

# Proposal 101

Create a regulation allowing harvest of moose  
under a permit for a “celebration of life” event  
5 AAC 92.XXX



Yukon Flats AC Proposal

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL

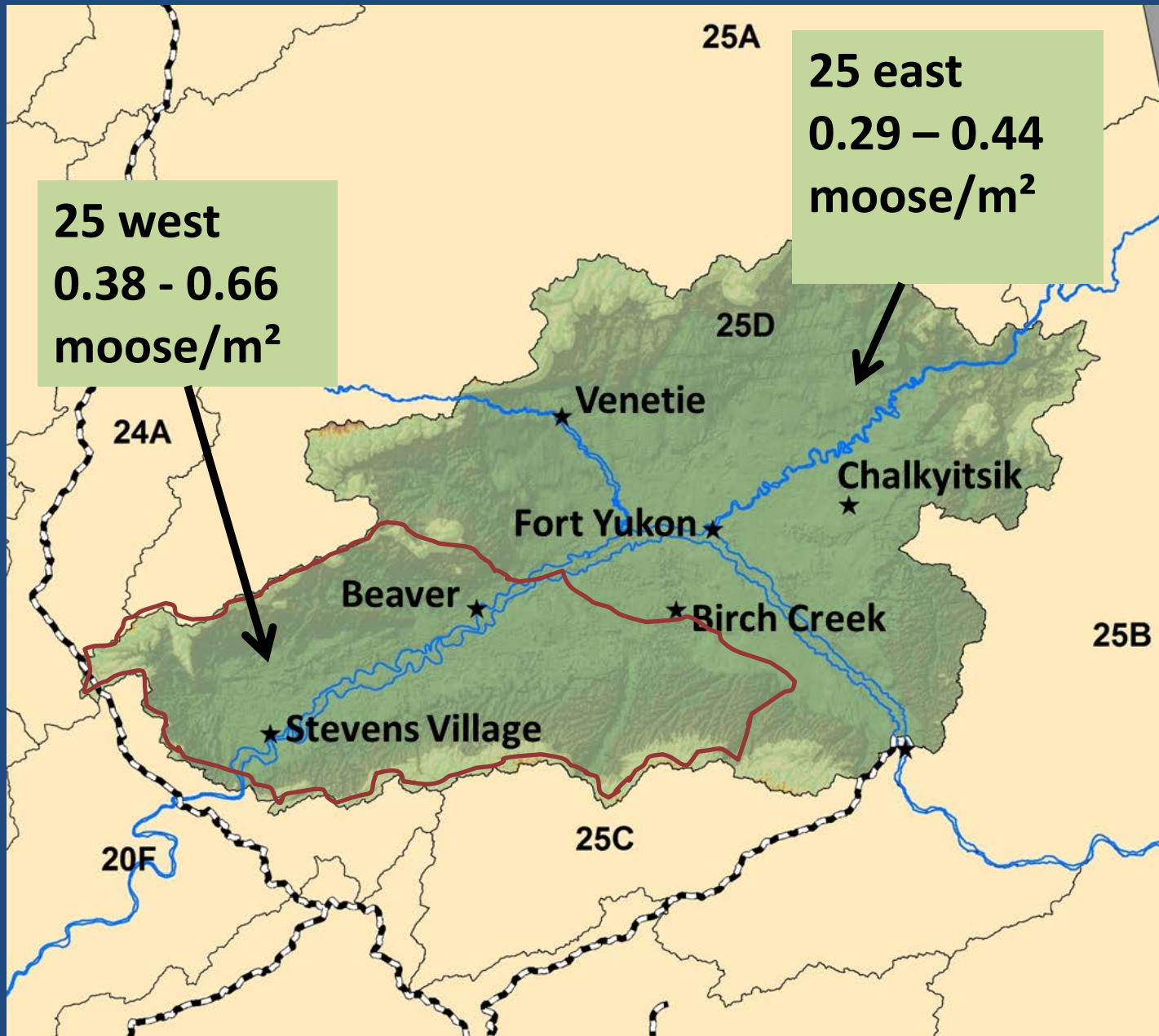
# Current Regulations

- Positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 25
- Intensive management
  - population objective: 10,000 – 15,000 moose
  - harvest objective: 600 – 1,500 moose

Unit 25D west	Unit 25D east
ANS: 50 – 70 moose	ANS: 150 – 250 moose
Closed, except for federally qualified users on federal land	Green ticket , state administered
State Tier II hunt on state land	

# Background

- Funeral or mortuary ceremonies
  - 5 AAC 92.019 – Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies
  - 5 AAC 92.017 – Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony
  - 5 AAC 92.055 - Stickdance permit
- Annual celebration
  - 5 AAC92.053 - Nuchalawoyya Potlatch
- Cultural/Education permit (5 AAC 92.034)





# Harvest Levels

Harvest ticket/permit reporting (annual avg RY 2010-2014)		Household surveys
25D west	25D east	Unit 25D communities
75 permits	97 hunters	2008: 105 moose
5 moose	24 moose	2009: 124 moose
22% success	30% success	

# Proposal 101

Create a regulation allowing the harvest of moose under a permit for a “celebration of life” event

**Department recommendation: NEUTRAL**

- no harvest of cows
- specify qualifying events

## **PROPOSAL 102**

**Evaluate a separate ANS for subsistence  
for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd  
(*in Units 21, 24, 26B, 26C*)**

**Submitted by: North Slope Regional  
Advisory Council**

**NEUTRAL**

## **PROPOSAL 103**

**Modify the hunt structure for the Western  
Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds  
(*in Units 21, 24, 26B, 26C*)**

**Submitted by: ADFG**

**TAKE NO ACTION**

**Effect: Change caribou harvest reporting from a  
harvest ticket to registration permit  
in Units 21, 24, 26B, 26C**

### PROPOSAL 105

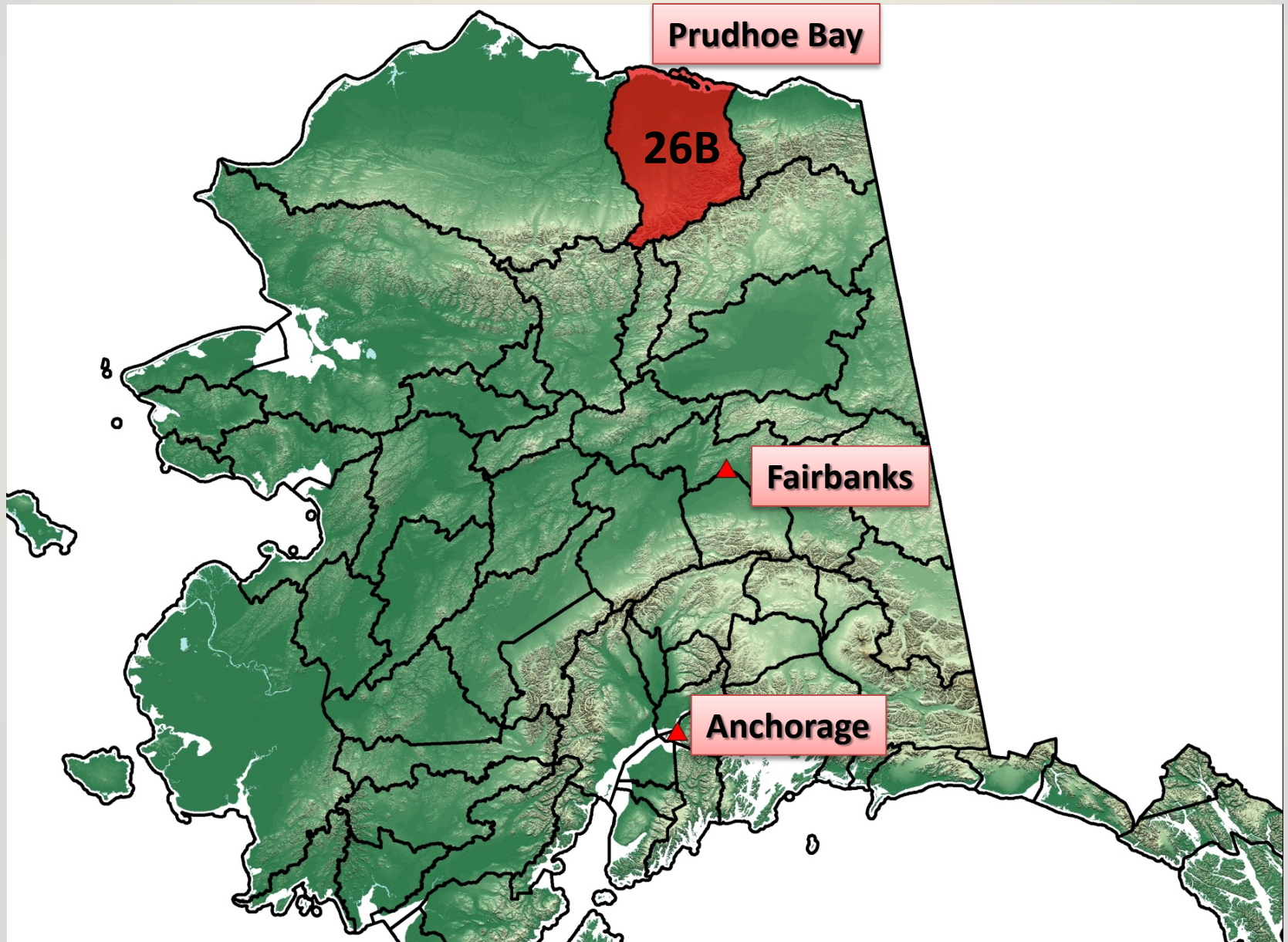
- Reduce nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B from 5 caribou to 2 bulls
- Reduce resident cow season by opening on August 1 vs. July 1

Submitted by: Resident hunters of AK

**SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS**

## Proponent's Issues:

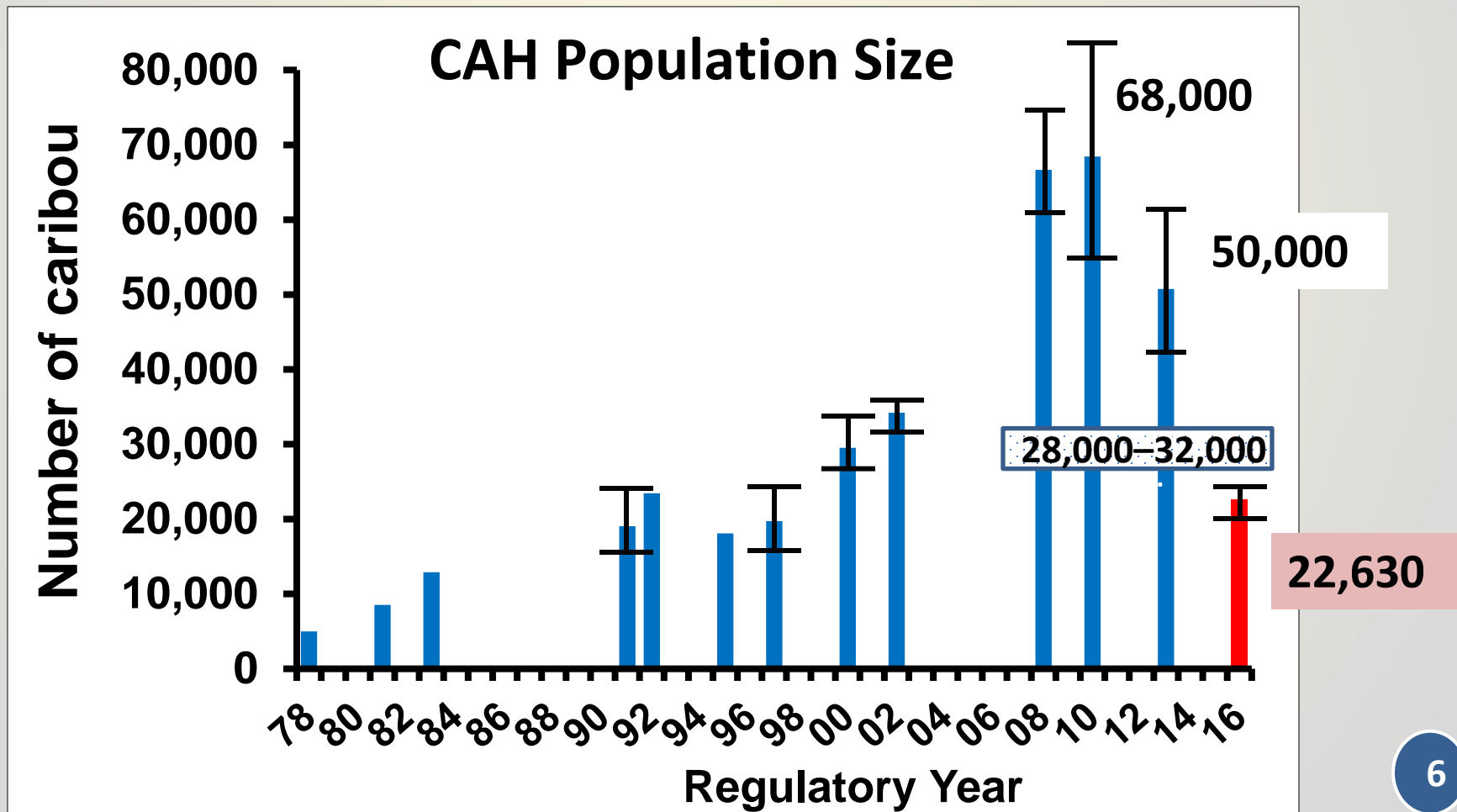
- Liberal bag limit for nonresidents
  - wanton waste
- Harvest of cows in July





**CAH Population Objective: 28,000–32,000**

**CAH Population Size in 2016: 20,000–25,000**





## What is the Harvest Rate?

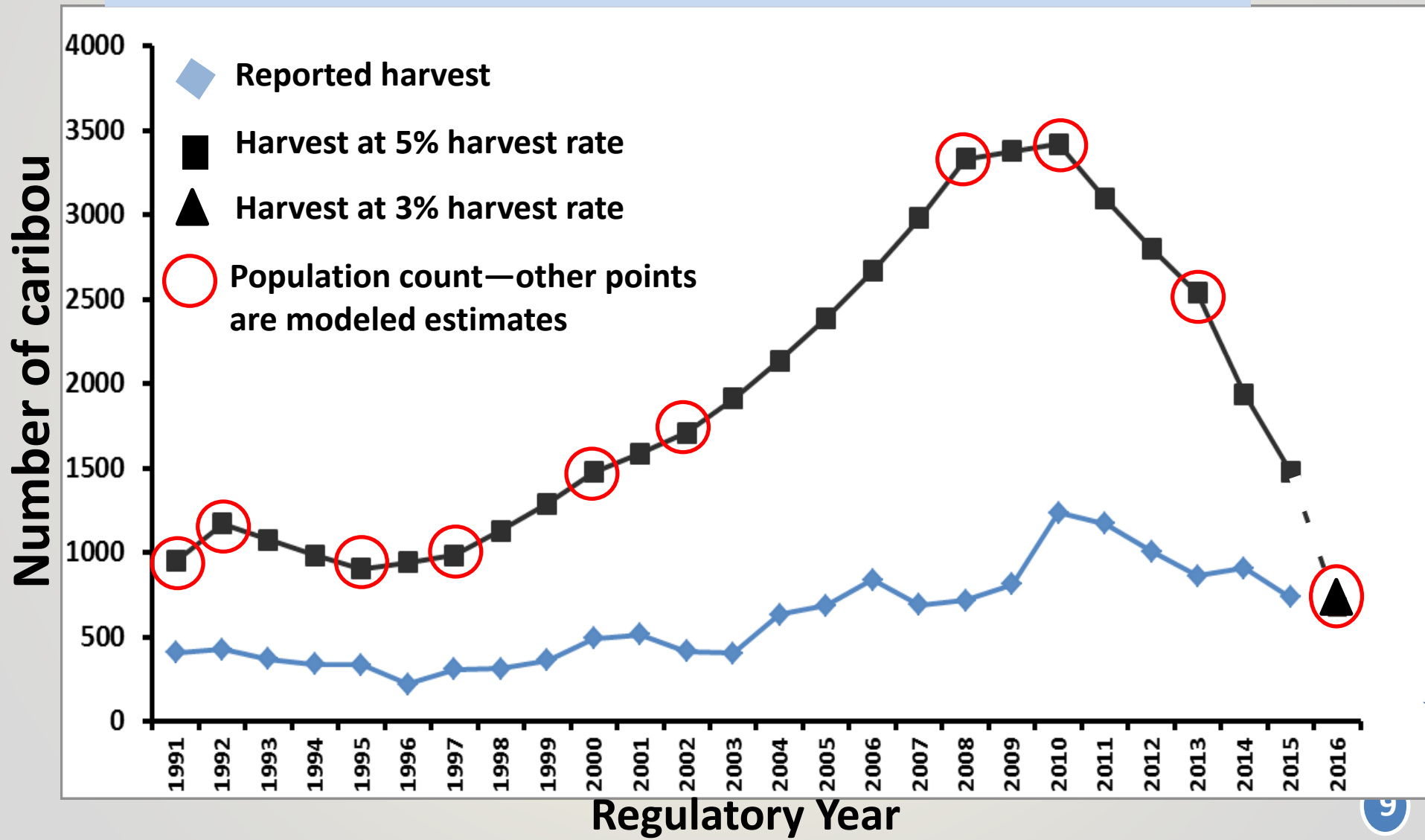
- **Below Management Objective**
- **Apply 3% harvest rate**
- **Restrict harvest of cows**
- **Allow for some herd growth**

## How many caribou can we harvest?

**3% of 22,630 caribou = 680 caribou, (and  $\leq 75$  cows)**

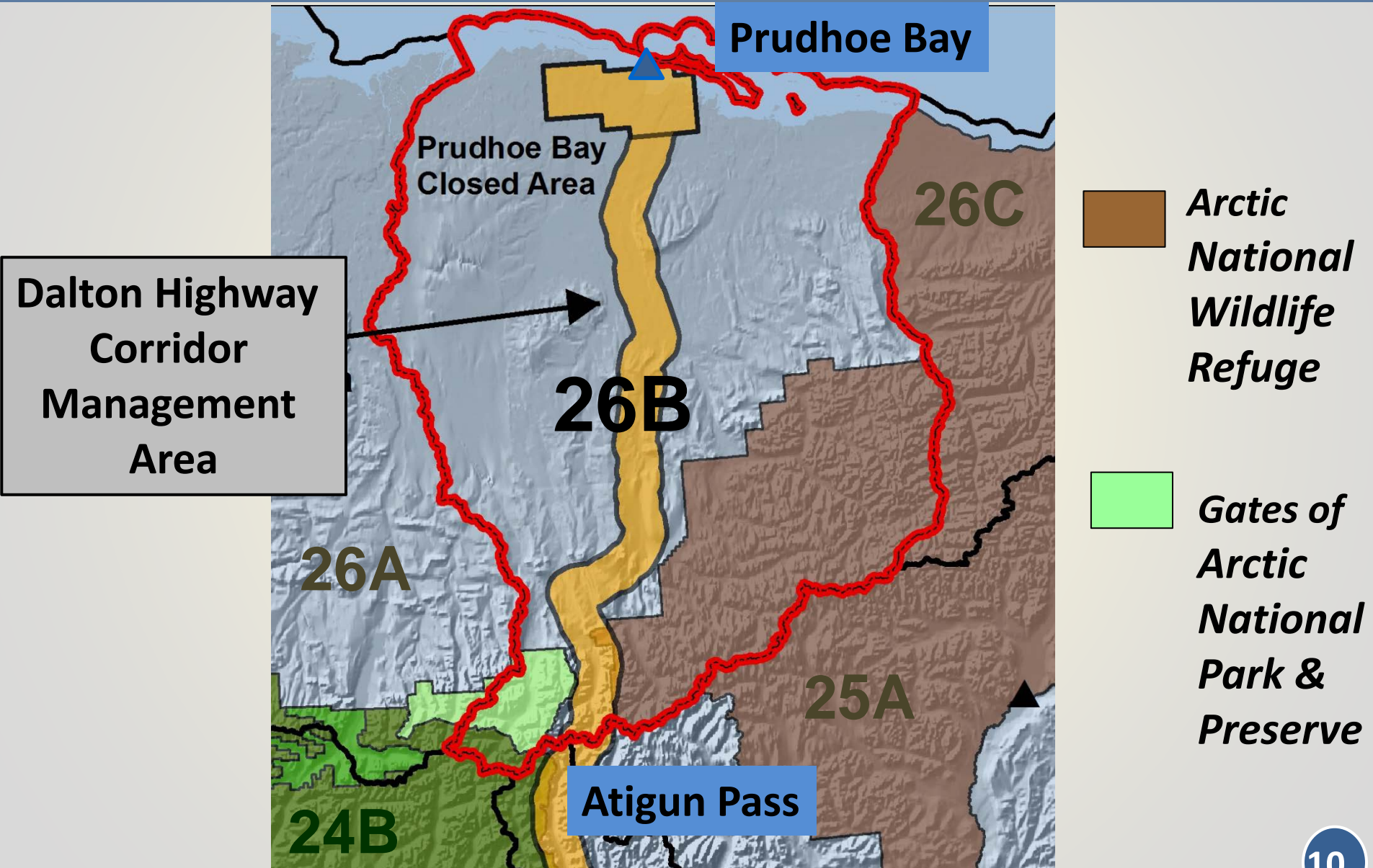
<b>3 Year Average Harvest:</b>	<b>930 caribou</b>
<b>Harvest at 3%:</b>	<b>- 680 caribou (<math>\leq 75</math> cows)</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Reduce harvest by:</b>	<b>250 caribou</b>

### Harvest Rate, Reported Harvest, Population Size



# Proposal 105

Caribou/Unit 26B





## Current Regs in 26B

NW 26B (residents)  
5 caribou/day  
No closed for bulls,  
July 1–May 15, cows

Nonresid.  
5 caribou/year  
July 1– Apr. 30

26B North  
5 caribou/year  
July 1–Apr 30, both

69°30'

26B

26B Southeast  
5 caribou/year  
No closed for bulls,  
July 1–May 15, cows

26B Southwest  
5 caribou/year  
Jul 1–Oct 10, &  
May 16–Jun 30, bulls  
July 1–Oct 10, cows

ANS=250–450

## AMENDMENTS

- Provide a starting point for the Board
- Neutral on allocative portions

### Result:

- ✓ 3% harvest rate = 680 caribou
- ✓ No more than 75 cows
- ✓ Need to reduce harvest by 250 caribou

## AMENDMENTS

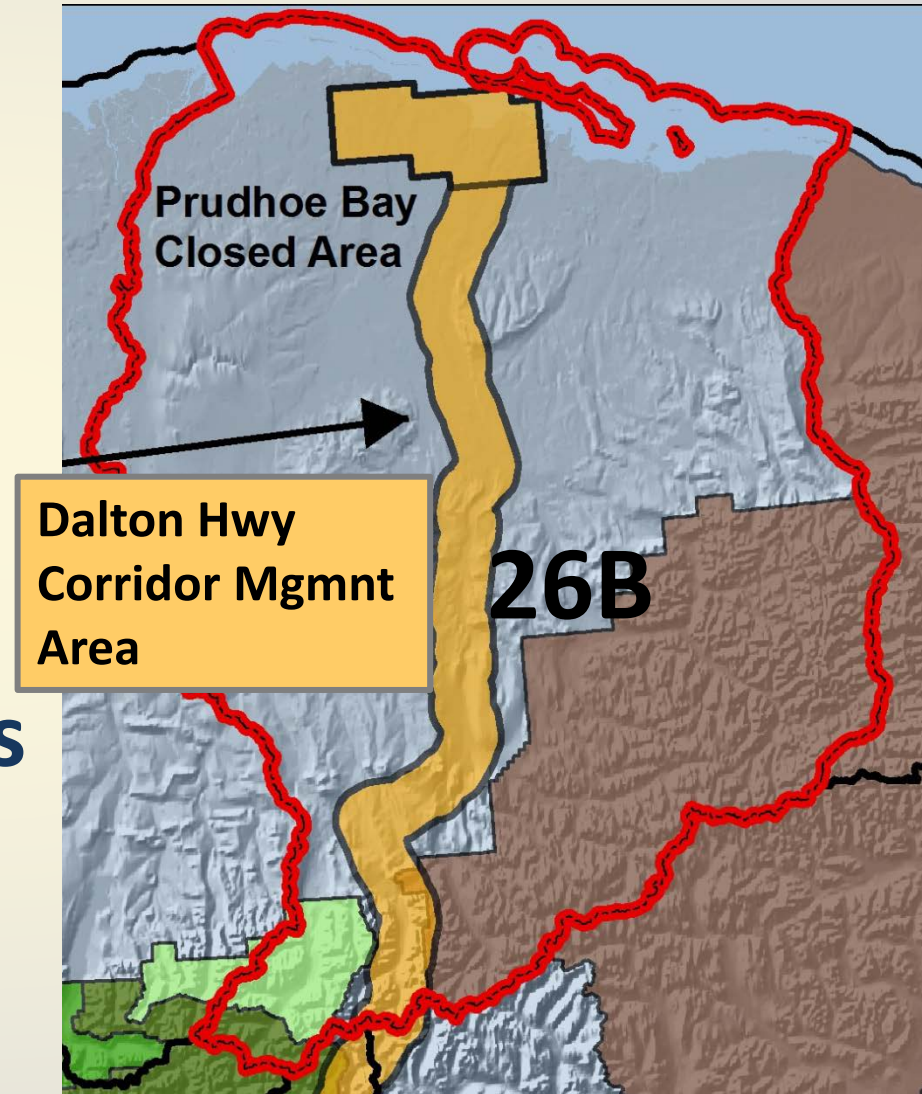
### Rationale:

- ✓ Herd decline
- ✓ Below Population Objective

### AMENDMENTS

- In all Unit 26B,  
**Reduce Nonresident**
- bag limit to 1 bull
  - season to 1½ months

