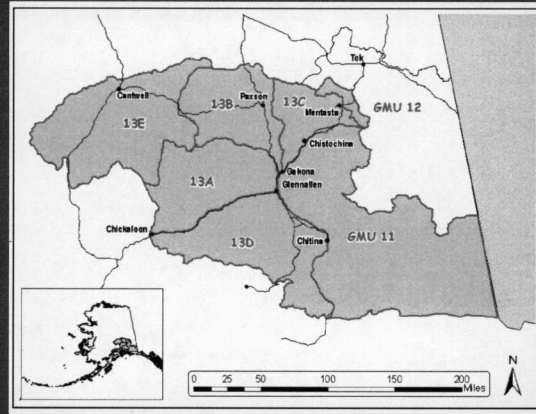


RCS

Unit 13 Moose and Caribou Update



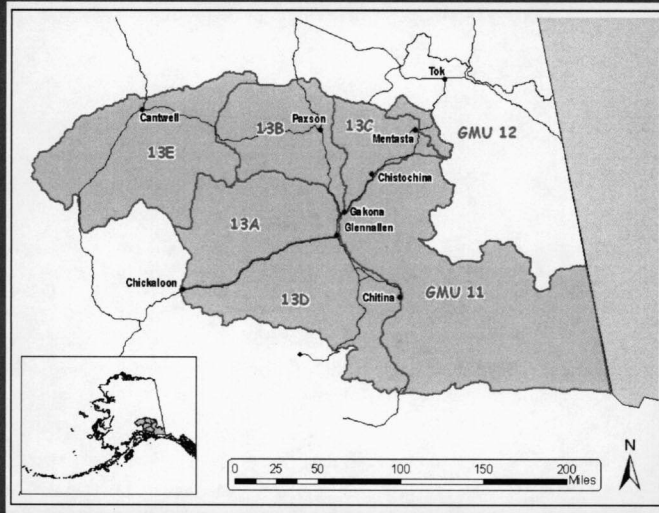
October 2013, Board of Game Work Session

Region IV
Div. of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Current Unit 13 Hunt Structure

- Developed between 2006 and 2009
- 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 Hunts
 - Caribou
 - Tier I Registration
 - Tier I Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH)
 - Draw
 - Moose
 - General (SF50)
 - Tier I Community Subsistence Harvest (SF50 + 100 "any bulls")
 - Resident Draw ("any bull")
 - Resident Draw (antlerless)
 - Non-resident Draw (SF50)

Copper Basin CSH Hunt Area

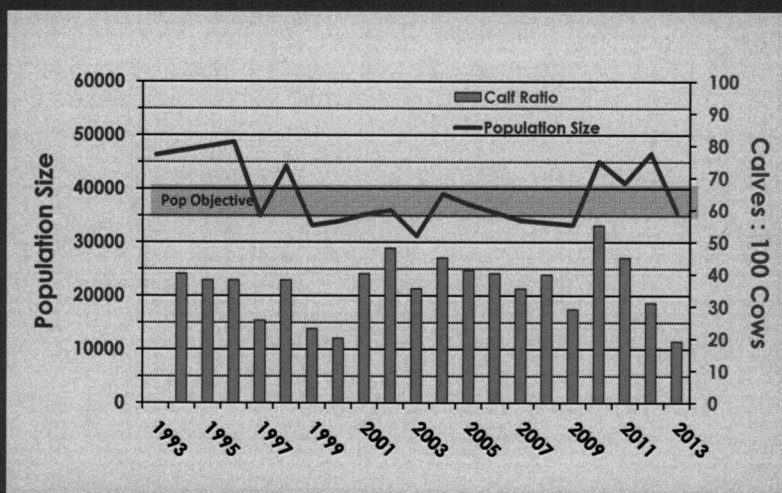


Copper Basin CSH hunt

- Copper Basin caribou: 1/household
 - May not hold any other state caribou harvest ticket or permit
 - May not hunt moose outside of the Copper Basin CSH hunt area
- Copper Basin moose: 1 SF50/person, up to 100 “any bulls”
 - May not apply for any state moose or caribou permits outside of the CSH hunt area
 - May not hold general season harvest tickets
- Designated Hunter, salvage requirements, no trophy destruction
- 2013 Participants

	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
Caribou	28	689	1,424
Moose	45	955	2,061

Nelchina Caribou Herd Population Status



Nelchina Caribou Herd Factors Affecting Status

- **Unanticipated weather events**
 - Late snowfall (May)
 - Rapid breakup (May and early June)
- **Effect on caribou**
 - Delayed migration
 - Higher mortality of all sex and age groups
 - Reduced pregnancy rates
 - Low calf survival
 - Low calf recruitment

Nelchina Caribou Herd Management Outlook

- Harvest quotas have been unusually high
- Return to more normal harvest quota
- Unusual break-up and resulting caribou distribution may have affected survey results
- Harvest quotas will continue to be adjusted based on the best available data

