Following a Tracking Harvest Strategy for Lynx Management in Southcentral Alaska
Managing under THS

**Criteria**
- Evidence of population change
- Percent kittens
- Food availability
- Habitat quality
- Pelt primeness
- Potential for orphaning young
- Harvest pressure

**Tools**
- Track counts
- Pelt measurements
- Pelt prices
- Carcasses exams
- Harvest data
- Trapper reports
- Snow conditions & access

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*Images: Lynx and rabbit.*
THS works very well as a management tool

Allows for department to make seasonal adjustments without waiting for board cycle

Particularly useful in Southcentral:
- Human populations & road system
- Trapper experience or knowledge

Ensures consistent criteria & tools are used

Maintains sound biological basis for management
Tracking Harvest Strategy (THS)

- THS designed to help managers respond to normal fluctuations in lynx populations.
- THS allows the department (through EO) to adjust lynx seasons annually to match lynx production and population levels.
- Triggers: When to increase opportunity—When to back off (hare abundance, primary is % kittens).
- Season limits: 10 Nov. – 28 Feb. for Southcentral (hunting and trapping).
- THS does not apply to bag limits.
- THS applies only to the road-connected units in Southcentral.
Lynx Harvest Trends in THS Areas and Southcentral, 1979-80 to 2013-14

- Southcentral
- Nelchina
- Kenai
- MatSu

Tracking Harvest Strategy
- Implemented
- Modified to allow annual changes

Hunting Included in THS

Slide 6
THS allows the department (through EO) to adjust lynx seasons annually to match lynx production and population levels.

Hare population declined in 2011-2012.

As expected Lynx harvest peaked and continued high for an additional year.

By Spring of 2014 harvest was down with only 18.8% kittens.

Lynx taken outside trapping season 34.8%

Lynx taken by “ground shooting” 35.4%

Take by subunit 2013-14:

- GMU 7: 12
- GMU 15A: 62
- GMU 15B: 31
- GMU 15C: 56