**AND**



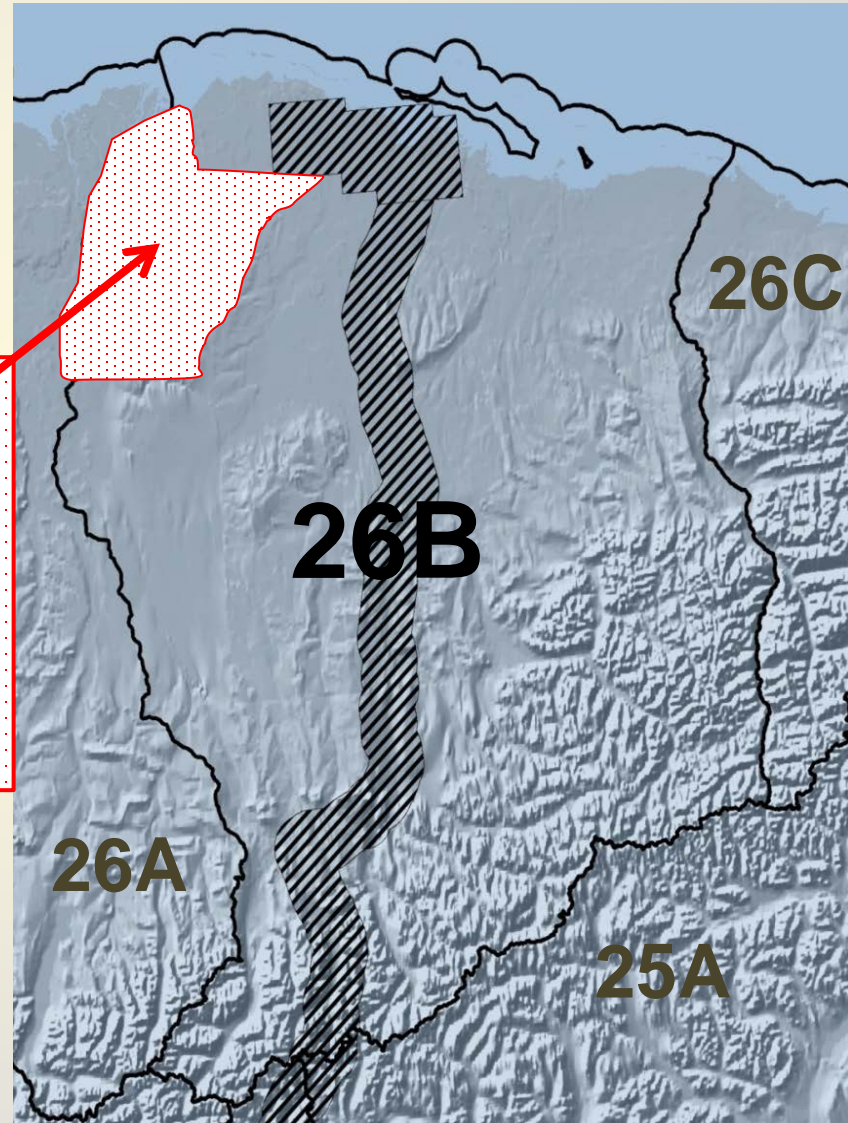


### *AMENDMENTS Cont'd*

## NW 26B, Keep Resident

### NW 26B (residents)

- 5 caribou/day
- No closed for bulls,
- July 1–May 15, cows

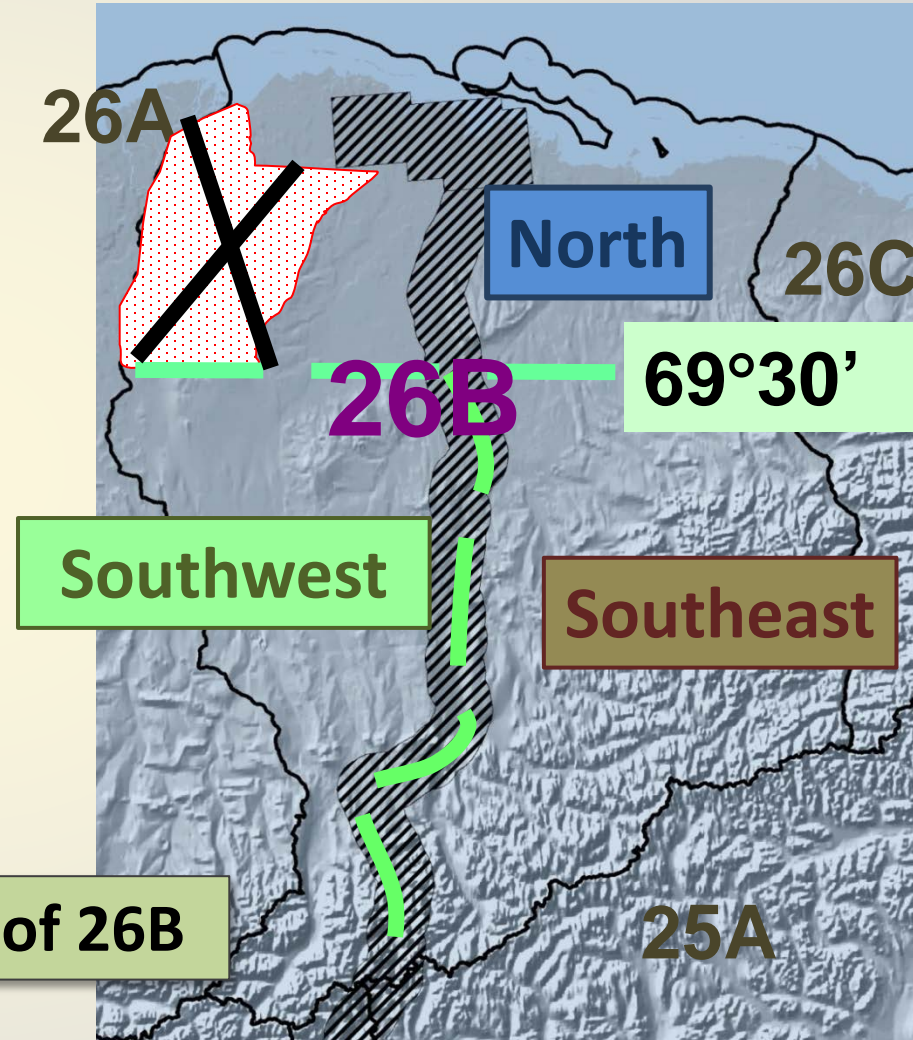


### *AMENDMENTS Cont'd*

## Remainder of 26B, Reduce Resident

- ✓ bag limit to 2 caribou
- ✓ bull season by 3 months
- ✓ cow season by 4½ months

Aligns seasons within remainder of 26B



### AMENDMENTS

#### NW 26B (residents)

- No change

5 caribou/day  
No closed for bulls,  
July 1–May 15, cows

#### Remainder 26B (residents)

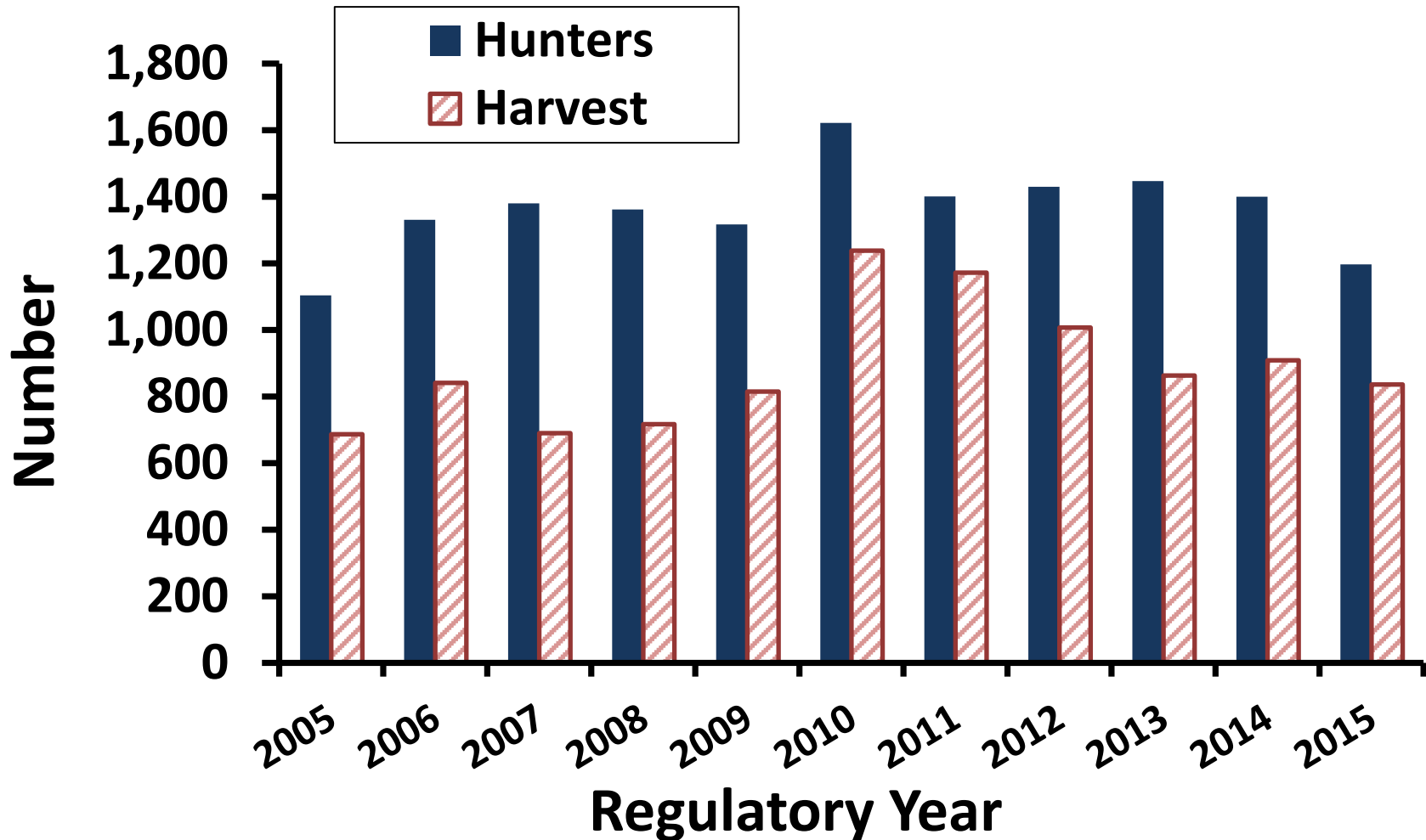
2 caribou/year  
Aug. 1–Apr. 30, bulls  
Nov. 1–Apr. 30, cows

#### 26B (nonresidents)

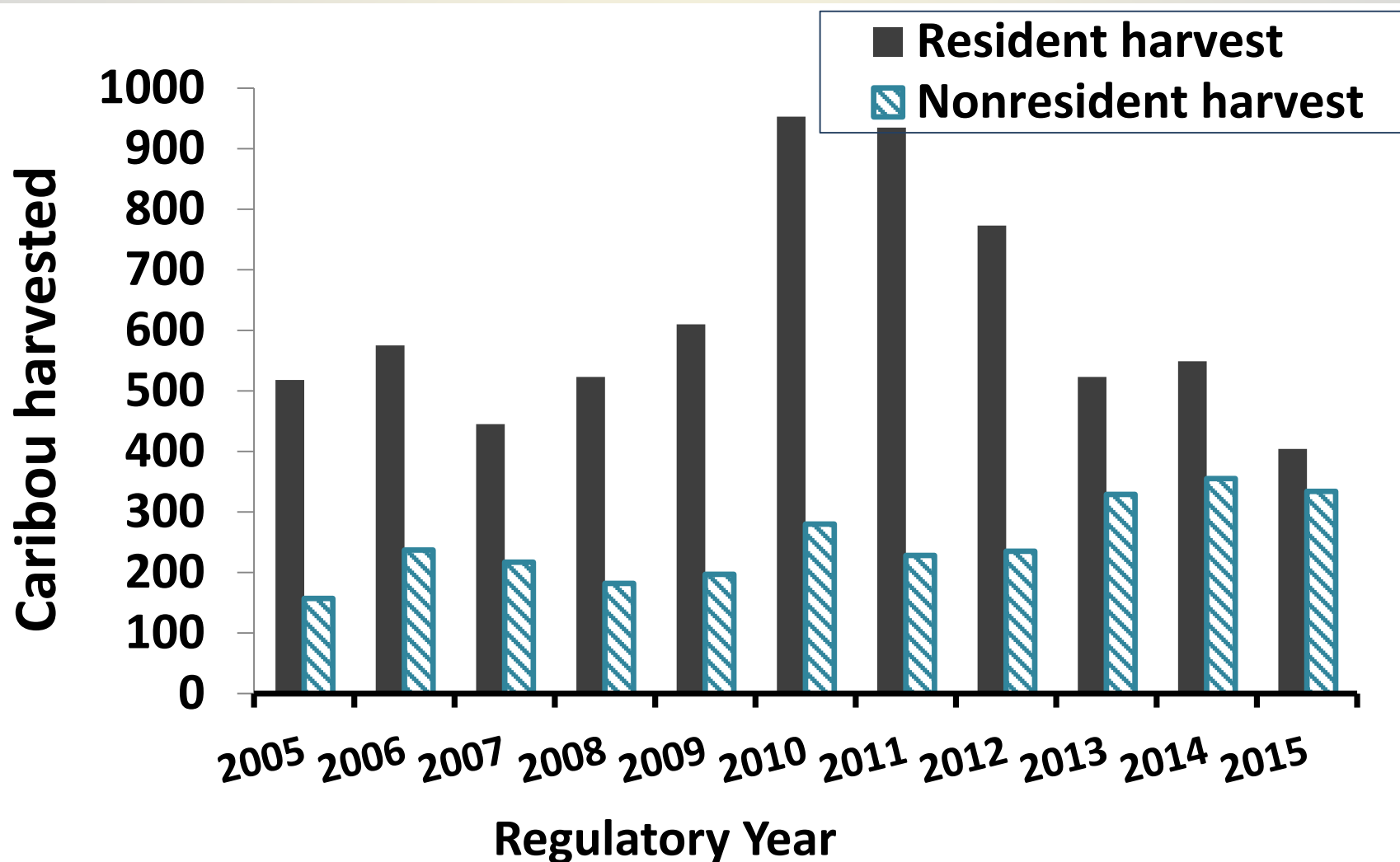
1 bull/year  
Aug. 1–Sept. 15



## Reported Hunters & Harvest of CAH, 2005-2015



### Reported CAH Harvest by residency, 2005-2015



## Harvest of CAH by Residency

<u>Residency</u>	RY13–RY15		Success Rate
	Harvest	Hunters	
Unit 26A Residents	100	na	na
Other Alaska Residents	490	910	38%
Nonresident	340	430	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>930</b>		

**3 % Harvest Rate = 680 caribou**

## Harvest of Female CAH by Residency

**RY13–RY15**

<u>Residency</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
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Unit 26A Residents	20
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Other Alaska Residents	158
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<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>24</u>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>
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Recommend no more than 75 cows be harvested

## Proportion of Harvest by Residency

<u>Residency</u>	RY06–RY15	
	RY13–RY15 proportion of harvest	10 yr historical proportion of harvest
Unit 26A Residents	11%	10%
Other Alaska Residents	53%	64%
Nonresident	36%	26%



# Chronology of Bull Harvest by Residency, RY13-RY15

Period	Nonresident	Other Alaskans	Unit 26A Residents	
July	4	5	15	
Aug. 1–7	35	12	10	
Aug. 8–15	47	34	10	
Aug. 16–23	73	43	10	
Aug. 24–31	90	80	10	
Sept. 1–7	38	57	10	Allowable bull harvest = 605–680
Sept. 8–30	19	40	5	
Oct–March	9	41	5	
Apr–June	1	22	5	
Total	316	+ 334	+ 80 =	730

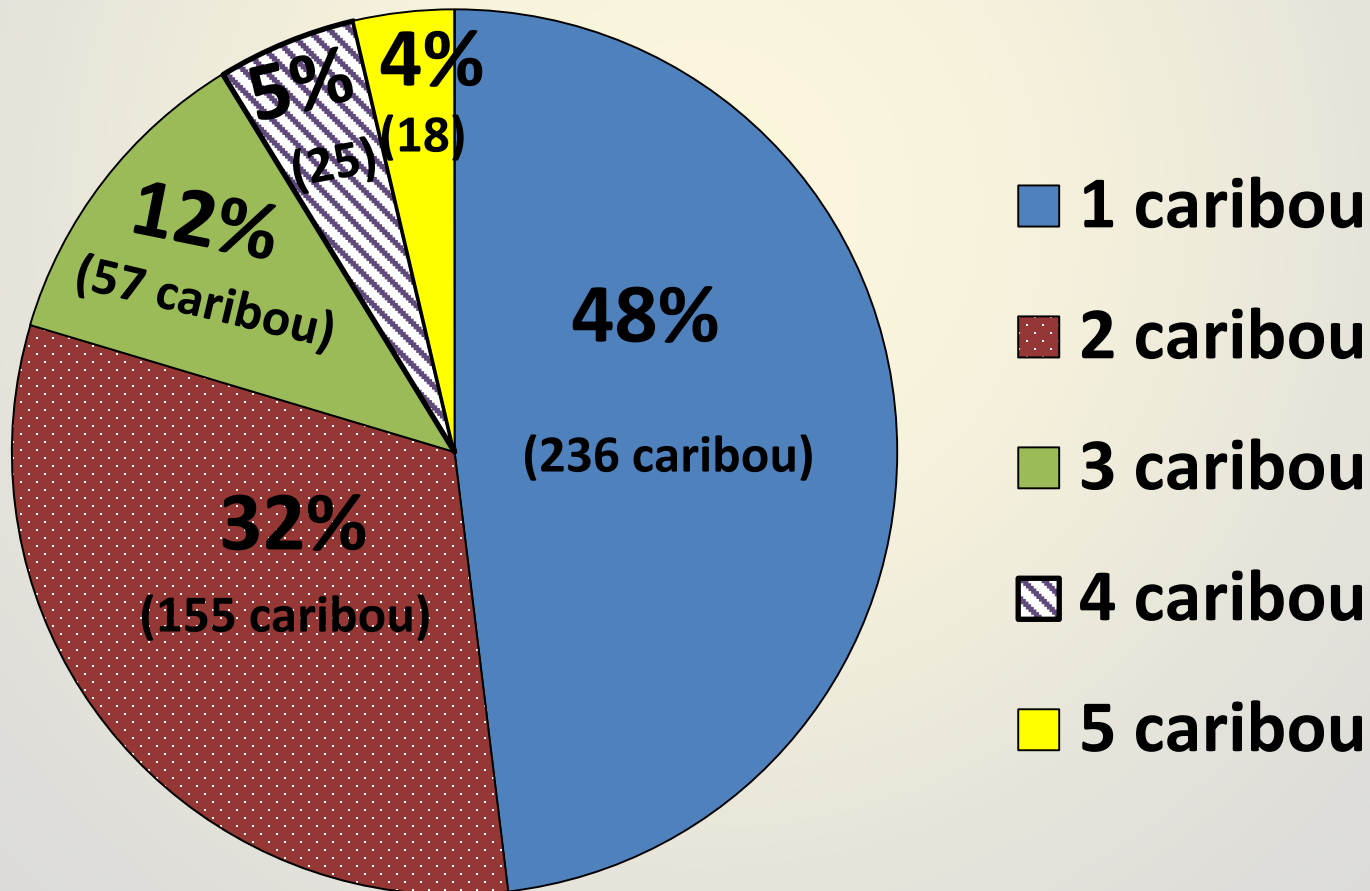
# Chronology of Cow Harvest by Residency, RY13-RY15

Period	Nonresident	Other Alaskans	Unit 26A Residents
July	1	1	3
Aug. 1–7	1	7	3
Aug. 8–15	4	19	2
Aug. 16–23	3	20	2
Aug. 24–31	8	31	2
Sept. 1–7	4	19	2
Sept. 8–Oct. 30	4	27	2
Nov–March	1	2	2
Apr–June	0	33	2
Total	24	+ 158	+ 20 = 202

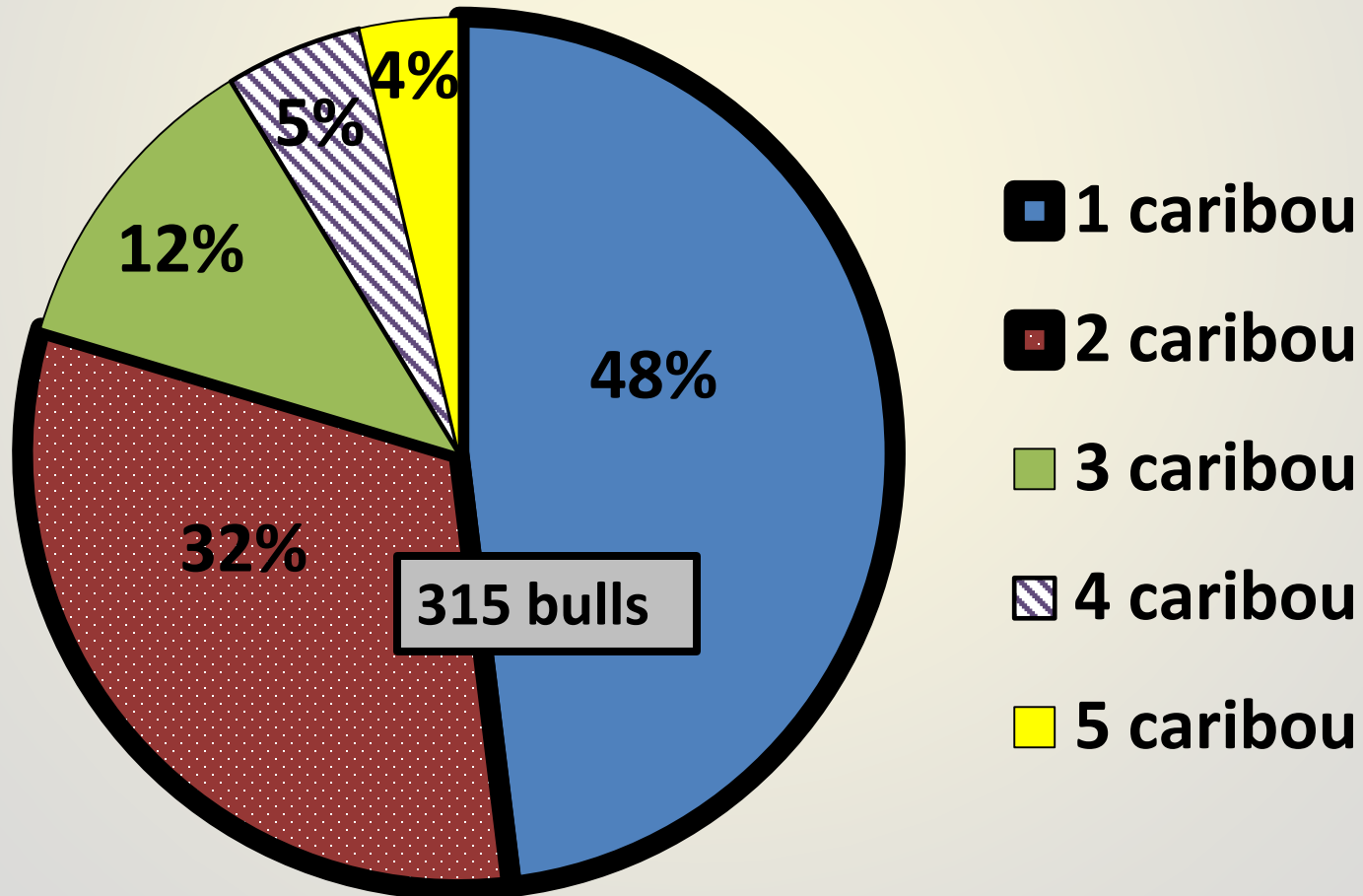
Allowable  
Cow  
harvest =  
0–75

24

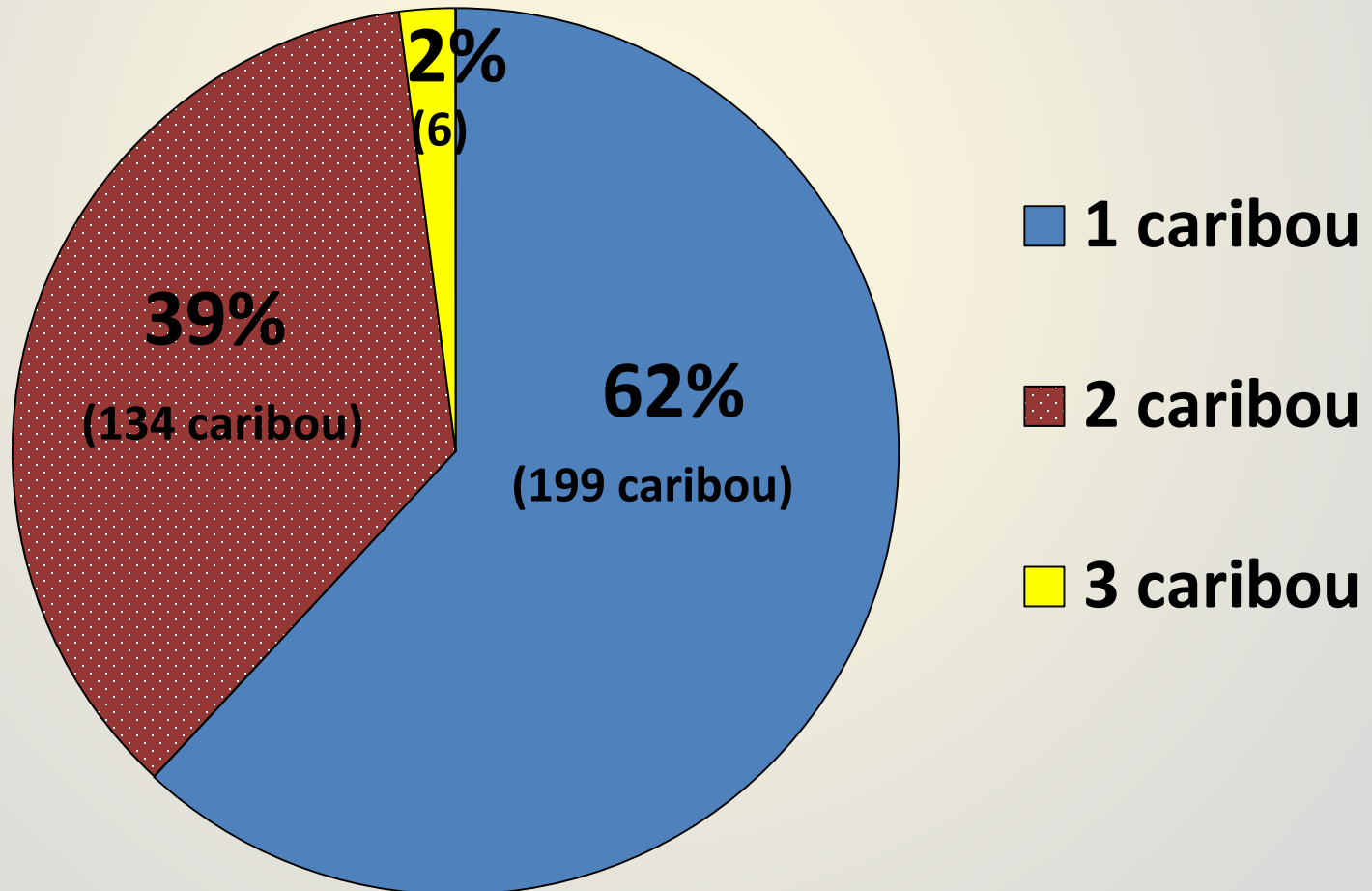
### Proportion of Resident Harvest by Bag Limit, RY13–RY15