Nelchina Caribou Herd 2013 Management Actions

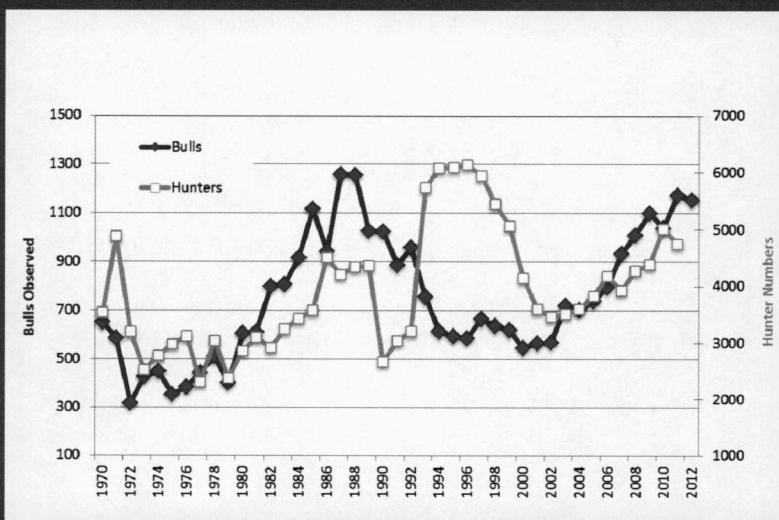
- 2013 Harvest Quota
2,500 caribou (2,200 bulls and 300 cows)
- Emergency Order
Cow season closure August 11

Federal Subsistence Board denied a Wildlife Special Action to close federal cow season

Nelchina Caribou Herd 2013 Preliminary Harvest Update

	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Draw	5,008	589
Tier I	6,878	1,537
Federal	?	53
CSH	689	112
Total Reported Harvest		2, 299
		(2,080 Bulls, 219 cows)
Emergency Order		
Closure of all State hunts		October 15

Unit 13 Moose Trends in Bull Moose and Moose Hunters



Unit 13 Moose RY2012 Reported Harvest

	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Success</u>
General Season	4,316	507	12%
Draw	122	46	38%
CSH	352	92	26%
Federal	645	59	9%
2012 Total Reported Harvest		704	

Unit 13 Moose RY2013 Reported Harvest

	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Success</u>
General Season	1,429	290	20%
Draw	25	9	36%
CSH	431	152	35%
Federal	?	?	?
2013 Preliminary Harvest		451	

Unit 11, 13, and a portion of 12 RY2013 CSH Moose Harvest

	<u>Quota</u>	<u>"Any Bull"</u>	<u>SF/50</u>	<u>EO date</u>
11	10	0	1	Aug 16
13A	16	42	33	Aug 14
13B	26	23	13	Aug 16
13C	16	1	2	Aug 16
13D	11	7	6	Aug 16
13E	21	12	19	Aug 16
Total Reported "Any Bull" Harvest				85
Total Harvest				159

CSH hunters can continue hunting SF/50 bulls after Emergency Closures

RY2013 Hunt Summary

- **Caribou**
 - Unanticipated effects of prolonged winter
 - Return to more normal harvest quotas
 - Caribou distribution slowed harvest rate and limited success
- **Moose**
 - CSH:**
 - Harvest in Unit 13A affected other CSH hunt areas
 - General Season:**
 - Complaints that there are "not enough moose"
 - Some hunters point to CSH hunt as the problem
- **Common Complaint – Too many hunters**

Copper Basin CSH Hunt Update

- Pending litigation (2 cases)
- Increasing number of CSH groups and participants
- An emergency petition to repeal the CSH hunt was received in August and denied
- Regulatory changes adopted in March 2013 have not been implemented yet
- Agenda Change Request to modify some Unit 13 Tier I hunts to better improve the CSH moose hunt

Copper Basin CSH Hunt Update Upcoming changes to the CSH hunt (RY 2014)

- **New Application Process**
 - Group application Oct 1 – Dec 16
 - Individual application Nov 1 – Dec 16
- **New Allocation of Bag Limit for CSH Hunters**
 - One “any bull” for every 3 households
 - CSH locking tags issued to Group Coordinator
 - Transferable
 - Must be in possession to harvest an “any bull”
 - Must be immediately affixed to the antler of a bull that does not meet the general season antler requirement
 - CSH hunters can hunt SF/50 moose without a CSH locking tag
- **New Winter Registration Hunt (Dec 1 - 31)**

Copper Basin CSH Hunt Update Agenda Change Request

**ACR to modify the Unit 13 Tier I hunts
to meet CSH moose hunt subsistence needs**

- Minimum of 25 households per group
- Commitment of 5 consecutive years
- All households must hunt (all species) and fish in CSH hunt area
- New communities/groups must submit proposal to BOG
- Eliminate requirement for Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13
- Consider other solutions developed by public and AC

No Recommendation