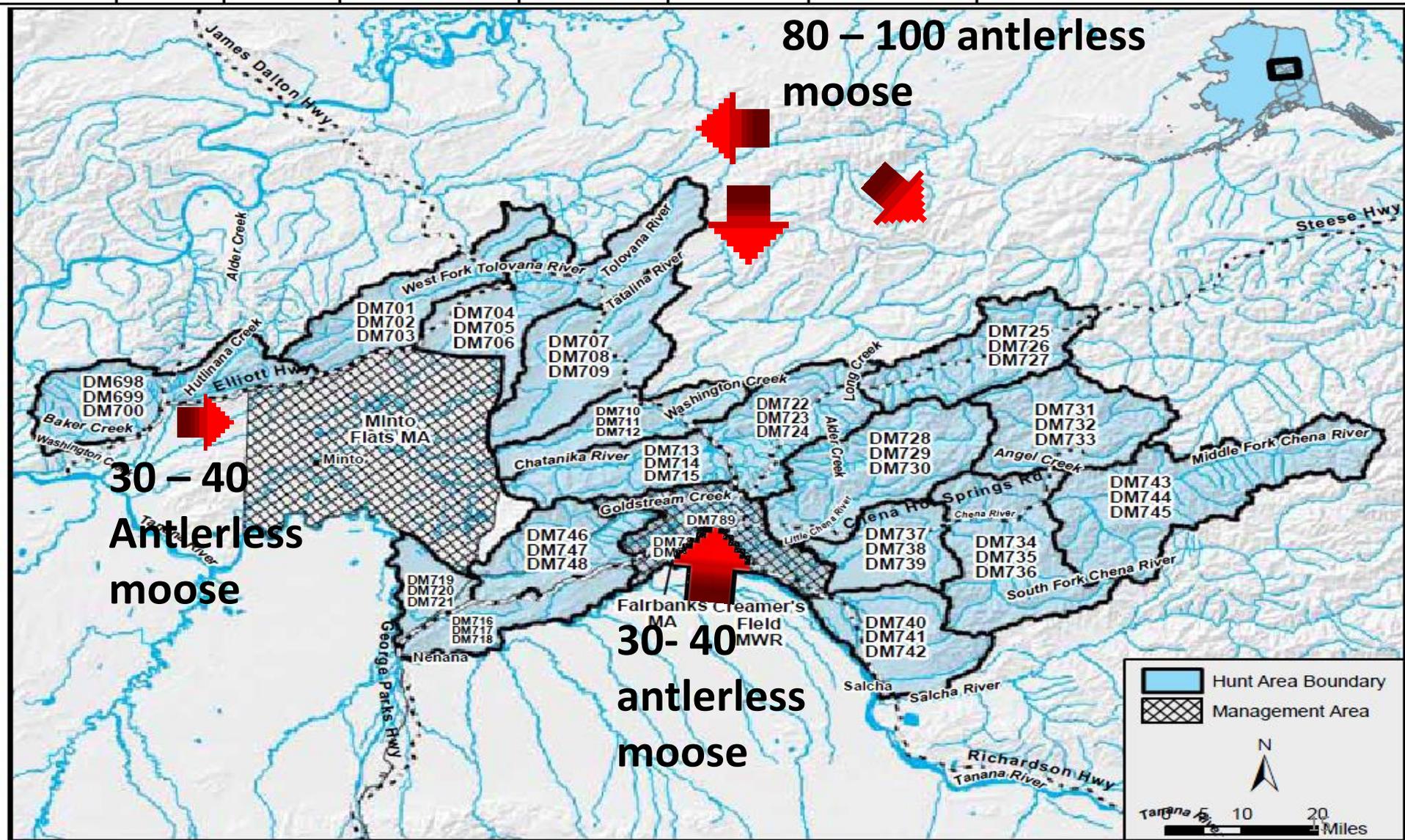
## 2013 Drawing permit harvest



# 2014 Unit 20B Plan

- Since the Unit 20B population estimate falls within the IM population objective of 12,000-15,000, antlerless harvest rates should be reduced to a rate that stabilizes the population.
- Antlerless harvest rates should be approximately 1% of the total population.
- For 2014 = **140 antlerless moose** outside the FMA.

# 2014 Harvest Goals



# Proposal 106

In conclusion:

- We've seen a decline in the population to more appropriate levels.
- We want to reduce antlerless harvest to a level that stabilizes the population.
- We want to continue to spread the antlerless harvest throughout central and western Unit 20B.

# Proposal 106

Department position: **Support**

# Proposal 107

**What would the proposal do?** Open a nonresident drawing permit hunt in Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area during September 8-25 for one 50 inch or 4 browtine bull moose. Eight permits would be issued, of which half would be allocated to guided hunters who have signed contracts.

Department position: **Neutral**

This proposal is an allocation issue and should be decided by the board.

Fairbanks AC = Supports

Minto/Nenana AC = Opposes

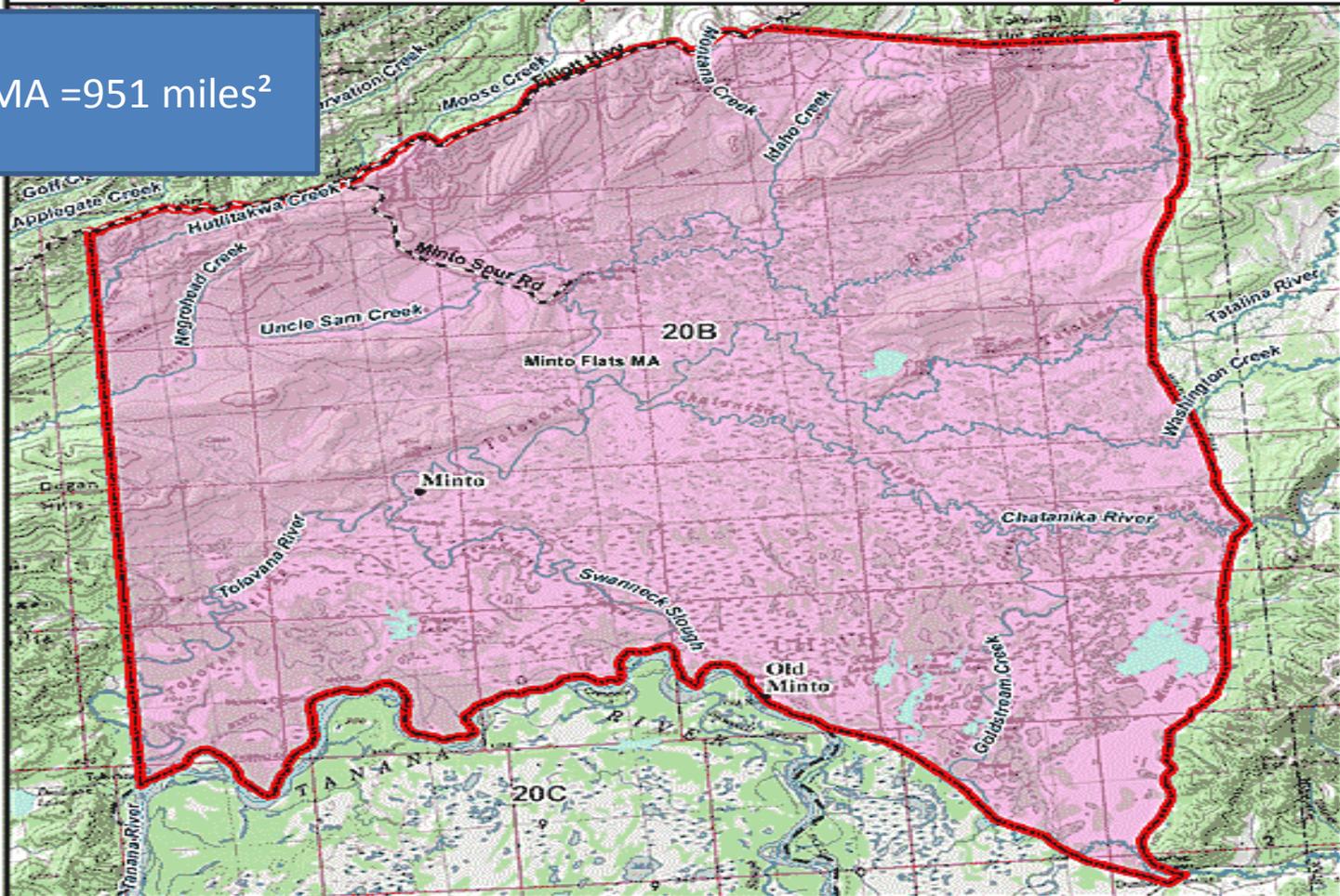
Delta AC = Oppose

See Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for other hunts in Unit 20B.

# Unit 20B-Minto Flats MA Moose - General Hunt

Residents - **Harvest Ticket Required** Nonresidents - **No Open Season**

MFMA = 951 miles<sup>2</sup>



**Unit 20B-Minto Flats Management Area  
Moose - General Hunt**  
HUNT AREA: Unit 20B, that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area.