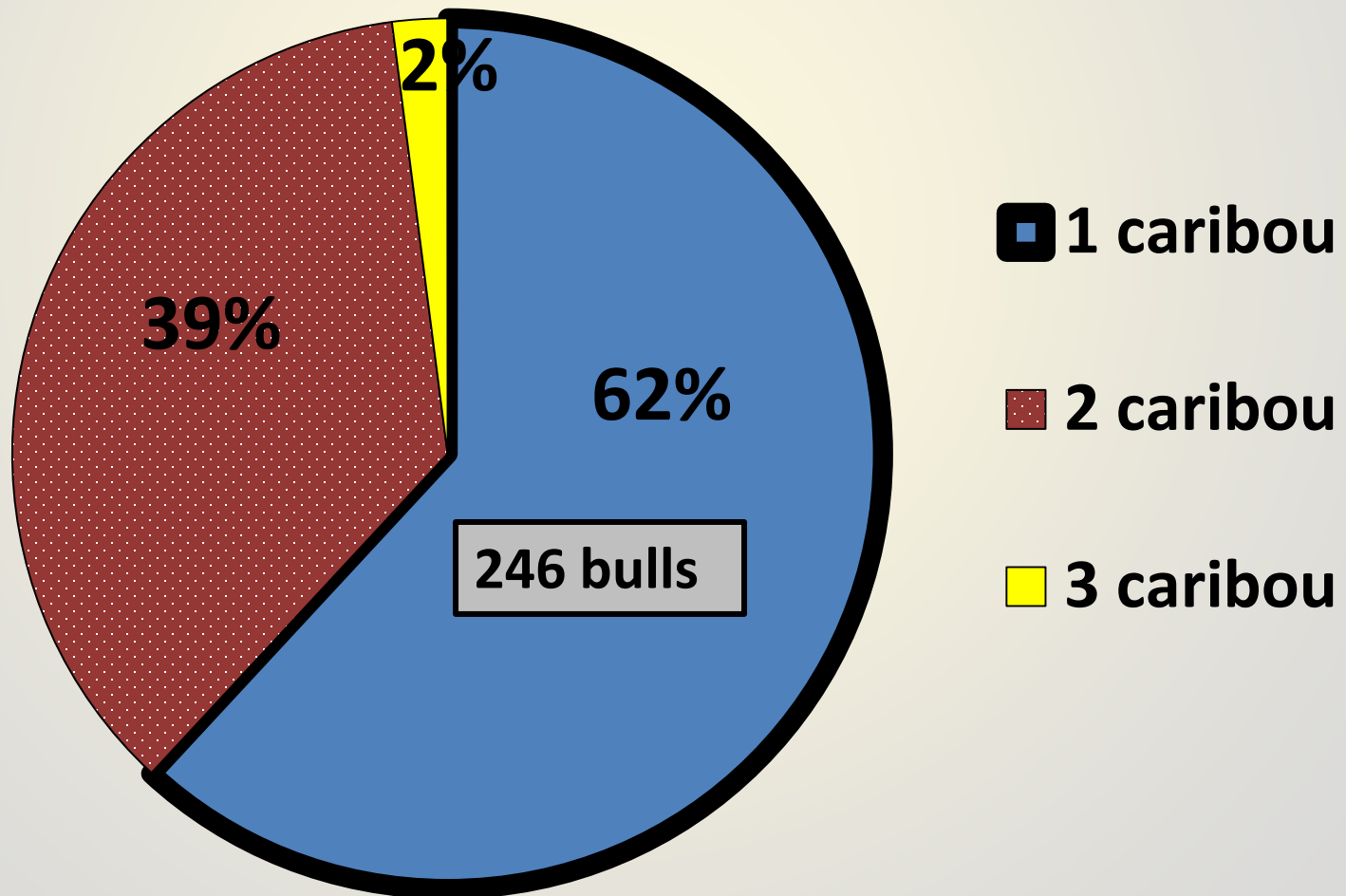
### Proportion of Resident Harvest by Bag Limit, RY13–RY15



### Proportion of Nonresident Harvest by Bag Limit, RY13–RY15



### Proportion of Nonresident Harvest by Bag Limit, RY13–RY15



### Incorporating proposed bag limit to predict harvest

**Extracted Bull harvest using proposed lower bag limits:**

**315 Other Alaska resident harvest (2 bulls, all year)**

**246 Nonresident harvest (1 bull, July 1–Oct 30)**

**+ 80 Unit 26A resident harvest (bulls, all year)**

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**641 Total extracted bull harvest**

**(Allowable harvest for bulls = 605–680)**

*Incorporating proposed bag limit to predict harvest cont'd*

### Extracted Cow harvest post Nov. 1:

20 Unit 26A resident harvest

35 Other Alaska resident harvest

55 Total extracted cow harvest

**(Allowable harvest for cows =  $\leq 75$ )**



## Other options to consider for Nonresidents:

1. Use a different proportion of harvest
2. Implement drawing or registration permit hunt
3. Adjust season length and/or period

### **Other options to consider for Residents:**

- 1. Close cow season in remainder 26B**
- 2. Reduce season and/or bag limit in NW 26B**
- 3. Adjust resident season in remainder 26B**

### AMENDMENTS

#### NW 26B (residents)

- No change

5 caribou/day

No closed for bulls,  
July 1–May 15, cows

#### Remainder 26B (residents)

2 caribou/year

Aug. 1–Apr. 30, bulls

Nov. 1–Apr. 30, cows

#### 26B (nonresidents)

1 bull/year

Aug. 1–Sept. 15

### PROPOSAL 105

- Reduce nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B from 5 caribou to 2 bulls
- Reduce resident cow season by opening on August 1 vs. July 1

Submitted by: Resident hunters of AK

**SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS**

## PROPOSAL 104

- Expand caribou bag limits for Units 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, 26C  
*(Align seasons and bag limits within the CAH and PCH ranges)*

Submitted by: ADFG

**SUPPORT with Amendments for the PCH range**

**TAKE NO ACTION for the CAH in Unit 26B**

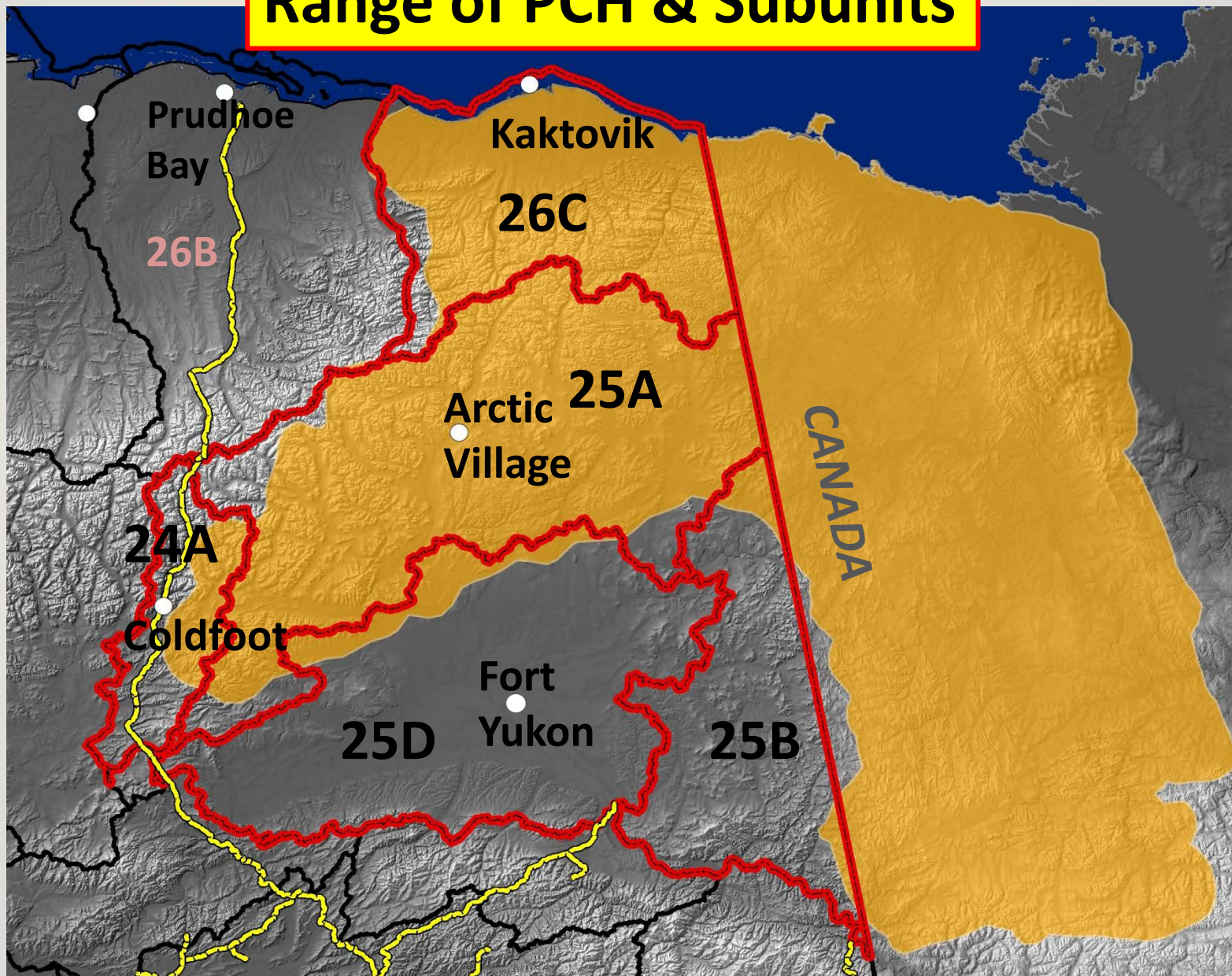
## Issues:

- Align seasons and bag limits within PCH range
- Simplify & clarify regulations
- Increase opportunity for residents



## Range of PCH & Subunits

PCH  
Range





# Proposal 104

Caribou/Units 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D 26B, 26C

## Residents

Units 24A, north of south bank Kanuti R.

5 caribou/day, NO CALF

July 1–Oct 14 & Feb 1–June 30, bulls

July 15–Apr 30, cows

25A West: 10 caribou/year

No closed season, bulls

July 1–May 16, cows

25A East, 25B, 25D (excl, west fork

Dall R.)

10 caribou/year

July 1–April 30.

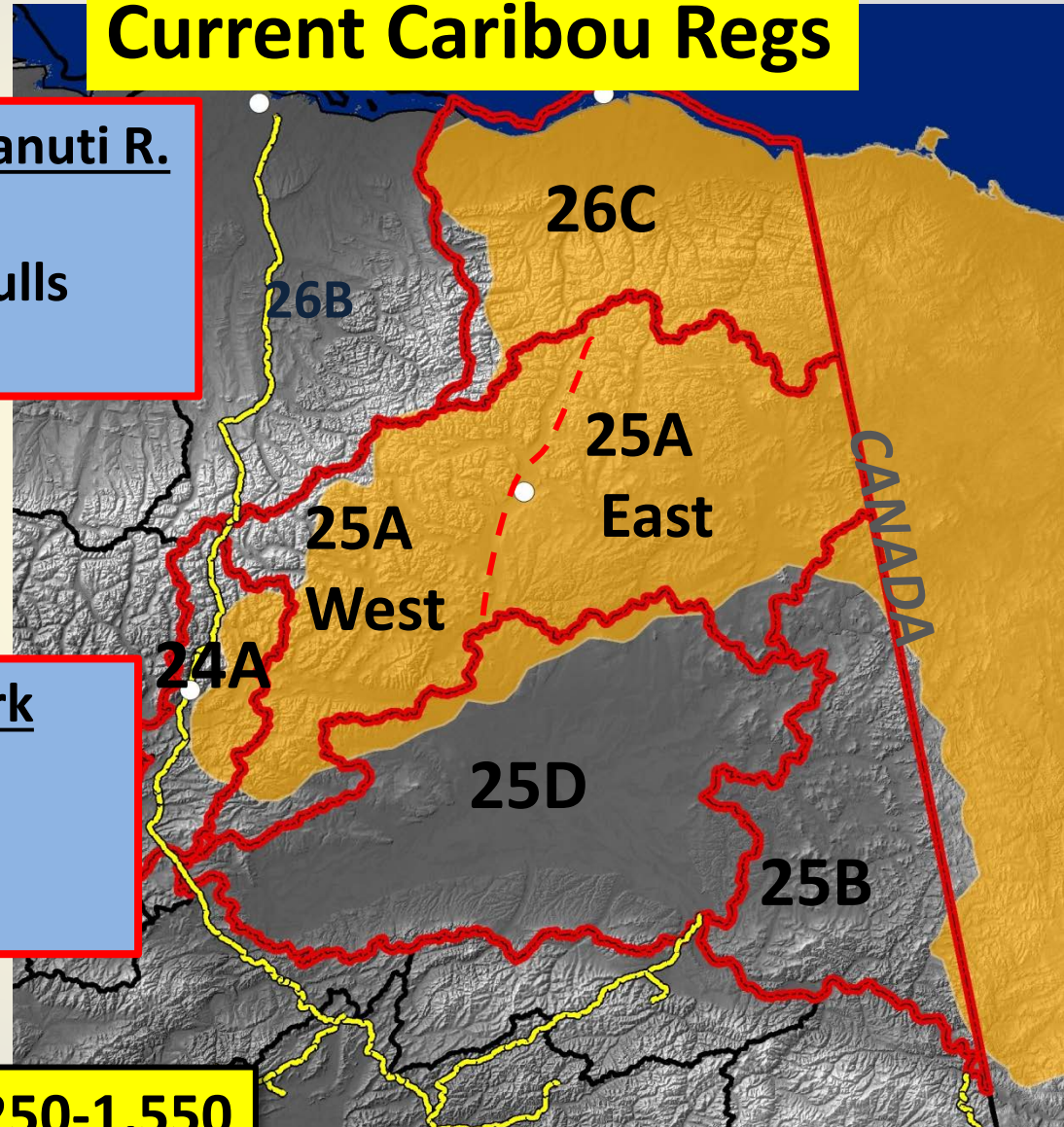
26C : 10 caribou/year

July 1–April 30

June 23–30 bull.

**ANS=1,250-1,550**

## Current Caribou Regs



**PCH Range**

# Proposal 104

Caribou/Units 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D 26B, 26C

## Nonresidents

## Current Caribou Regs

Units 24A, north of south bank Kanuti R.

1 bull, NO CALF

Aug. 1–Sept 30

25A West: 5 caribou/year

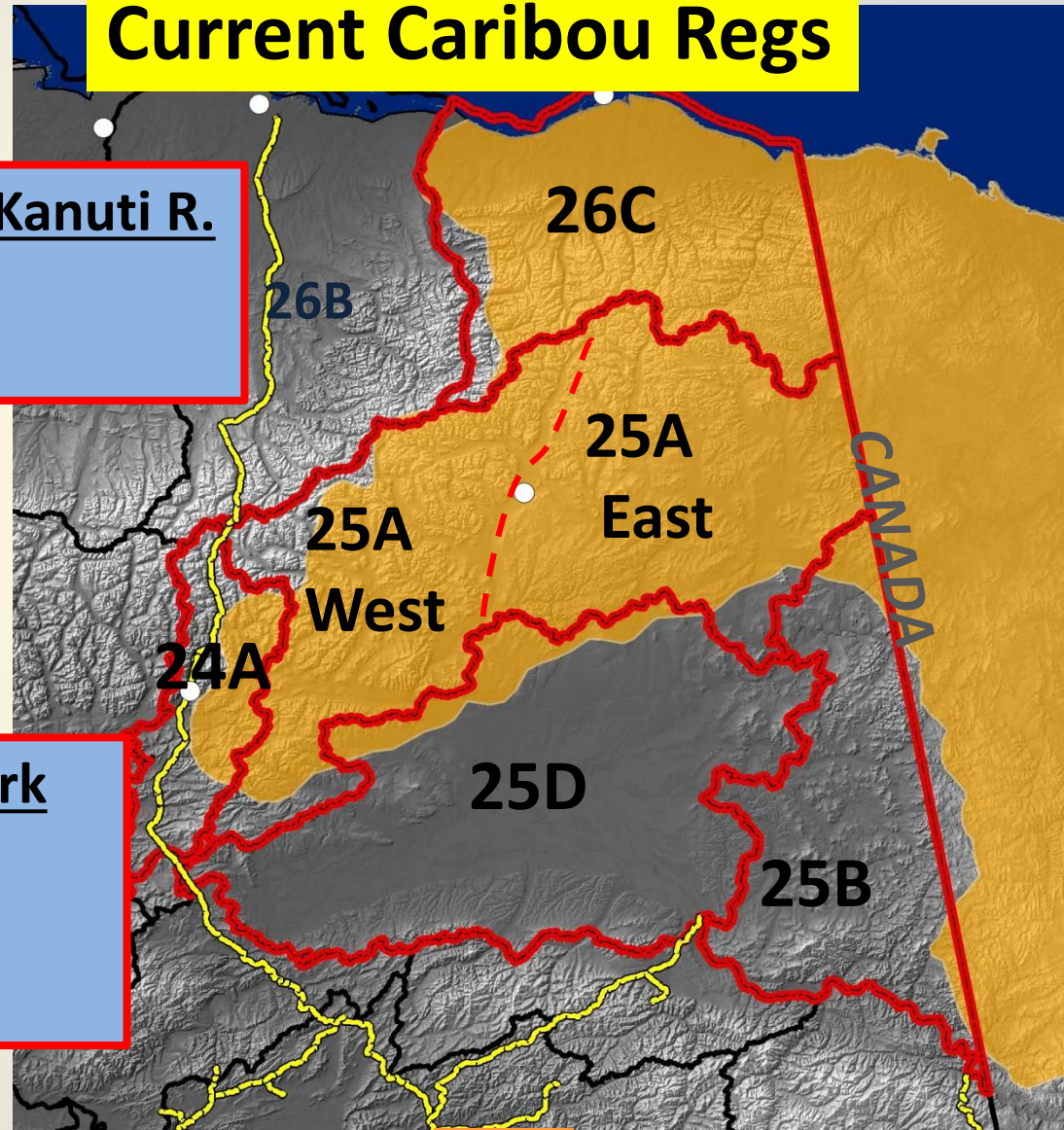
No closed season, bulls

July 1–May 16, cows

25A East, 25B, 25D (excl west fork  
Dall R.) and 26C

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Sept 30.



PCH Range



# Proposal 104

Caribou/Units 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D 26B, 26C

## AMENDMENT

***Units 24A, north of south bank Kanuti R.  
Unit 25A, 25B, 25D (exclude west Fk Dall R.,  
west of 150° W. long )  
Unit 26C***

### Resident :

10 caribou/year

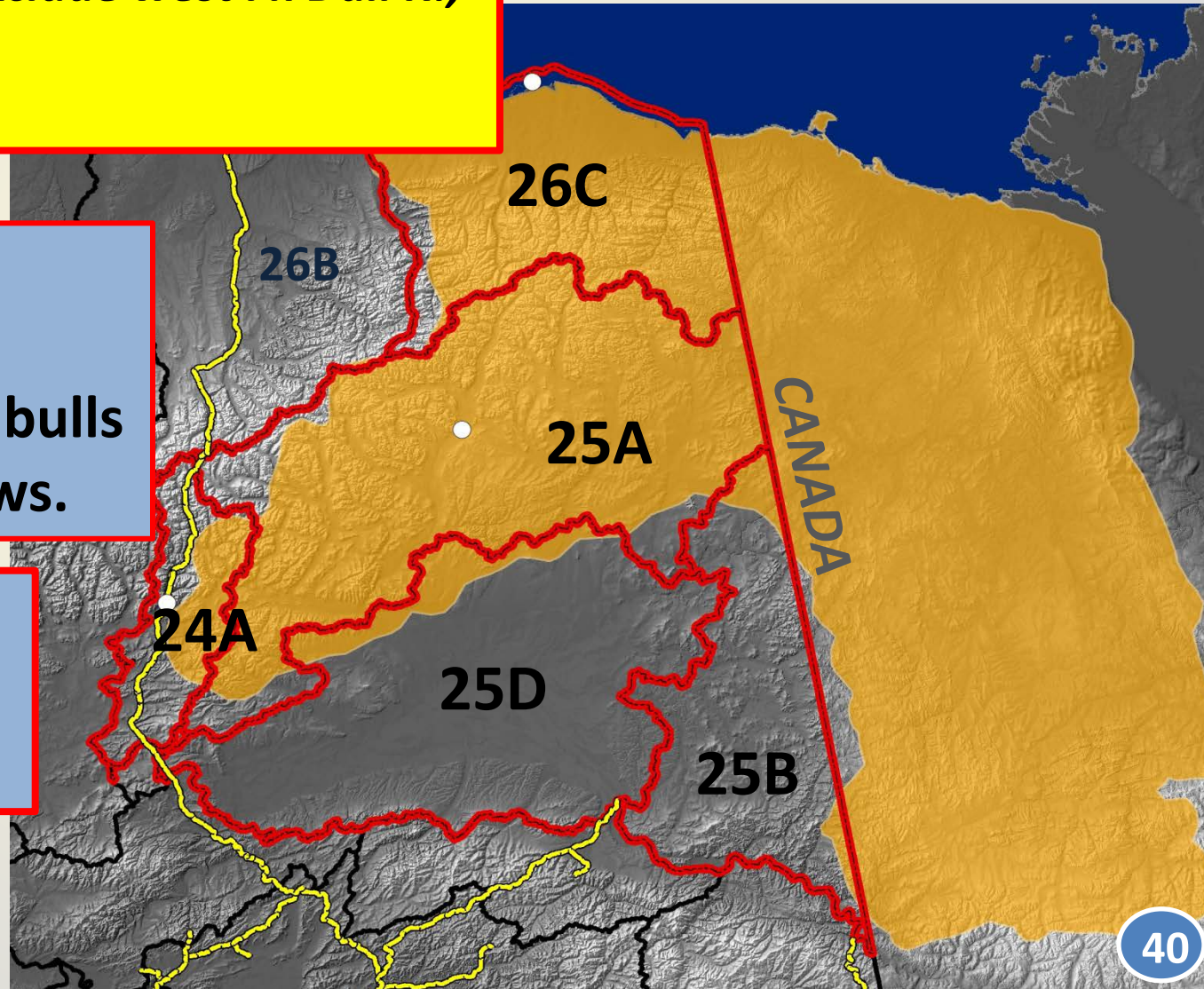
No closed season, bulls  
July 1–May 16, cows.

### Nonresident:

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Sept 30.

PCH Range



## Effect of proposed amendments:

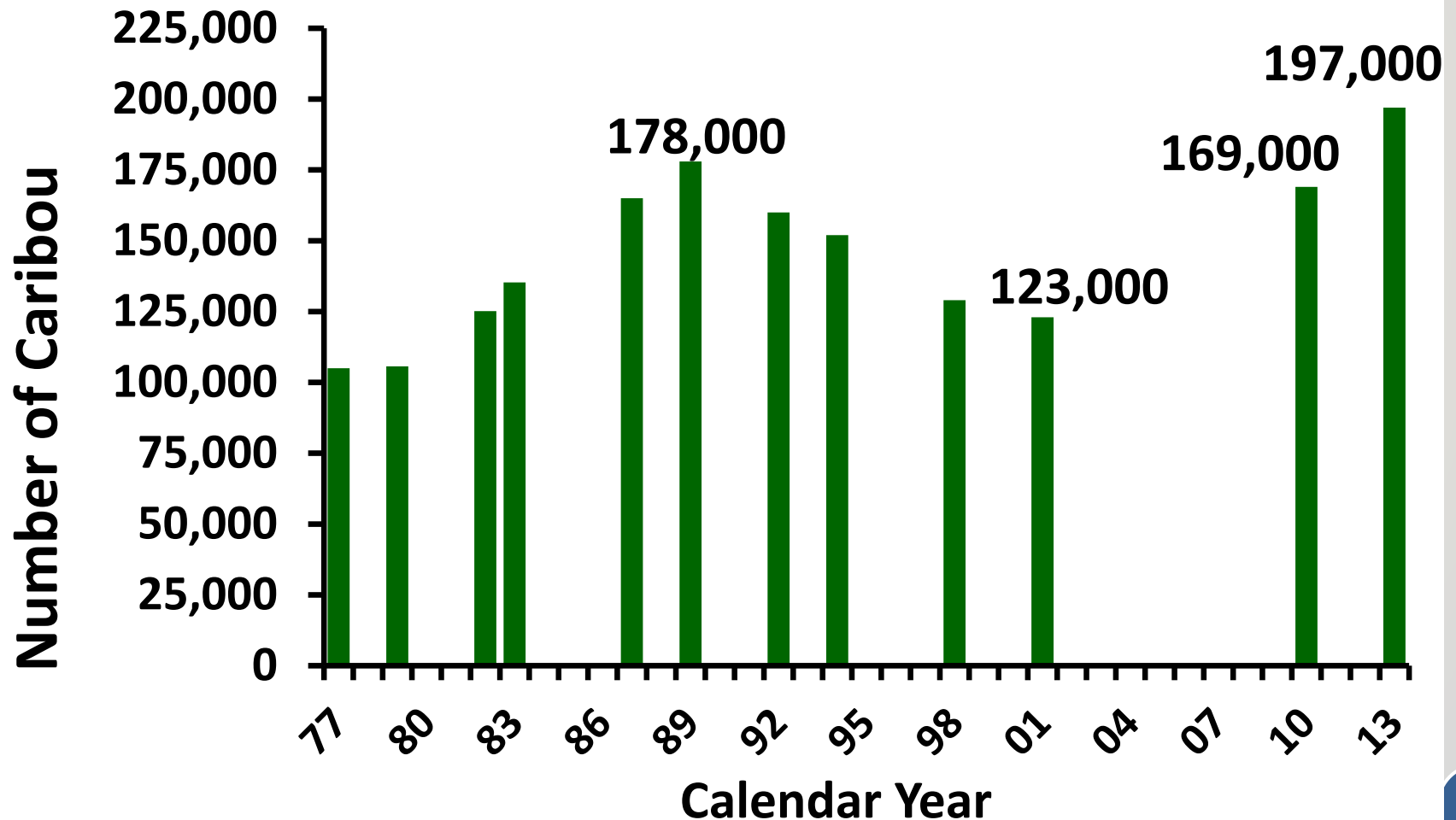
### Residents:

- Lengthen season in Unit 25A East by 61 days
- Lengthen season in Unit 26C by 54 days
- Reduce bag limit in 24A; but increase season length

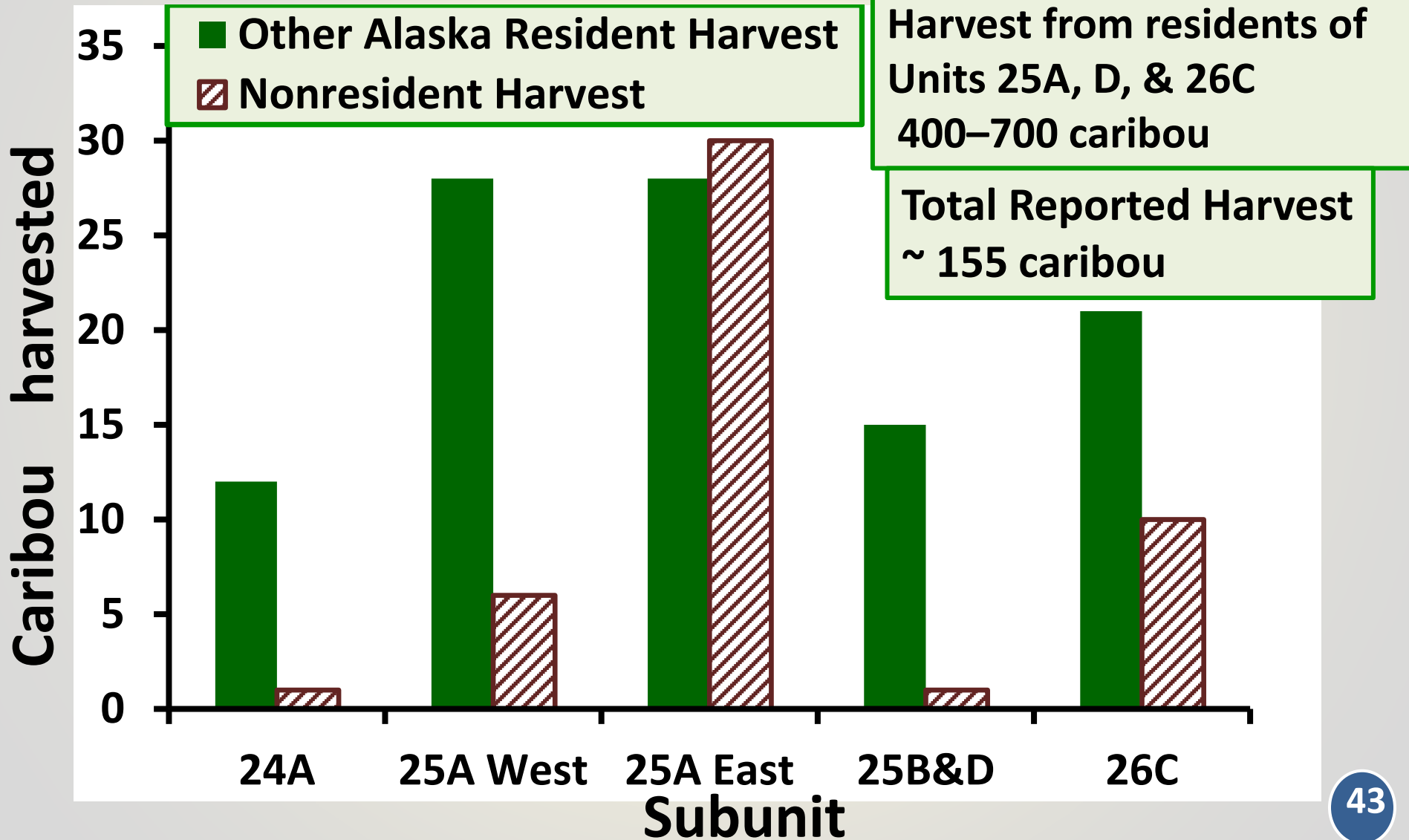
### Nonresidents:

