Kenai Peninsula
GMUs 7&15

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Kenai Peninsula
GMUs 7&15

Soldotna (Moose Research Center)
MRC Director: John Crouse
Research Biologist: Dan Thompson
Technician: Vacant

GIS Specialist: Liz Solomon
Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7 & 15

- 8,400 miles²
- Land ownership
  - 71% Federal
  - 29% State/Private/Borough/Native
- Human Population
  - > 50,000
Furbearers

- Wolf louse infestation (1982)
- Lynx trapping/hunting closed
- Ave annual lynx harvest 307 (2008-2013, high: 465)
- five trapping/furbearer proposals
Furbearer average annual harvest
(2009/10 – 2013/14)

• Marten: 132
• Beaver: 96
• Wolverine: 14
• Otter: 47
• Wolf: 40
Caribou

- 4 small herds
- All were reintroduced
- No caribou proposals
Kenai Peninsula Caribou Herds
Black Bears

- Population size: >3000
- Harvest peaked in 2010 (633) and steadily declined since
- Genetic study s. Kachemak Bay

- No black bear proposals
Black Bear Harvest and % Females in GMUs 7 & 15 (1973/74 - 2013/14)
Brown Bears

• Liberalized seasons/bag 2012-2014

• Since liberalizing the hunt we believe the population has decreased

• Bear human conflicts have also decreased

• 5 brown bear proposals
Human-caused brown bear mortalities in GMUs 7 & 15, 1961-2014

- General Season
- Reg. Season
- Hunter Harvest
- Non-hunting Mortality

# Bears Killed
Adult Female Brown Bear Mortality (≥5 years old) in GMUs 7 & 15, 1975-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adult Females</th>
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<td>2014</td>
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Wildlife Conservation Community Program
Moose

• Spike-Fork 50” antler restriction 1987-2010
• 4 brow tines or ≥50” antler restriction 2011-2012
• Spike, 50/4 antler restriction 2013-2014
• Population Size Trends
  ▶ 15A  Declining
  ▶ 15B  ????
  ▶ 15C  Stable
  ▶ 7    Declining
• 13 moose proposals
Kenai Peninsula Fire History

1971-2013

15A
15B
15C

1971-2013
Funny River Fire Boundary and Corresponding Moose Hunts in GMU 15B
Total Reported Moose Mortality in GMUs 7 & 15 (1976/77 - 2014/15)

Harvest, Roadkills

Moose Killed

General Season Moose Harvest and Hunter Numbers in GMUs 7&15 (1987/88 - 2014/15)
Unit 7 And 15 Moose Summary

- Currently habitat limited, Units 7, 15A, 15B?

- Moose population status depends on fire history

- Harvest strategy should include harvest of all sex and age classes where possible

- We have a chance to increase hunter opportunity based on most recent census and survey information in Unit 15C
Sheep

- Continued Population decline from late 1990s

- 700-800 sheep?

- One Kenai specific sheep proposal
Sheep population size trend and harvest in GMUs 7&15
1968 - 2014

Sheep population trend and harvest in GMUs 7&15
1968 - 2014

Population Trend → General Season Harvest
Mountain Goats

- Population decline from early 1990s
- Slowly increasing since 2006
- 3000-4000 goats
- No goat proposals
Goat population size trend and harvest in GMUs 7&15 1968 - 2014

- Population trend
- Harvest
Small Game

- Conducted ptarmigan surveys in 2013 (15C) and 2014 (7, 15A, and 15C)
- No population data for spruce grouse
- Hare population crashed 2011/12
Questions?