- Hunt Area
- Closed Area
- Controlled Use Area
- Management Area
- National Park/Monument



Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.  
<http://www.huntalaska.com/gen/hmb20b.mf>

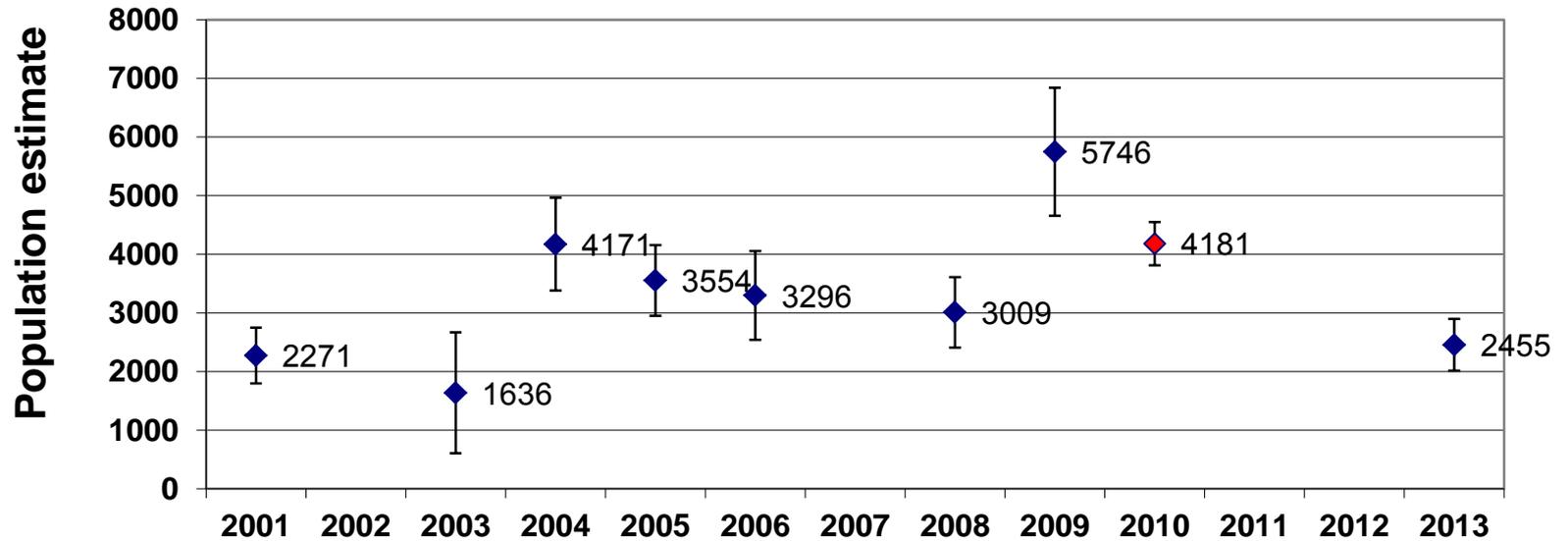
# Proposal 107

- 2010 MFMA survey (high intensity survey, good precision, 50% of sample unit surveyed)
  - Pop. Estimate = 4182 moose +/- 9%
  - Bull:cow ratio = 34:100
  - Calf:cow ratio = 41:100
- 2013 MFMA survey (low intensity survey, 13% of sample units surveyed)
  - Pop. Estimate = 2455 moose +/- 18%
  - Bull:cow ratio = 23:100
  - Calf:cow ratio = 41:100

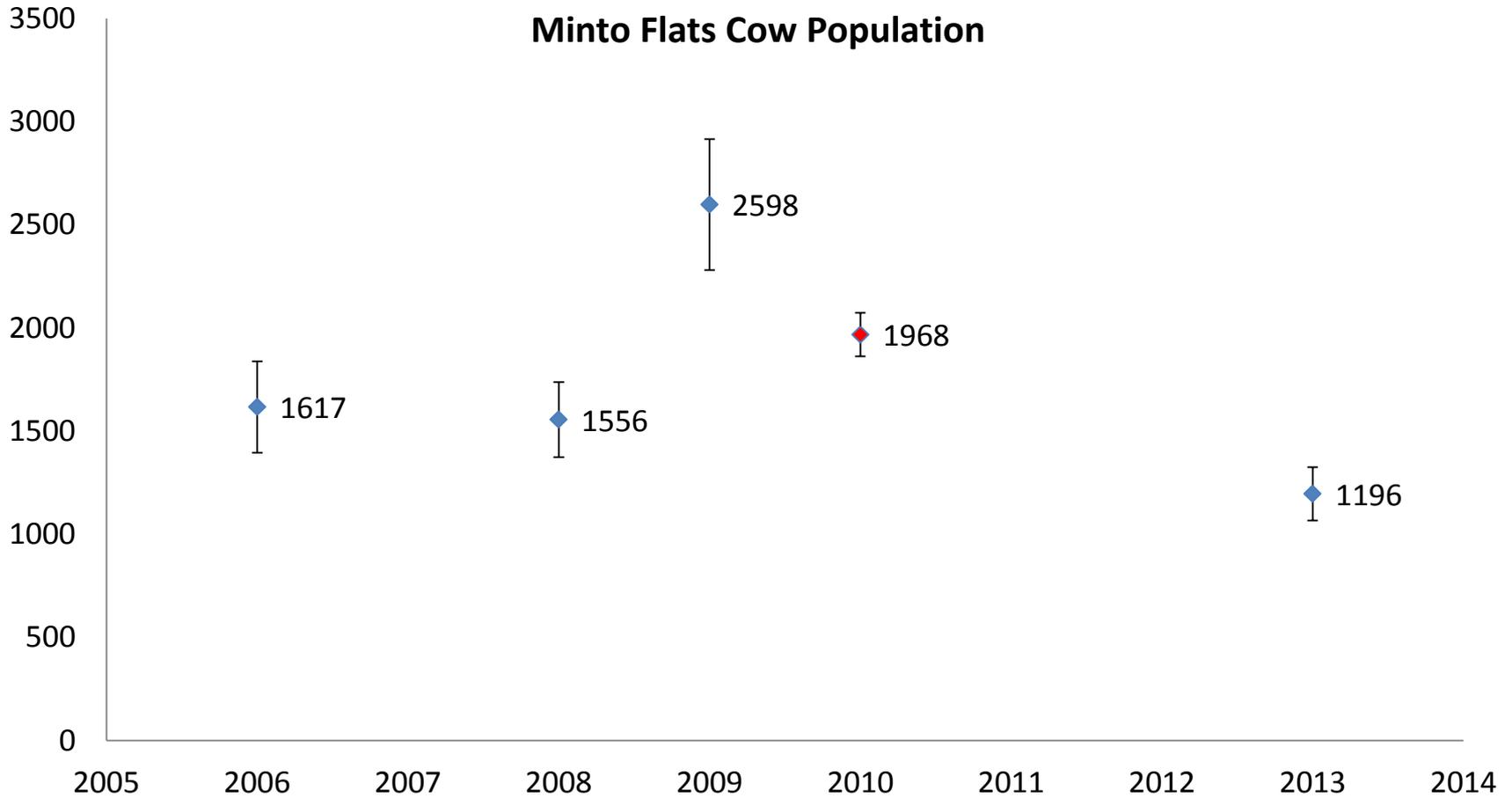
Estimated harvestable surplus of bulls is 125-150 bulls.

# Proposal 107

Minto Flats MA moose population estimates  
2001-2013



# Proposal 107



# Proposal 107

Minto Flats Management Area currently has 3 different hunting seasons

- August 21-28, General season, Any Bull
- September 8-25, General season, Spike/Fork/50inch/4brows
- October 15-February 28, Registration permit, Antlerless
  - ❖ all hunts are resident only

# Proposal 107

- This proposal would create a hunt that would only increase effort by no more than 8 hunters.
- The board should consider if adding a nonresident season would still allow reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses.

# Proposal 107

- The seasons were modified by the BOG during the 2012 meeting.
- During 2006-2011, average harvest = 132 bulls and 67 cows.
- During 2012 and 2013, average harvest = 104 bulls and 107 cows.
- Harvestable surplus of bulls = 125-150

# Proposal 107

Because this proposal:

- 1) Is an allocation issue
- 2) And there is no biological issue with harvesting up to 8 more bull moose in MFMA.

The Department is **Neutral** on this proposal.