- Reduce bag limit in 25A West (5 caribou to 2 bulls)
- Increase bag limit in 24A North (1 bull to 2 bulls)

## Porcupine Caribou Population Size, 1977–2013



## Porcupine Caribou Harvest, 2011–2015





## PROPOSAL 104

- Expand caribou bag limits for Units 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, 26C  
*(Align seasons and bag limits)*

Submitted by: ADFG

**SUPPORT with Amendments for the PCH range**

**TAKE NO ACTION for the CAH in Unit 26B**

## PROPOSAL 113

- **Modify the resident bag limit for Dall sheep as follows:**
  - ✓ **Change the 3 sheep bag limit to 3 rams in Units 24B, 25A, 26B, & 26C**

**Submitted by: Alaska Outdoor Council**

**NEUTRAL**

## *PROPOSAL 113 cont'd*

### Change the 3 sheep bag limit to 3 rams in:

- Unit 24B and 26B, on private lands within GAAR NPP
- Unit 25A, that portion east of the Middle Fork Chandalar, excluding federal AVSMA
- Unit 26C

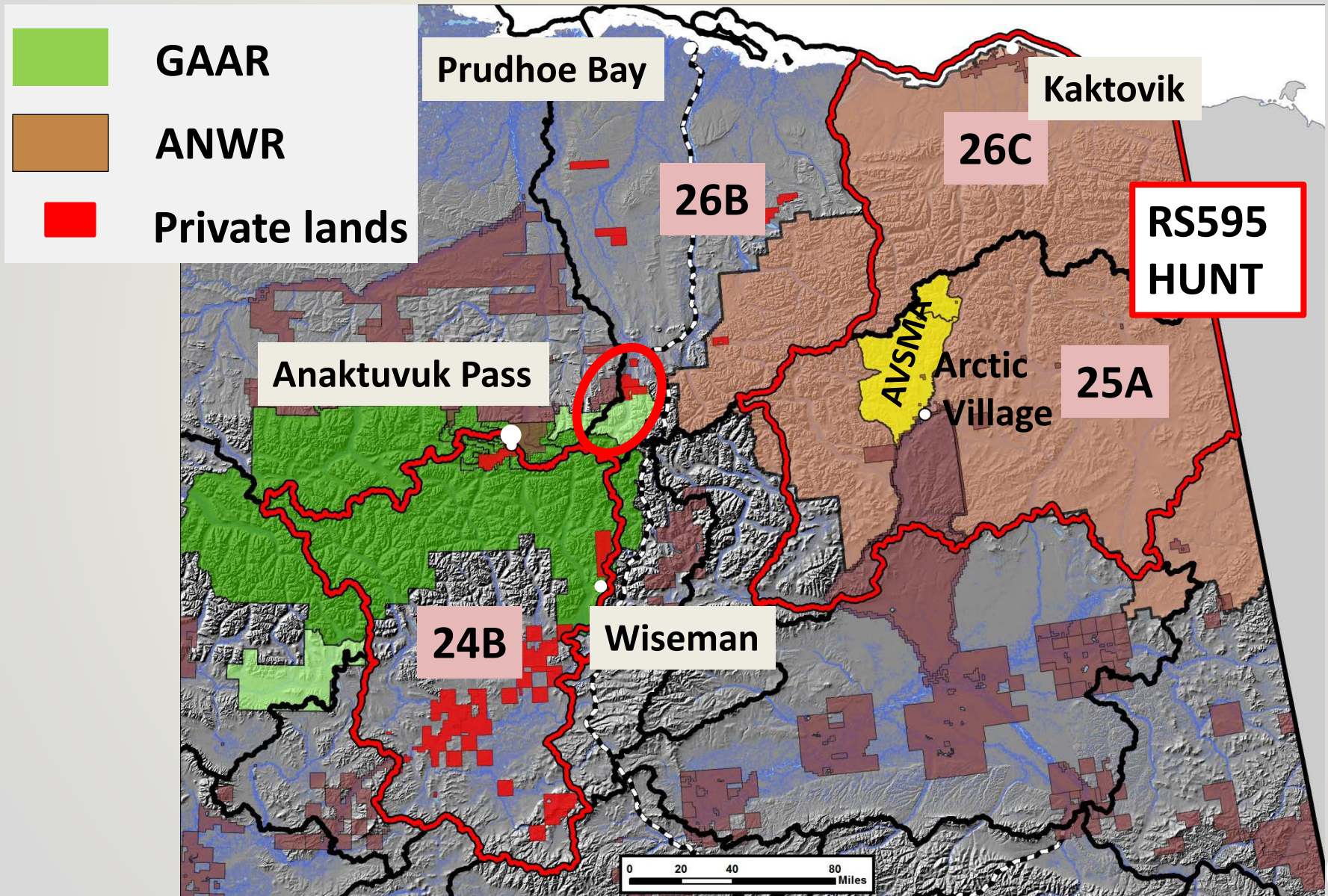
**RS595  
hunt**





# Proposal 113

Dall Sheep/Units 24B, 25A, 26B & 26C



## Proponents Issues:

- Harvest of ewe sheep in declining populations
- Harvest of ewe sheep is additive mortality

## Effect of the proposal:

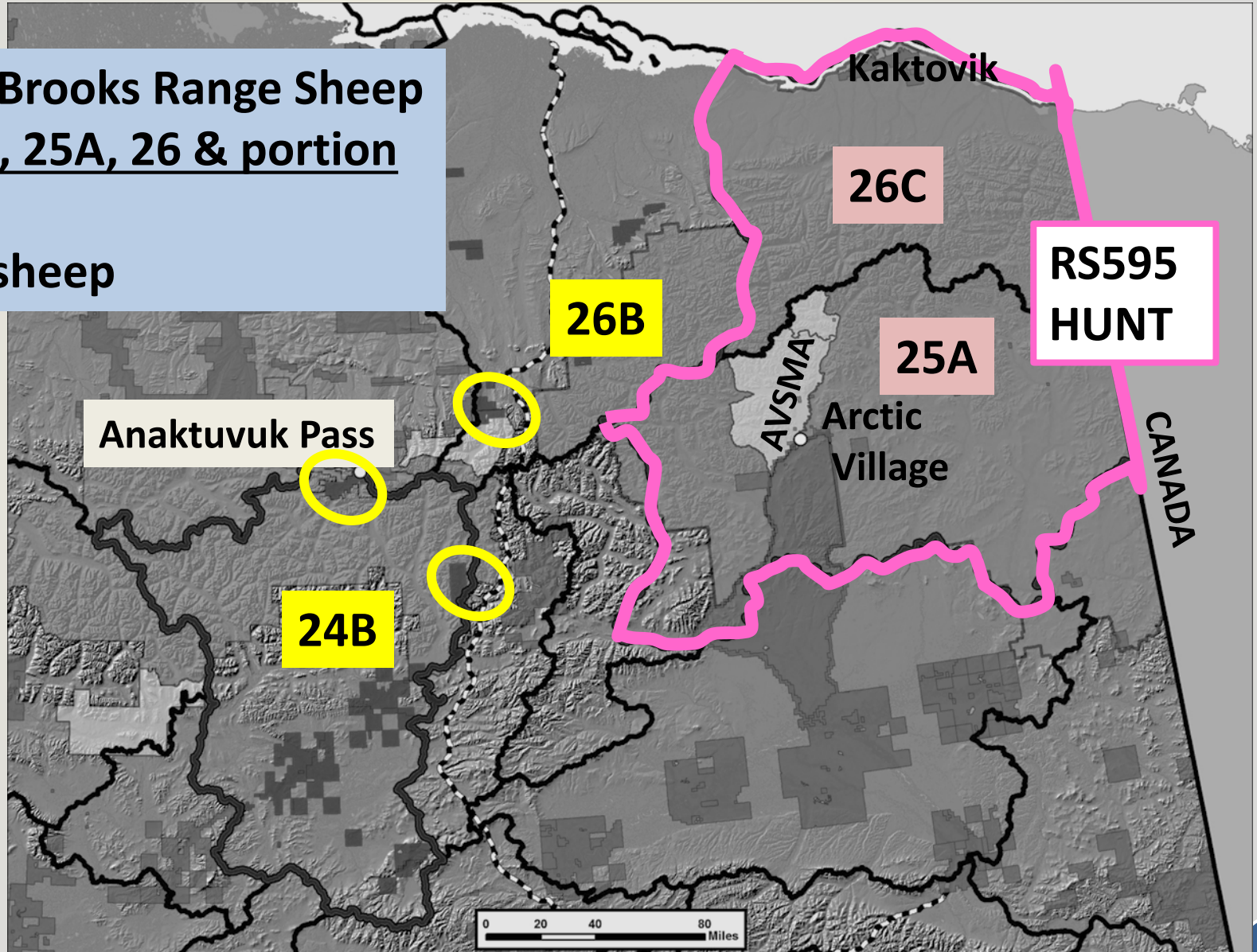
- The 3 sheep bag limit for RS595 hunt and for private lands within GAAR would be changed to 3 rams



# Proposal 113

Dall Sheep/Units 24B, 25A, 26B & 26C

**ANS for Brooks Range Sheep  
Units 24, 25A, 26 & portion  
of 23:  
75–125 sheep**



## Unit 24B & 26B Current State Regulations

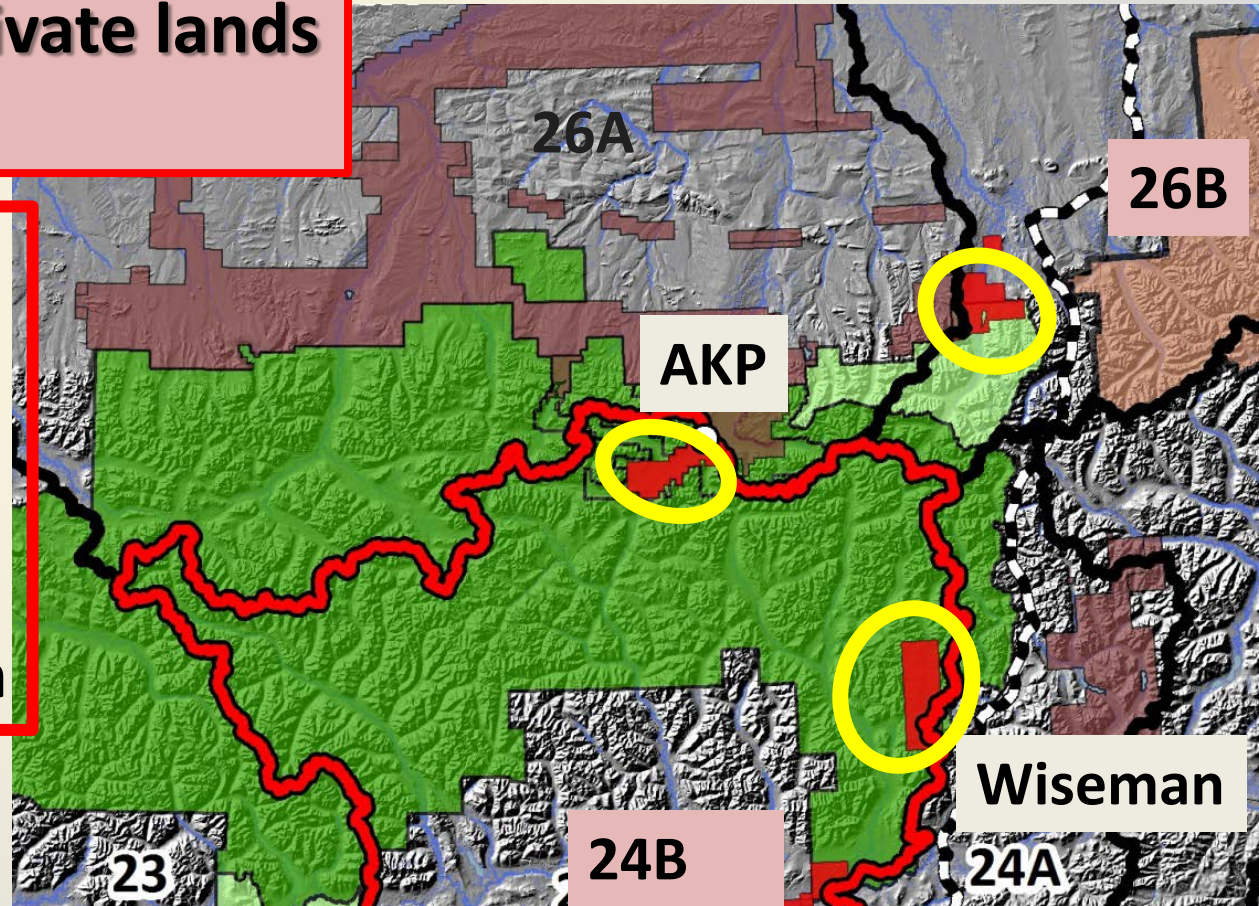
Unit 24B & 26B, private lands within GAAR

Residents:

- 3 sheep,
- Aug 1-April 30

Nonresidents:

- No open season



GAAR



# Proposal 113

Dall Sheep/Units 24B, 25A, 26B & 26C

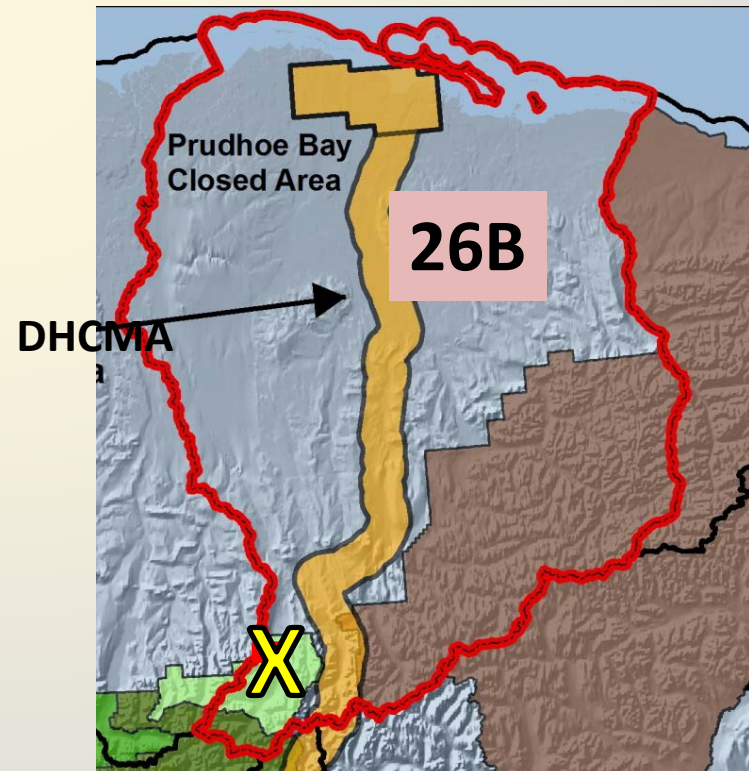
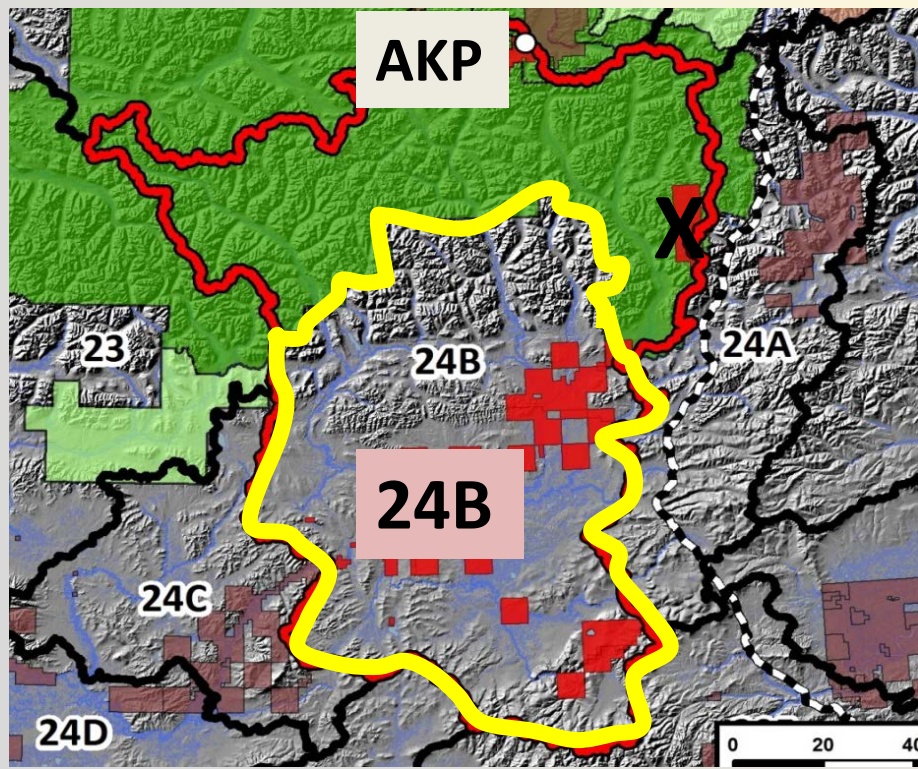
## Unit 24B& 26B Current State Regulations cont'd

**Remainder of Unit 24B  
& 26B (outside GAAR)**

### Residents & Nonresidents:

#### *Youth hunt only*

- 1 ram,  $\geq$  full curl, Aug 1–5
- 1 ram,  $\geq$  full curl, Aug 10–Sept 20



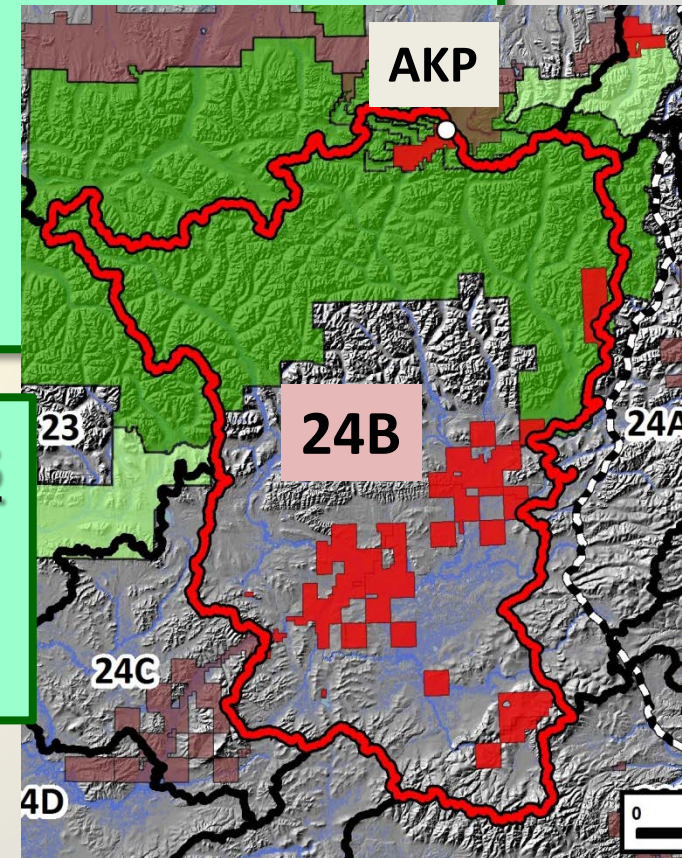
## Unit 24B Current Federal Regulations for any sheep

### Unit 24B & 26B, Anaktuvuk Pass residents only

- Community harvest quota of 60 sheep
- ≤ 10 can be ewes
- Daily possession = 3 sheep, only 1 ewe
- July 15 – Dec 31

### Unit 24B, excluding AKP residents

- 3 sheep, no more than 1 ewe
- Aug 1–Apr 30





## Unit 25A & 26C Current State Regulations

Unit 25A, east of Middle Fork Chandalar, excluding AVSMA, & Unit 26C (RS595)

### Residents & Nonresidents:

- 1 full curl ram, Aug 10-Sept 20

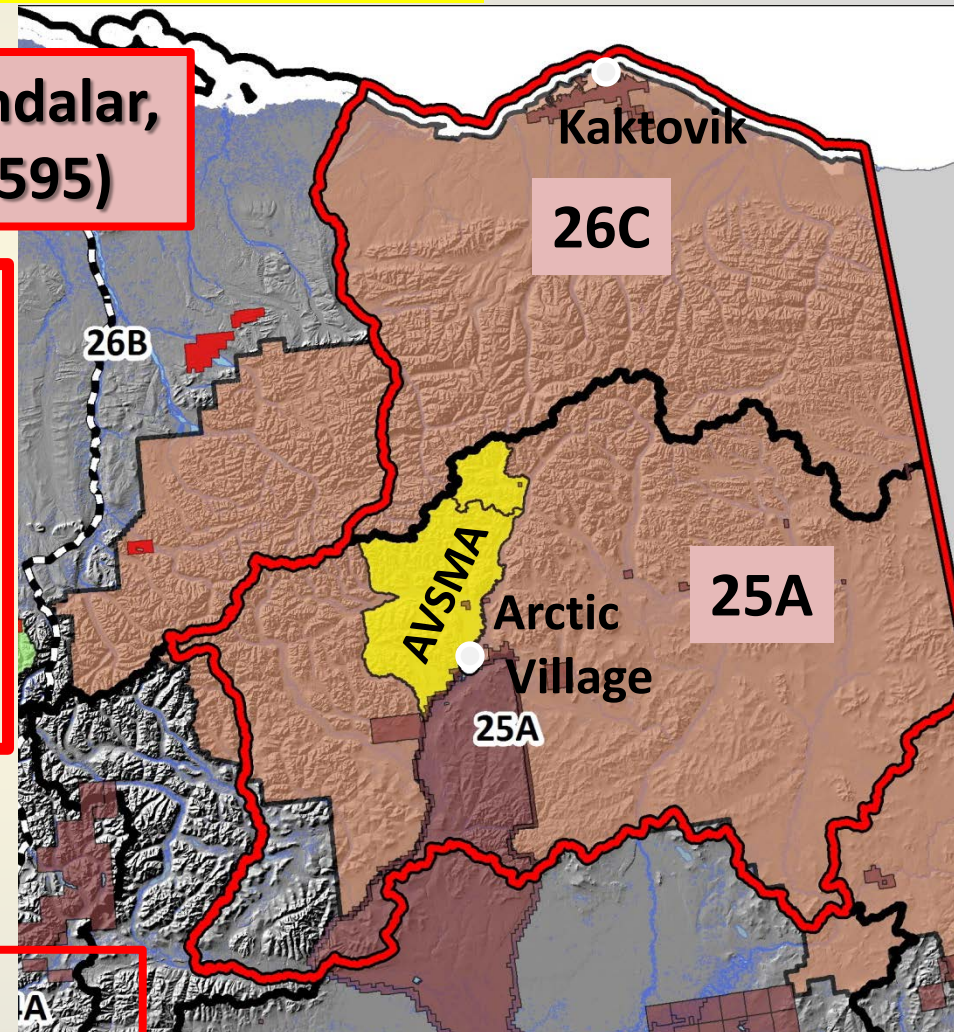
### Residents only :

- 3 sheep, Oct 1-April 30 (RS595)
- No aircraft

Also in Unit 26C

### Residents & Nonresidents:

1 full curl ram, Aug 1-5, *Youth hunt only*



ANWR

# Proposal 113

Dall Sheep/Units 24B, 25A, 26B & 26C

## Unit 25A & 26C Current Federal Regulations for any sheep

### Unit 25A, excluding AVSMA

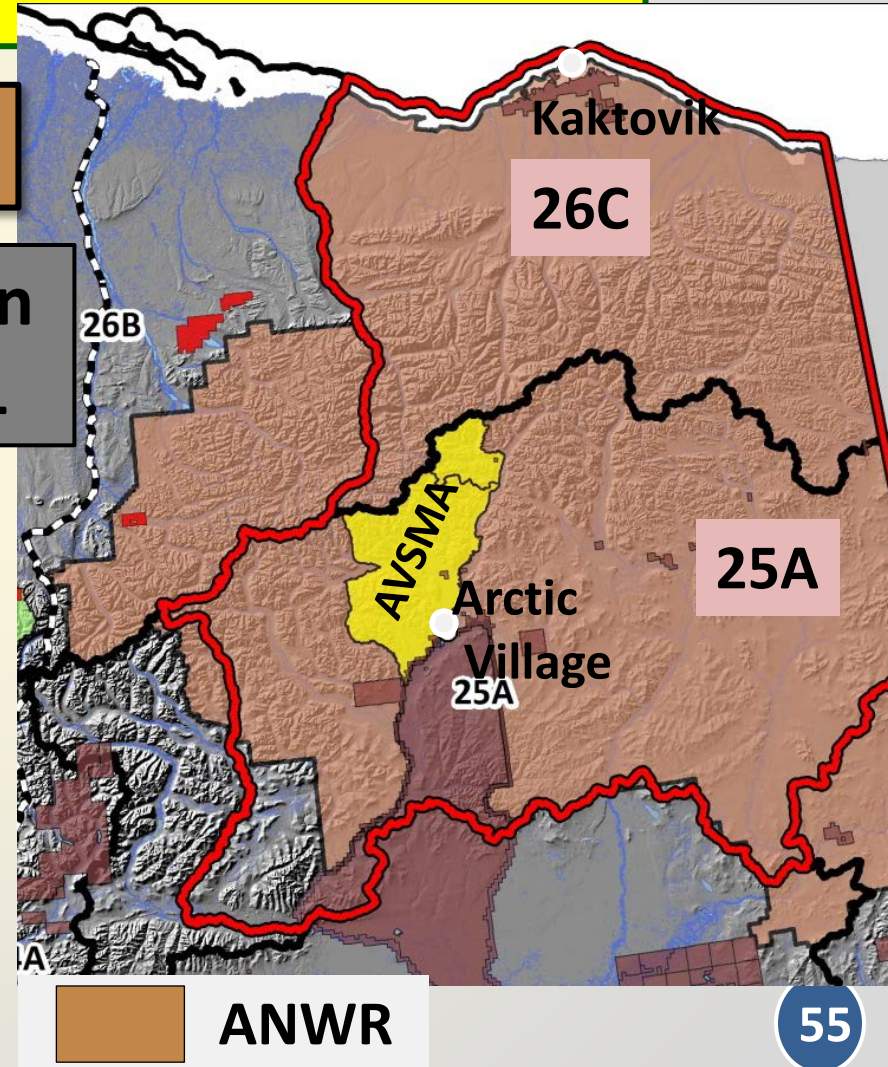
- 3 sheep,
- Aug 10–Apr 30

State season opens Oct 1

### Unit 26C,

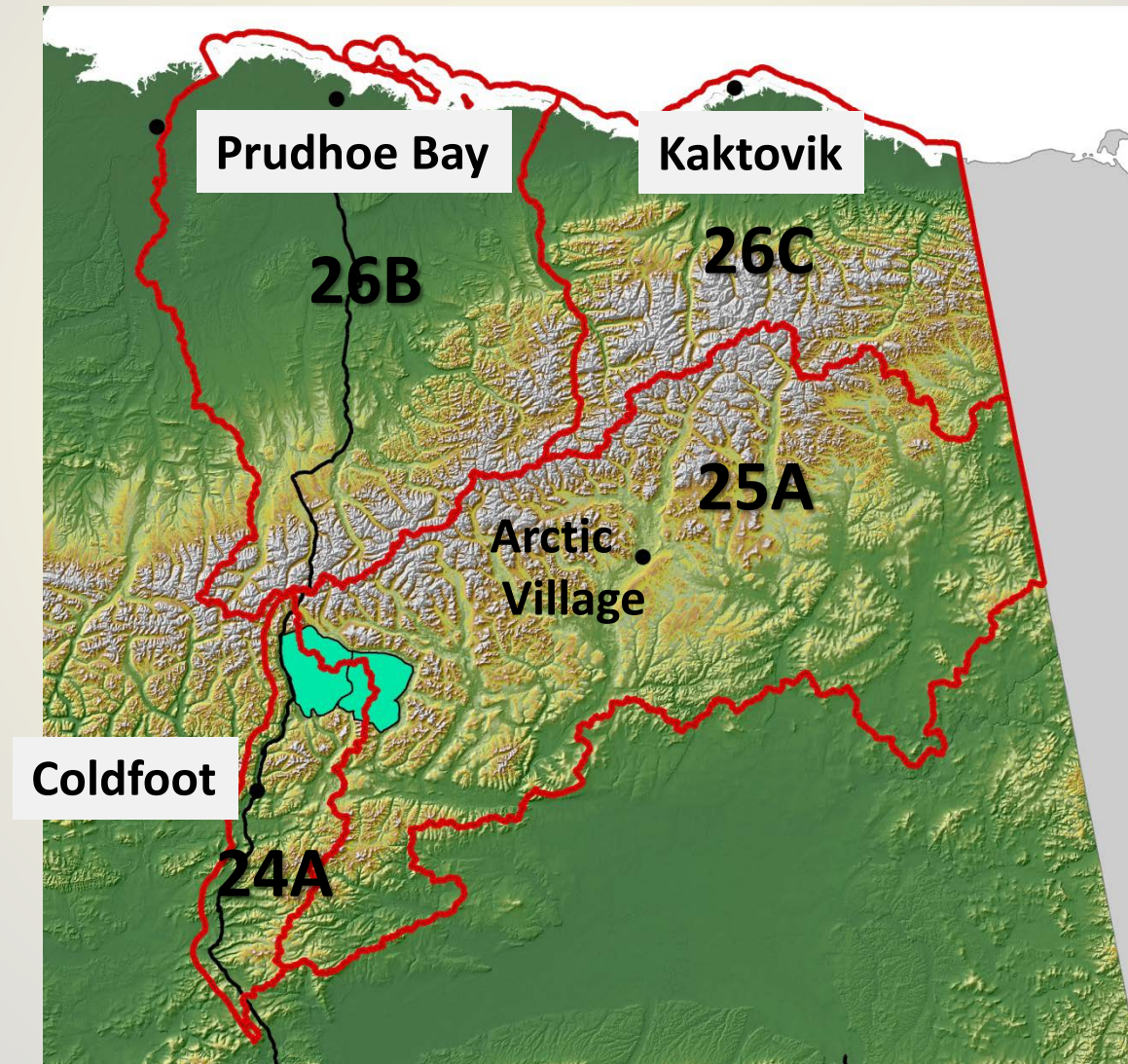
- 3 sheep,
- Oct 1–Apr 30

Aligns with State Regs

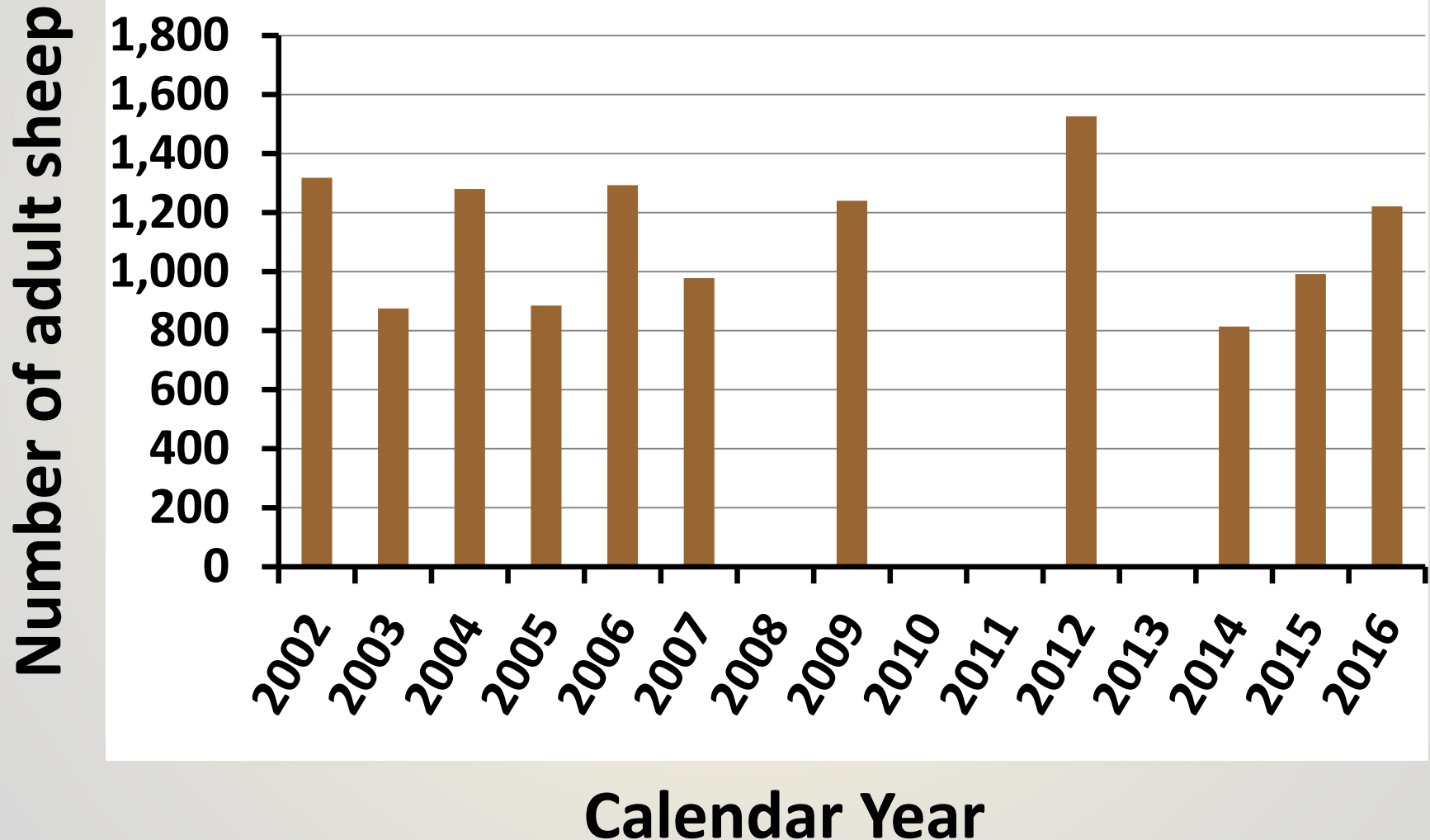




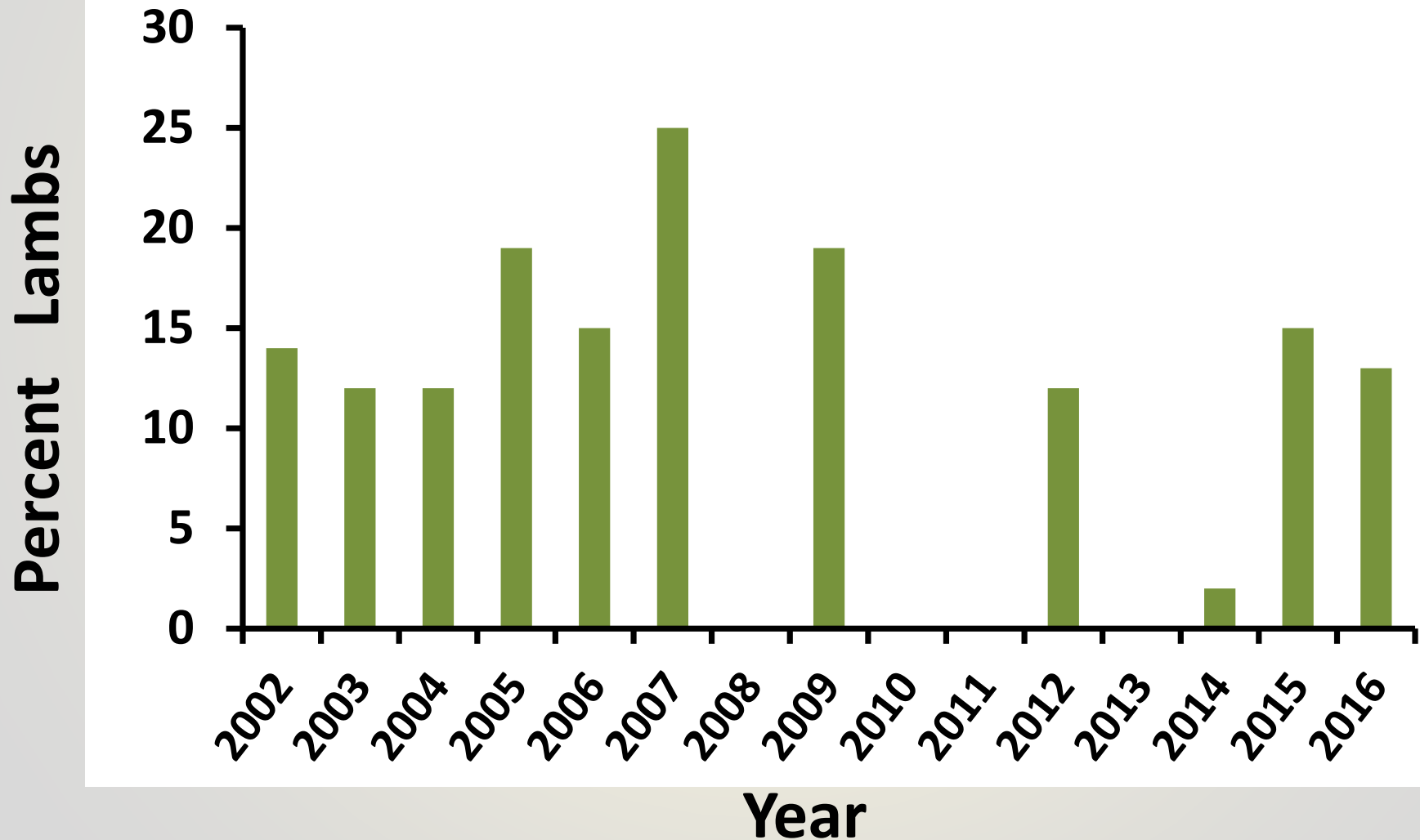
## Eastern Brooks Range Sheep



## Chandalar Sheep Trend Counts 2002-2016



## Chandalar Sheep Trend Counts--% Lambs

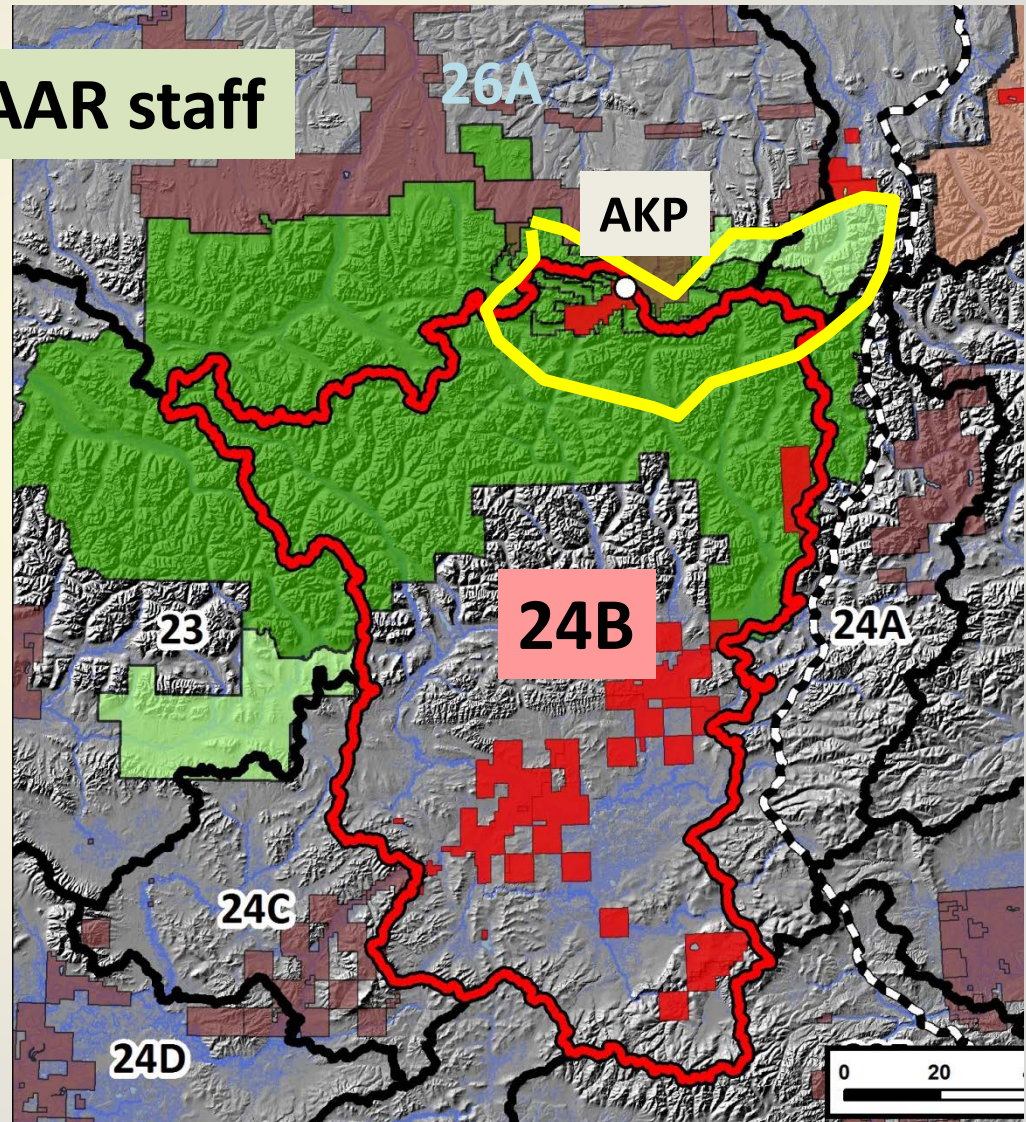




## Central Brooks Range Sheep

### Surveys conducted by GAAR staff

- Sheep numbers declined during 2009–2015
- Stable at lower density
- Low lamb numbers in 2013 & 2014; but higher in 2015 and 2016



## Sheep Harvest in Units 24B & 26C

### Unit 24B & 26B, private lands within GAAR

- $\leq 1$  sheep annually
- Some unreported; but still low

### All of GAAR, includes federal & state

- Estimate  $< 2\%$  of sheep population
  - ✓  $\leq 25$  sheep (mostly rams) from AKP
  - ✓  $\sim 5$  sheep from Allakaket & Alatna
- Hunting pressure is low

## **Sheep Harvest in Units 25A & 26C, RY10–RY15**

### **RS595**

- Average of 12 permits, 4 hunters, 2–3 sheep
- Mostly rams
- Harvest occurred in Unit 26C

### **Federal**

- In Unit 25A, average of 2 permits, no harvest
- In Unit 26C, average of 8 permits, 1 ram harvested

**some unreported harvest**



## Conclusions

- **Harvest is low relative to sheep population size**
- **State hunts occur within Federal lands where ewes can be harvested**
- **Ewe harvest is likely additive mortality**

## PROPOSAL 113

- **Modify the resident bag limit for Dall sheep as follows:**
  - ✓ **Change the 3 sheep bag limit to 3 rams**

**Submitted by: Alaska Outdoor Council**

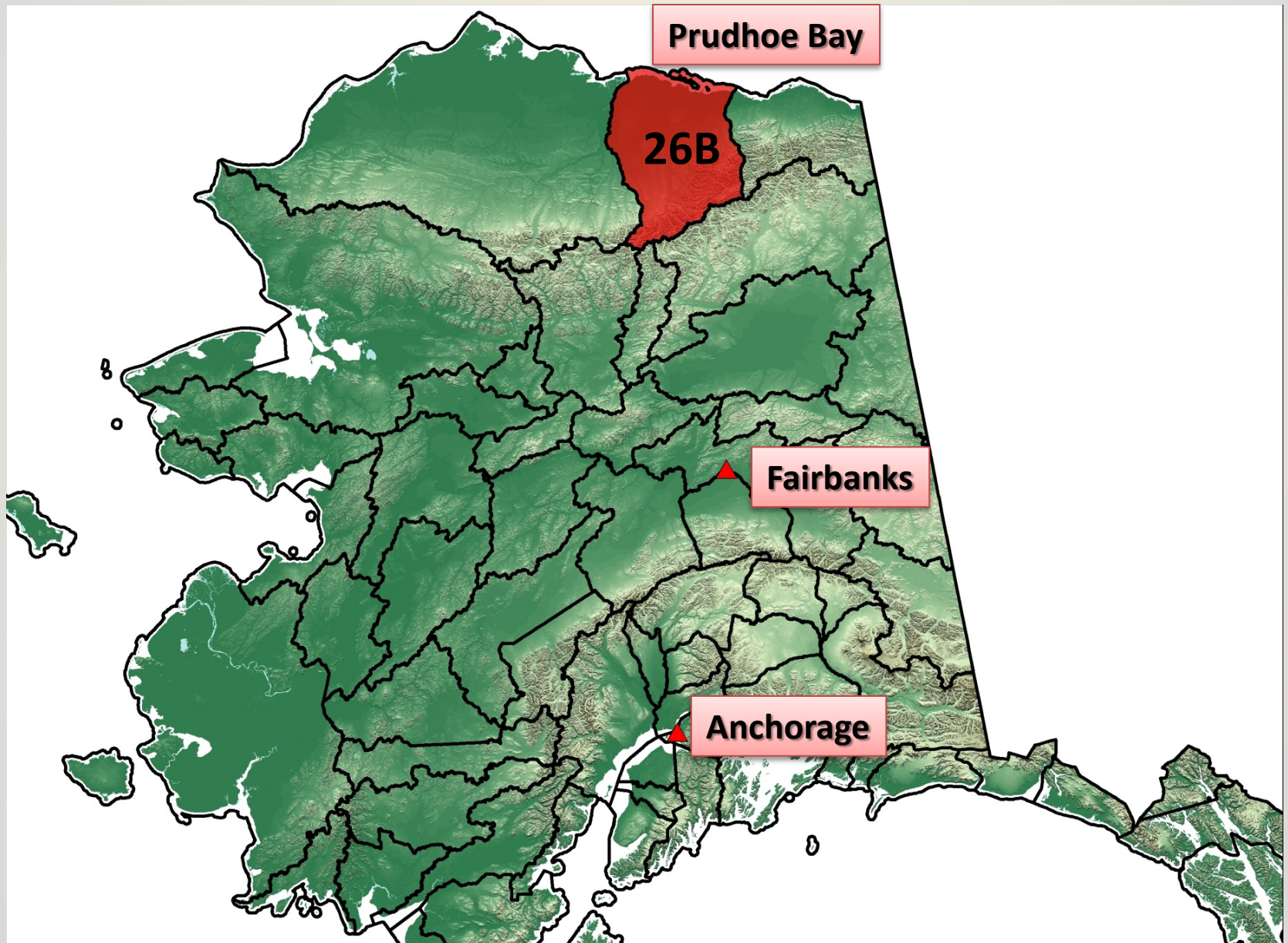
**NEUTRAL**

## PROPOSAL 107

- Lengthen the hunting seasons for brown bear in Unit 26B, and
- Change the nonresident drawing permit to a registration permit

Submitted by: Public

**OPPOSE**



## Proposed season:

### Residents, by registration permit:

- Aug. 10 [25] – Dec. 31
- Jan. 1 – May 31

### Nonresidents,

### by unlimited registration permit [drawing permit]:

- Aug. 10 [25] – Dec. 31
- Jan. 1 – May 31



## Proponent's issues:

- Low moose and caribou numbers
- Healthy grizzly bear population
  - ✓ Could sustain higher harvest & may benefit moose and caribou



## Effect of proposal:

- Liberalize resident & nonresident season by 15 days
- Replace limited nonresident drawing permit with unlimited nonresident registration permit  
✓ *(issued 4–6 permits recent years)*
- Could result in overharvest

## Unit 26B Brown Bear Population Estimate

2000–2003, data re-analyzed in 2016

- 260–440 bears, midpoint = 335 bears
- Not precise, wide range

## **Unit 26B Brown Bear Management Objectives:**

### 3-year mean annual human-caused mortality objective:

- Apply 8% harvest rate on population size
- 40% of harvest can be females

### For Unit 26B, can take between:

**21 bears (8 females) and 37 bears (15 females)**

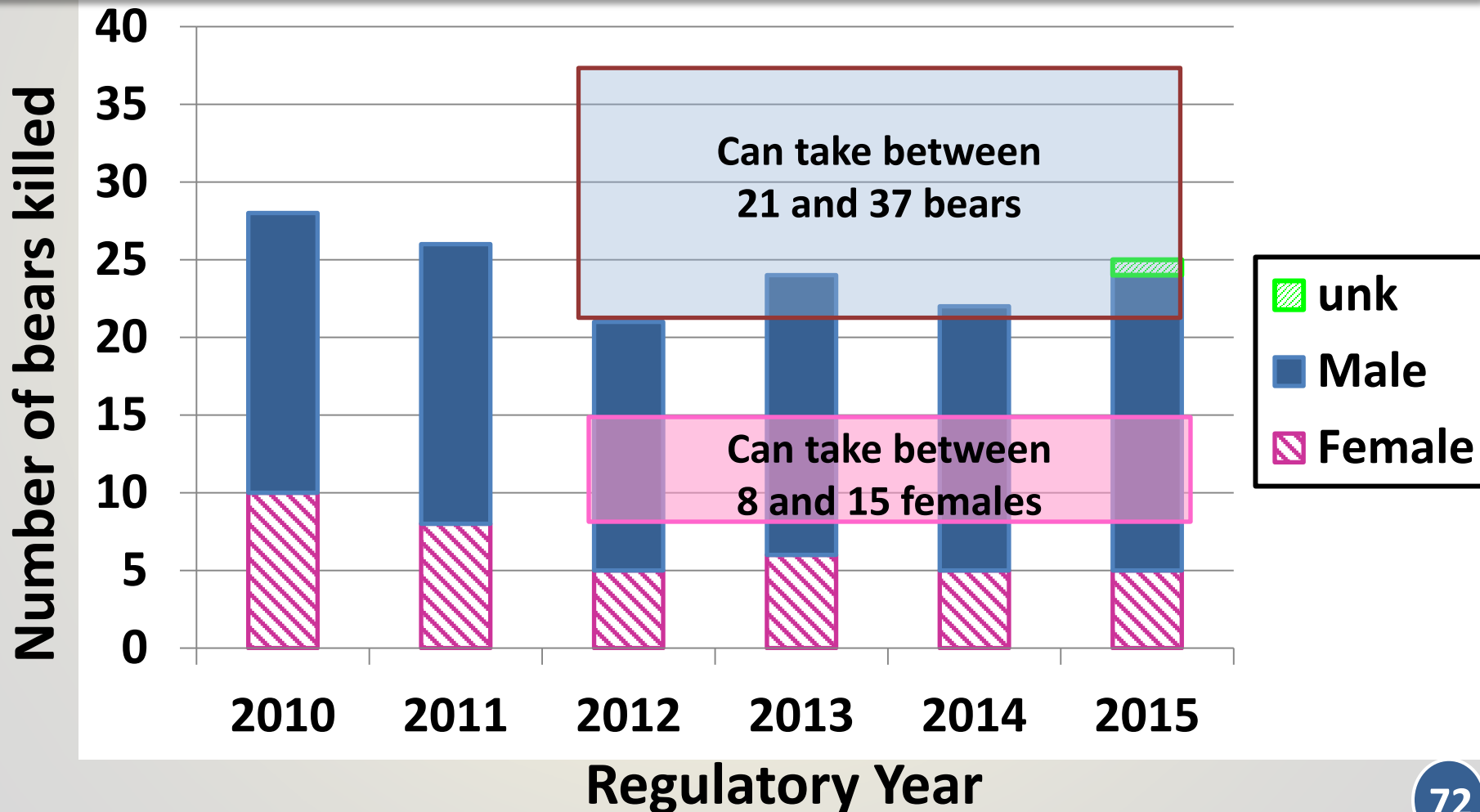
- **27 bears, no more than 11 females (midpoint)**

## Human-caused mortality includes:

- **Harvest (hunted)**
- **Predator control**
- **Illegal take**
- **Defense of Life & Property (DLP)**