# Proposal 108

**What would the proposal do?** Eliminate the Minto Flats Management Area restrictions on Airboats for moose hunting.

Department position: **Neutral**

Fairbanks AC = Support

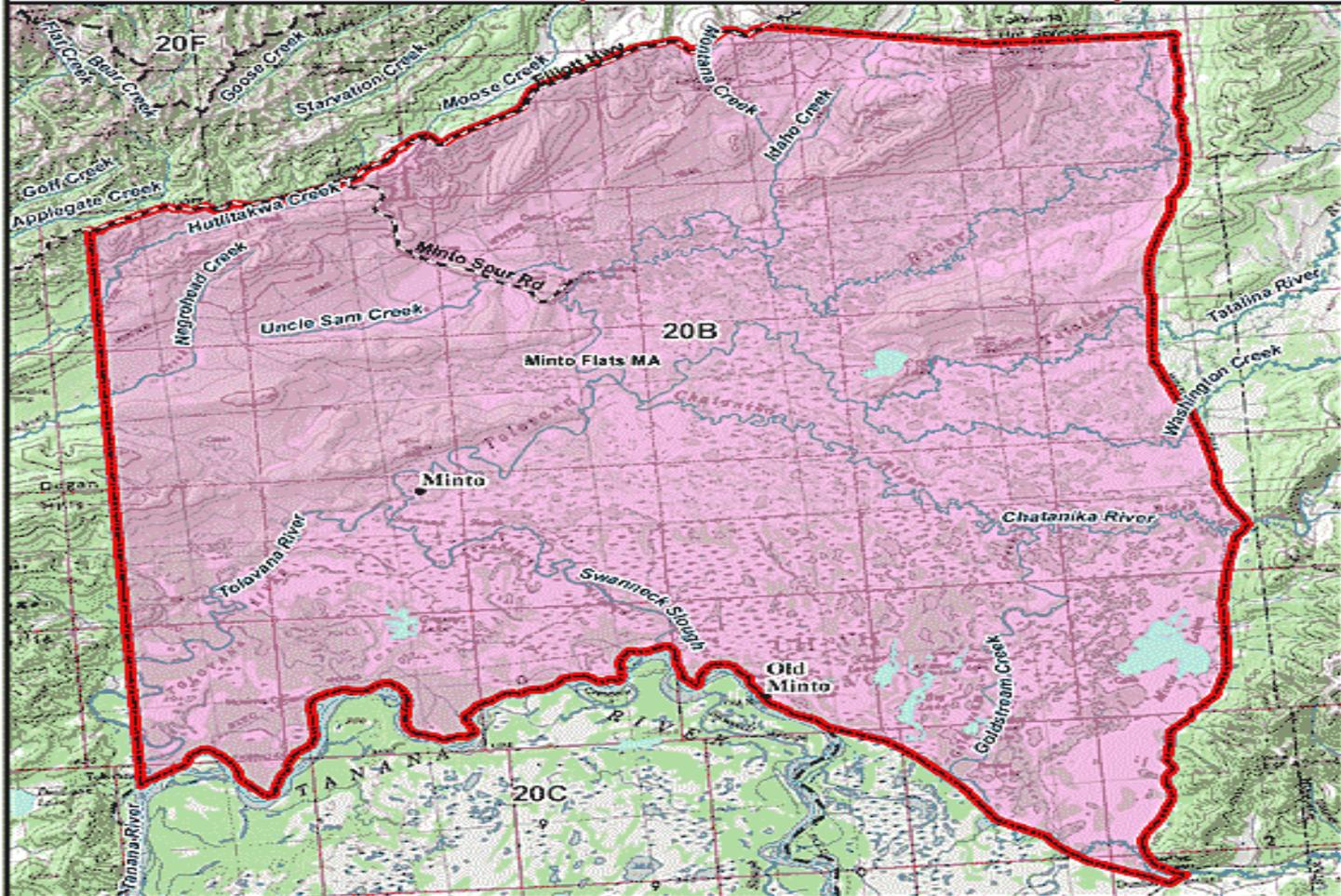
Minto/Nenana AC = Oppose

Delta AC = Oppose

See Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for other hunts in Unit 20B.

# Unit 20B-Minto Flats MA Moose - General Hunt

Residents - **Harvest Ticket Required** Nonresidents - **No Open Season**



**Unit 20B-Minto Flats Management Area  
Moose - General Hunt**  
HUNT AREA: Unit 20B, that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area.

Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.  
<http://www.huntalaska.com/gen/hmb20b.mf>

# Proposal 108

- 2010 MFMA survey (high intensity survey, good precision)
  - Pop. Estimate = 4182 moose +/- 9%
  - Bull:cow ratio = 34:100
  - Calf:cow ratio = 41:100
- 2013 MFMA survey (low intensity survey, poor precision)
  - Pop. Estimate = 2455 moose +/- 18%
  - Bull:cow ratio = 23:100
  - Calf:cow ratio = 41:100

Estimated harvestable surplus of bulls is 125-150 bulls.

# Proposal 108

- The seasons were modified by the BOG during the 2012 meeting.
- During 2006-2011, average harvest = 132 bulls and 67 cows.
- During 2012 and 2013, average harvest = 104 bulls and 107 cows.
- Harvestable surplus of bulls = 125-150

# Proposal 108

- This proposal is an allocation issue that should be decided by the board.
- MFMA was established in 1979 because of concerns about increased hunting pressure, competition between users and declining moose populations.
- Prohibition on Aircrafts and Airboats was enacted in 1996. Both methods of transportation created conflict amongst subsistence users in the area.

# Proposal 108

- The current harvest system was adopted by the board in 2012.
- Concerns about reasonable opportunity for subsistence, availability of registration permits, and season length and timing were all addressed with these changes.

# Proposal 108

Removing the airboat prohibition would:

- Likely to increase harvest in MFMA
- Likely not create a conservation concern because the current moose population in MFMA is high.
- Would likely create user conflicts between hunters who use airboats and other hunters.

# Proposal 108

Department Position is **Neutral**

# Proposal 109

**What would the proposal do?** Change the muzzleloader moose drawing hunt (DM782) in Unit 20B to a registration hunt, change the season to November 10-December 10, and enlarge the hunt area to include the Butte Creek drainage of the Salcha River drainage.