**RY13–RY15 Mean: = 24 bears, 4 females**

## Unit 26B Brown bear human-caused mortality, 2010-2015

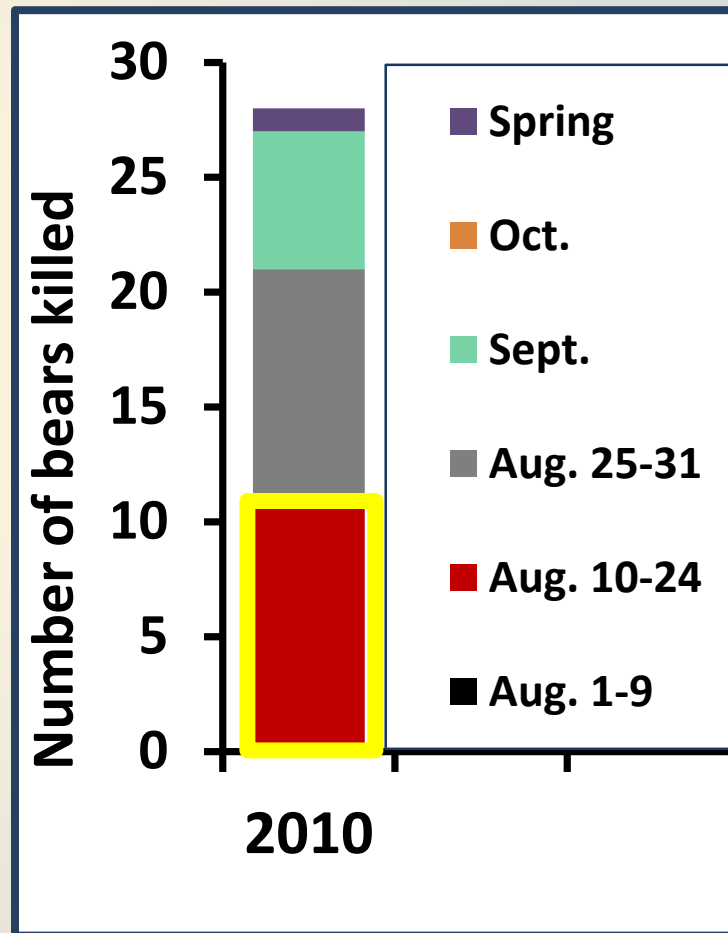




## Unit 26B Brown bear human caused mortality by season, 2010

### Season prior to August 25:

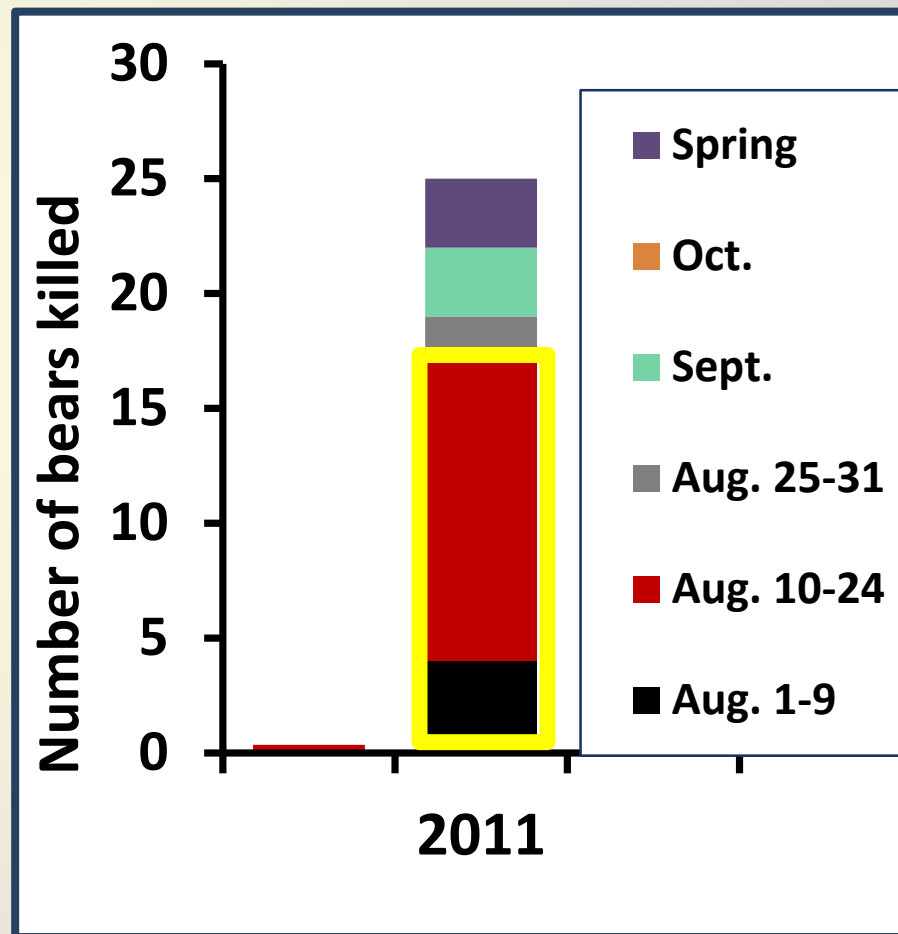
- RY10 –opened Aug. 10,
- All 20 nonresident permits issued
  - ✓ 11 bears killed Aug. 10–24
  - ✓ total kill=28 bears



## Unit 26B Brown bear human caused mortality by season, 2011

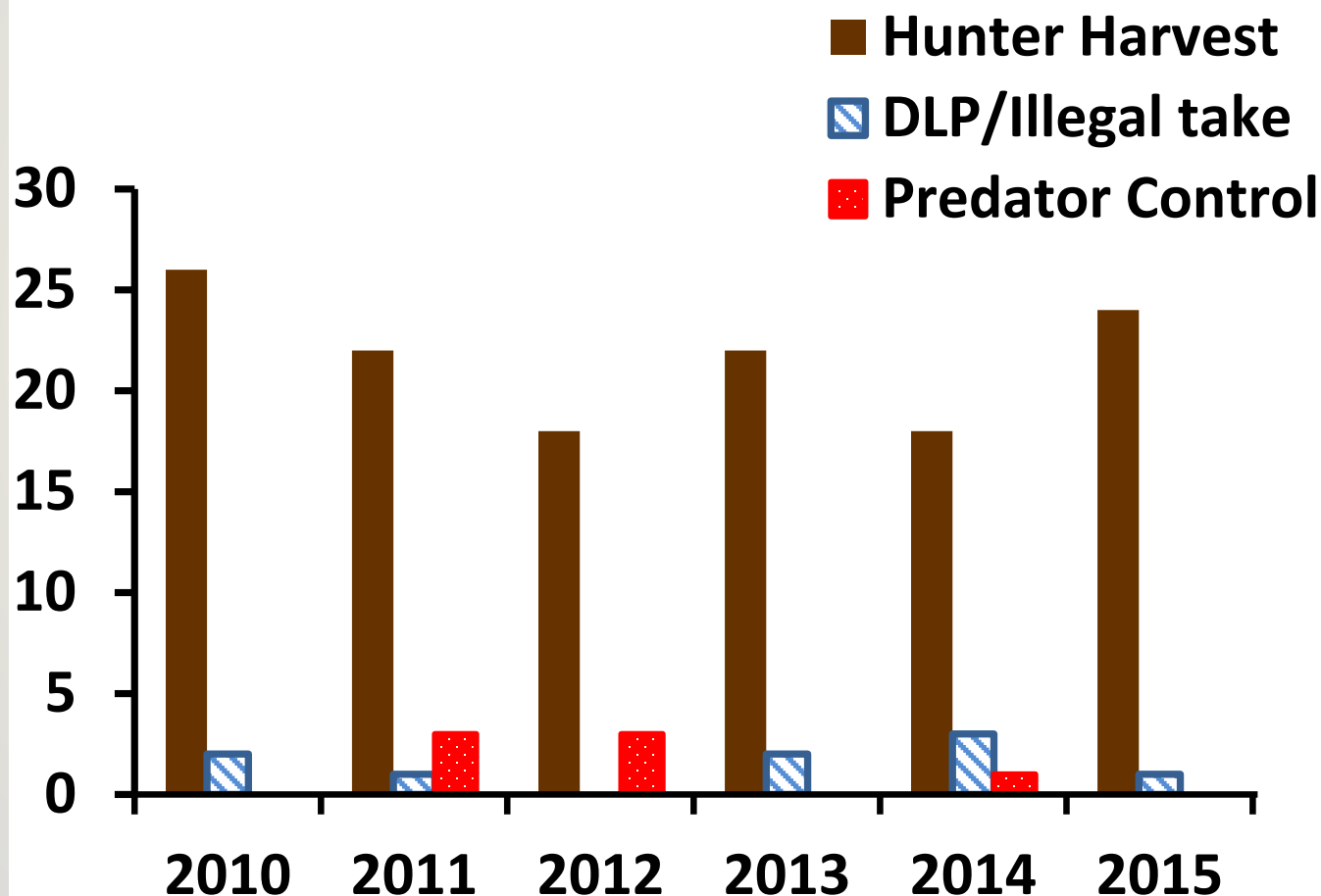
### Season prior to August 25:

- RY11 –opened July 1,
- Unlimited nonresident registration permits issued
- ✓ 17 bears killed Aug. 1–24
- ✓ total kill = 26 bears



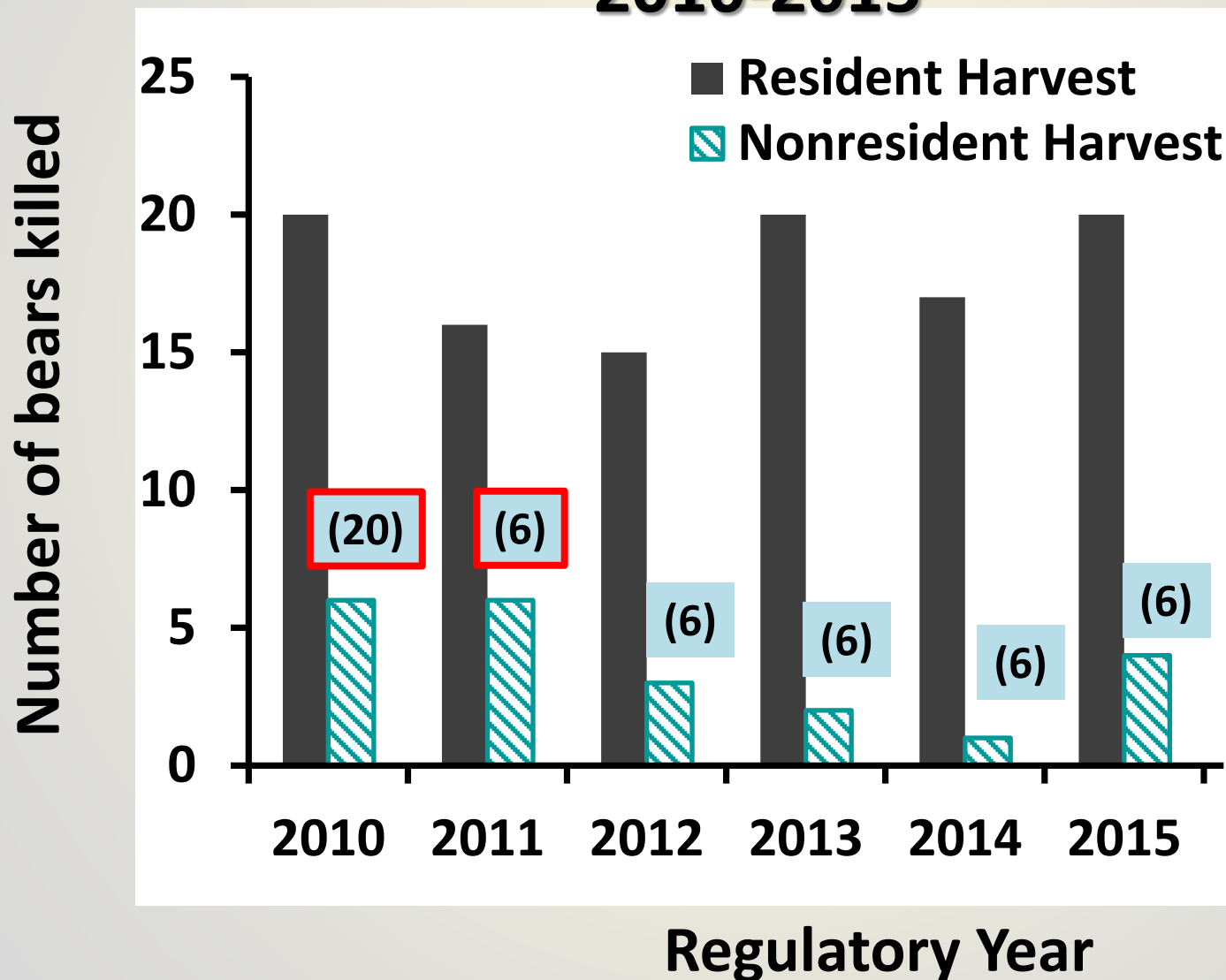
## Unit 26B Brown bear human-caused mortality by kill type, 2010-2015

Number of bears killed



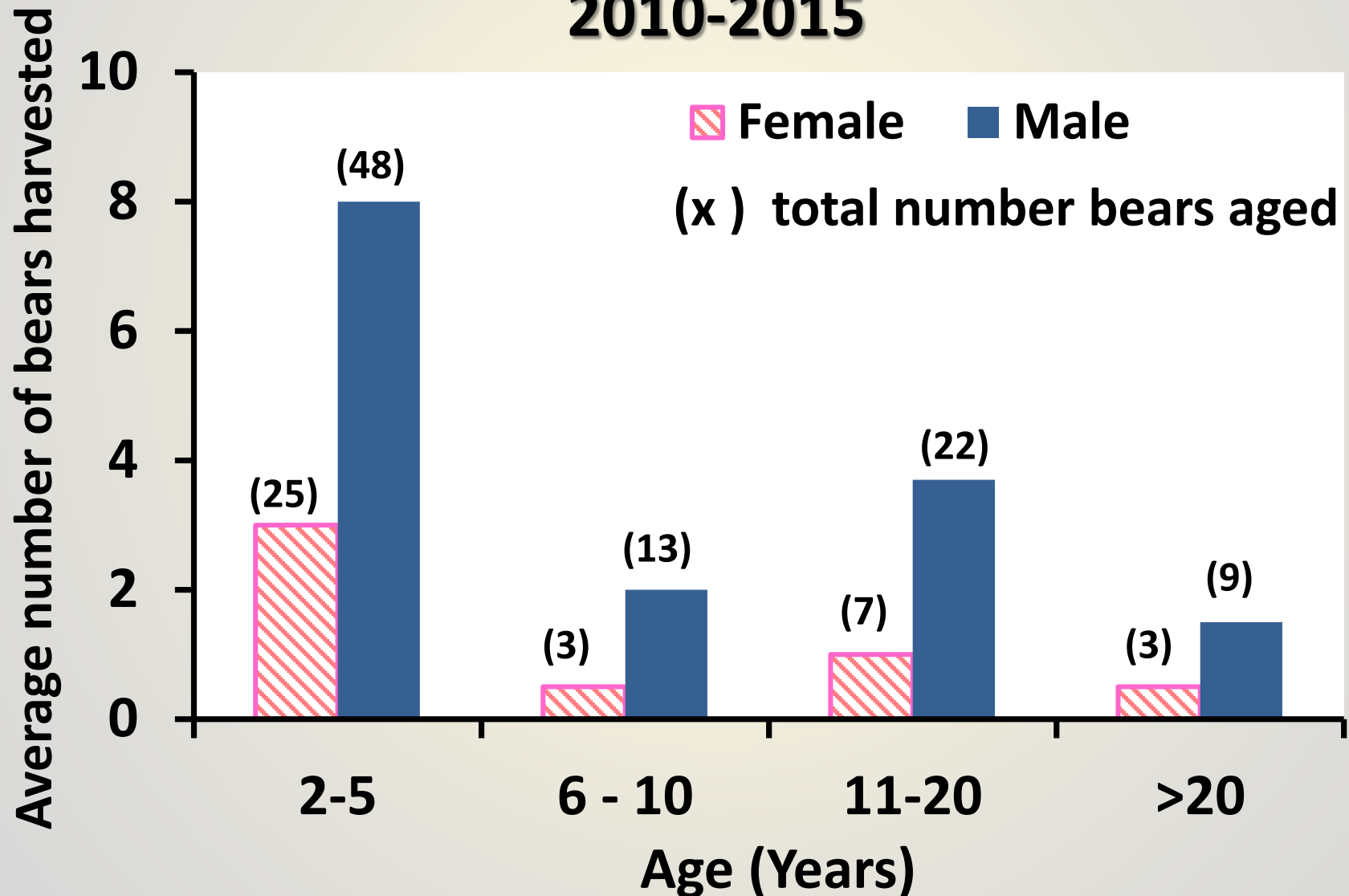
Regulatory Year

## Unit 26B Brown Bear Harvest by Residency, 2010-2015





## Unit 26B Brown Bear Harvest by Age & Sex, 2010-2015



### Unit 26B Brown Bear Current Regulations

#### Resident hunters:

1 bear/year

By registration permit

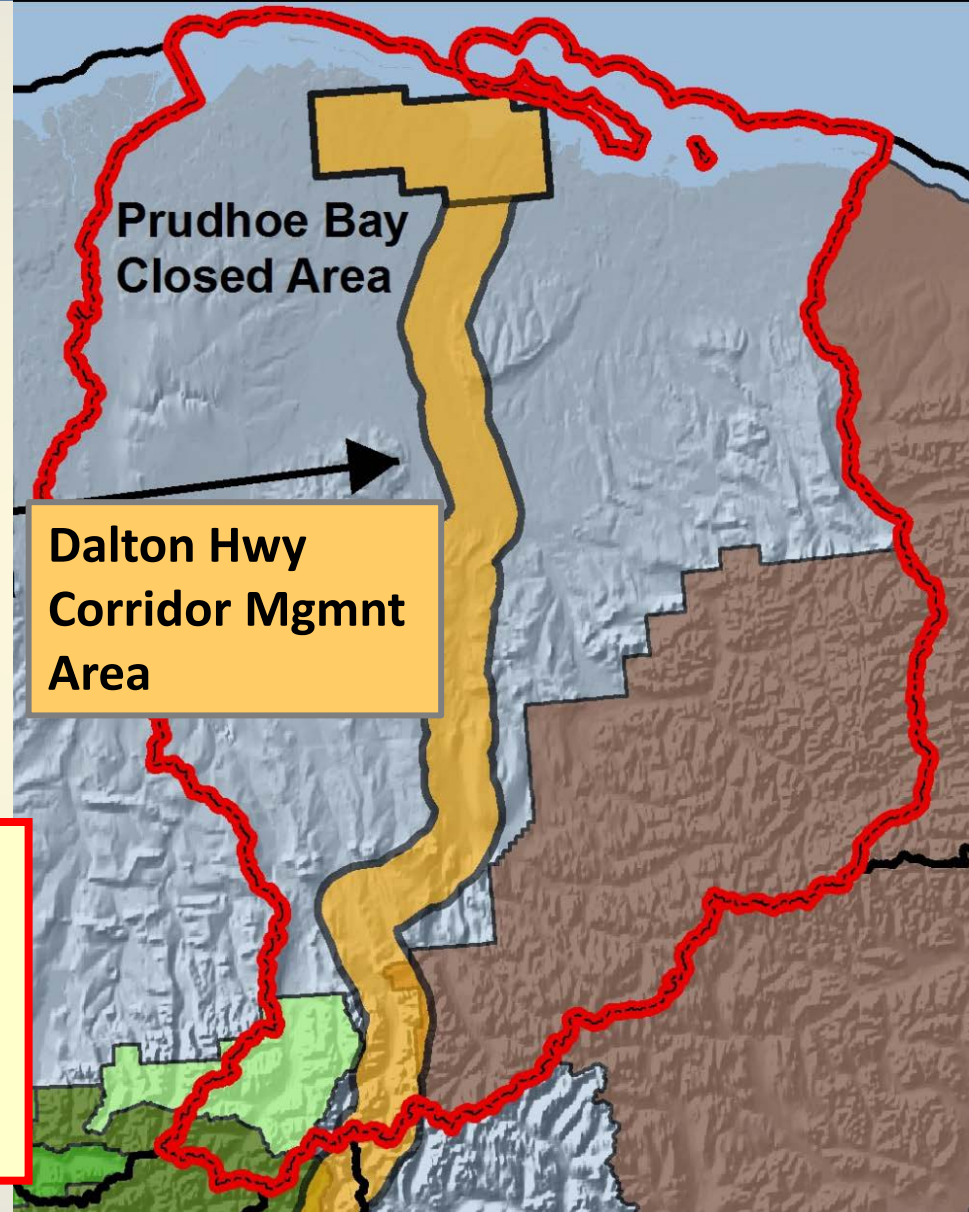
Aug. 25 - May 31

#### Nonresident hunters:

1 bear/year

By drawing permit, up to 20

Aug. 25 - May 31



## **Considerations:**

1. Harvesting near objective with current regulations
2. Bear population estimate not precise
3. Applying 8% harvest rate
4. Potential for overharvest
5. DWC can increase the number of nonresident permits being issued (4 were issued in RY16)

## PROPOSAL 107

- Lengthen the hunting seasons for brown bear in Unit 26B
- Change the nonresident drawing permit to a registration permit

Submitted by: Public

**OPPOSE**

End

## PROPOSAL 106

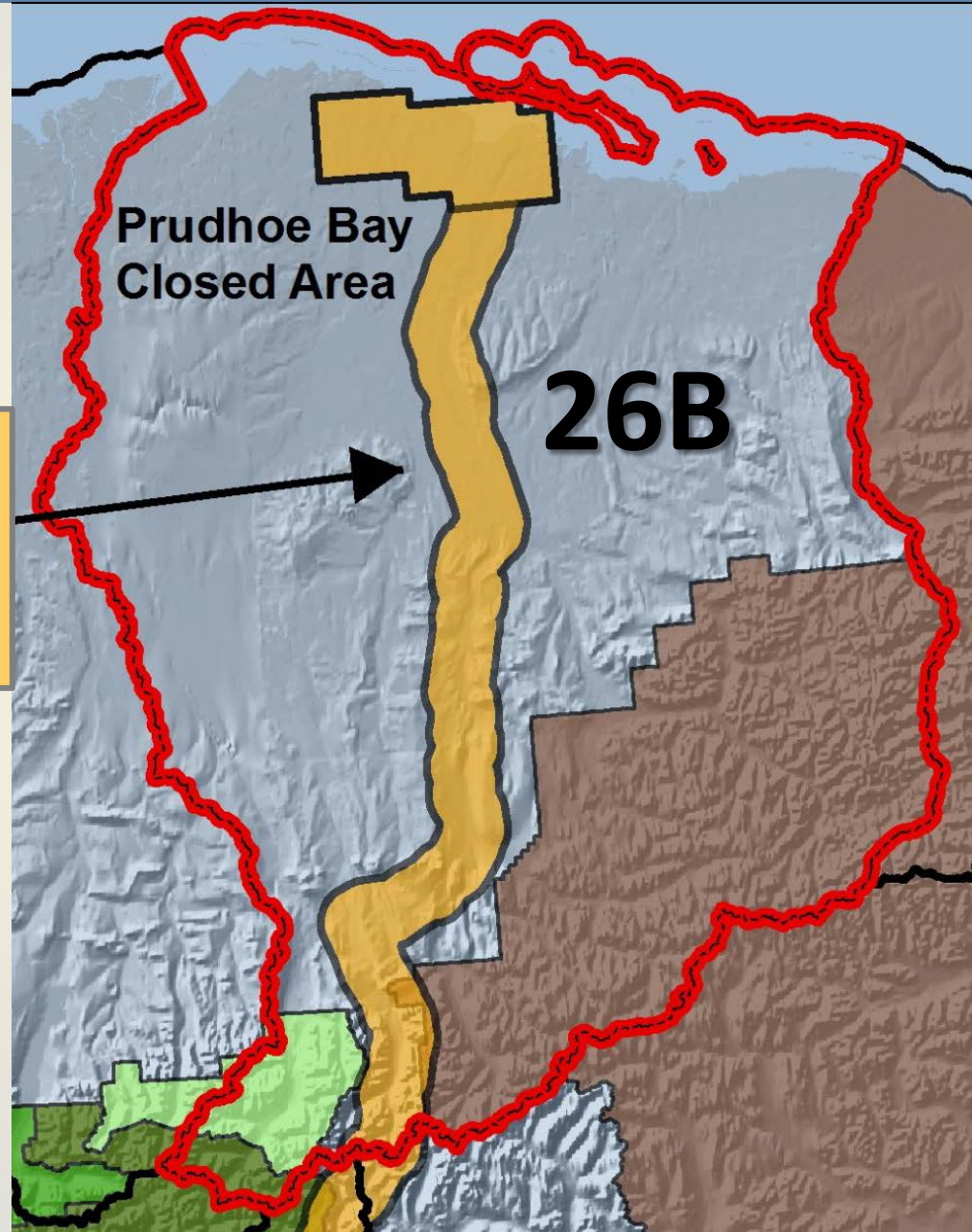
- Extend the resident Archery only season within DHCMA
- Add registration permit for Aug. 10–24

Submitted by: Resident Hunters of AK

NEUTRAL



**Dalton Hwy  
Corridor Mgmt  
Area**



## **Proponent's issues:**

- **Increase opportunity for residents when hunting caribou earlier in season**
- **Additional harvest of bears may help muskox groups within DHCMA**

## **Effect of proposal:**

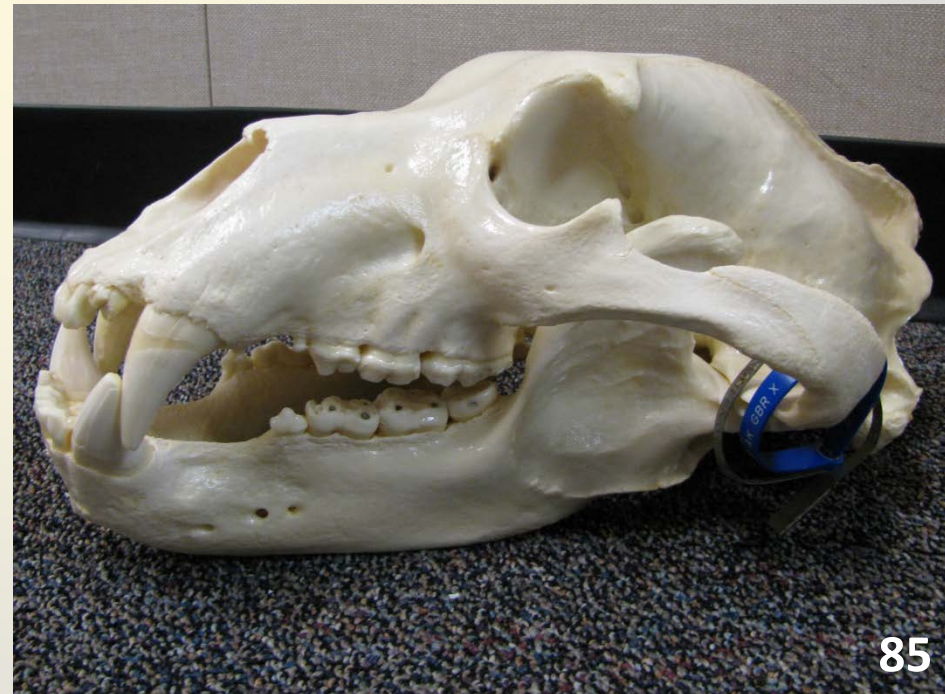
- **Lengthen resident season in DHCMA by 15 days**
- **Some potential for overharvest**

## 3-year mean human-caused mortality objective

- Between 21 bears (8 females) and 37 bears (15 females)
  - ✓ 27 bears, no more than 11 females

## RY13–RY15 mean

- 24 bears, 4 females



## **Bears Killed by bow and arrow:**

- **3 bears during RY10–RY14**
- **6 bears in RY15**
- **2 bears in RY16 (preliminary)**



### Bears getting into trouble.....



## **Considerations:**

- 1. Harvesting near objective with current regulations**
- 2. Bear population estimate not precise**
- 3. Some potential for overharvest**
- 4. Archery harvest may not increase harvest, just replace other harvest**
- 5. Could adjust resident season or number of nonresident draw permits issued**

## PROPOSAL 106

- Extend the resident Archery only season within DHCMA
- Add registration permit for Aug. 10–24

Submitted by: Resident Hunters of AK

# Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet Overview: Brown Bear, GMU 25D

Prepared by ADF&G, Divisions of Subsistence  
and Wildlife Conservation

Alaska Board of Game, Fairbanks, AK February 17-25, 2017

# Proposal 108

5 AAC 92.025(a)(3). Customary and traditional uses of game.

Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 25D.

**Department Recommendation: Neutral**



# State Subsistence Procedures

## Board Findings on brown bears in Unit 25:

- Is there Customary and Traditional Use of brown bears in Unit 25?
  - No, the Board made a negative C&T finding in 1987.
- Is there a “Harvestable Surplus” of brown bears in Units 25?
  - Yes, based on biological information.
- What is the Amount reasonably Necessary for Subsistence uses (ANS)?
  - The Board has not established an ANS because of the negative C&T finding.
- Does the harvestable surplus allow for all or only some uses?
  - This is a Board of Game determination.

# Current State Regulations, Unit 25D Brown Bear

<b>Regulatory Years</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b># of days</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
1990 - 1998	Sept. 1 - May 31	273	1 bear every regulatory year
1998 - 2002	Sept. 1 - May 31	273	1 bear every regulatory year
2002 - 2004	Mar. 1 - Nov. 30	275	1 bear every regulatory year
2004 - 2005	July 1 - Nov. 30 Mar. 1 - June 30	275	1 bear every regulatory year
2005 - 2012	July 1 - Nov. 30 OR Mar. 1 - June 30	153/ 122	1 bear every regulatory year
2012 - present	July 1 - Nov. 30 OR Mar. 1 - June 30	153/ 122	2 bears every regulatory year
Source Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. Alaska hunting regulations. ADF&G, 1961–2017.			

Alaska Board of Game, Fairbanks, February 17-25, 2017  
ADF&G Division of Subsistence

# 1987 C&T Finding for Unit 25A

## EIGHT CRITERIA WORKSHEET. BOARD OF GAME 1993

GMU: 25A

Negative C & T Finding: 1987

SPECIES: Brown Bear

ALASKA RESIDENTS USING THE SPECIES: Arctic Village and possibly other Alaskan residents.

**1. LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE** (long-term, consistent, excluding interruptions by circumstances beyond the user's control):

Historically, brown bear were taken in this area. Currently, they are rarely used for food, but are profoundly respected.

**2. SEASONALITY** (recurring in specific seasons of each year):

The brown bears are taken sporadically.

**3. MEANS AND METHODS OF HARVEST** (efficient, economic, conditioned by local circumstances):

Most bears are taken as nuisance bears disturbing meat caches or camps. They also are taken if out of dens during winter.

**4. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS:**

Brown bear hunting areas are not shown in written sources.

**5. MEANS OF HANDLING, PREPARING, AND STORING** (traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances):

Historically, and today, brown bear are not generally utilized as a food resource by residents of GMU 25A. Likewise, there is no written information to indicate that brown bear hides were used in the past or today.

**6. INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, VALUES, AND LORE:**

Brown bears do not figure prominently in the Kutchin legends recorded by McKennan (1965). Brown bears are greatly respected, and somewhat feared for their strength and are frequently shot by local residents when they are encountered (Caulfield 1983). These values and practices are probably passed on, by example, between generations.

**7. DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE** (customary trade, barter, sharing, and gift giving within a definable community of persons):

Because brown bears were generally not utilized, brown bear meat, hides, and other products were not a product of customary barter or trade in GMU 25A.

**8. DIVERSITY OF RESOURCES IN AN AREA; ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND NUTRITIONAL ELEMENTS** (wide diversity, substantial elements of a subsistence way of life):

While brown bears are a respected and occasionally harvested resource, they are not an important component of the local economy or culture in GMU 25A according to written sources. Caribou, moose, sheep, small mammals, furbearers, wild fowl, and a variety of freshwater fish such as whitefish, pike, burbot, lake trout, and grayling, form the major subsistence resources for residents of this area.

## **INFORMATION SOURCES:**

Hadleigh-West, Fredrick

1963 The Netsi Kuchin: An Essay in Human Ecology. Ph.D. thesis. Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

McKennan, Robert A.

1965 The Chandalar Kutchin. Technical Paper No. 17. Arctic Institute of North America, Montreal.

Osgood, Cornelius

1970 Contributions to the Ethnography of the Kutchin. Yale University Publications in Anthropology Number 14. Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

## *Criterion 1. Long-term, consistent pattern of use.*

- Brown bears have been harvested for food and raw materials by people living in Unit 25D since before historic contact up to the present.
- Various long-standing cultural traditions and beliefs surround the proper use and treatment of harvested bears speaks to the length and consistency of bear uses.
- Limited brown bear harvest by residents of Unit 25D represented in ADF&G harvest ticket database and in household harvest surveys – vary from 2-24 brown bears per year.

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 1. Long-term, consistent pattern of use, cont'd*

	# of bears harvested				
	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2003 <sup>1</sup>	2004 <sup>1</sup>	2008 <sup>2</sup>	2009 <sup>2</sup>
Beaver	0	0	2	0	0
Birch Creek	0	0	0	0	2
Chalkyitsik	0	N/A	1	0	0
Circle	0	0	1	1	0
Fort Yukon	10	4	10	0	12.2
Stevens Village	N/A	0	6	0	0
Venetie	0	0	3	1.1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>15.6</b>

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments 2002, 2003, 2005

<sup>2</sup> Van Lanen et al 2012



# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 2. A use pattern recurring in specific seasons of each year.*

- Brown bear are hunted primarily in the spring and fall and by den hunting in the winter; the quality of fat and flesh is a factor for timing targeted hunts.
- Also taken throughout the year opportunistically when encountered near camps or communities.

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 3. Methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.*

- Traditionally taken with deadfalls, lances, snares, pitfall traps, spearing, shooting with bows and arrows, clubs, out of dens and along bear trails or in trees. Dogs were sometimes to track and find dens.
- Today, taken largely with large caliber rifles, often during moose hunts and using other methods.
- Extensive local knowledge of den hunting documented in multiple ethnographic sources.

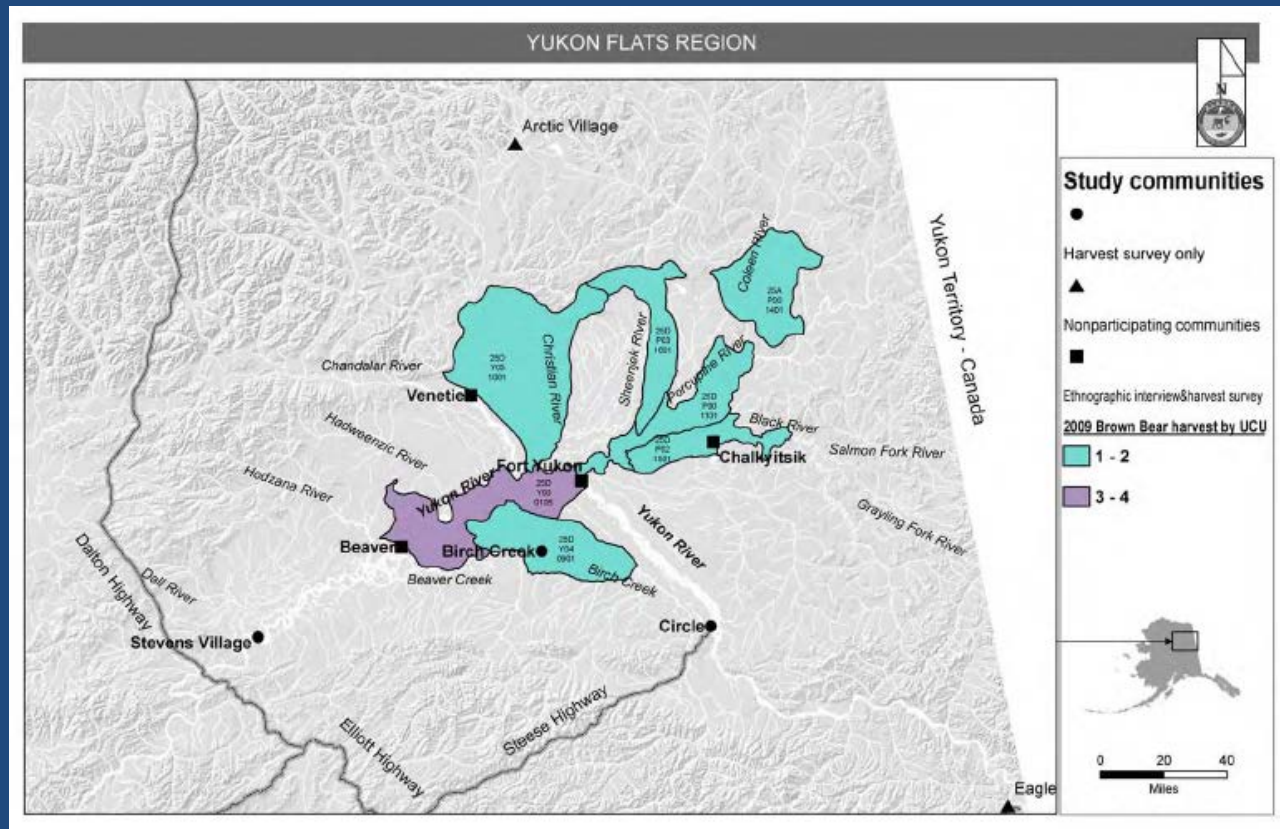
# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 4. The area in which the pattern of use has been established.*

- Community use areas for brown bear fall into 2 categories:
  - specific near-community areas where bear hunting is known to be productive at specific times of year.
  - river corridor areas where fishing and moose hunting activities take place and brown bear are hunted in conjunction with or incidental to these other activities.

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 4. The area in which the pattern of use has been established.*



Alaska Board of Game, Fairbanks, February 17-25, 2017  
ADF&G Division of Subsistence

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 5. Means of handling, preserving, and storing game that have been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances.*

- Brown bear meat may be frozen, dried, smoked, or canned for later use. The meat is also made into dry-meat by cutting thin strips of meat and allowing it to air dry. Preparation is typically by boiling, frying, broiling, barbecuing, or roasting. The fat may be rendered into grease or tallow and used in cooking, making Native ice cream, or eaten with dried fish.
- Meat is shared with relatives and elders, especially if fresh meat has been scarce. Meat not used for human consumption may be used for dog food.
- Hides are used as floor or sleeping mats, insulators for doorways, and the fat is used for waterproofing items such as shoes.



# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 6. The handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.*

- Athabascan traditions attribute great spiritual power to the bear. Ethnographic sources and oral tradition describe the prescription of rules that prescribe who may eat bear, what portions may be eaten, how it is prepared, and what should be done with the inedible parts such as the claws and skull, and proper ways of referring to or speaking about bears.
- Young people learn how to hunt and process brown bear through participation with more experienced hunters.

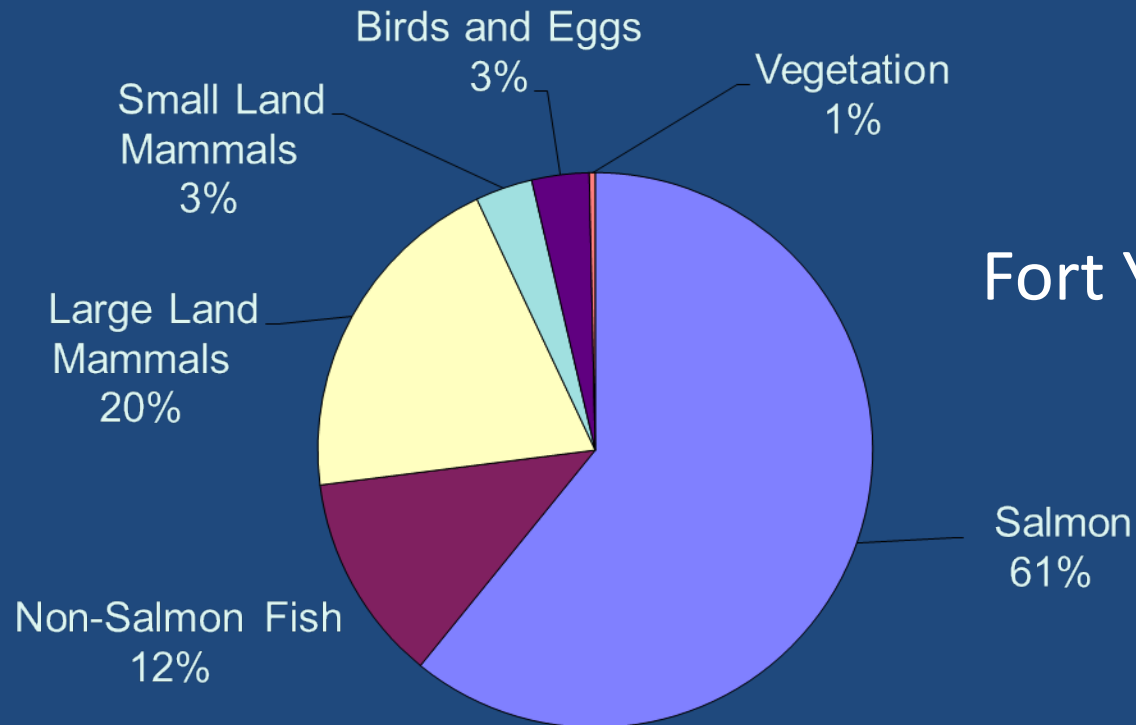
# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 7. The harvest effort or the products of that harvest are distributed or shared.*

- Brown bear meat is shared within hunting parties, families, and communities, although not as widely as black bear meat or other subsistence resources such as moose or salmon.
- Preference for brown bear was likely more common in the past, though households still use it.

# C&T Harvest and Use Patterns

*Criterion 8. A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of the fish and game resources.*



Fort Yukon, 1987

# Proposal 108

## Summary:

- This proposal provides for the reevaluation of the customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 25D.

**Department Recommendation: Neutral**

## PROPOSAL 109

- Lengthen the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 25 and 26 (except DHCMA) as follows:
  - ✓ Residents and nonresidents: Aug. 1–June 30

Submitted by: Public

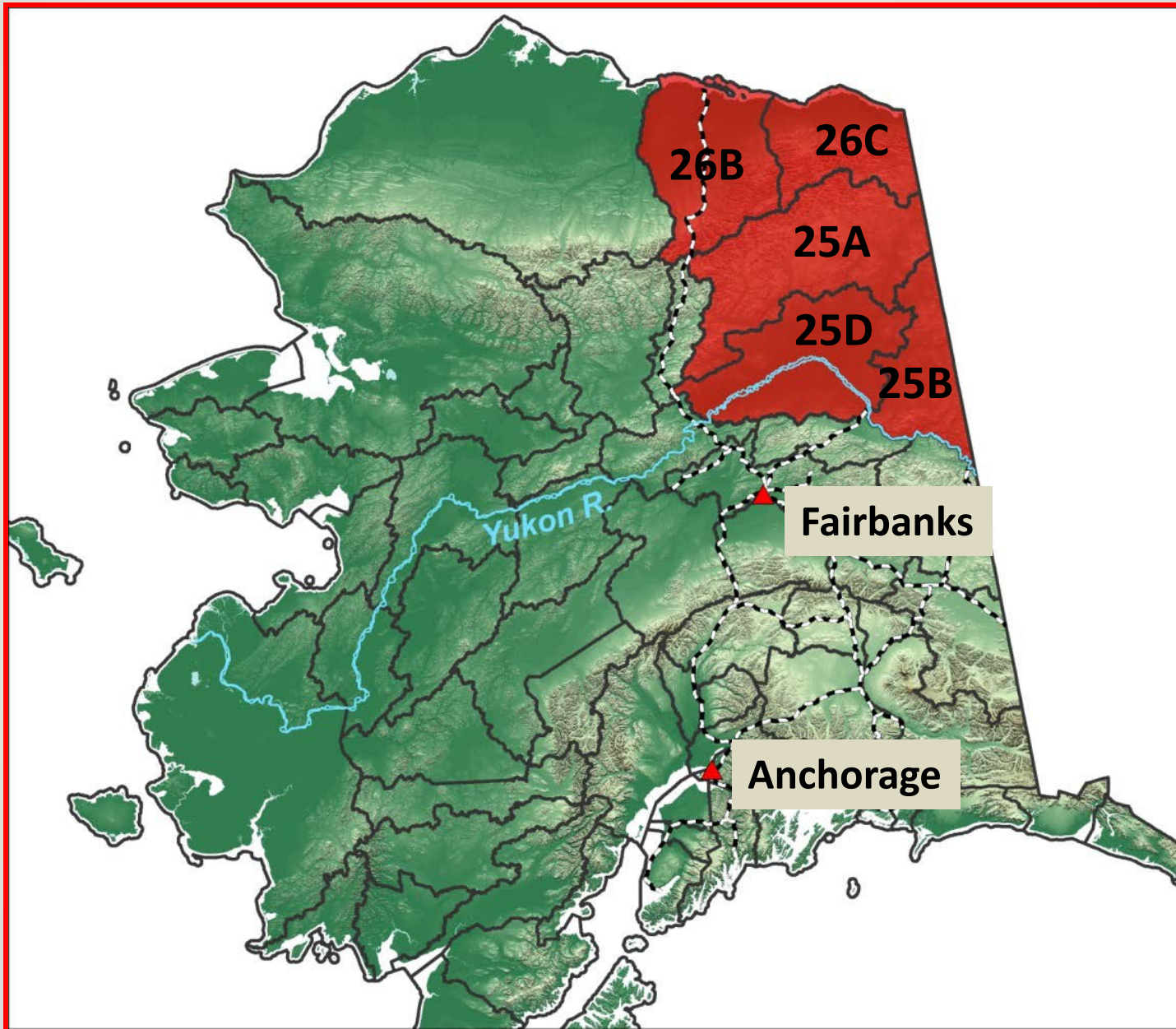
NEUTRAL for Units 25A, 25B, 25D and 26C

TAKE NO ACTION for Unit 26B



# Proposal 109

Brown Bear/Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, 26C



## **Proponent's issues:**

- **Increase opportunity when hunters are already in field for caribou**
- **Harvest of bears is low in most areas**
- **Align state seasons**

## **Effect of proposal:**

### **Units 25A, 25B, and 26C**

- **Extends season by 9 days by opening Aug. 1 vs. Aug. 10**
  - ✓ **No biological concerns**
  - ✓ **Misalign 25A season with adjacent Unit 24A**

## *Effect of proposal cont'd:*

### Unit 25D

- Extends resident season by 58 days mostly when bears are in den
- Eliminates July 1–31 season when local residents are in fish camps
- Extends nonresident season by 134 days mostly when bears are in den; Except:
  - ✓ Open Aug. 1 vs Sept. 1
  - ✓ Close June 30 vs June 15

## **Unit 25A, B, D & 26C Brown Bear Management Objectives:**

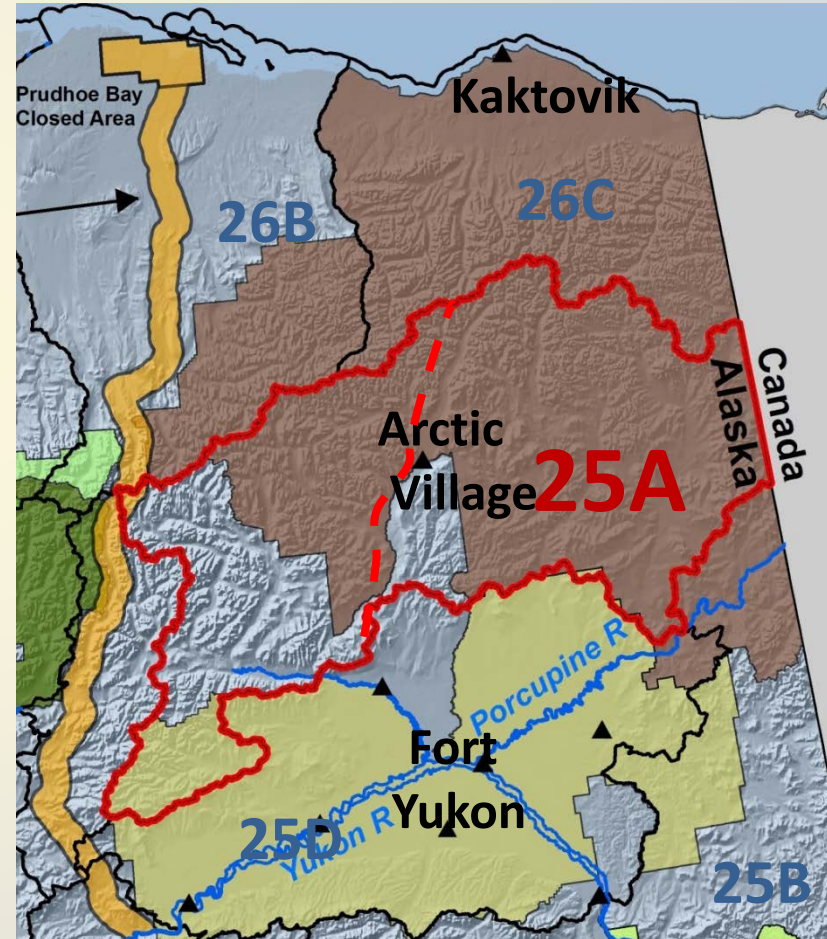
### **3 year mean annual human-caused mortality objective:**

- **Apply 8% harvest rate on population size**
- **No more than 40% of harvest can be females**



### Unit 25A Brown Bear Human-caused Mortality Objective

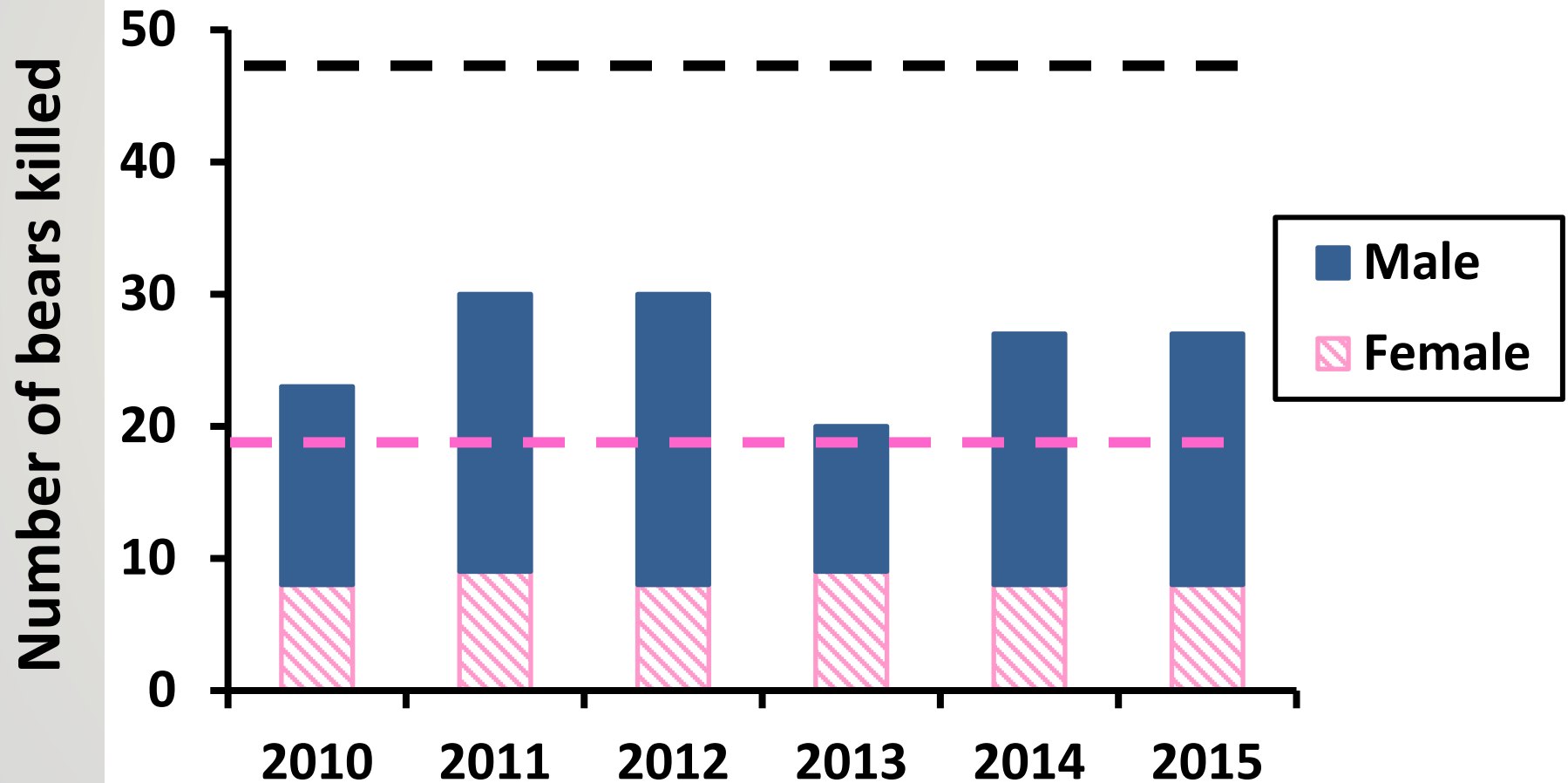
- Estimated population size = ~ 600 bears (extrapolation)
- Estimated sustainable harvest  $\leq 48$  bears (19 females)
- ✓ RY13–RY15 mean was 25 bears, (8 females)
- ✓ 60% of harvest occurred in 25A West



No biological concern

**RY13–RY15 mean = 25 bears, 8 females**

## Unit 25A Brown bear human-caused mortality, 2010-2015

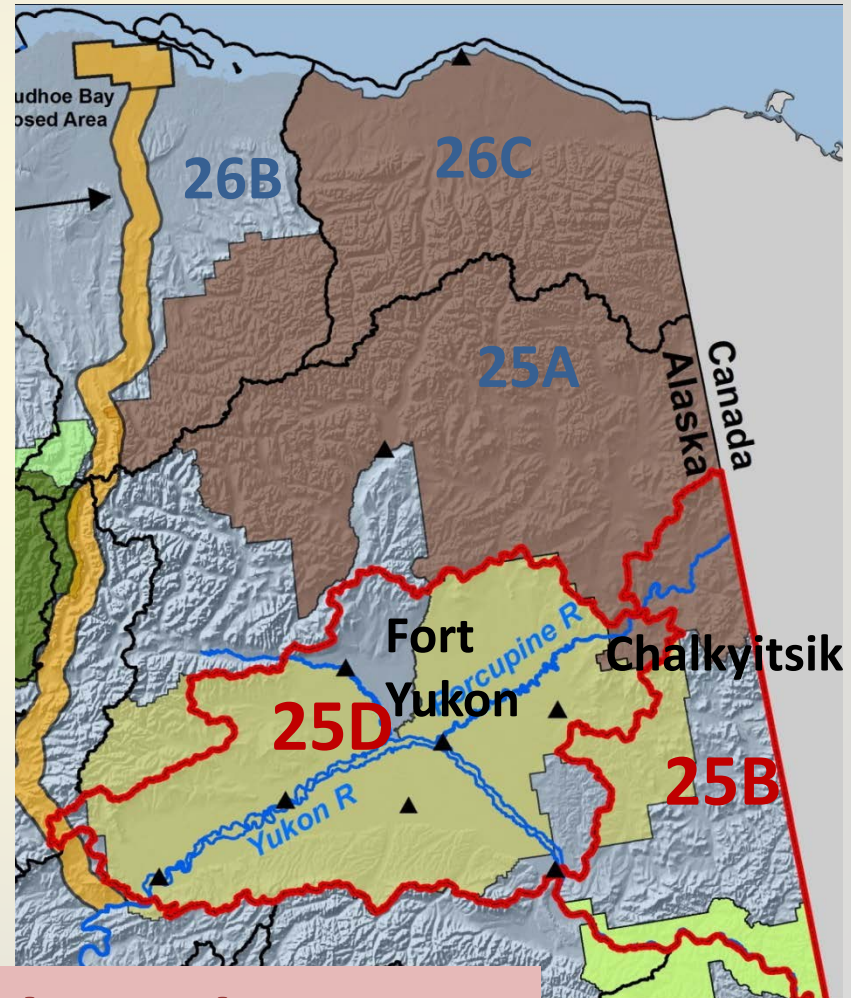


**8% harvest rate = 48 bears, ≤ 19 females**

**Regulatory Year**

## Unit 25B & D Brown Bear Human-caused Mortality Objective

- Estimated population size = ~587 bears
- $\leq 47$  bears, (19 females)
- ✓ RY13–RY15 mean was 7 bears, (3 females)
- ✓ Some bears not sealed; ( $\leq 20$  bears)