Department position: **Neutral**

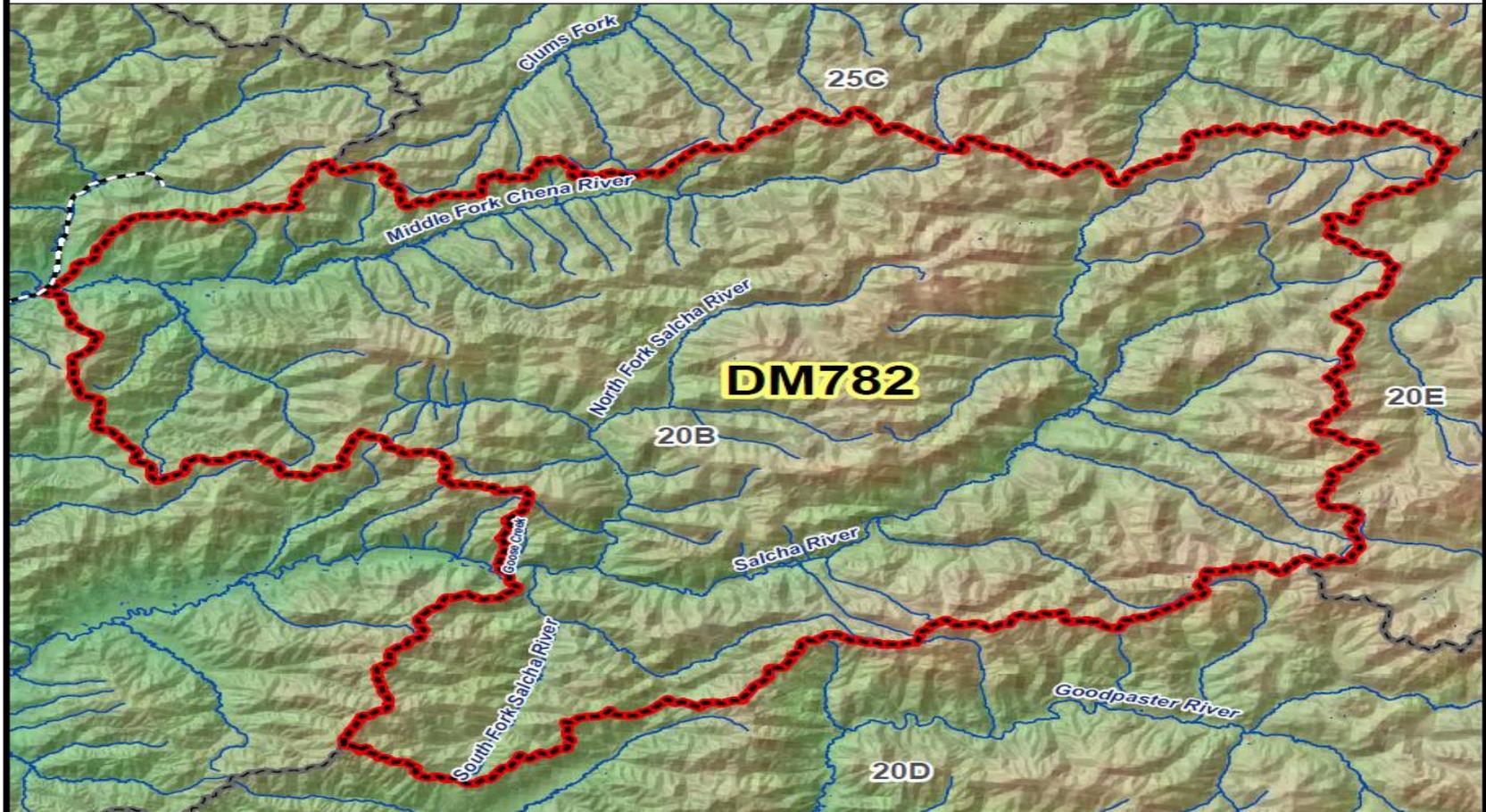
Fairbanks AC = Support

# Proposal 109

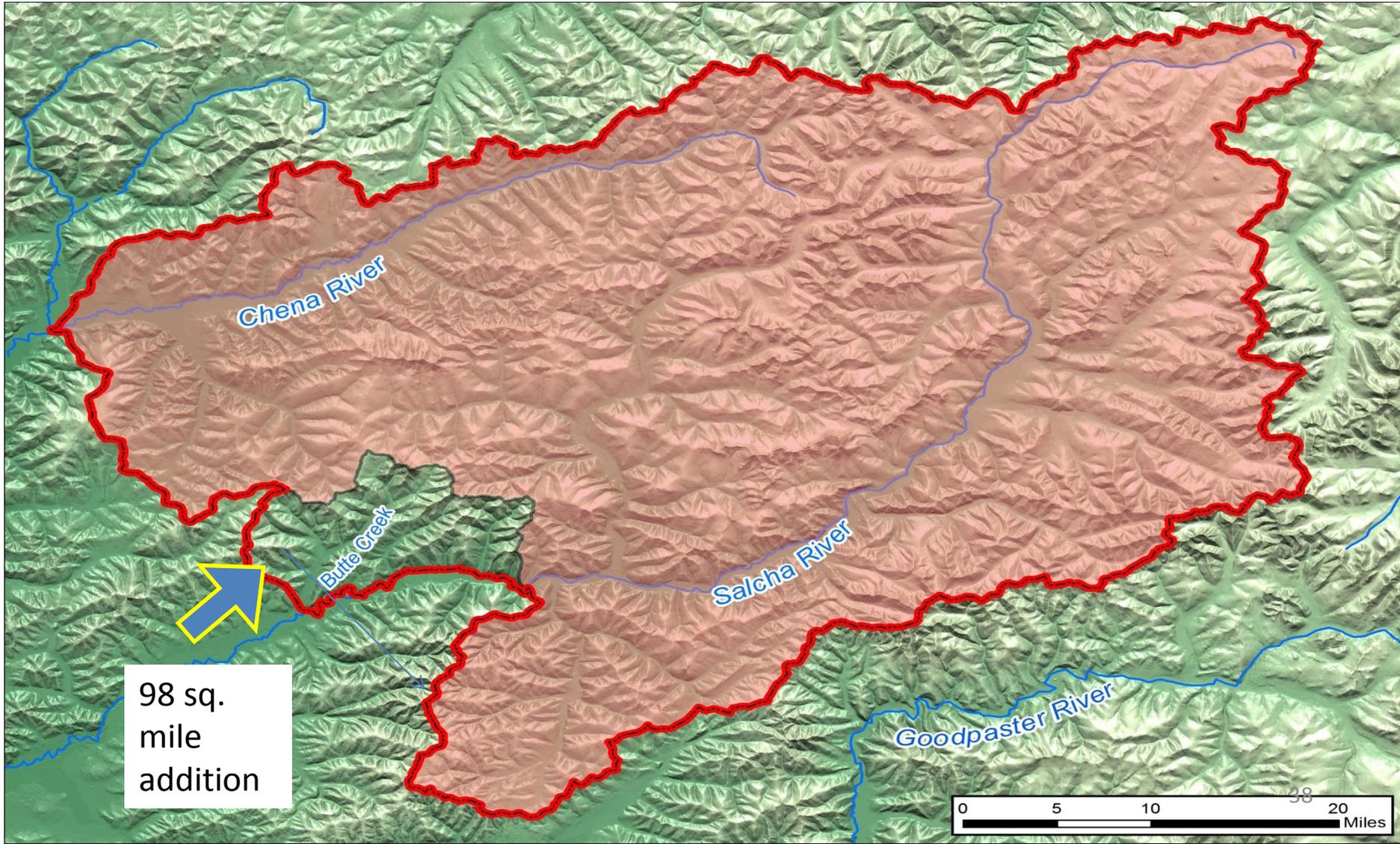
- We would like point out that proposal 109 and 110 both address the problems with DM782.
- Proposal 109 by FAC would modify DM782
  - This proposal is a new approach to the hunt.
- Proposal 110 by ADF&G would eliminate DM782.
  - This proposal was submitted because of lack of interest.

# Proposal 109

## DM782 Moose Drawing Permit Hunt



# Proposal 109



# Proposal 109

- DM782 was adopted by the BOG in 2010 as a replacement for a popular 20A muzzleloader hunt that had been modified.
- In 2011, 60 any moose permits were issued and one cow was harvested.
- In 2012, the hunt was modified by the BOG due to several proposals and made “bull only”. 60 permits were available and only 29 people were awarded permits. No moose were harvested in 2012.
- 2013, 60 permits available, 15 people were awarded permits. No moose harvested in this hunt.
- Interest is low for this hunt.
- Access to the area and good moose habitat is very difficult.

# Proposal 109

- Eastern 20B population estimate (2012) is 2795 +/- 19%.
- Bull:Cow ratio = 40:100
- Calf:Cow ratio = 36:100

# Proposal 109

- Changing this hunt from a drawing permit to a registration hunt would allow hunting opportunity to all muzzleloader hunters.
- Because access is difficult, most hunting pressure would likely be added to the new portion of the hunt area that has some access.
- It is likely that harvest would continue to be low.

# Proposal 109

Department position: **Neutral**

# Proposal 110

**What would the proposal do?** Eliminate the muzzleloader drawing permit hunt(DM782) for bull moose in the Middle Fork of the Chena River and Upper Salcha River in Unit 20B.

Department position: **Take No Action**

Based on action taken in Proposal 109

# Proposal 111

**What would the proposal do?** In Unit 20B, lengthen the fall moose season for residents and nonresidents by 5 days to September 1-25 in the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek.

Department position: **Support with Amendments**

Fairbanks AC = Support

# Proposal 111

Current Season		Proposed Season	
September 1-20	Any Bull	September 1-25	Any Bull

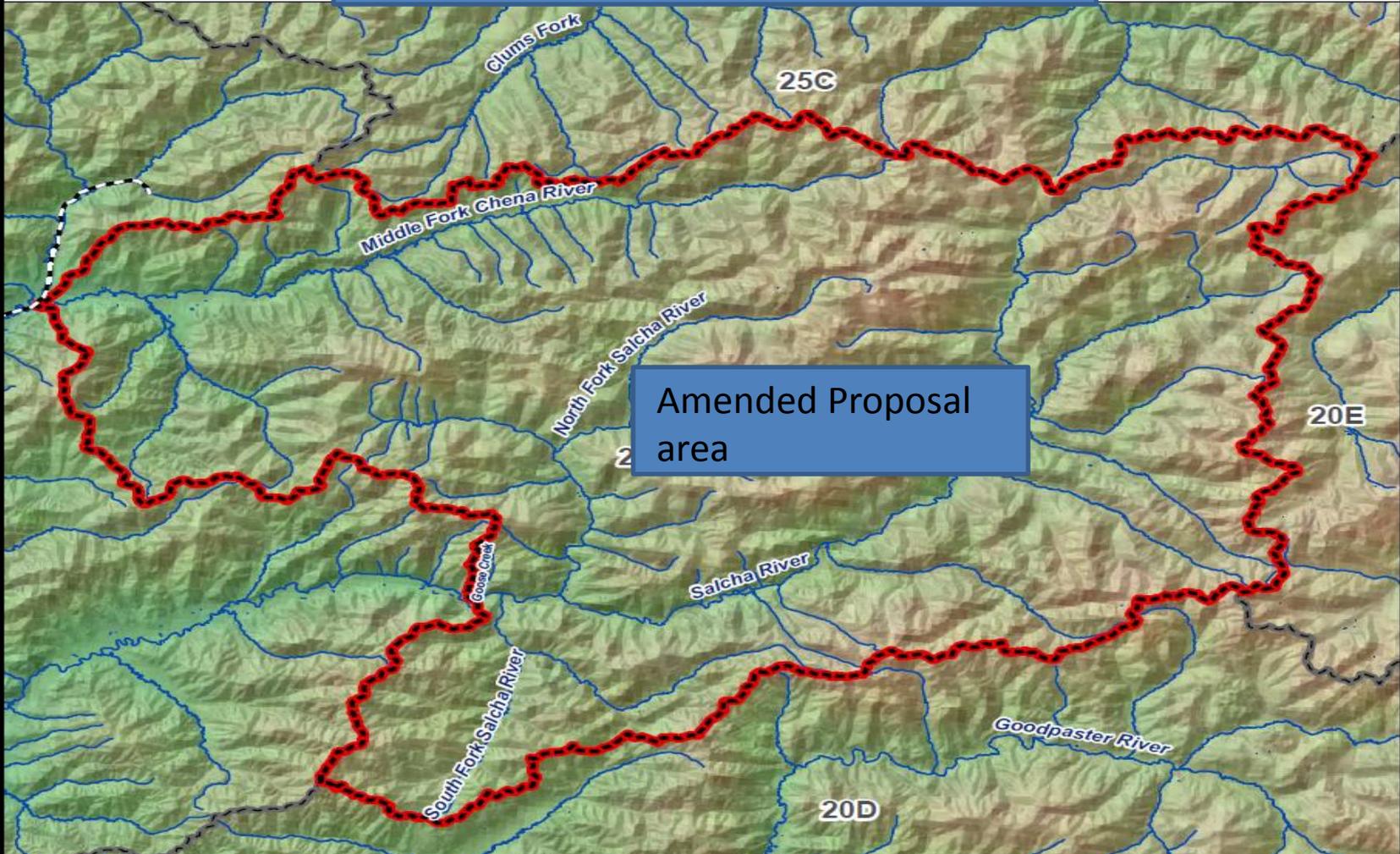
# Proposal 111

- Currently there is an Sept. 21-30 archery only hunt in the area.
- Lengthening the rifle season would shorten the archery only opportunity in the area.
- Harvest during the archery season is low.
- The harvest by archery hunters during 2008-2012 = 3 bulls total

# Proposal 111

- The Department supports this proposal but would like to expand the area to include the Middle Fork of the Chena River.
- The Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Salcha River upstream of Goose Creek have historically had a season 5 days longer than the remainder of Unit 20B because they are the most remote portion of Unit 20B and access is difficult.
- When the season was increased in the remainder of 20B in 2010, it aligned it with this more remote portion of 20B.

# Proposal 111



# Proposal 111

- Eastern 20B population estimate (2012) is 2795 +/- 19%.
- Bull:Cow ratio = 40:100
- Calf:Cow ratio = 36:100
- The average harvest from 2008-2012 = 33 bulls.
- Harvestable surplus is approximately 140 bulls.

# Proposal 111

Department position: **Support with  
Amendments**

# Proposal 112

**What would the proposal do?** Create a youth drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 20B, and create a Unit 20B Youth Hunt Management Area, with specific hunt conditions.

Department Position: **Neutral**

This is an allocation issue and should be decided by the board.

Fairbanks AC and Minto/Nenana AC = Oppose

Delta AC = Support

# Proposal 112

This proposal would:

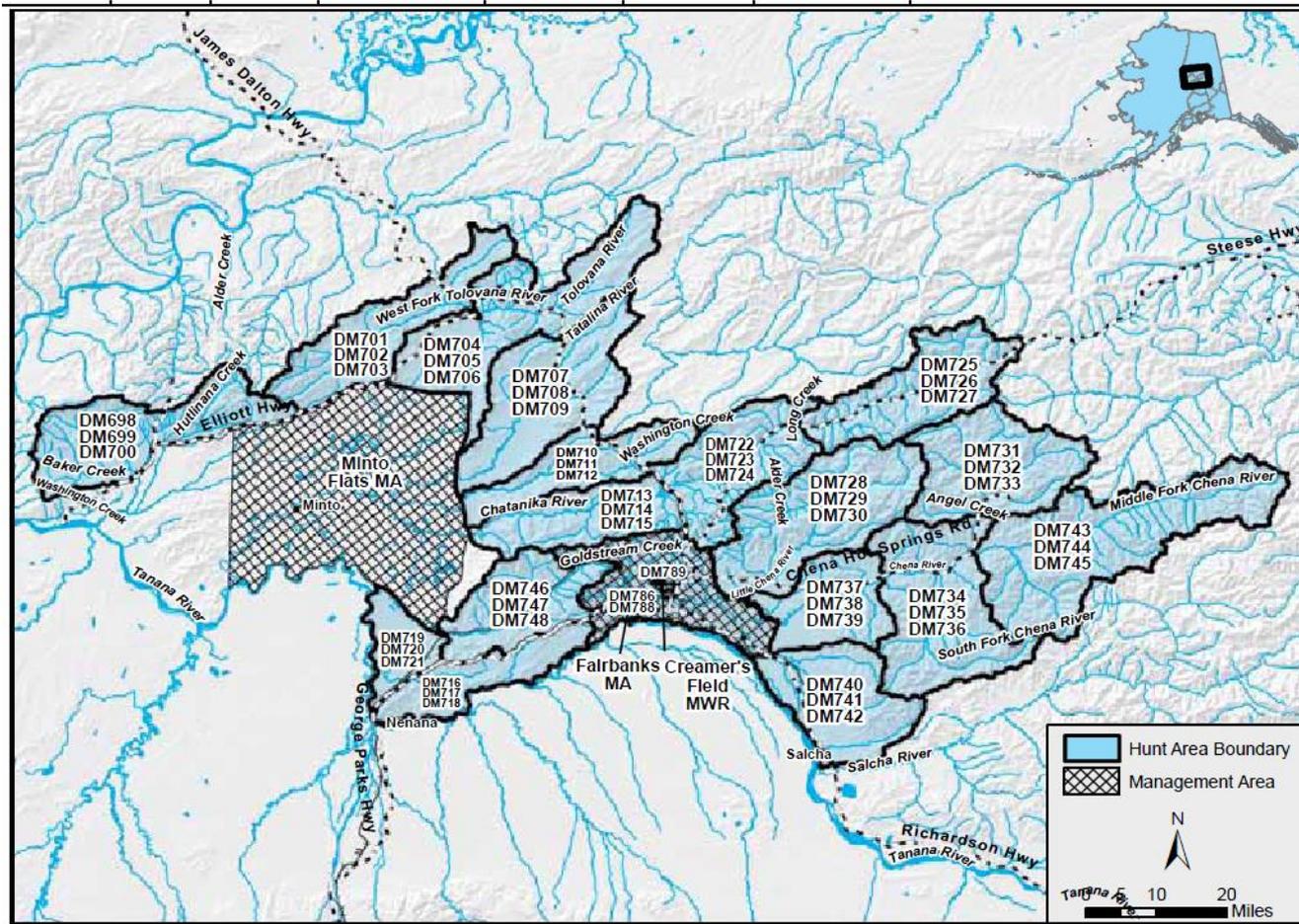
- Create a drawing permit for youth hunters ages 10-17.
- It would allocate about 20% of the antlerless drawing permits in central and western Unit 20B to youth hunters.
- Allow youth hunters to hunt August 5-14, which is before school starts.

# Proposal 112

## Background:

- At 2012 BOG meeting, the BOG encouraged the department to identify youth hunting opportunity.
- At the time the proposal was submitted, we estimated 18,000-20,000 moose in Unit 20B and issued 1000 antlerless permits in central and western Unit 20B.
- Currently we estimate approximately 14,000 moose in Unit 20B.
- Because of the lower population estimate we are being more conservative with the use of the cow hunts (2-2.5% down to 1%). We will likely issue about 390 total drawing permits in central and western Unit 20B.
- This would equal about **78** youth permits at this time.

# Proposal 112



# Proposal 112

## In conclusion:

- The department could manage a portion of the Unit 20B antlerless drawing permits in a youth hunt.
- If the Unit 20B moose population continues to decrease, the number of antlerless permits will decline and the youth hunting opportunity will decline.
- If passed, this youth hunt would not be conducted until fall of 2015. The number of permits awarded to youth hunters may be different than shown in this presentation.

# Proposal 112

Department position: **Neutral**

# Proposal 114

**What would the proposal do?** There are two parts to this proposal. The first would repeal the requirement to leave evidence of sex on black bears harvested in Unit 20B. The second part would replace the word “sex” with the word “gender” in regulation.

Department position: **Oppose**.

Fairbanks AC = Support

Delta AC = Oppose

# Proposal 114

- The Department opposes this proposal because we feel its important to monitor accurate sex ratios in Unit 20B.
- One of our management objectives is to maintain a black bear population that sustains a harvest of at least 55% males in the harvest.
- Unit 20B is a population center with high interest in spring black bear hunting and lots of access.
- Unit 20B has the highest harvest and most hunting effort for black bears in Region III.
- Average harvest = 125 black bears
- Average number of black bear bait stations registered = 479

# Proposal 114

- The second part of this proposal would change the word “sex” to “gender” in 5AAC 92.150.
- This change would not change the definition or the intent of this regulation.
- It would only create confusion because the word “sex” is used in many different regulations in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code.
- Changing it would create inconsistencies.

# Proposal 114

Department position: **Oppose**

# Proposal 115

**What would the proposal do?** Require resident hunters in Unit 20C to harvest bull moose with spike/fork/ 50 inch/ 3 browtines and extend the nonresident hunting season by 5 days to September 1-25.

Department position: **Oppose**

Fairbanks AC = Supports with amendments.

Middle Nenana AC = Opposes

# Proposal 115

Current Season and Bag limits	Proposed Season and Bag limits
<p>Residents: September 1-25 Any bull</p> <p>Nonresidents: September 1-20 50inch/4 browtines.</p>	<p>Residents: September 1-25 spike/fork/50 inch / 3 browtines.</p> <p>Nonresidents: September 1-25 50 inch/4 browtines</p>

# Proposal 115

- At the 2012 BOG meeting
  - The season was lengthened for residents by 5 days.
    - Because of high bull:cow ratio, additional harvestable surplus, and an attempt to achieve IM harvest objective.
    - The season was also lengthed 10 days for non-residents and antler restrictions were added.

# Proposal 115

- A feasibility study was completed to determine if the area needed an IM plan to help increase the harvest to meet the IM harvest objective.
- It was determined that lengthening the season was appropriate to achieve this.

# Proposal 115

- Unit 20C population estimate (2011) = 3801 moose outside Denali National Park and Preserve.
- = 0.6 moose per square mile.
- Bull:Cow ratio = 49:100
- Calf:Cow ratio = 41:100
- IM population objective = 3000-4000 moose

# Proposal 115

- The average harvest during 2008-2011 in Unit 20C prior to lengthening the season was 126 bulls/year (range 101-142).
- In 2012, the first year of the longer season, the harvest was 153 bulls.
- In 2013, the harvest was 109 bulls, which was probably influenced by the abnormal spring and fall.
- The IM harvest objective is 150-400 moose.

# Proposal 115

- This proposal would unnecessarily reduce harvest and the IM harvest objective would not be met.
- Its also a reduction in opportunity and the board may want to consider the subsistence implications.

Departments position: **OPPOSE**

# Proposal 116

**What would the proposal do?** Create the Nenana-Totchaket Resource Development Corridor Controlled Use Area in Unit 20C that would exclude highway and ATV/ORV use for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose during Sept. 1-25.

Department position: **Neutral**

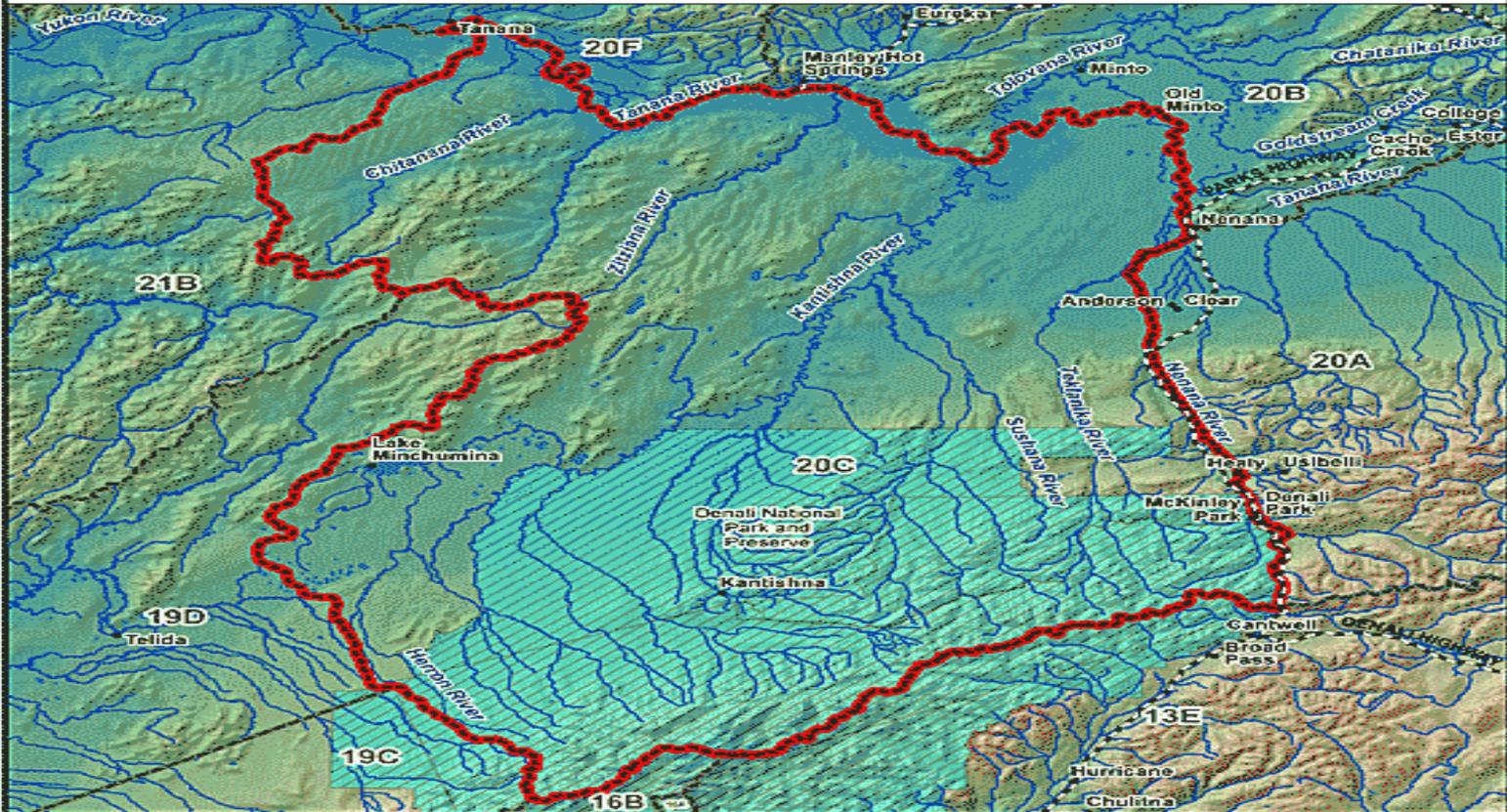
This is an allocation issue.

Fairbanks AC = Opposes

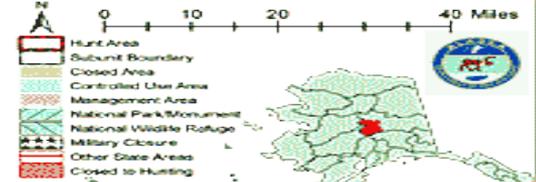
Minto/Nenana AC = Supports

# Proposal 116

## Unit 20C Moose - General Hunt *Residents and Nonresidents - Harvest Ticket Required*



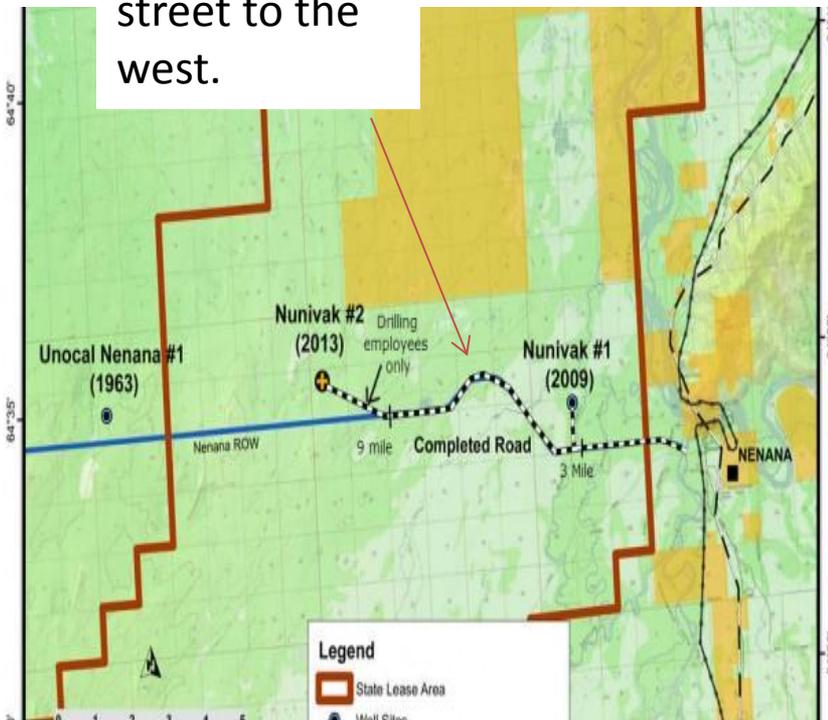
AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 20C.



Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.

# Proposal 116

26 mile road that extends from 10<sup>th</sup> street to the west.



- Create a corridor two miles on each side of this road.
- No use of highway vehicles and ORV's for moose hunting from Sept. 1-25.

# Proposal 116

- Access into 20C is limited.
- Most hunters access the area by boat or airplane, therefore most access is the river corridors and lakes. Much of 20C is difficult to access.

# Proposal 116

- Unit 20C population estimate (2011) = 3801 moose outside Denali National Park and Preserve.
- = 0.6 moose per square mile.
- Bull:Cow ratio = 49:100
- Calf:Cow ratio = 41:100
- IM population objective = 3000-4000 moose
- IM harvest objective = 150-400
- 2008-2012 average harvest = 132 moose per year.

# Proposal 116

- This proposal:
  - would limit hunting opportunity along this new road.
  - Limit the use of motor vehicles in the area.

The Department is **Neutral** on this proposal.

# Proposal 117

**What would the proposal do?** Reinstate the Nenana Controlled Use Area.

The Department position is **Neutral** because this is an allocation issue.

Fairbanks AC = Opposes

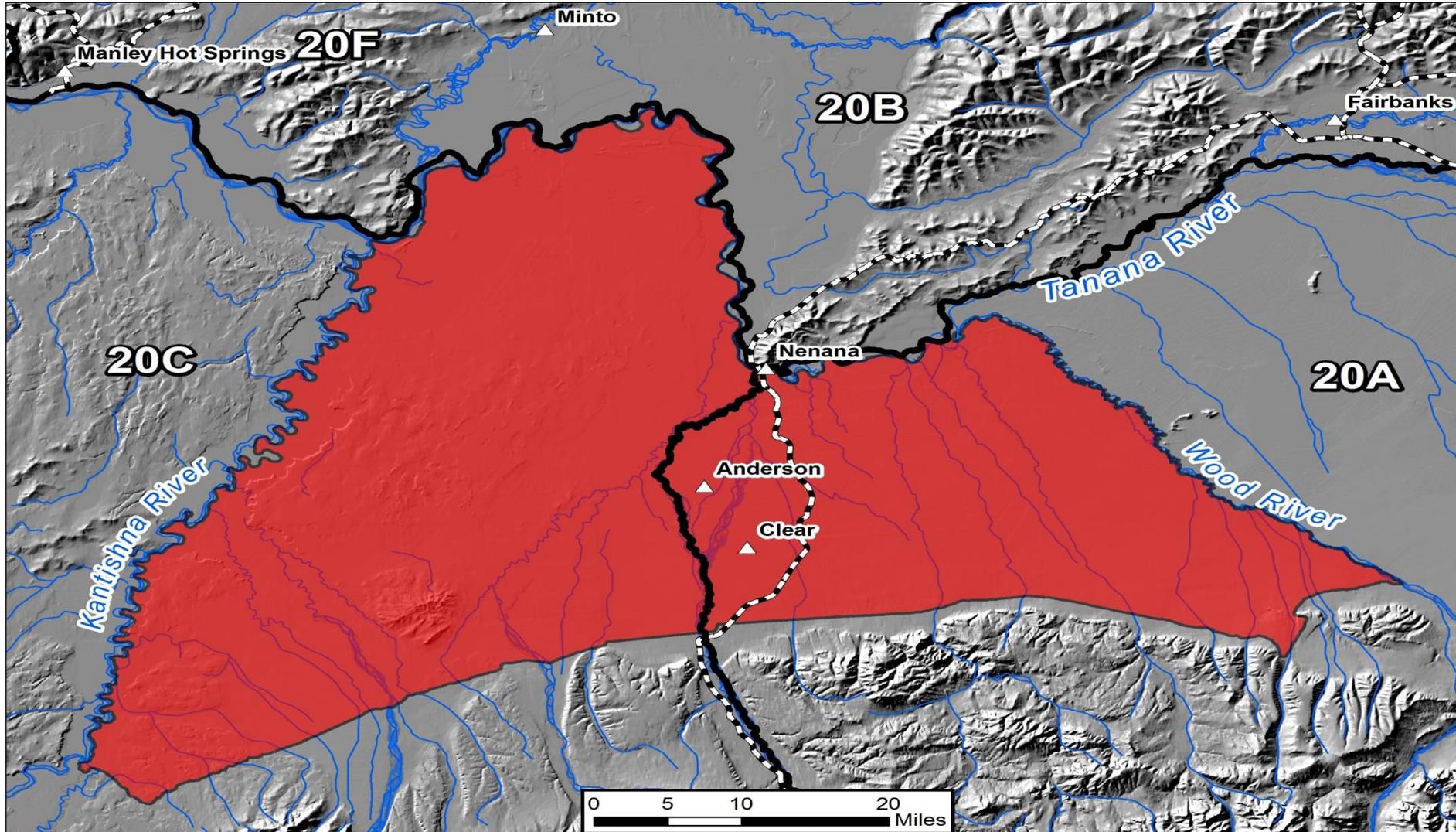
Minto/Nenana AC = Supports

# Proposal 117

## Nenana Controlled Use Area ( was 2403 sq. mi)

- Encompasses portions of 20A and 20C.
- Prohibited the use of airboats for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunt gear and/or parts of moose during the period Sept. 1 -25; except within the main channels of the Teklanika, Toklat, and Nenana Rivers and at the public boat launch in Nenana.
- Was in place during the early 1990's until 2004.

# Proposal 117



# Proposal 117

- The current moose season is September 1-25 with a bag limit of “any bull” in 20C and “spike/fork/50inch/3 browtine” in 20A.
- During 2008-2012, an average of 2 hunters (out of 318) reported using airboats in that portion of 20C that would be included in the CUA.
- During 2008-2012, an average of 11 hunters (out of 317) reported using airboats in that portion of 20A that would be included in the CUA.

# Proposal 117

- Because this proposal is an allocation issue.
- Because there is no conservation concern.

The Department is **Neutral** on this proposal.

# Proposal 118

**What would the proposal do?** Change the fall resident moose hunting season in the Yukon River drainage and Tanana River drainage of Unit 20F by one day and shift the fall season to September 10-30.

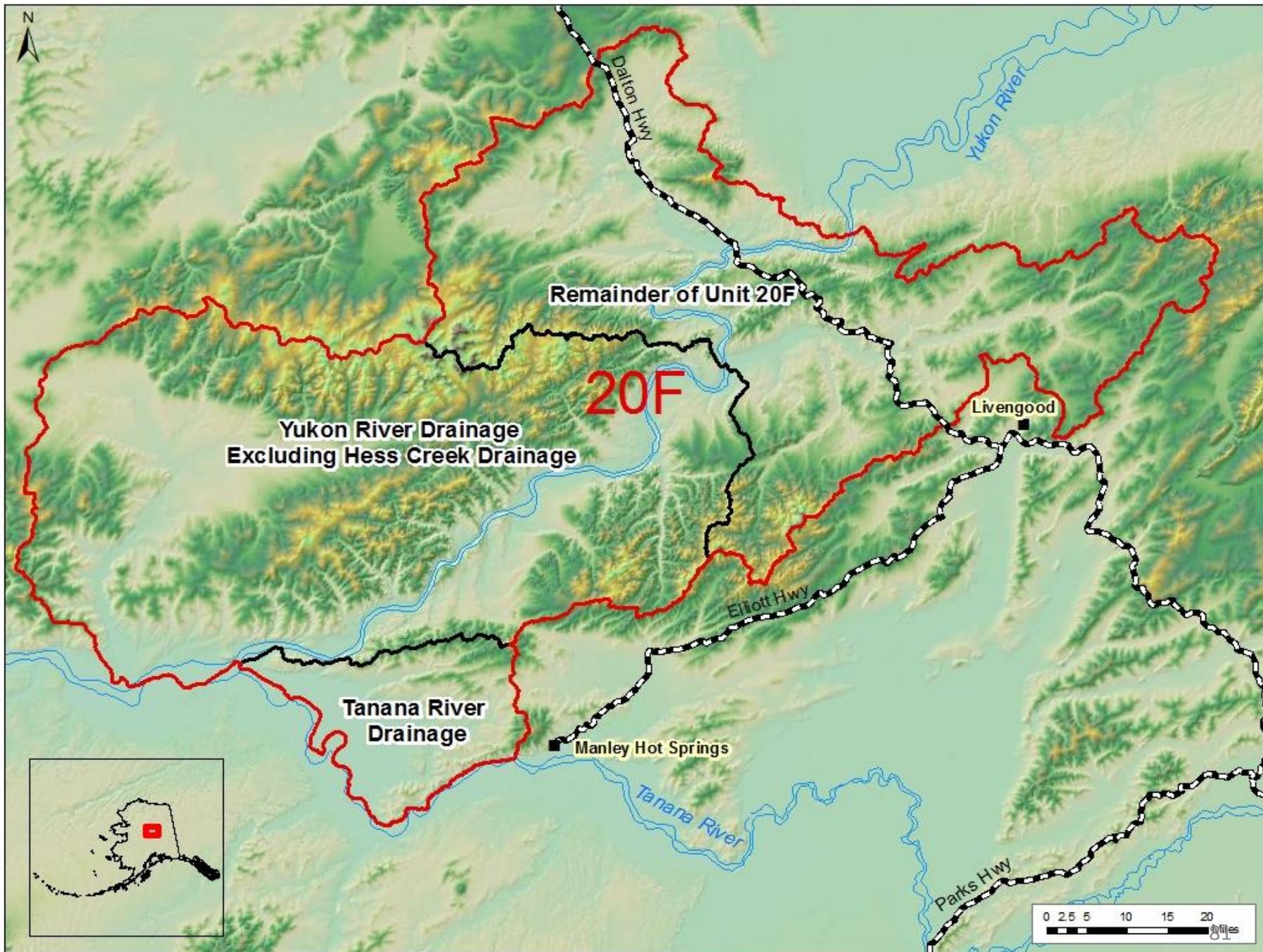
Department Position: **Support with Amendments.**

Fairbanks AC = Support

Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC = Support

# Proposal 118

- The Department supports shifting seasons, when biologically feasible, to a time when hunters have a chance to be more successful and may have better conditions.



# Proposal 118

Current Season	Proposed Season	Amended Season
20F, Yukon River drainage downstream from Hess creek.  Sept. 1-20                      Any bull Dec. 1-10	20F, Yukon River drainage downstream from Hess creek.  Sept. 10-30                      Any bull Dec. 1-10	20F, Yukon River drainage downstream from Hess creek.  Sept 5-25                              Any bull Dec. 1-10
20F, Tanana River drainage  Sept. 1-20                      Any bull	20F, Tanana River drainage  Sept. 10-30                      Any bull	20F, Tanana River drainage  Sept. 5-25                              Any bull
20F, Remainder  Sept. 1-15                      Any bull	20F, Remainder  Sept. 1-15                      Any bull	20F, Remainder  Sept. 1-15                      Any bull

# Proposal 118

## Unit 20F

- 4,250 mi<sup>2</sup> of moose habitat
- No population surveys have been conducted.
- Low density moose population (.25-.5 moose per square mile).
- Population estimate is 1000-2000 moose.
- 2008-2012 average harvest = 51 moose per year
- 2008-2012 success rate = 31%
- ANS= 100-130 moose for 20F and 20C combined

# Proposal 118

- This proposal as written may:
  - Result in unsustainable harvest. An increase in pressure may occur because it would be the only unit in the area that would have a general moose season that goes until September 30.
  - This may be especially true in the area where the Tofty to Tanana road is being constructed.

# Proposal 118

Amending the proposal to have a Sept. 5-Sept 25 season in the Yukon and Tanana River drainage portion of the unit would:

- Align the season ending date with adjacent Units 20C and 21B (both sides of the Tanana river).
- Allow for hunting to occur during better seasonal conditions.
- Provide additional opportunity to hunt moose entering the rut.

# Proposal 118

Department Position: **Support with  
amendments**

# Proposal 119

**What would the proposal do?** Lengthen the resident winter moose season in that portion of Unit 20F in the Yukon River drainage downstream of Hess Creek and the Tanana River drainage.

Department Position: **Opposed**

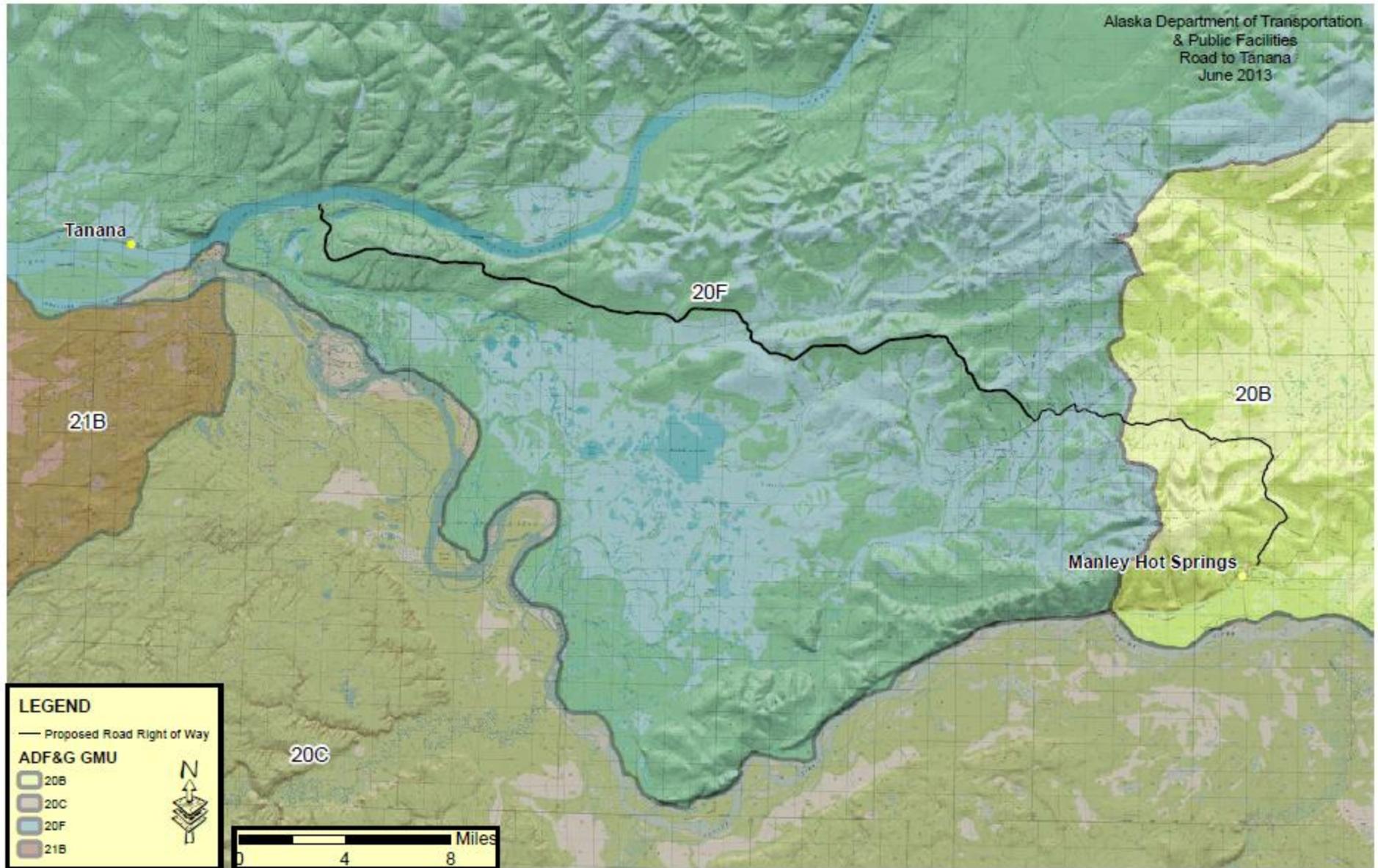
Fairbanks AC = Opposes

Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC = Support

# Proposal 119

## Issues

- No population estimate for the area.
- Shifted the season to a more successful time frame (proposal 118). Will probably see and increase in harvest.
- A new road (Tofty to Tanana road) is being constructed in the middle of this hunt area.
  - This will improve access
  - Would make this the only winter general season, “any bull” hunt on the road system.
  - Could lead to an increase in harvest



# Proposal 119

## Unit 20F

- 4,250 mi<sup>2</sup> of moose habitat
- No population surveys have been conducted.
- Low density moose population (.25-.5 moose per square mile).
- Population estimate is 1000-2000 moose.
- 2008-2012 average harvest = 51 moose per year (3 per year from the winter hunt)
- 2008-2012 success rate = 31%
- ANS= 100-130 moose for 20F and 20C combined

# Proposal 119

Department Position: **Oppose**

# Proposal 120

**What would the proposal do?** Require trophy destruction for all antlers of moose taken in the Yukon River and Tanana River drainages of Unit 20F.

Department position: **Neutral**

Fairbanks AC = Oppose

Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC = Support



# Proposal 120

## Unit 20F

- 4,250 mi<sup>2</sup> of moose habitat
- No population surveys have been conducted.
- Low density moose population (.25-.5 moose per square mile).
- Population estimate is 1000-2000 moose.
- 2008-2012 average harvest = 51 moose per year (3 per year from the winter hunt)
- 2008-2012 success rate = 31%
- ANS= 100-130 moose for 20F and 20C combined
- Average antler size = 42 inches
- Average number of moose harvest over 60" = 2 moose

# Proposal 120

## Issues with antler destruction

- The ANS is being met annually.
- Its not necessary to limit over harvest.
- The number of trophy moose being harvested is low (2 per year).

# Proposal 120

Department position: **Neutral**

# Proposal 121

**What would the proposal do?** Create a controlled use area (CUA) in Unit 20F that would extend 2 miles from each side of the new road from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana. This CUA would restrict motor vehicle use for the purposes of all hunting if the vehicles originated from the road.

Department position: **Neutral**

This proposal is an allocation issue.

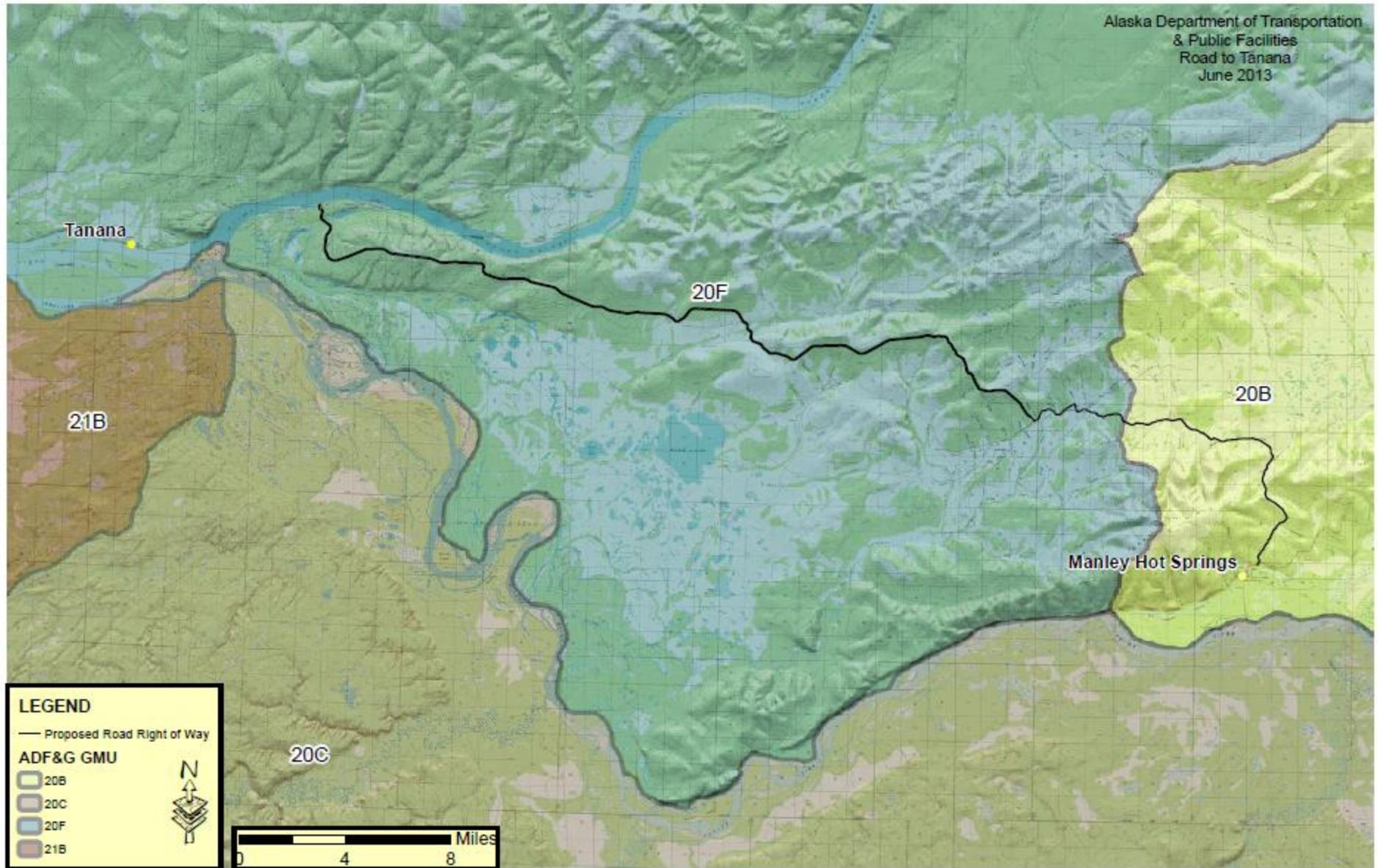
Fairbanks AC = Opposes

Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC = Supports

# Proposal 121

## The Manley to Tanana road

- Scheduled to begin construction in Summer 2014.
- The road will be approximately 40 miles long.
- The area affected by the proposal would be that portion of the road in Unit 20F.



# Proposal 121

- The Unit 20F average harvest during 2008-2012 = 51 moose.
- The average harvest in the area affected by the new road = 17 moose.
- Transportation methods for hunters that harvested moose in this portion of 20F are 43% ATVs, 29% boat, 22% highway vehicle, and 5% aircraft.
- The ANS of 100-130 moose for Unit 20C and 20F is being met.

# Proposal 121

- Construction of the road will likely increase access and harvest compared to current levels.
- Adopting this proposal would decrease access and likely cause a decrease in harvest compared to current levels.
- This proposal is an allocation issue.

# Proposal 121

Department Position: **Neutral**