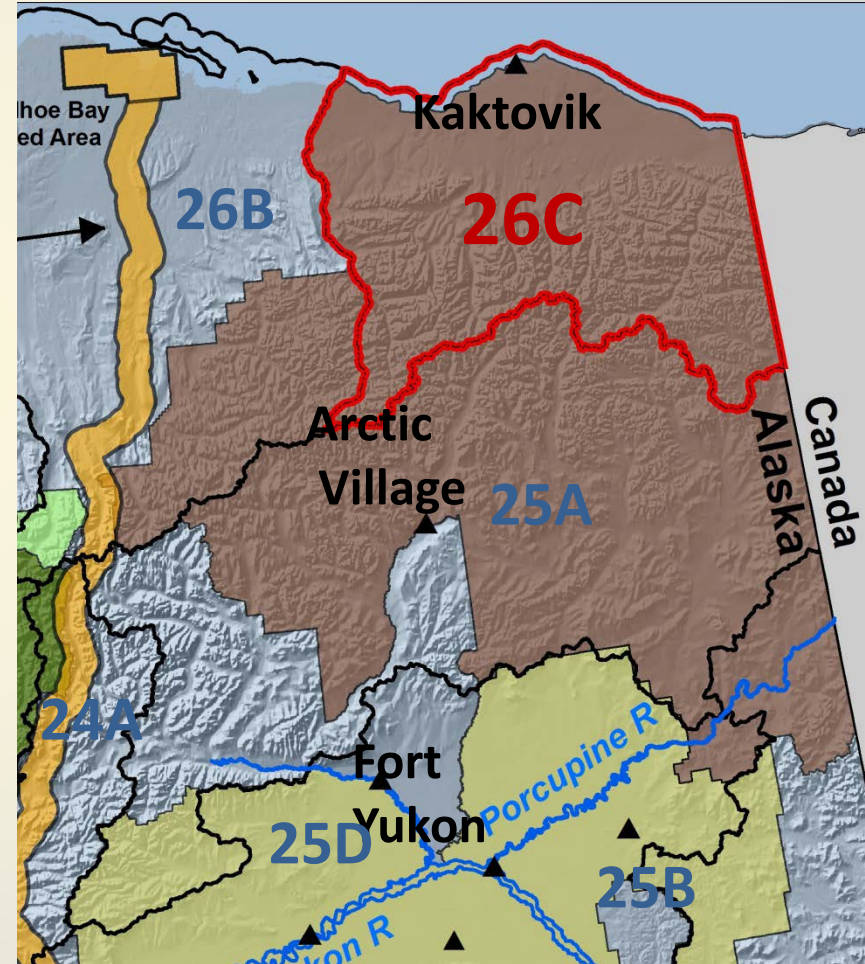


No biological concern



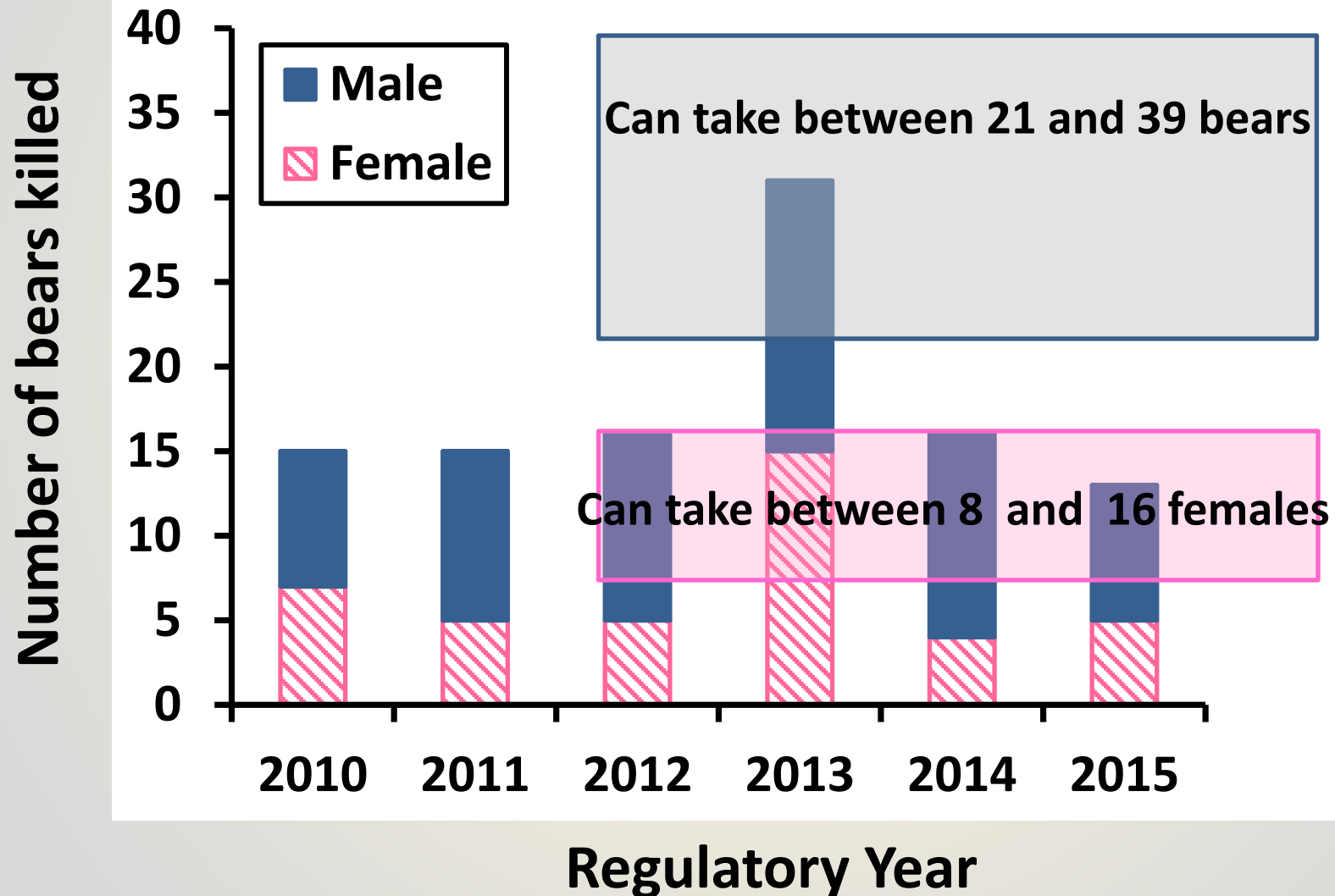
## Unit 26C Brown Bear Human-caused Mortality Objective

- Estimated population size = 260–490 bears
- Estimated sustainable harvest is between 21 bears (8 females) and 39 bears (16 females)  
✓  $\leq$  28 bears, (11 females)
- RY13–RY15 mean was 20 bears, (8 females)



No biological concern

## Unit 26C Brown bear human-caused mortality, 2010-2015





## PROPOSAL 109

- **Lengthen the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 25 and 26 (except DHCMA) as follows:**
  - ✓ **Residents and nonresidents: Aug. 1–June 30**

**Submitted by: Public**

**NEUTRAL for Units 25A, 25B, 25D**

**TAKE NO ACTION for Unit 26B**

**OPPOSE for Unit 26C**

**Increase the black bear bag limit in Subunit 25B  
from 3 bears to 5 bears  
for residents and nonresidents  
(no closed season)**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**

# Proposal 110

## Black Bear/Subunit 25B



- **Black bear abundance is unknown in 25B but likely high**
- **Adjacent 25D density estimated at 425 per 1,000 mi<sup>2</sup> (95% CI 350 –535), highest documented density in Interior Alaska**
- **Harvest unknown but likely low (sealing/harvest tickets not required)**
- **Subsistence surveys estimate local harvest at 26 in RY08 and 49 in RY09 (most of this harvest in 25D)**

# Proposal 110

## Black Bear/Subunit 25B

- **No biological concerns with a 5 black bear bag limit**
- **Proposal intent is to align bag limit with subunit 25D**
- **Subunit 25D allows the take of any bear (cubs and sows accompanied by cubs)**



**Increase the black bear bag limit in Subunit 25B  
from 3 bears to 5 bears  
for residents and nonresidents  
(no closed season)**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**

**Creates a snaring season for black bears in Unit 25D and allow the use of neck snares as a legal method of take. Also allow for the incidental take of brown bears (additional regulatory components explained in next slide).**

### **Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

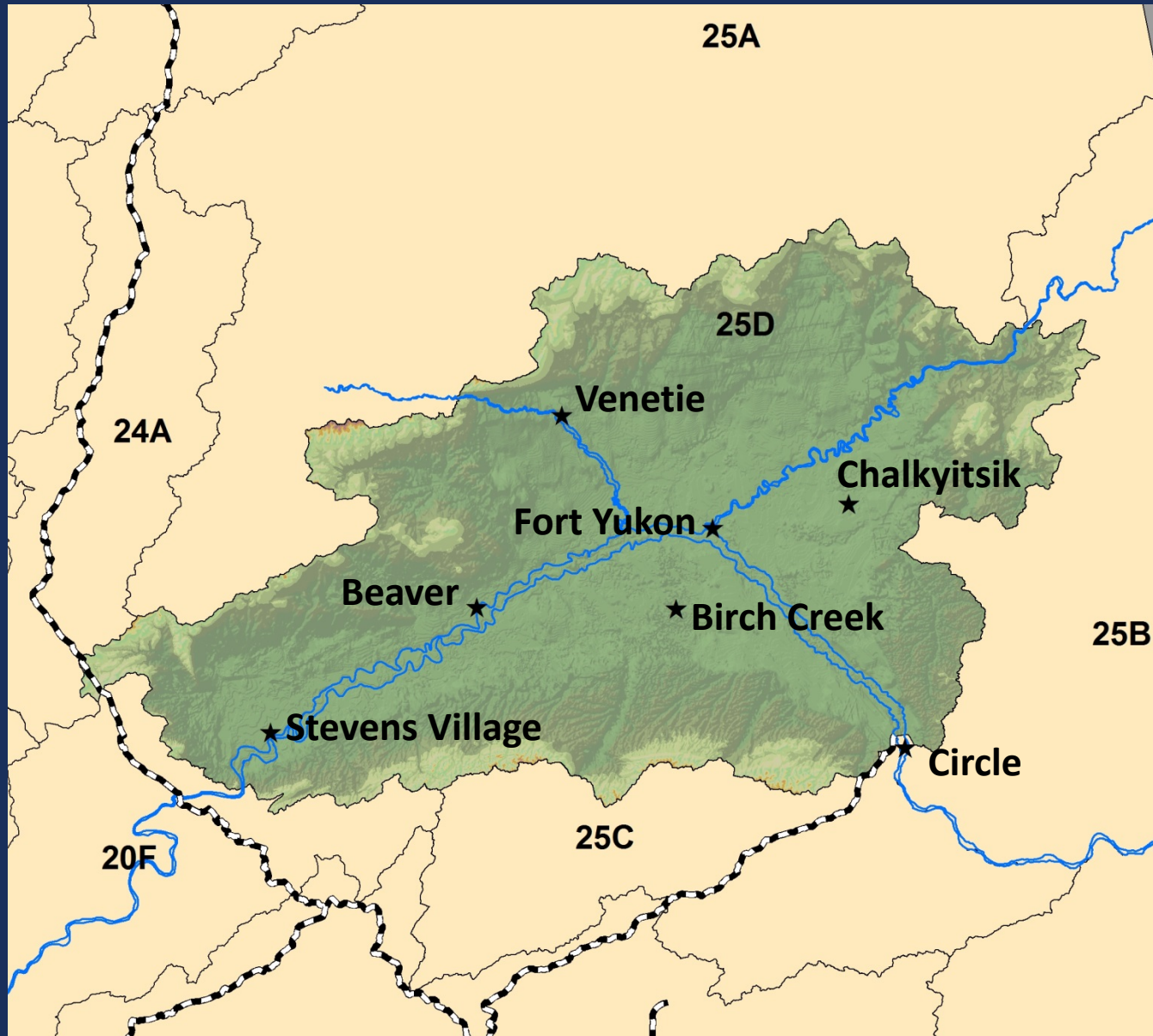
**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**

## Additional Regulatory Components

- Allow the incidental take of brown bears; closed by EO to prevent overharvest
- Season dates: July 1 – Dec 31
- Snare locations marked
- Sets checked daily

## Regulation terminated when:

- Expires after 5 years (“sunset clause”)
- The Board revokes the regulation
- IM moose population objective is met



5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Trapping season and bag limits for furbearers are as follows: no current trapping season or bag limit for black or brown bears.

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited: (8) with a snare, except for taking an unclassified game animal, a furbearer, grouse, hare, or ptarmigan.

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: (6) with the use of a trap or snare.



### Black Bear Population Size

- Subunit 25D estimated density of:  
425 black bears per 1,000 mi<sup>2</sup> (95%CI 350 – 535),  
highest documented density in Interior Alaska
- 6,100 – 9,400 black bears based on 95% confidence interval

### Brown Bear Population Size

- Subunit 25D extrapolated density of 22 brown bears per  
1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>
- 385 brown bears, harvestable surplus 31 brown bears (8%)

## Black Bear Harvest

- Unknown because sealing and harvest tickets not required
- Subsistence harvest surveys estimated 26 bears in RY08 and 49 bears in RY09 (some harvest occurs outside Unit 25D)

## Brown Bear Harvest

- Average annual reported harvest (sealing): 5 bears/year
- Subsistence harvest surveys estimated 2 bears in RY08 and 16 bears in RY09 (some harvest occurs outside Unit 25D)

### C&T and ANS

- Unit 25 has a Positive C&T finding for black bears
- ANS of 150 – 250 black bears
- Snares listed as traditional and historic method of take in C&T worksheets, 2002 and 2008

## Other Considerations

- Additional black bear harvest expected to be minimal and sustainable, no biological concerns
- Unlikely that additional harvest of bear would result in an increase in moose population size
- Concern about incidental take of moose in snares, current moose harvest is at harvestable surplus
- If adopted, the department will need direction on how to administer the hunt
- Registration/Permit hunt for timely tracking of brown bear harvest

**Creates a snaring season for black bears in Unit 25D and allow the use of neck snares as a legal method of take. Also allow for the incidental take of brown bears (additional regulatory components).**

### **Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**



**Allow same-day airborne hunting of wolves  
in Unit 25D**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: TAKE NO ACTION**

**AS 16.05.783 (a).** This statute prohibits shooting or assisting in shooting a free-ranging wolf or wolverine the same day that a person has been airborne. However, the Board of Game may authorize a predator control program that allows airborne or same day airborne shooting under conditions laid out in the statute.

### Background

- IM feasibility assessment presented to Board in 2012
- Department and Board determined an IM plan was not feasible
- No significant changes

**Allow same-day airborne hunting of wolves  
in Unit 25D**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: TAKE NO ACTION**

**Lengthen wolverine hunting season in  
Subunits 26B and 26C  
from Sept 1 – Mar 31 to **July 15** – Mar 31  
for residents and nonresidents**

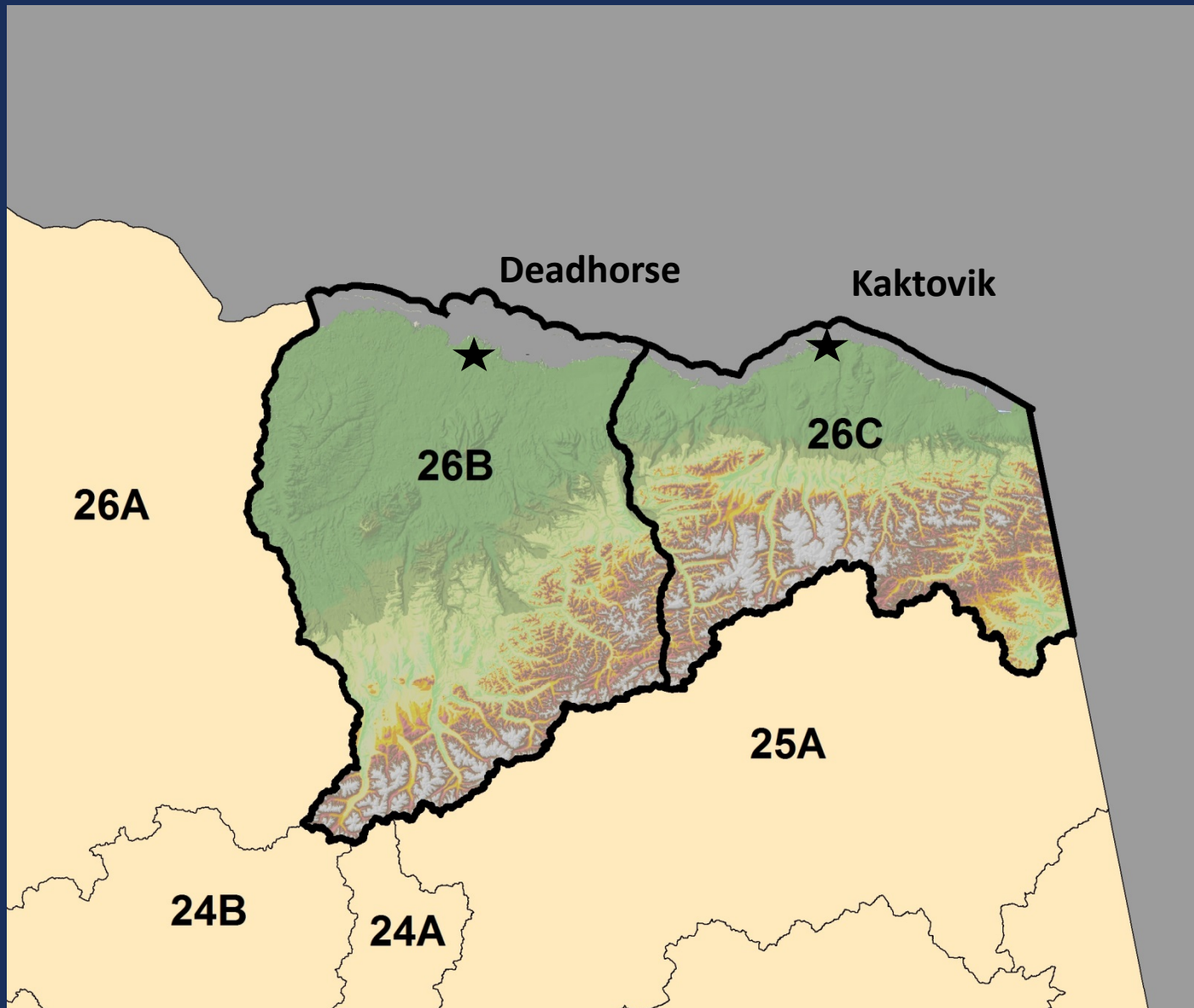
**Public Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**



# Proposal 114

Wolverine/Subunits 26B, 26C



# Proposal 114 Wolverine/Subunits 26B, 26C

## Unit 26B and 26C wolverine harvest

Regulatory Year	# Sealed GMU 26B	# Sealed GMU 26C	Total Sealed
2010	4	0	4
2011	7	2	9
2012	6	0	6
2013	15	0	15
2014	5	1	6
2015	9	0	9
Average	7.6	0.5	8.2

- No population or monitoring surveys conducted
- Wolverine abundance and trend unknown
- Female wolverines wean kits from late July – August
- Harvest of females with young may result in decreased survival rates of “dependent” kits
- Additional harvest as a result of the adoption of this proposal is likely to have no population level effect.

**Lengthen wolverine hunting season  
from Sept 1 – Mar 31  
to **July 15** – Mar 31  
for residents and nonresidents**

**Public Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**

### Lengthen the trapping season for lynx

**Units 25A, 25B, 25D:**

**From: Nov 1 – last day in Feb**

**To: Nov 1 – Mar 31**

**Unit 25C:**

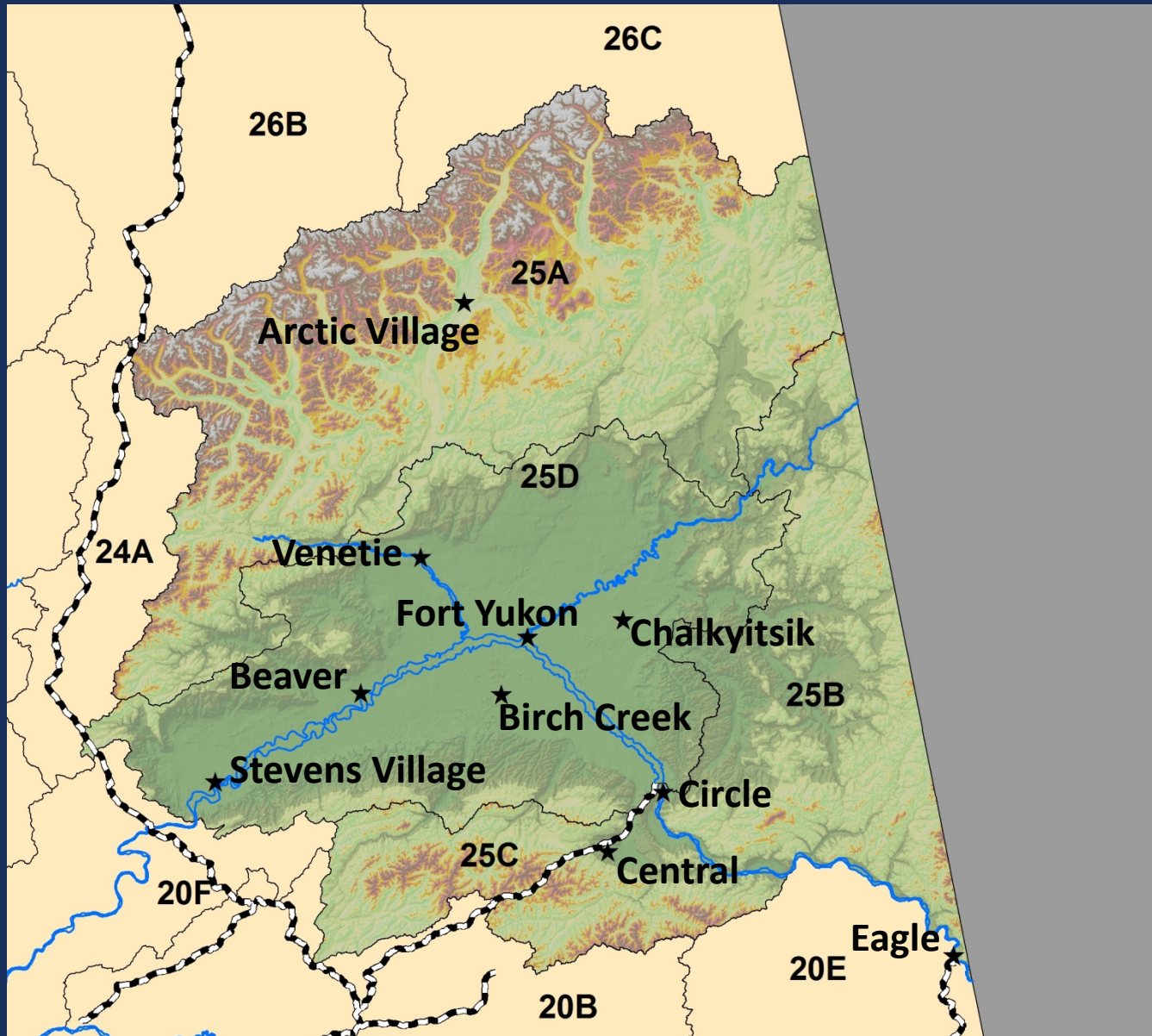
**From: Nov 1 – Mar 15**

**To: Nov 1 – Mar 31**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**

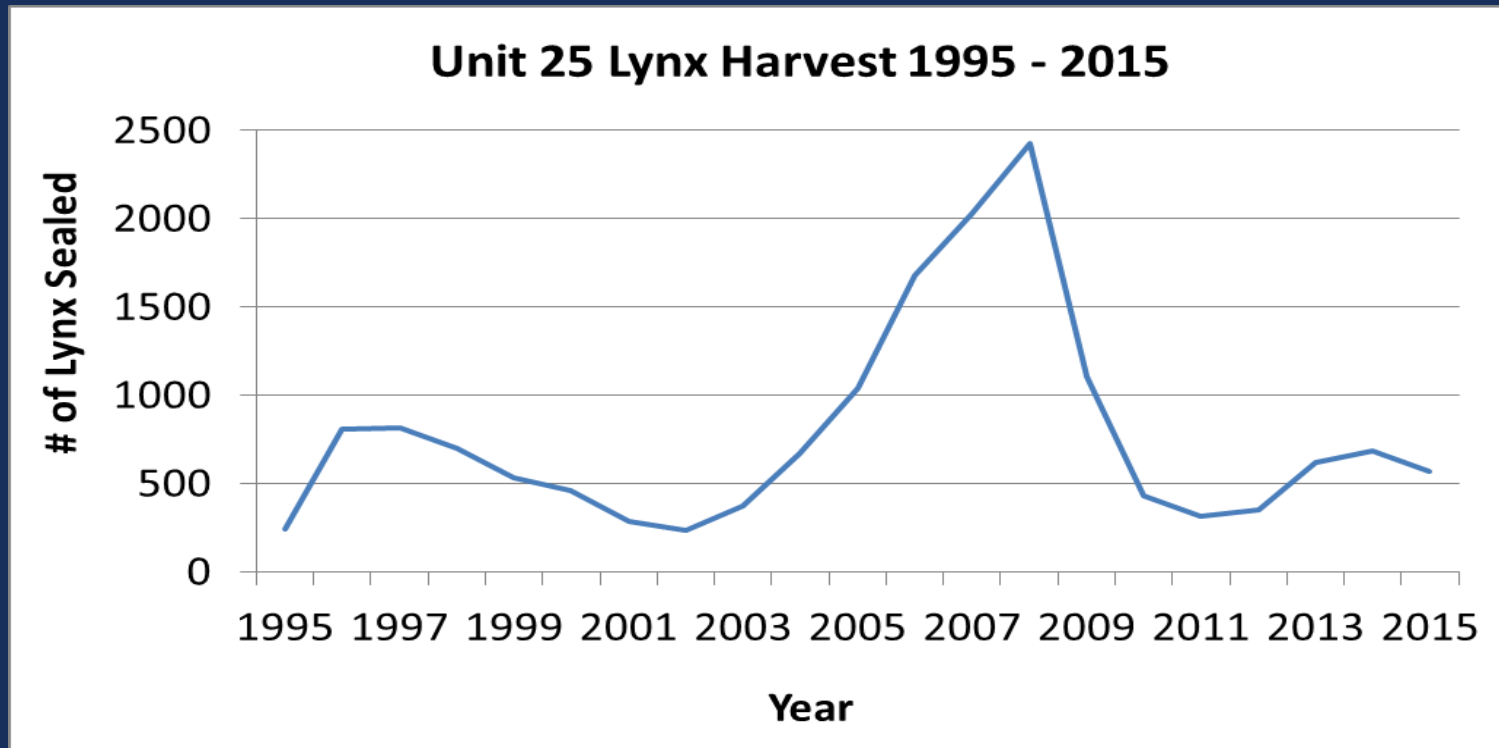




### Lynx Harvest

Regulatory year	# sealed 25A	# sealed 25B	# sealed 25C	# sealed 25D	Total # sealed
2010	15	135	45	232	427
2011	12	94	8	200	314
2012	8	50	15	277	350
2013	9	58	12	526	605
2014	4	144	11	523	682
2015	6	136	17	407	566
Average	9	103	18	361	491

- **No population or monitoring surveys conducted**
- **Lynx abundance unknown but trend likely correlated with harvest**



- **Prior to 1988 the Board regularly adjusted seasons in attempt to adjust harvest relative to population cycles**
- **Since 1988, lynx trapping season has remained unchanged**
- **No biological concern with an extended season**

### Lengthen the trapping season for lynx

**Units 25A, 25B, 25D:**

**From: Nov 1 – last day in Feb**

**To: Nov 1 – Mar 31**

**Unit 25C:**

**From: Nov 1 – Mar 15**

**To: Nov 1 – Mar 31**

**Yukon Flats AC Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL**