

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

Department Proposal

Department recommendation: SUPPORT

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Support (12-0)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>Support (11-0)</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

RM575: Antlered bull permit - May be announced

RM576: Antlerless permit - May be announced

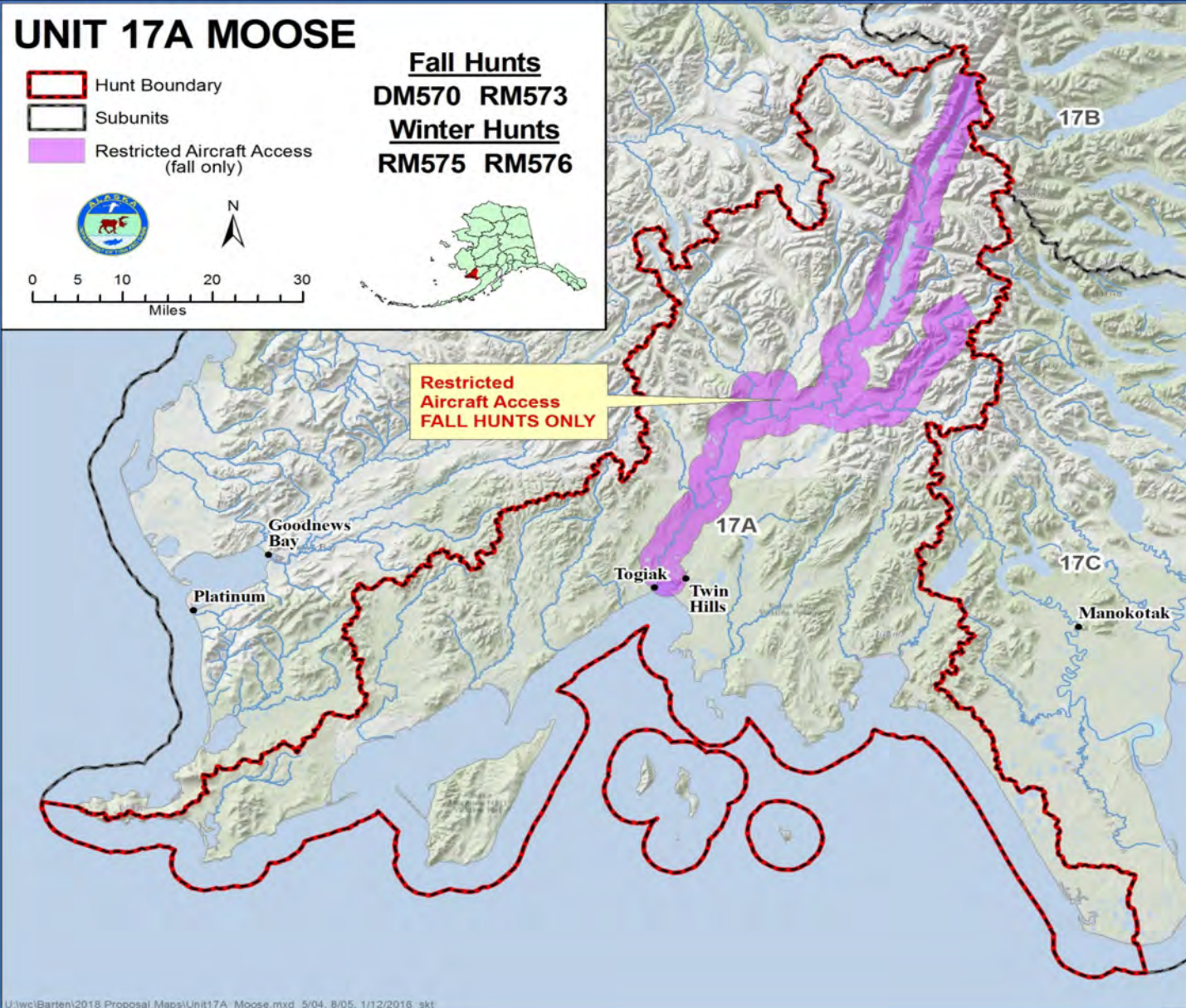
(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1 – end of Feb.)

Unit 17A Moose Management Strategy

- **Moose Management Group (MMG):** Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence RAC, Nushagak and Togiak F&G AC's, Togiak NWR, ADF&G, and a commercial hunting guide.

- **Unit 17A Moose Management Plan (MMP)**
 - Earliest version 1996-latest revision in January 2013.

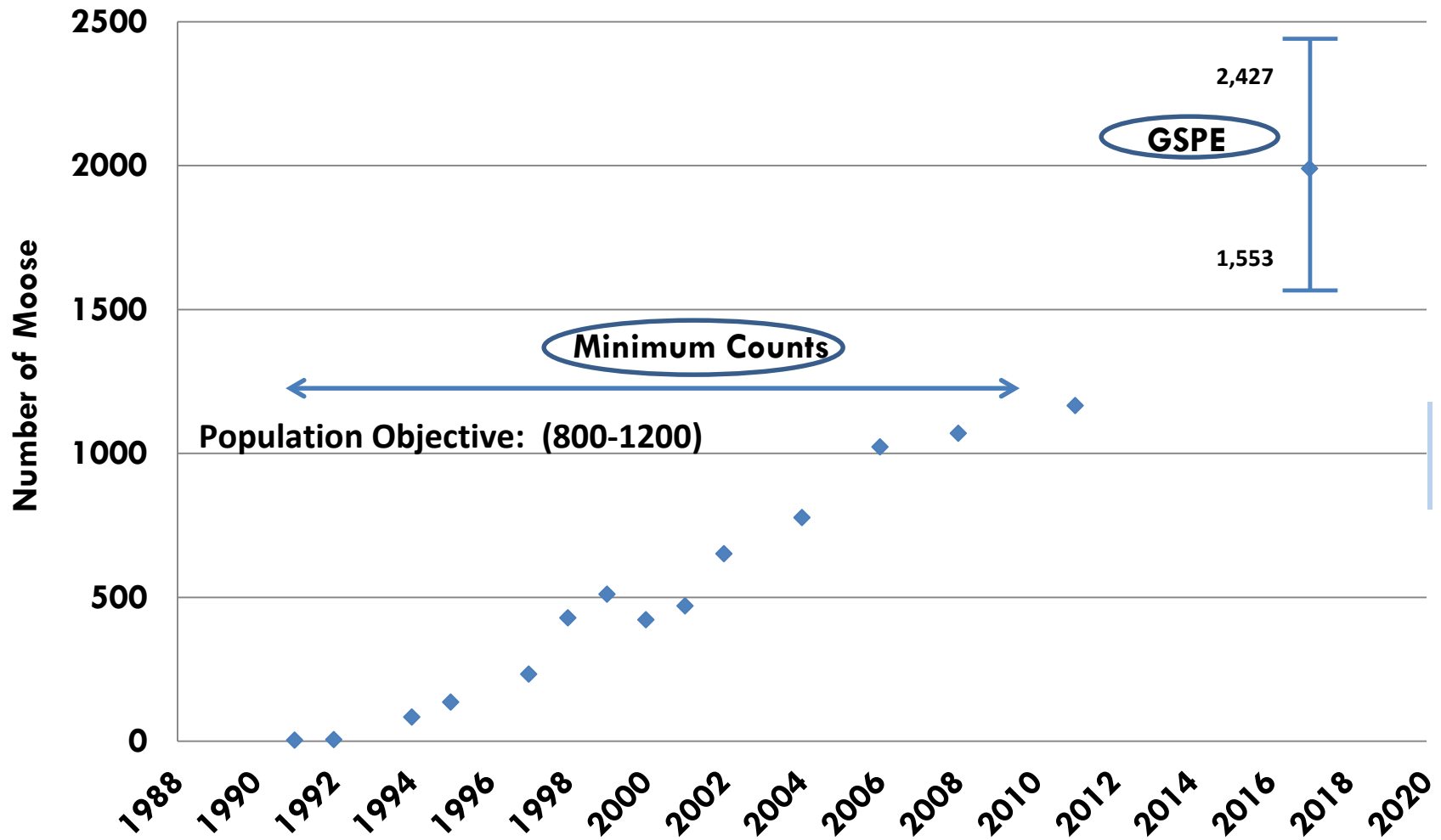
- **Board recognition of MMG and MMP**
 - In 2013 revision, the board did not adopt plan but adopted regulations consistent with the plan
 - Board provided findings that directed department discretionary authority and has upheld these decisions in subsequent meetings



Relevant Plan Objectives

- **17A Population Objectives** : 800 –1,200 moose (based on moose habitat studies).
- **If moose population is stable or increasing and above 600 animals, allow for a limited winter antlerless hunt.**

Unit 17A Population Estimates 1991-2017



Summary

- **Abundance exceeds objectives.**
- **Management plan recommends antlerless harvest under current population parameters.**
- **Antlerless hunt is an important management tool in lowering moose density.**
- **Antlerless hunt provides harvest opportunity for surplus moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

Department Proposal

Department recommendation: SUPPORT

Nushagak AC:	Support (12 – 0)
Togiak AC:	Support (11 – 0)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Shift the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A-beginning and ending 5 days later than the current season.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: No Action

Togiak AC: No Action

Lake Iliamna AC: No Action

Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action

17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

Season dates: Aug 30 – Sept 25 (Proposed)

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

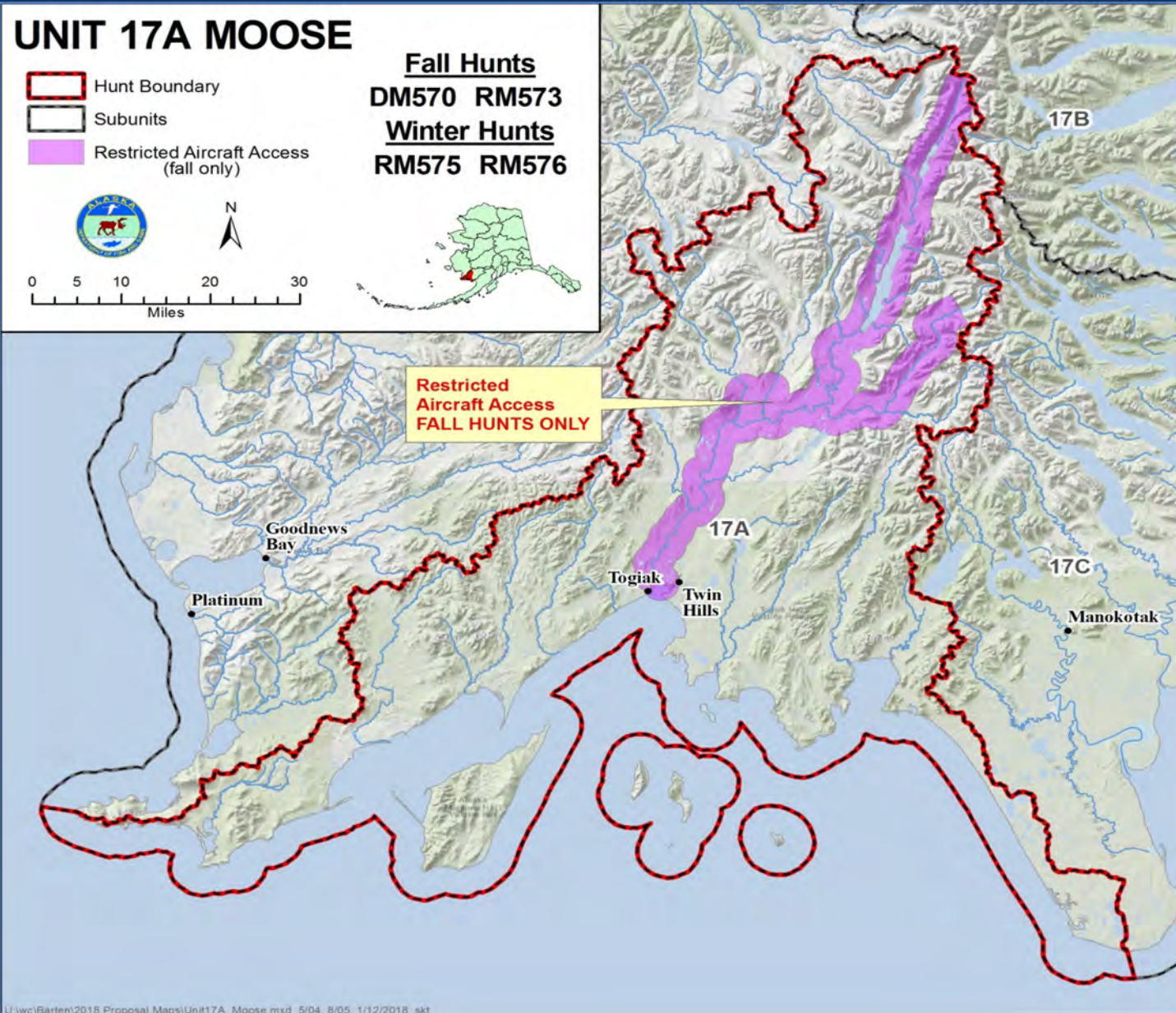
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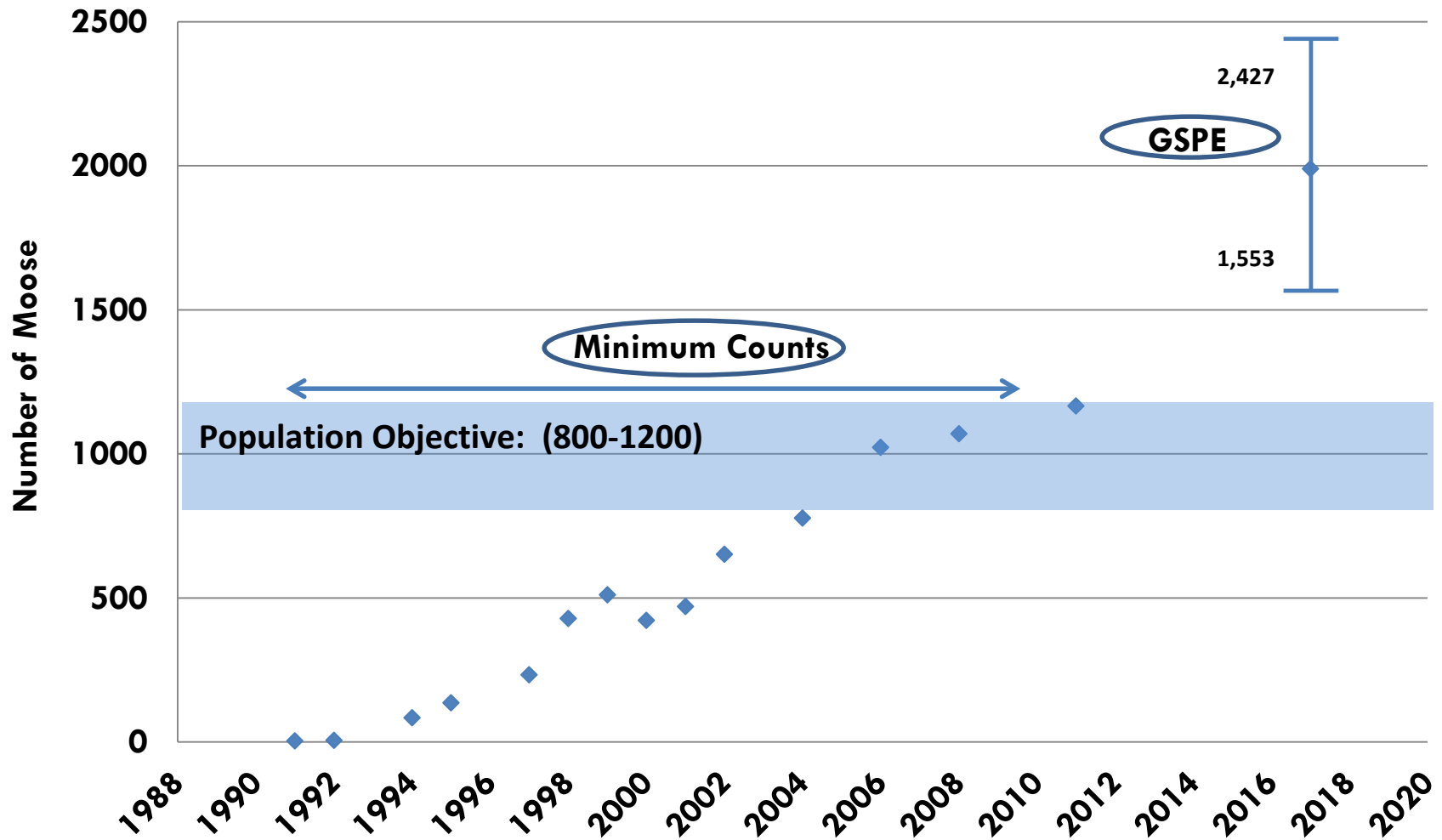
(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1 - end of Feb.)

Proposal 137

Moose/Unit 17A



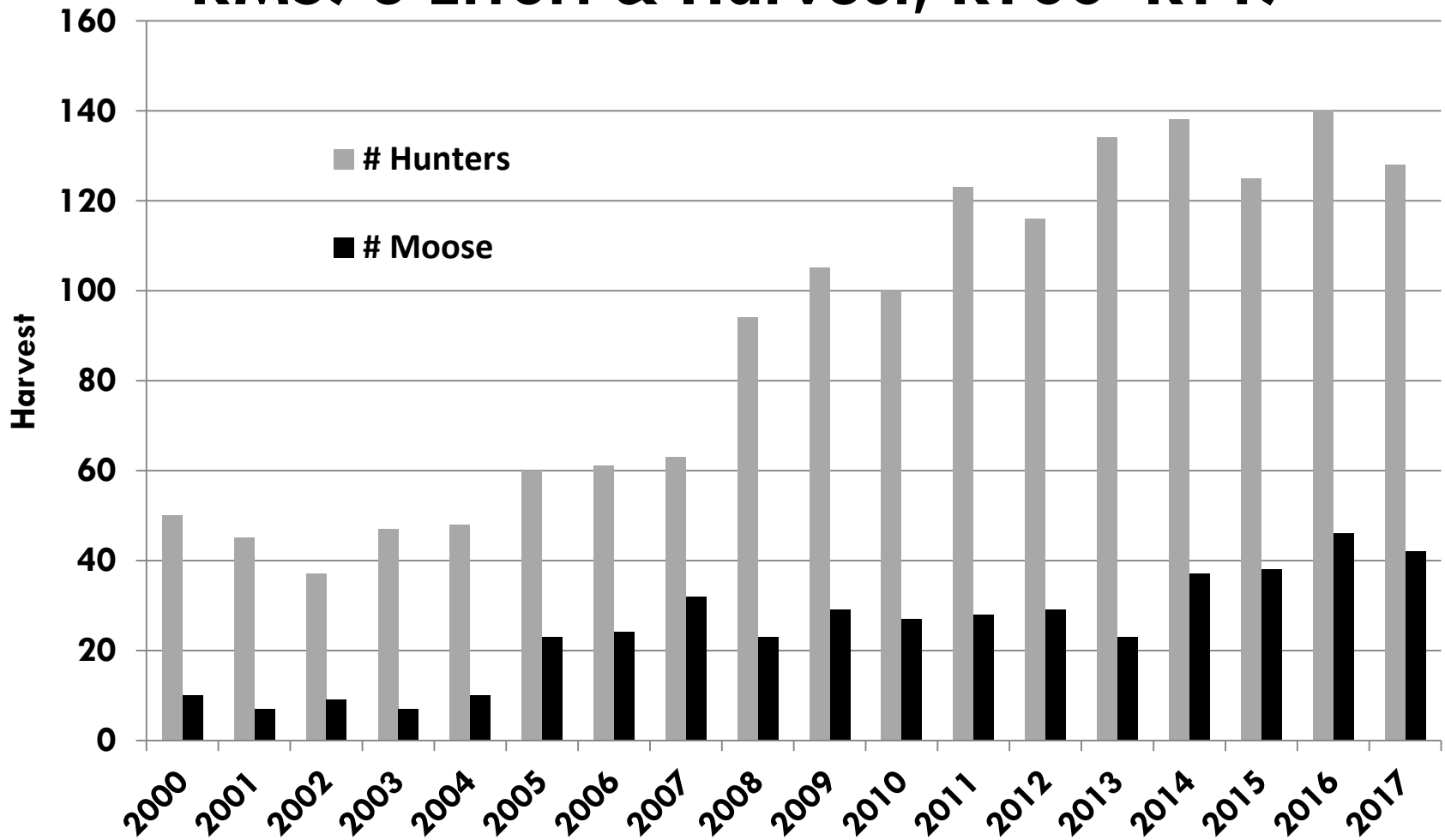
Unit 17A Population Estimates 1991-2017



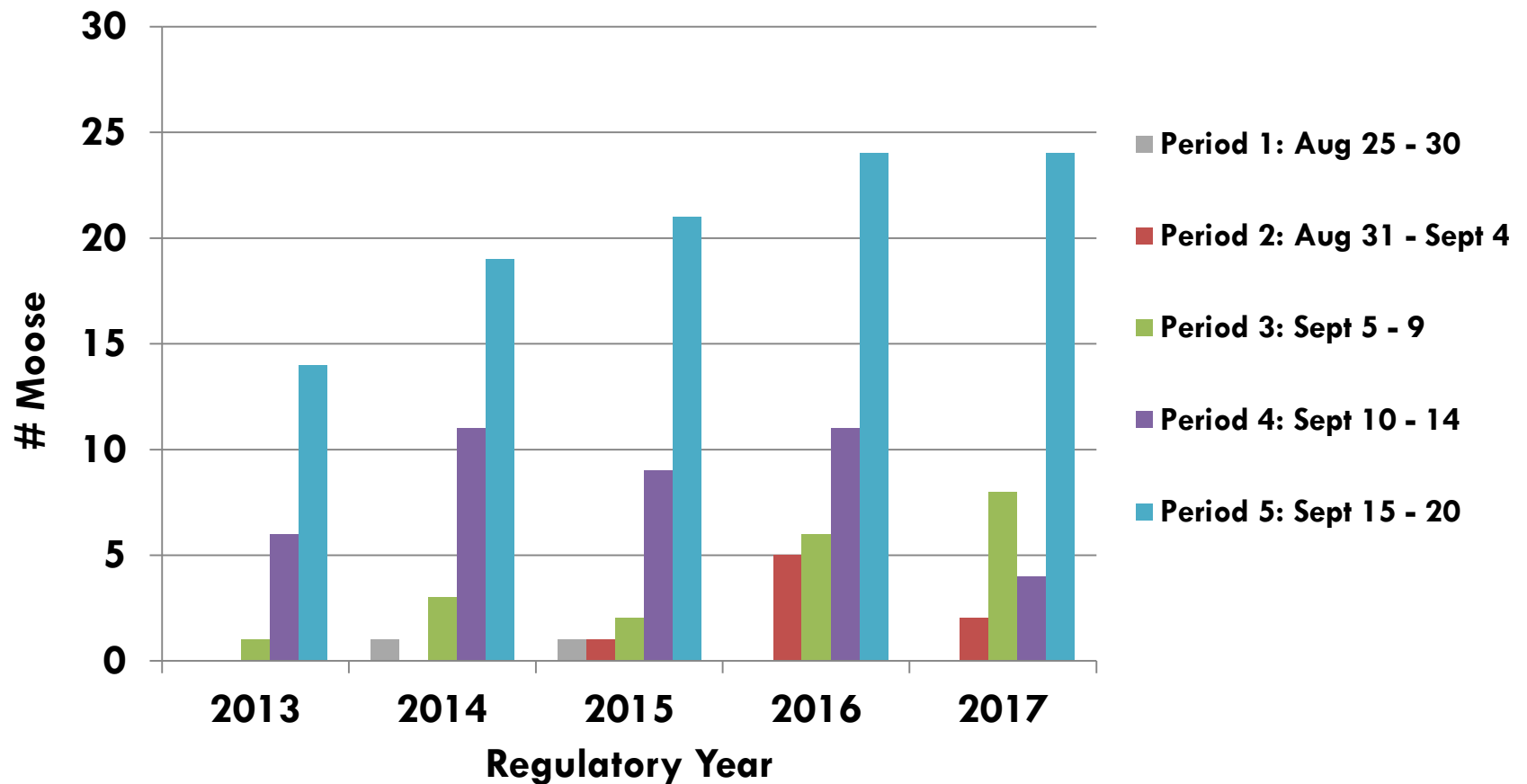
Composition and Recruitment

- **Fall 2016 GSPE survey composition: 64 bulls, 31 calves:100 cows, (n=259 moose).**
- **Fall 2017 GSPE survey composition: 77 bulls, 25 calves:100 cows, (n=403 moose).**
- **Surveys were conducted without snow, SCF using collared moose was 1.38 in 2016 and 1.40 in 2017.**
- **Bull composition is likely biased high due to higher sightability of bull moose with antlers.**

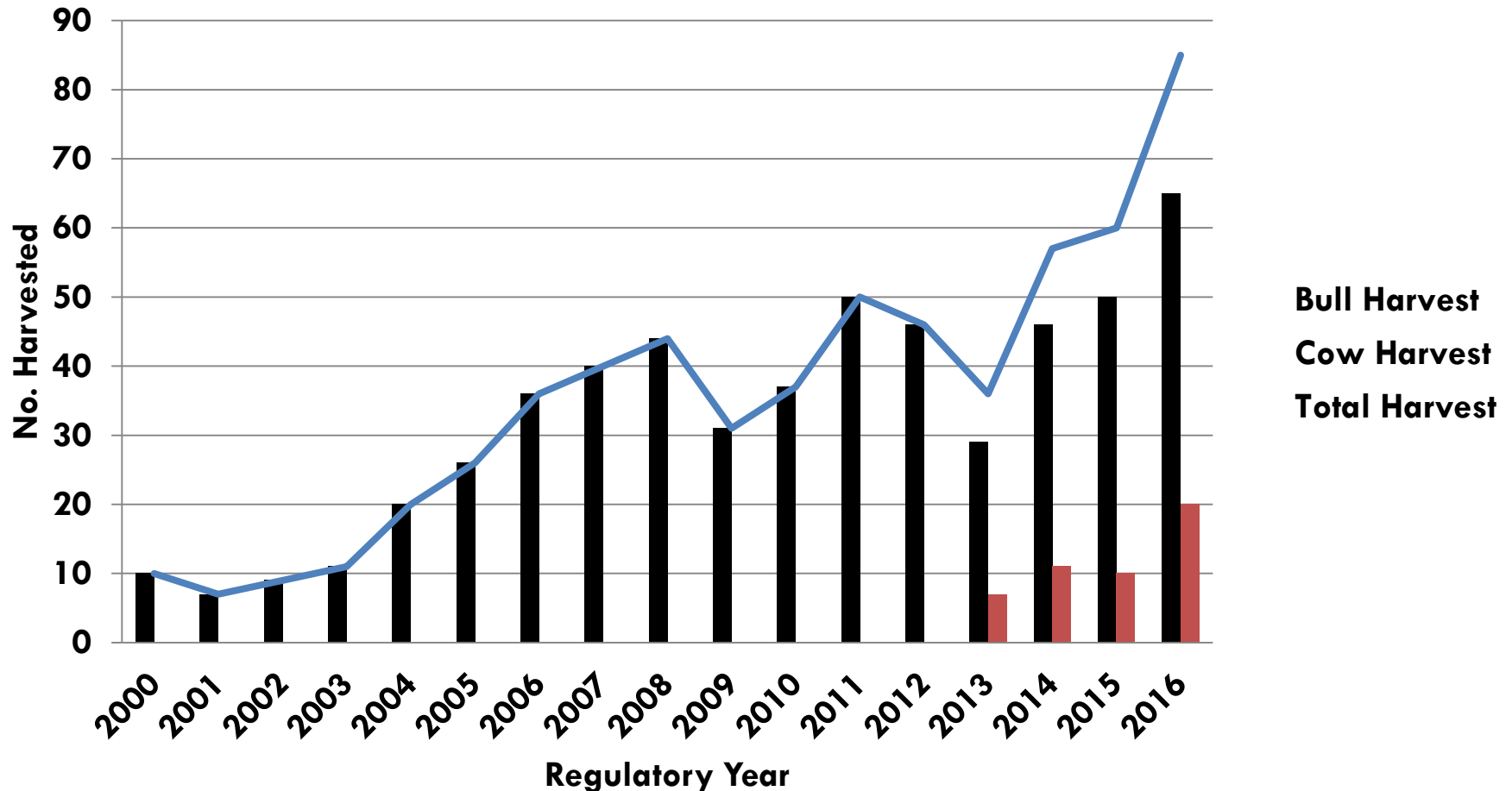
RM573 Effort & Harvest, RY00–RY17



RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17



Unit 17A Moose Harvest RY00–RY16



Summary

- **Abundance exceeds objectives.**
- **This action would be consistent with the management plan.**
- **Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.**
- **Harvest chronology suggests bull moose harvest could increase substantially under proposed season.**

Shift the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A-beginning and ending 5 days later than the current season.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

Extend the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A by 5 days.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:

Support (11-1)

Togiak AC:

Support (11-0) amended to extend season by 7 days

Lake Iliamna AC:

No Action

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No Action

17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

Season dates: Aug 30 – Sept 25 (Proposed)

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on
at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

RM575: Antlered bull permit - May be announced




RM576: Antlerless permit - May be announced

(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1– end of Feb.)

Proposal 138

Moose/Unit 17A

UNIT 17A MOOSE

-  Hunt Boundary
-  Subunits
-  Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)

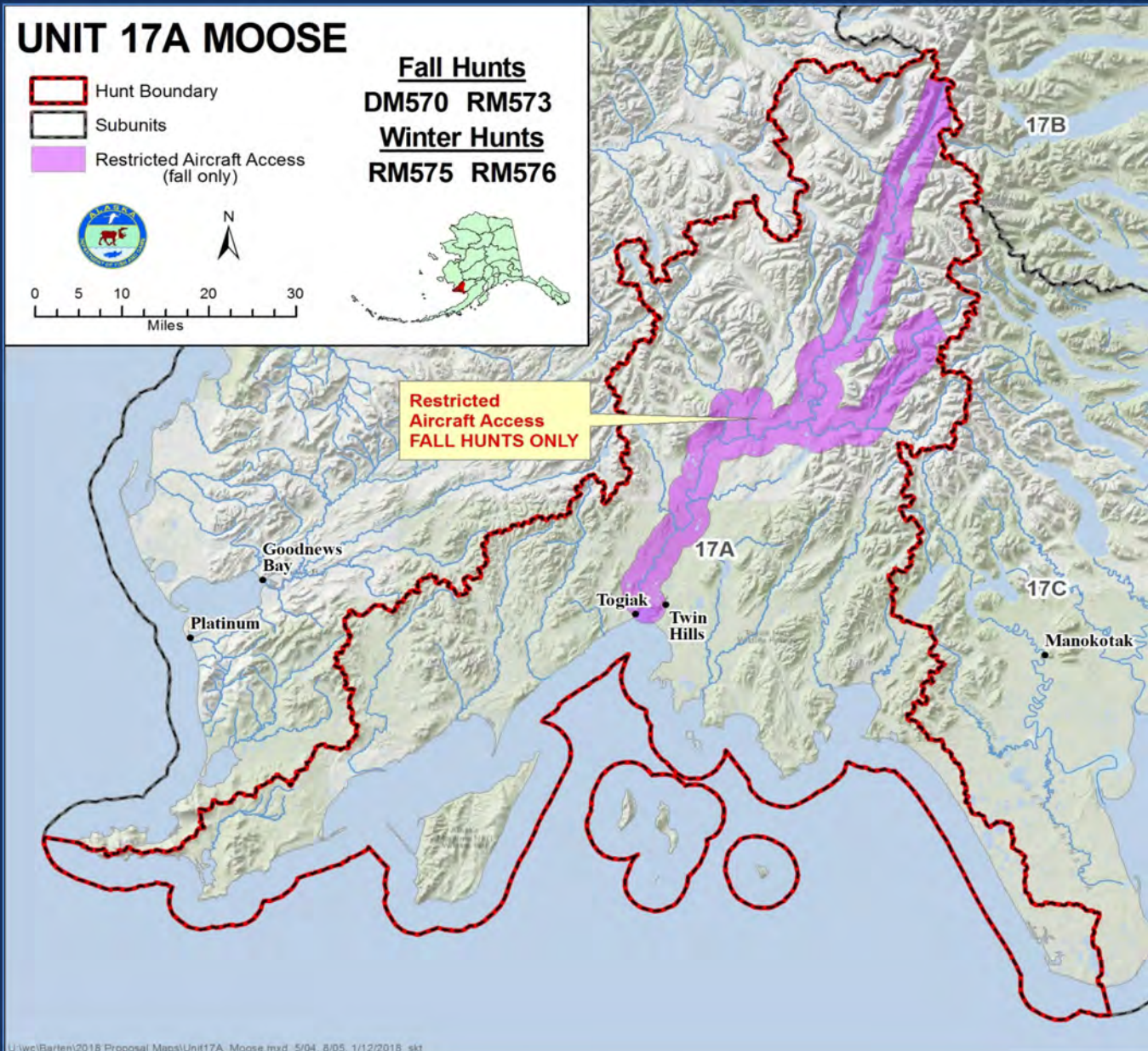


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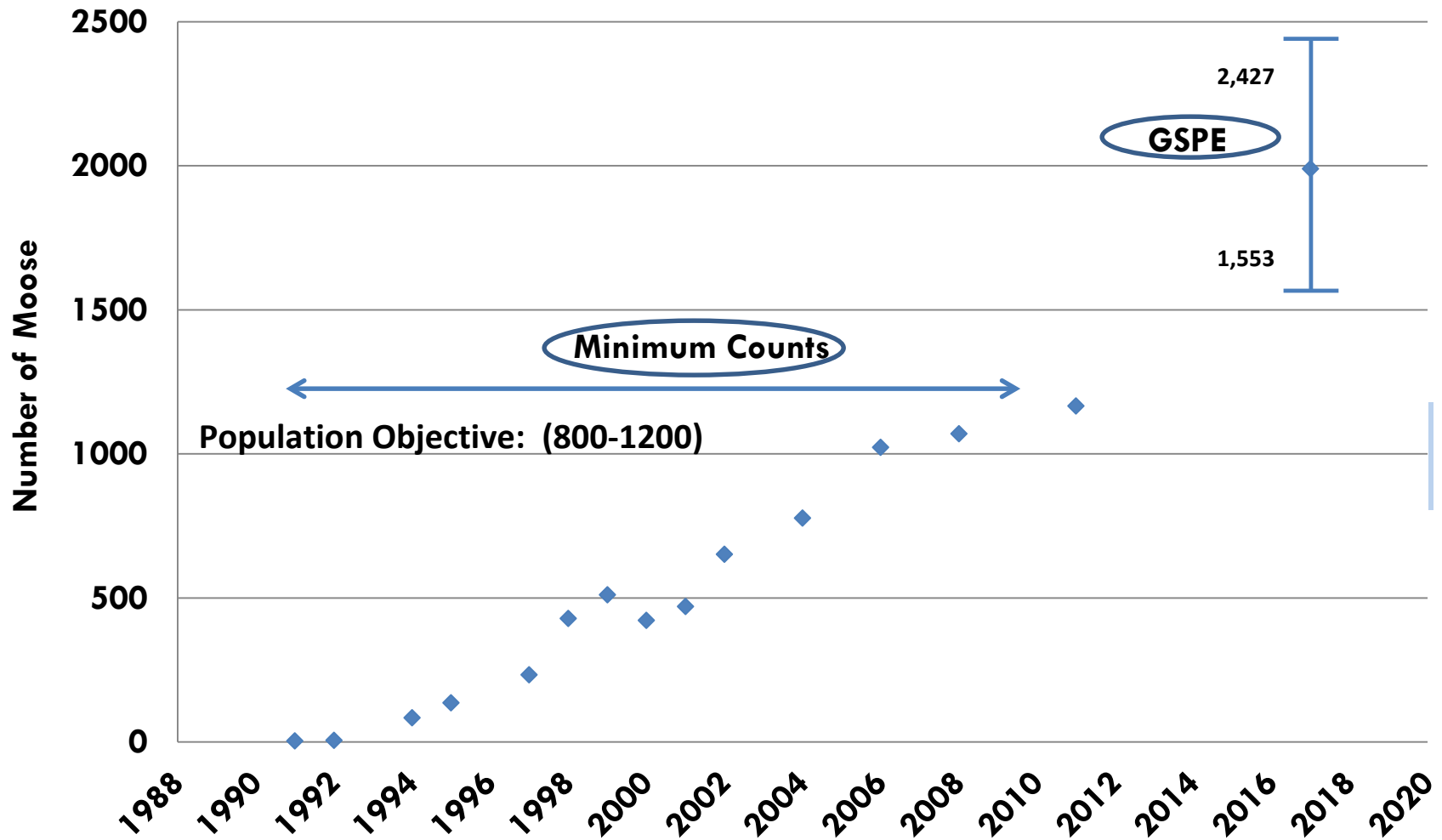


Fall Hunts
DM570 RM573
Winter Hunts
RM575 RM576

Restricted
Aircraft Access
FALL HUNTS ONLY



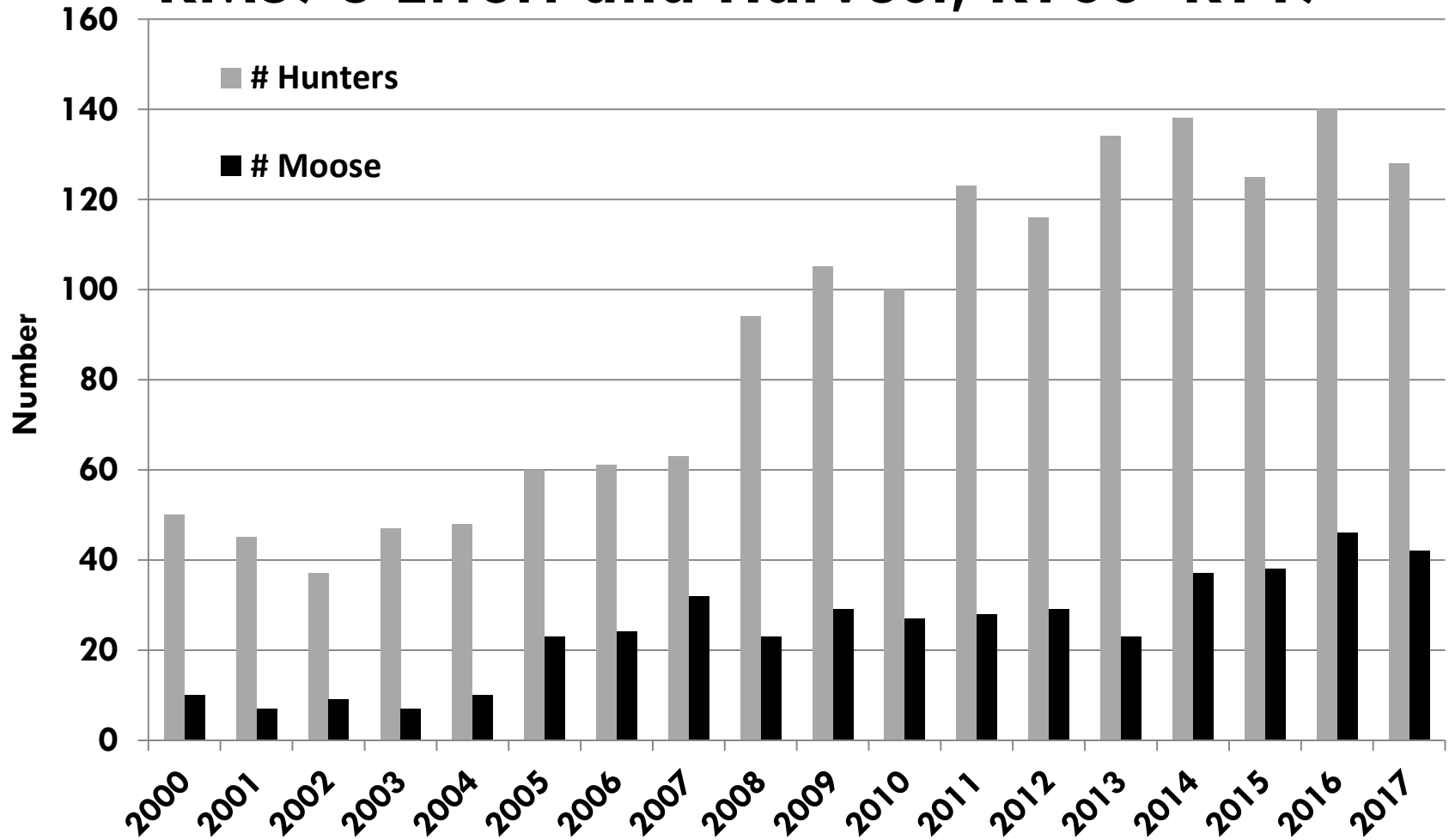
Unit 17A Population Estimates 1991-2017



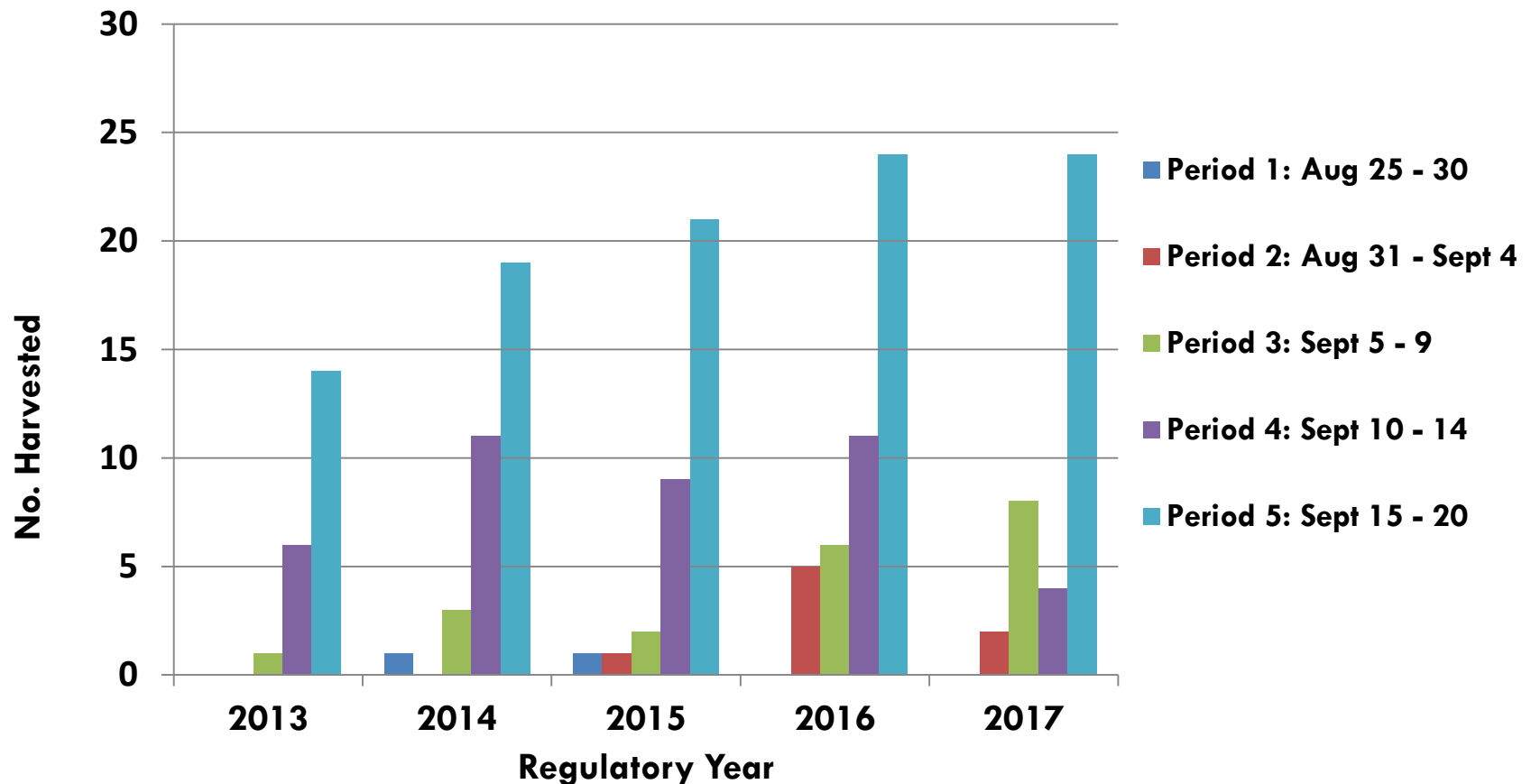
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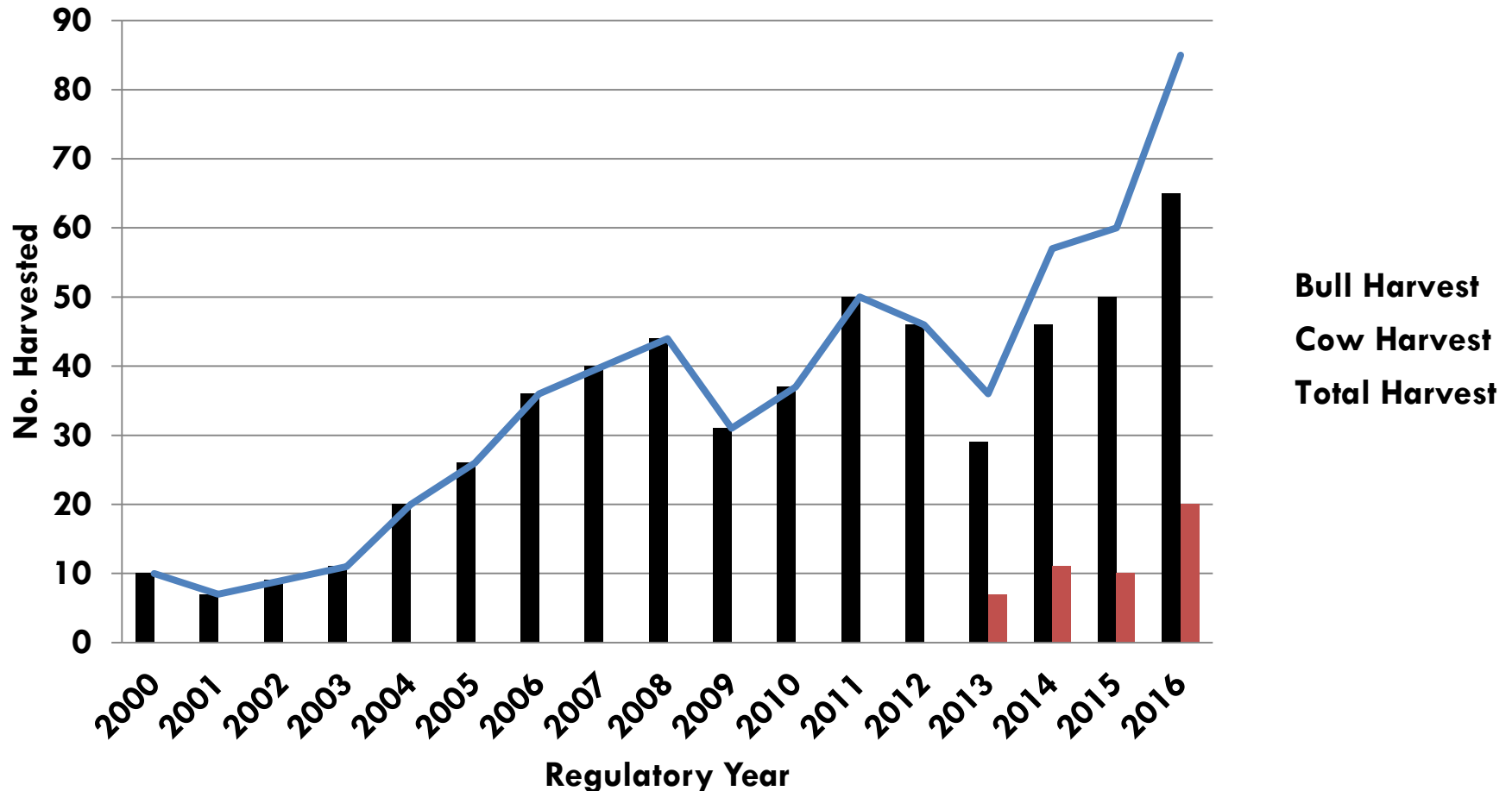
RM573 Effort and Harvest, RY00–RY17



RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17



Unit 17A Moose Harvest RY00–RY16



Summary

- **Abundance exceeds objectives.**
- **This action would be consistent with the management plan.**
- **Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.**
- **Harvest chronology suggests bull moose harvest could increase substantially under proposed season.**

Extend the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A by 5 days.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:

Support (11-1)

Togiak AC:

Support (11-0) amended to extend season by 7 days

Lake Iliamna AC:

No Action

Naknek/Kvichak AC:

No Action

Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A by 9 days.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 20 (Proposed)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

RM575: Antlered bull permit - May be announced




RM576: Antlerless permit - May be announced

(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1– end of Feb.)

Proposal Rationale

- **Lake access is limited in unit, leading to competition for hunting sites during the current 11 day season.**
- **The proposed action would allow hunting pressure to disperse across the lengthened season.**
- **All hunters would benefit from this more predictable situation associated with access and availability of sites.**

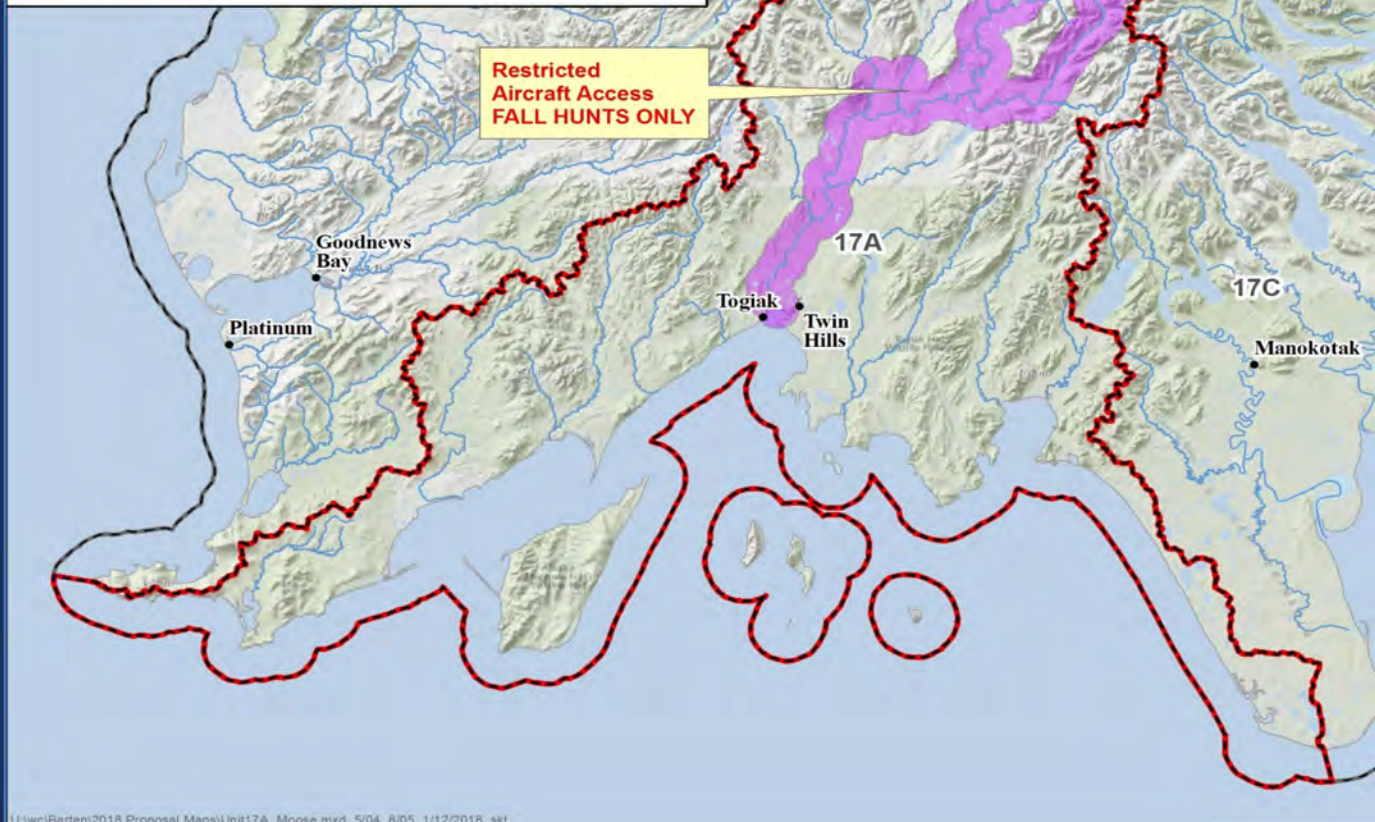
UNIT 17A MOOSE

-  Hunt Boundary
-  Subunits
-  Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)



Fall Hunts
DM570 RM573
Winter Hunts
RM575 RM576

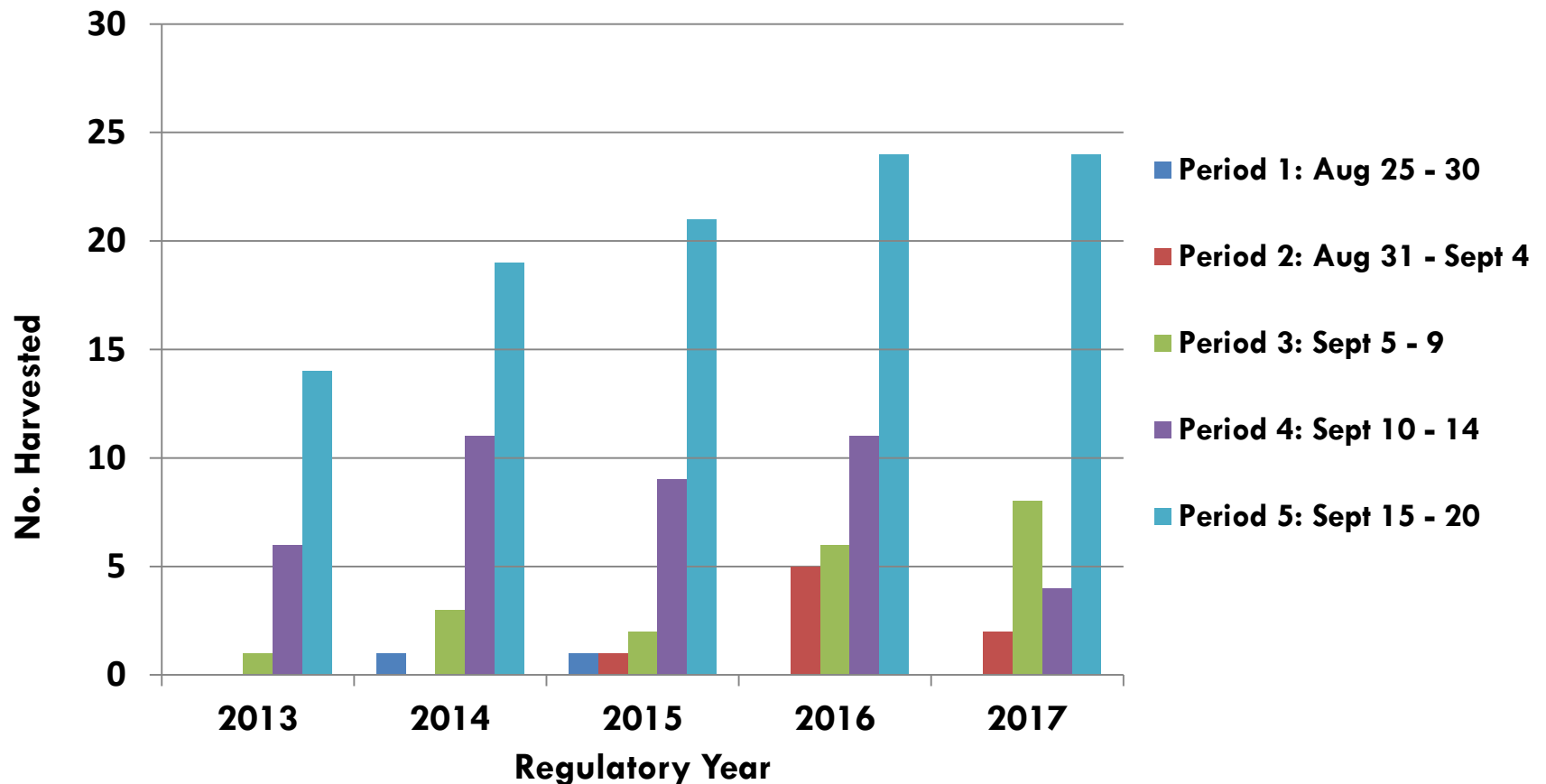
Restricted
Aircraft Access
FALL HUNTS ONLY



DM570 Permit History

Year	Applicants	Permits available	Drawn (%)	Hunted (#)	Harvested (#)	Success (%)
2014	13	20	100	8	4	50%
2015	30	20	67	16	4	25%
2016	33	20	61	18	10	56%
2017	97	20	21	11	3	27%

RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17



Composition and Recruitment

- **Fall 2016 GSPE survey composition: 64 bulls, 31 calves:100 cows, (n=259 moose).**
- **Fall 2017 GSPE survey composition: 77 bulls, 25 calves:100 cows, (n=403 moose).**
- **Surveys were conducted without snow, SCF using collared moose was 1.375 in 2016 and 1.409 in 2017.**
- **Bull composition is likely biased high due to higher sightability of bull moose with antlers.**

Summary

- **Harvest chronology from RM573 suggests harvest success could increase substantially under proposed extended season.**
- **Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.**
- **Level of additional harvest with lengthened seasons is difficult to gauge.**
- **Cumulative effect of resident and nonresident season extension requests and increased harvest should be considered.**

Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A by 9 days.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0 –12)
Togiak AC:	Oppose (0 –11)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Open a guide required, nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17A.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (0–12)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (0–11)</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

17A Fall Moose Hunting Regulations

RM573: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

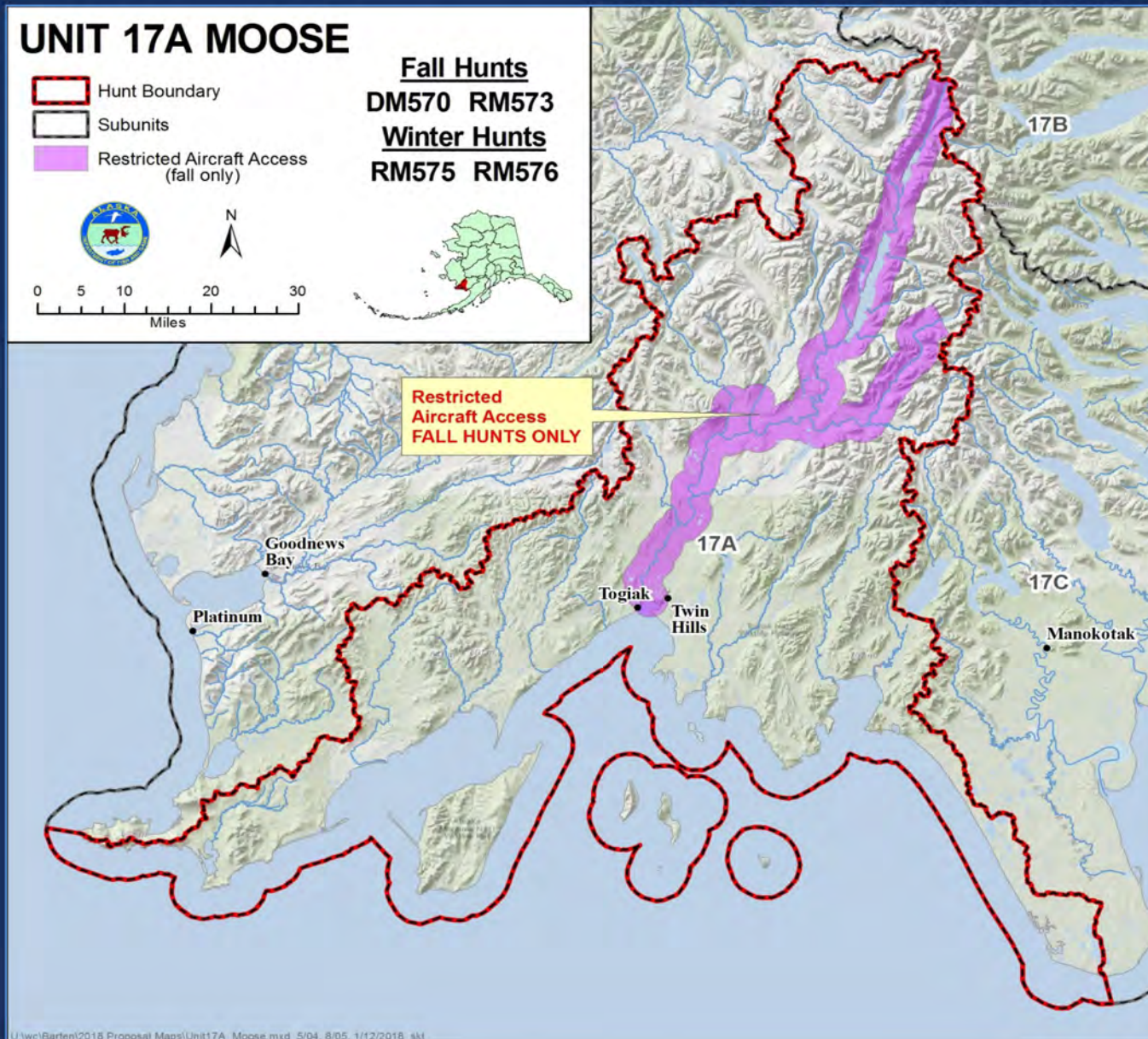
DM570: Nonresidents only/one bull, 50 inch or 4 or more
brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15

Proposed Nonresident Season

RMXXX: Nonresidents only/one bull, 50 inch or 4 or more
brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15



Discussion

- **Proposed RMXXX permits would be taken from current allocation to DM570.**
- **Though we can issue “up to” 50 permits, 20 is the level being issued since the hunt inception.**
- **DM570 is increasing in popularity and we expect the competition for these permits to increase over time.**

DM570 Permit History

Year	Applicants	Permits available	Drawn (%)	Hunted (#)	Harvested (#)	Success (%)
2014	13	20	100	8	4	50%
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Summary

- **Nonresidents who prefer to hunt without a guide would have a lower chance to secure a moose hunting permit.**
- **In the four years of this hunt, 4 of 53 DM570 permittees have hunted with a guide.**

Open a guide required, nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17A.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits (DM570) for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

17A Fall Moose Hunting Regulations

RM573: Residents only/any bull

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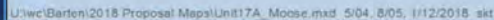
Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15

(Currently 20 permits are issued)

Proposed Change: Up to 50% of the DM570 permits would be
issued to guided nonresident hunters.

Proposal Rationale

- **Present system is difficult for a guide to work with as it is hard to predict how many potential clients will get drawn.**
 - If to many the guide can't accommodate them all.
 - If to few, the guide loses potential for hunts and income.
- **Currently, the proponent is the only guide with a moose hunt concession (4 hunts) on refuge lands in Unit 17A.**



Discussion

- **Proposed RMXXX permits would be taken from current allocation to DM570.**
- **Though we can issue “up to” 50 permits, 20 is the level acceptable to the MMG.**
- **DM570 is increasing in popularity and we expect the competition for these permits to increase over time.**

DM570 Permit History

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- **Nonresidents who prefer to hunt without a guide would have a lower chance to secure a moose hunting permit.**
- **In the four years of this hunt, 4 of 53 DM570 permittees have hunted with a guide.**

Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits (DM570) for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Shift the resident fall hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C, by starting and ending the season 5 days later than the current season.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (2–9)
Togiak AC:	Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC:	Support (No Vote)
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Support (No Vote)

17C Fall Hunting Seasons

RM583: Residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 20 – Sept 15

Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20 (Proposed for portion of Unit 17C)

GM000: Residents only/one bull, spike-fork, 50 inch or 3 or more brow tines

Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 15

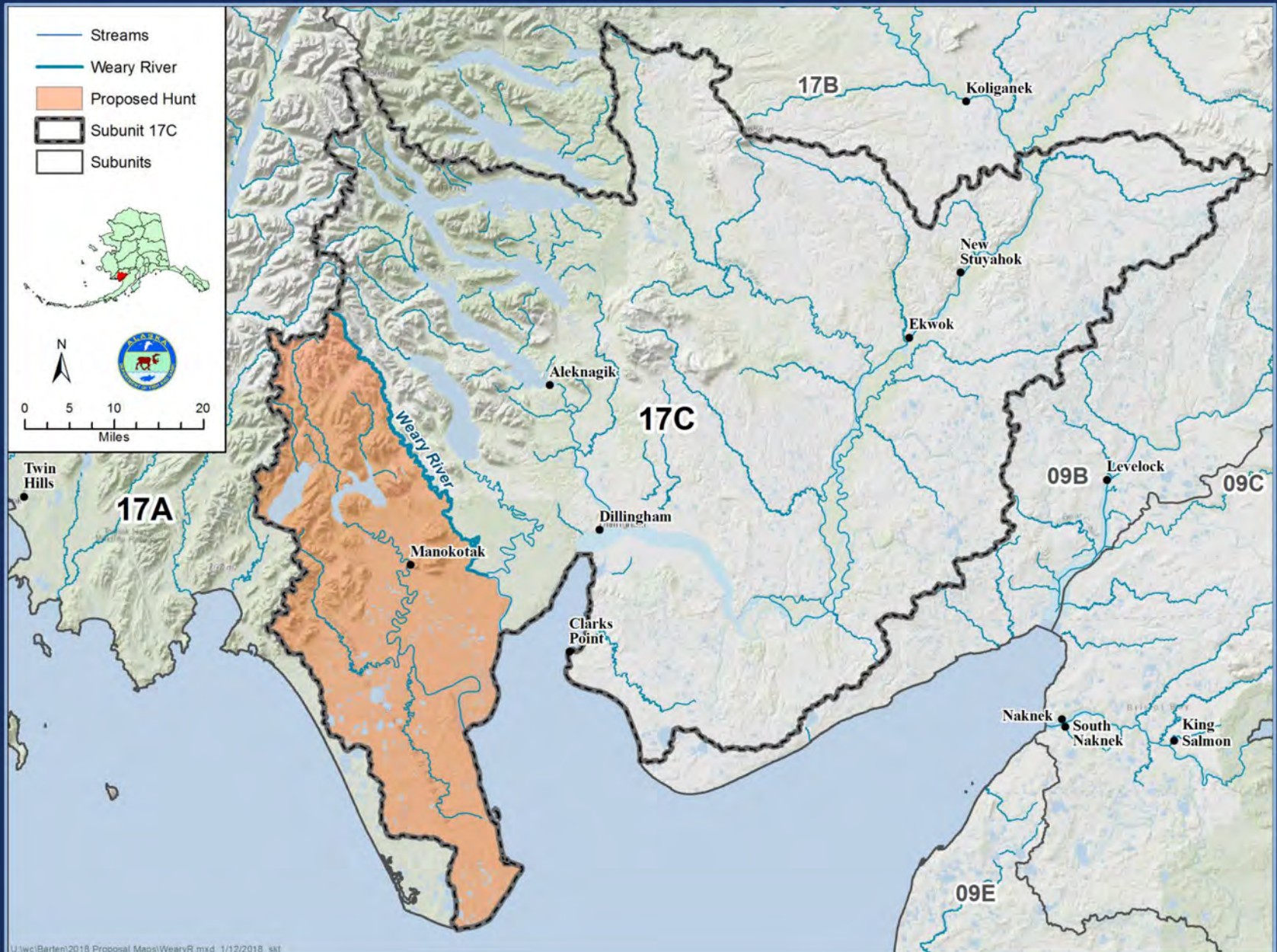
17C Winter Hunting Season

RM585: Residents only/one antlered bull

Season dates: Dec 1 – Dec 31

Proposal 142

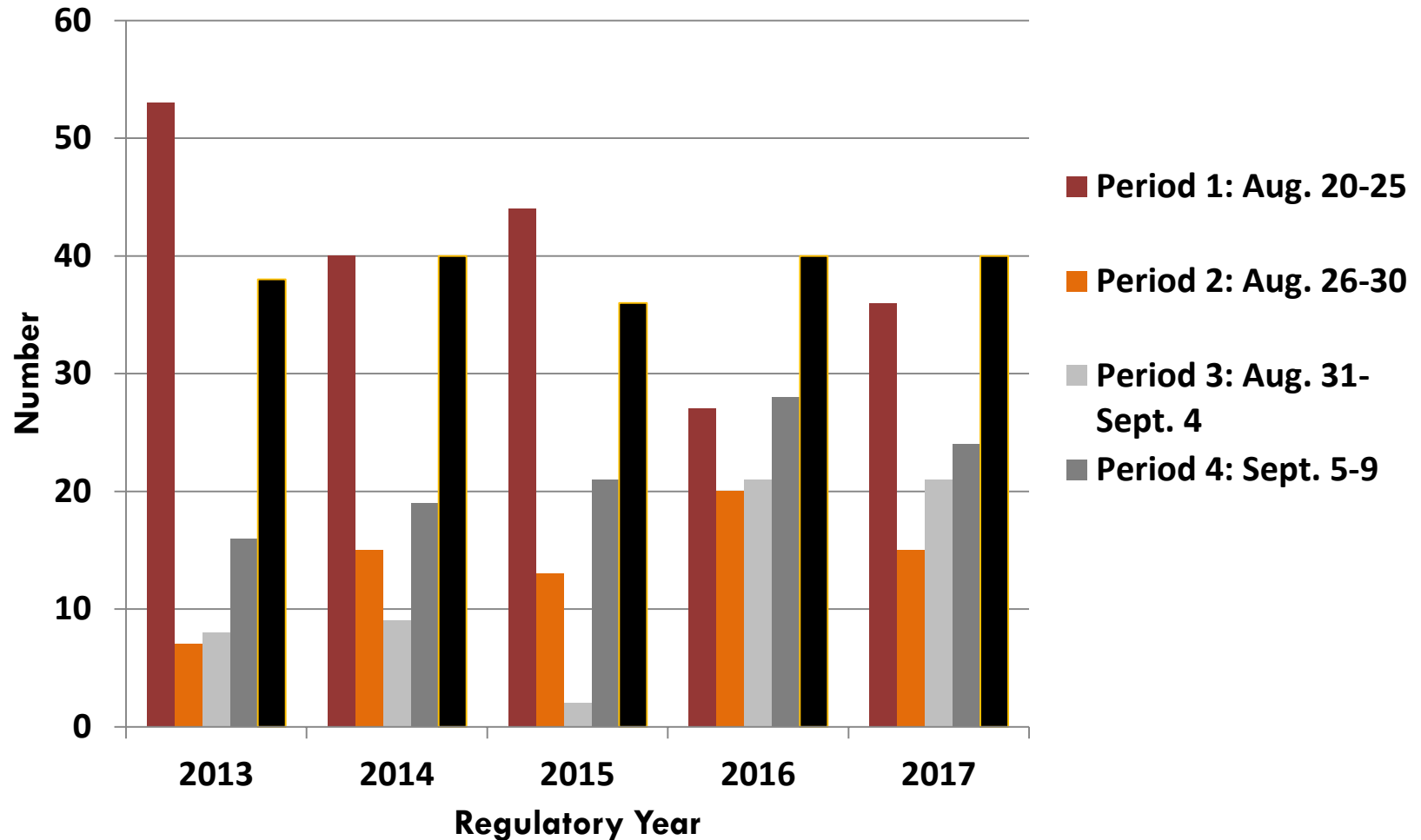
Moose/Unit 17C



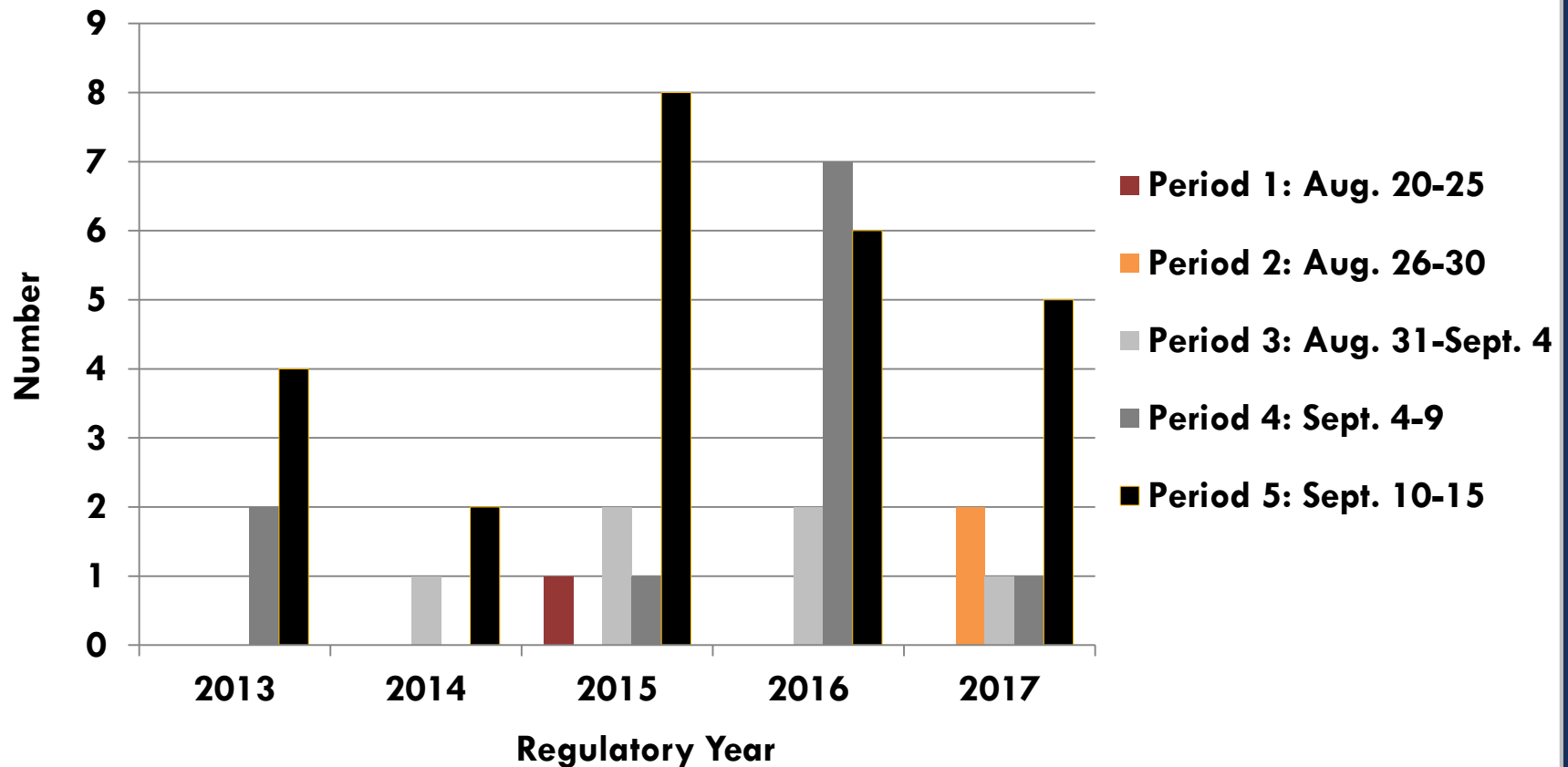
Proposal Rationale

- **Landscape and moose movements west of the Weary River differ from the Nushagak watershed, warranting different season dates.**
- **Bull moose are not available along rivers in this proposed area until after mid September, limiting harvest opportunities.**

Unit 17C Fall Harvest Chronology RY13–RY17 (Except Weary River UCU's)



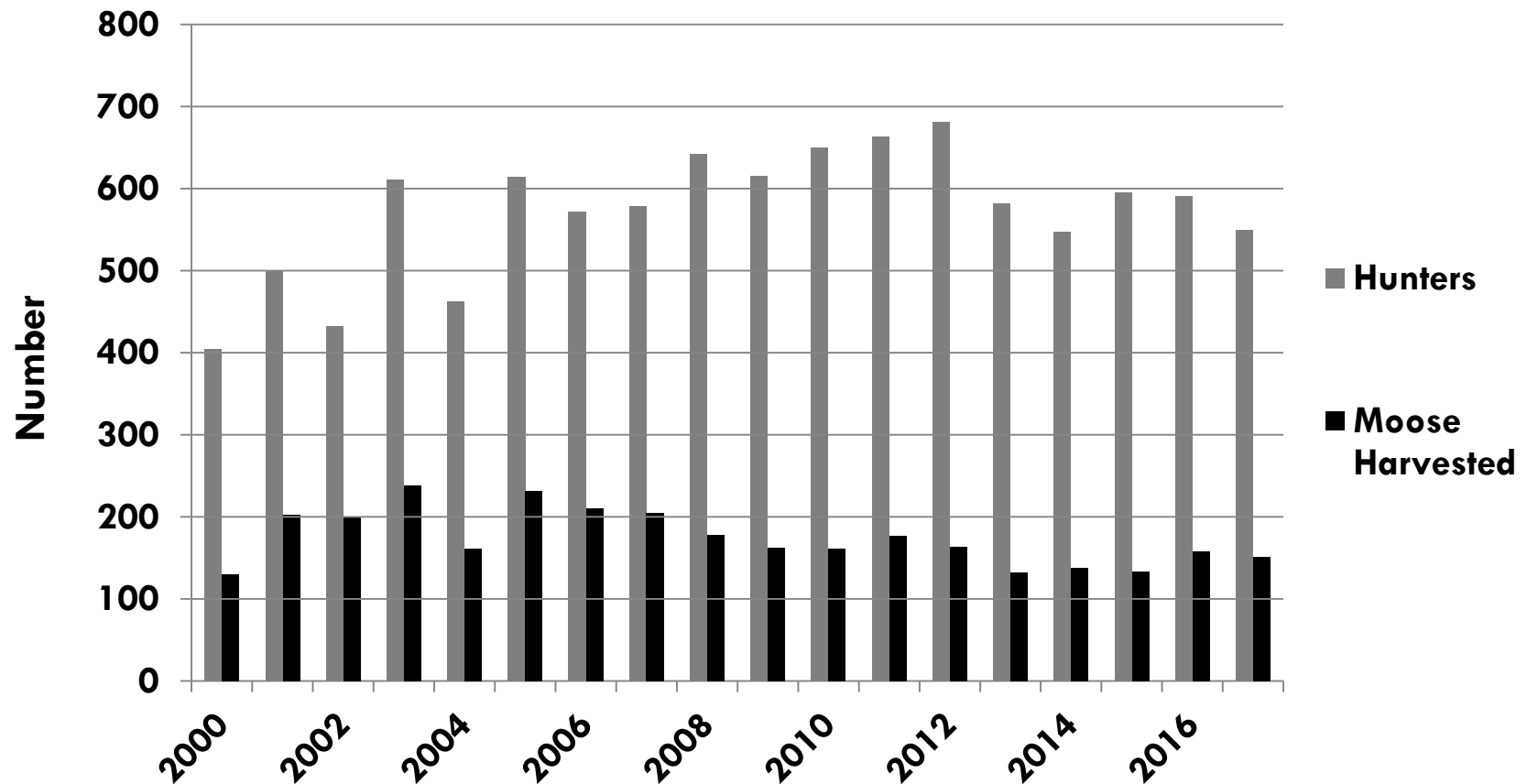
Unit 17C Fall Harvest Chronology for Weary River UCU's RY13–RY17



Unit 17C Moose Population Metrics

- **Abundance estimates suggest population is stable.**
 - ~3,000–3,500 moose, density of 0.6–0.7 mi²
- **Productivity is high with 65% twinning rate in 2017.**
- **Composition survey suggests low recruitment.**
 - Bull-to-100 cows: 21
 - Calf-to-100 cows: 16
- **Calf mortality in 2017 was 88% at 6 months.**
- **Fall bull moose harvest is declining over time.**

17C Fall Moose Hunter Effort and Success, RY00-RY17



Management Concerns With Proposed Action

- **Unit 17C moose management data is not designed for partitioning out small geographic areas.**
- **Harvest Chronology suggests proposed action would increase harvest.**
- **Localized increase in harvest may be unsustainable.**
- **Population metrics suggest this proposed action is not warranted at this time.**

Summary

- **Understanding moose in Units 17B&C is a regional priority.**
- **Research and S&I efforts are being employed to provide basic information on population dynamics.**
- **Currently, the data suggests the harvestable surplus of bull moose in Unit 17C is declining.**

Shift the resident fall hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C, by starting and ending the season 5 days later than the current season.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (2–9)
Togiak AC:	Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC:	Support (No Vote)
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Support (No Vote)

Change the structure of the winter moose hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

17C Fall Hunting Seasons

RM583: residents only/any bull

Season dates: Aug 20 – Sept 15

GM000: residents only/one bull, spike-fork, 50 inch or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side

Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 15

17C Winter Hunting Season

RM585: residents only/one antlered bull

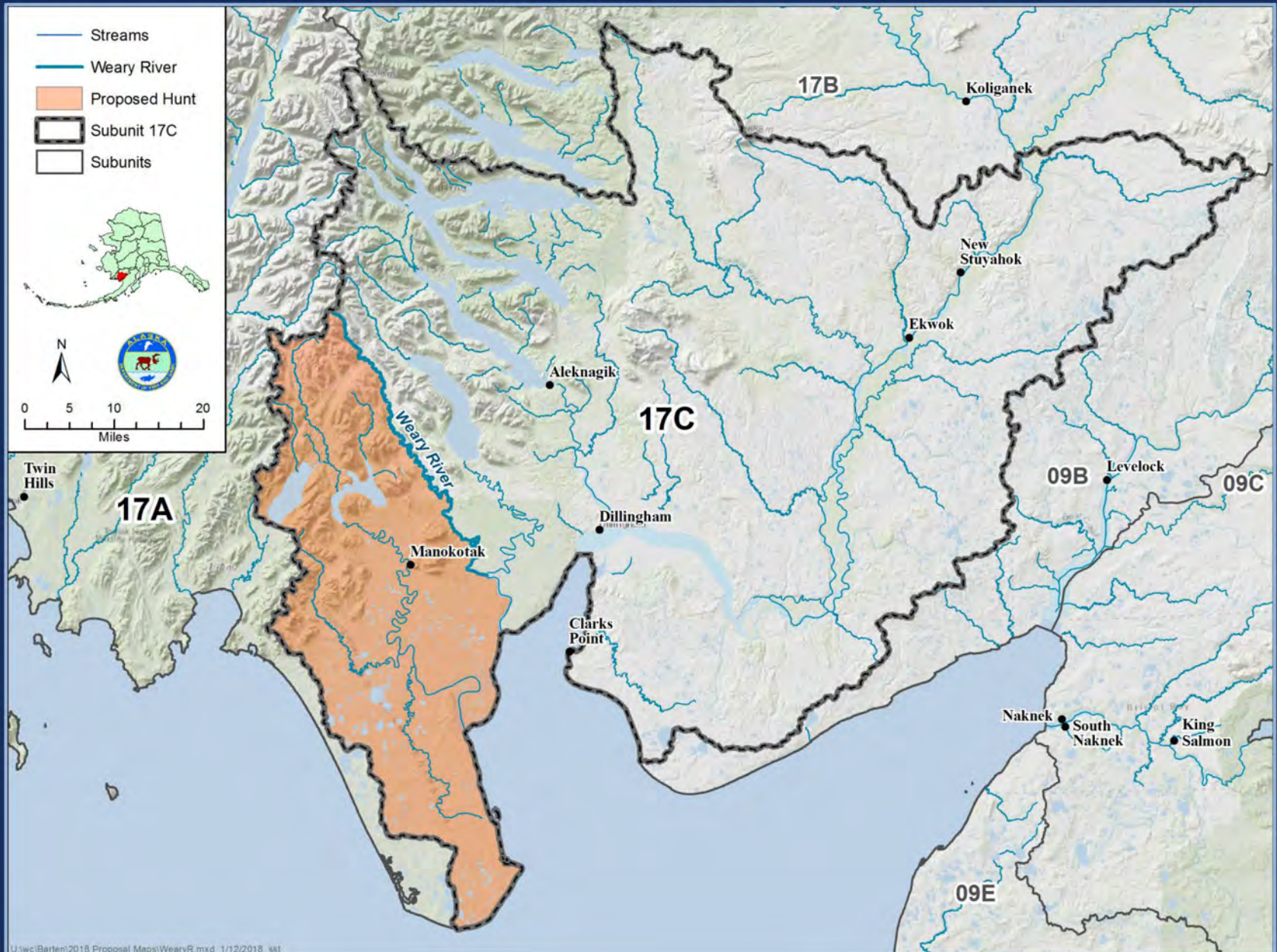
Season dates: Dec 1 – Dec 31

Proposed for a portion of Unit 17C:

Season dates: Dec 1 – last day of Feb; a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.

Proposal 143

Moose/Unit 17C



Proposal Rationale

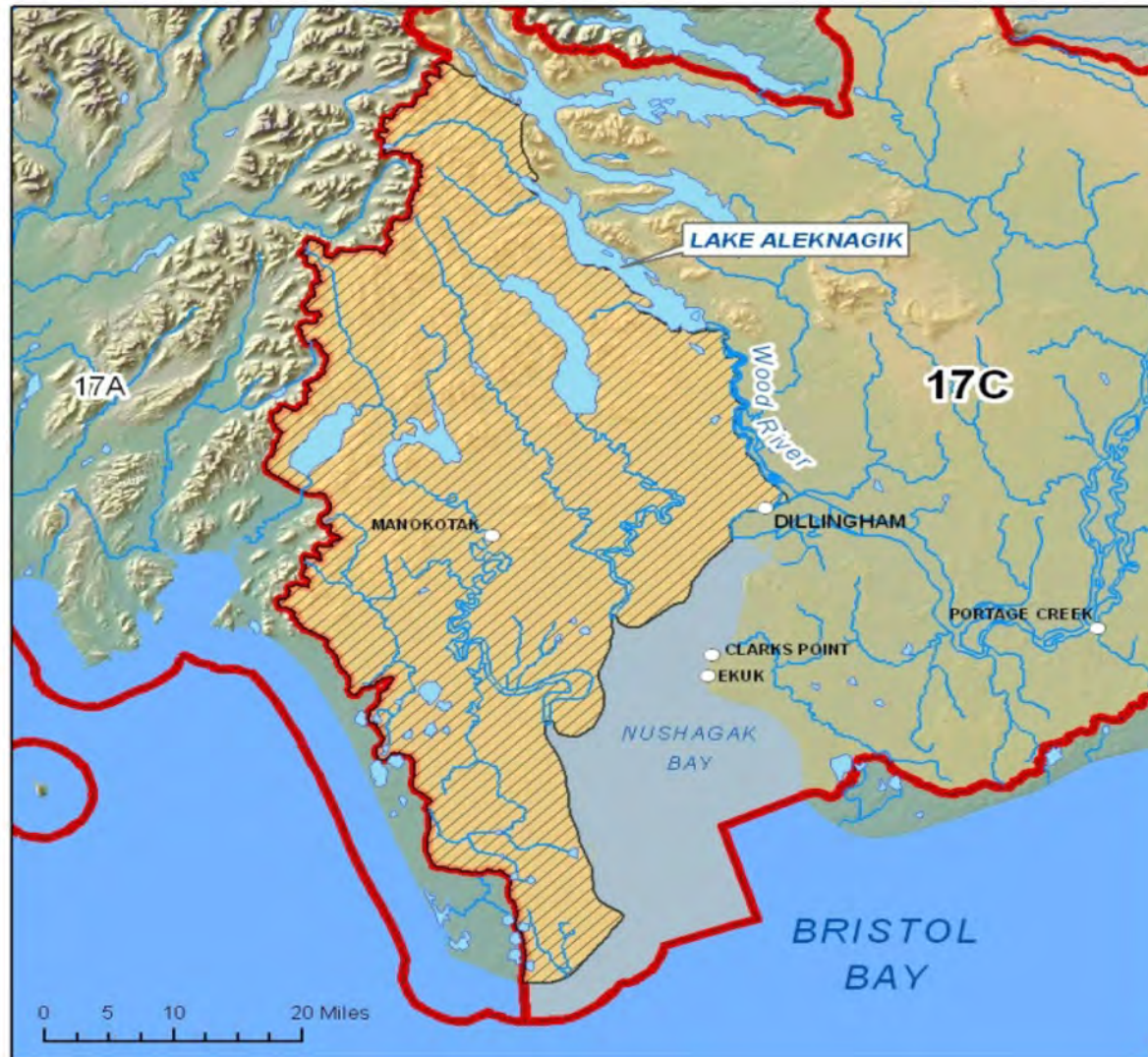
- **Change the season structure to allow the department to open the season by emergency order when the snow conditions are most suitable for snowmachine travel.**
- **The current season is a fixed 31 day period that may or may not align with favorable snow conditions for hunting.**


Management Concerns With Proposed Action

- **Popularity of winter hunt and associated hunting pressure.**
- **Offset season may intensify hunt pressure in this small area.**
 - Hunters may shift to this area after other portion of unit closes
- **Increased harvest of bull moose in small portion of unit may be unsustainable.**

Proposal 143

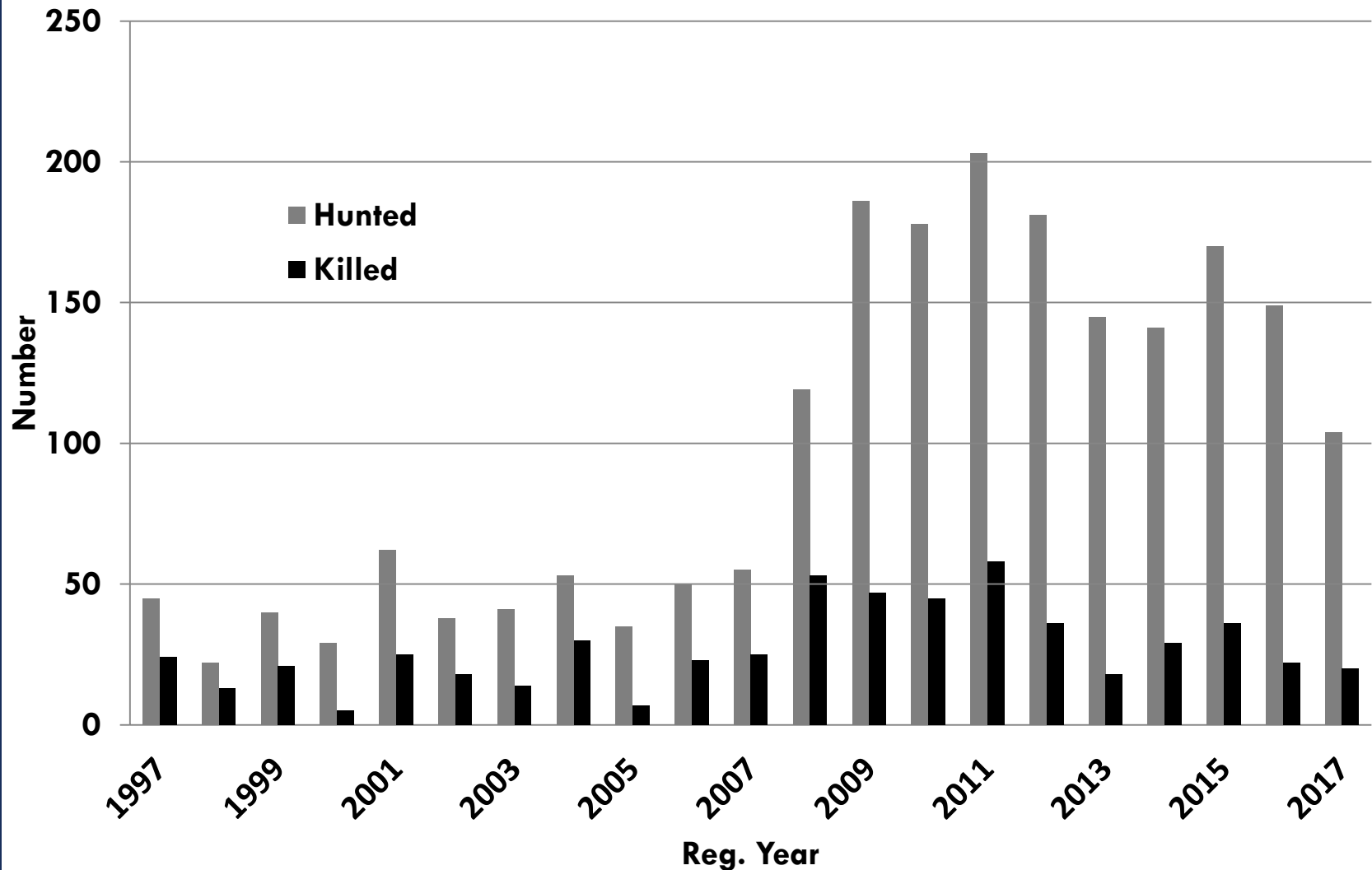
Moose/Unit 17C



 Game Management Subunits



Unit 17C Winter Hunt: Effort and Harvest RY97-RY17



Unit 17C Moose Population Metrics

- **Abundance estimates suggest population is stable.**
 - ~3,000–3,500 moose, density of 0.6–0.7 mi²
- **Productivity is high with 65% twinning rate in 2017.**
- **Composition survey suggests low recruitment.**
 - Bull-to-100 cows: 21
 - Calf-to-100 cows: 16
- **Calf mortality in 2017 was 88% at 6 months.**
- **Fall bull moose harvest is declining over time.**

Summary

- **Current winter season provides opportunity, but may not maximize harvest potential.**
- **Increased opportunity/efficiency in hunt may not be sustainable, especially for small geographic area.**
- **Moose population metrics suggest this proposed action is not warranted at this time.**

Change the structure of the winter moose hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (1–10)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (0–11)</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>



CUA History and Rationale

- **Adopted into regulation in 1990**
- **Two proposals were submitted to request this action**
 - **ADF&G proposal**
 - Increasing hunting pressure was a concern
 - ORV use was increasing
 - Conflicts between local and non-local hunters
 - Habitat will be impacted
 - **Nushagak Advisory Committee Proposal**
 - Hunt quality will deteriorate with ATV use
 - Habitat will be impacted

5 AAC 92.540

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(5) Unit 17:

(A) the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area:

- (i) the area consists of Unit 17(B);**
- (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting big game, including transportation of big game hunters, their gear or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited;**

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Proposal Rationale

- **Subsistence hunters are unfairly restricted to the river corridor while guides and others who can fly into sites have access to adjacent areas off the river.**
- **Motorized vehicles can be used for hunting small game, berry picking, fishing, etc. but if a moose presents itself you can not harvest it.**

Are 1990s Concerns Still Valid?

- **Declining Mulchatna herd has led to fewer hunters.**
- **Moose hunting for nonresidents has been restricted on rivers, but still unlimited in adjacent areas.**
- **Popularity of motorized vehicles suggests use could still be high.**
- **Habitat would likely be impacted in popular areas.**

Summary

- **Local depletions of moose could occur in areas accessible to motorized vehicles.**
- **Impacts to habitat: largely dependent on level of use and type of habitat motorized vehicles are used in.**
- **User conflicts: could occur in areas that become popular for motorized vehicle use.**

Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (1–10)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>Oppose (0–11)</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 9C (portion of) and Unit17.

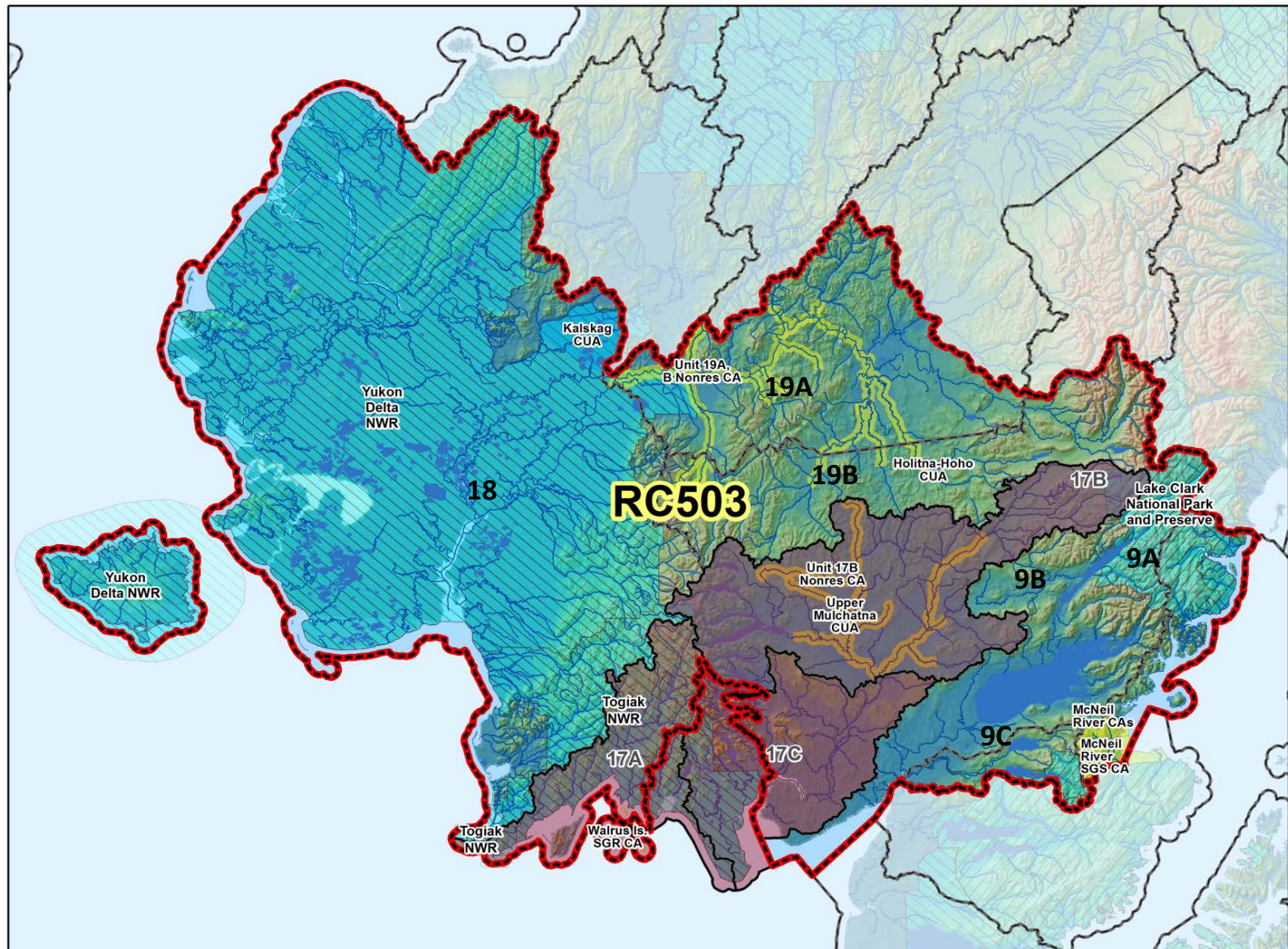
Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	Oppose (0–5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Oppose (0–8)

Proposal 145

Caribou/Units 9 & 17



Current regulations for Mulchatna caribou: residents only

RC503	Bag Limit	Season dates:
17*, 9(B)	2 caribou	Aug 1 – Mar 31
9A, 9C**, 18, 19(A,B)	2 caribou	Aug 1 – Mar 15
RC501		
17 (portion of)	2 caribou	<u>May be announced</u>
RC504		
9C (portion of)	1 caribou	<u>May be announced</u>

**Portions of 17A&C are managed under a federal hunt*

***Portions of 9C are considered MCH, others NAP*

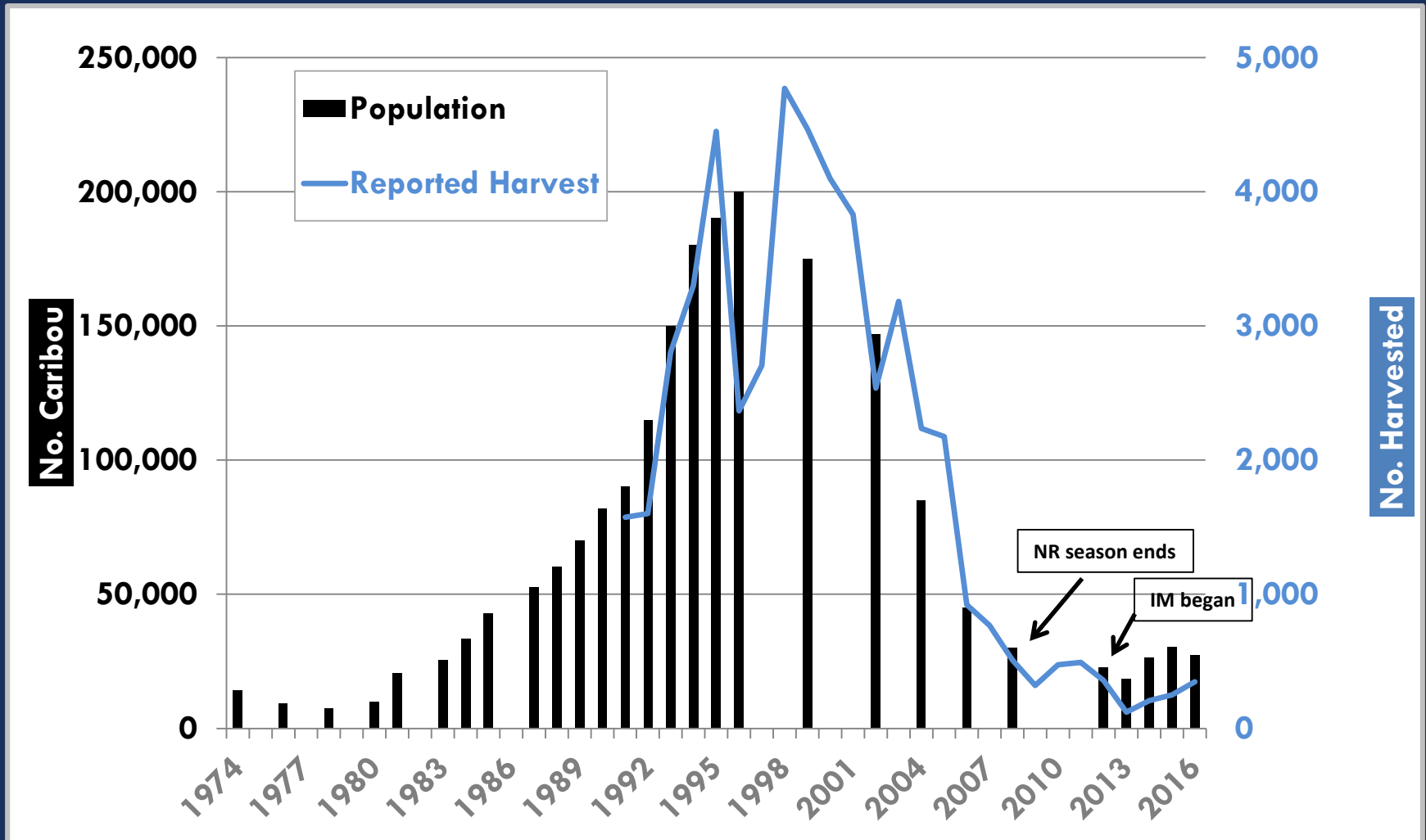
Proposed season: **nonresidents only**

RCXXX	Bag Limit	Season dates:
Unit 17 & Units 9(A,B,C)	1 Bull	Sept 1 – Sept 30
Up to 200 permits (only issue 50 initially)		

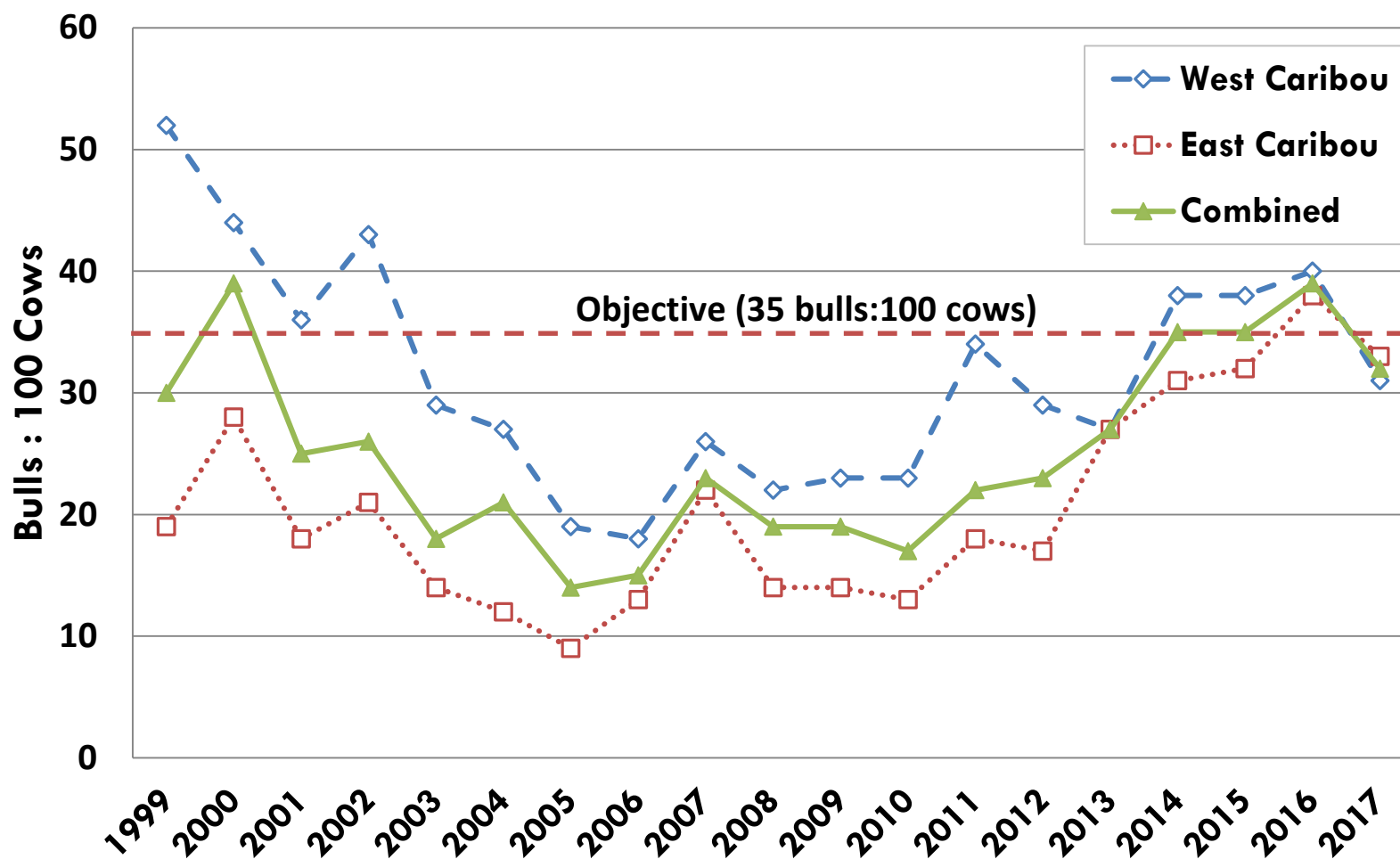
Management Considerations

- **Active wolf control program in Units 17B&C, 19B, and 9B to enhance Mulchatna caribou calf survival.**
- **Mulchatna herd is below IM population objective.**
 - 27,242 vs objective of 30,000–80,000
- **Mulchatna herd is below IM harvest objective.**
 - 256 avg. during RY12–RY16 vs objective of 2,400–8,000
- **Harvestable surplus ~1,200 is below amount necessary for subsistence: 2,100–2,400.**

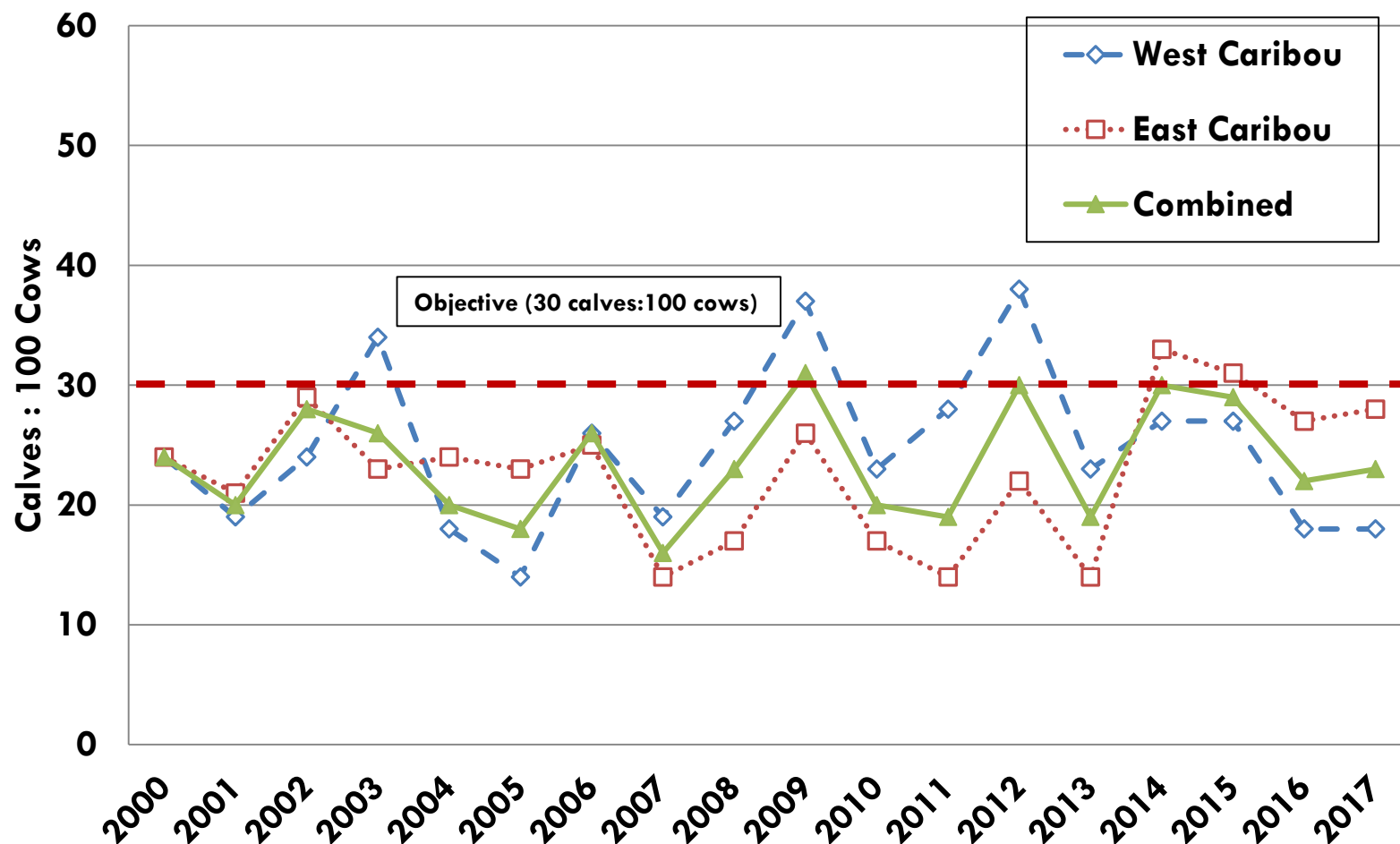
Mulchatna Population and Harvest Levels



MCH Composition: Bull:100 Cow Ratios



MCH Composition:Calf:100 Cow Ratios



Summary

- **Active intensive management program is in place to increase calf survival and recruitment for herd recovery.**
 - **Predation control area was expanded to better address calving and post calving survival in specific areas.**
- **Abundance, harvest, and composition ratios are below IM objectives.**
- **Reported harvest and available harvest are well below ANS.**
- **Proposed season may lead to competition for a limited bull resource.**

Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 9C (portion of) and Unit17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	Oppose (0–5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Oppose (0–8)

Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B.

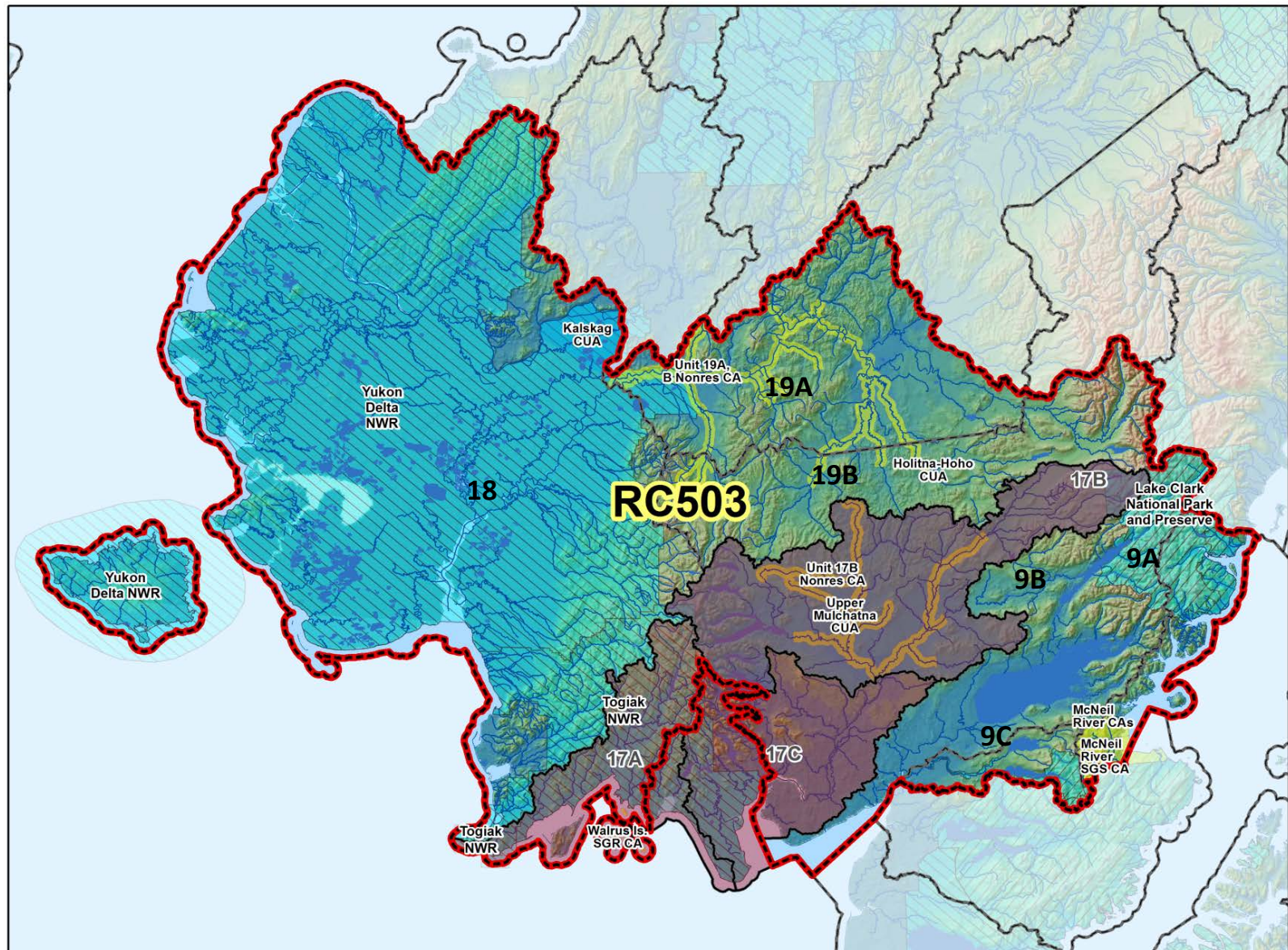
Public Proposal

Department recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

Nushagak AC:	No Action
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Proposal 146

Caribou/Unit 17B



Current season for 17B caribou: residents only

RC503

17B

Bag Limit

2 caribou

Season dates:

Aug 1–Mar 31

Proposed season to be added: nonresidents only

DCXXX

Unit 17B

Bag Limit

1 Bull

Season dates:

Aug 10–Aug 19

14 permits would be available

Issued by lottery for \$1,000.00 each

Summary

- **This proposal requests a special tag fee for caribou that the board does not have the authority to address.**
- **There is an active intensive management program in portions of the Mulchatna range to increase calf survival and herd growth.**
- **The Mulchatna herd is below IM objectives for abundance, harvest, and composition ratios.**
- **The reported harvest and available harvest are well below the ANS.**

Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

Nushagak AC:	No Action
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Open a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B.

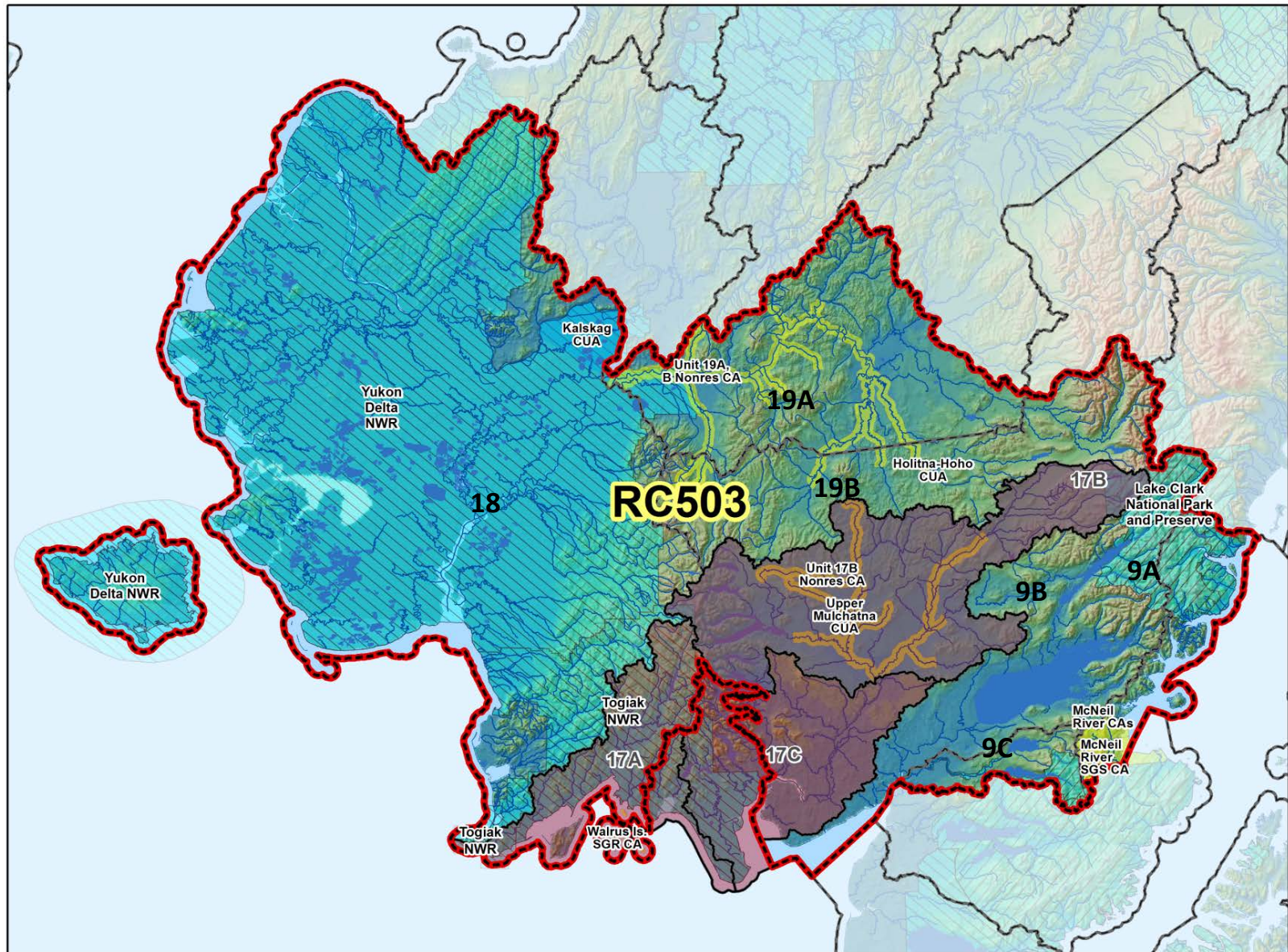
Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Proposal 147

Caribou/Units 18 & 19(A,B)



Current regulations for Mulchatna caribou: residents only;

<u>RC503</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Season dates:</u>
17*, 9B	2 caribou	Aug 1 – Mar 31
9A, 9C**18, 19(A,B)	2 caribou	Aug 1 – Mar 15
RC501		
17A&C (portion of)	2 caribou	May be announced
RC504		
9C (portion of)	1 caribou	May be announced

**Portions of 17A&C are managed under a federal hunt*

***Portions of 9C are considered MCH, others NAP*

Proposed added season: **nonresidents only**;

<u>DCXXX</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Season dates:</u>
Units 18, 19(A,B)	1 Bull	Sept 1 – Sept 30
Up to 50 permits (only issue 20 initially)		

Summary

- **There is an active intensive management program in portions of the Mulchatna range to increase calf survival and herd growth.**
- **The Mulchatna herd is below IM objectives for abundance, harvest, and composition ratios.**
- **The reported harvest and available harvest are well below the ANS.**

Open a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC:	No Action
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	No Action

Allow the use of a snowmachine for positioning caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Support (7–2)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>Support (5–0)</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

Associated Regulations in Unit 17

- **Currently a snowmachine can be used to position a hunter to select individual wolves for harvest.**
- **Wolves may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.**
- **It is not legal to use a snowmachine to position any game for harvest including a caribou, wolf, or wolverine.**

Proposed Changes

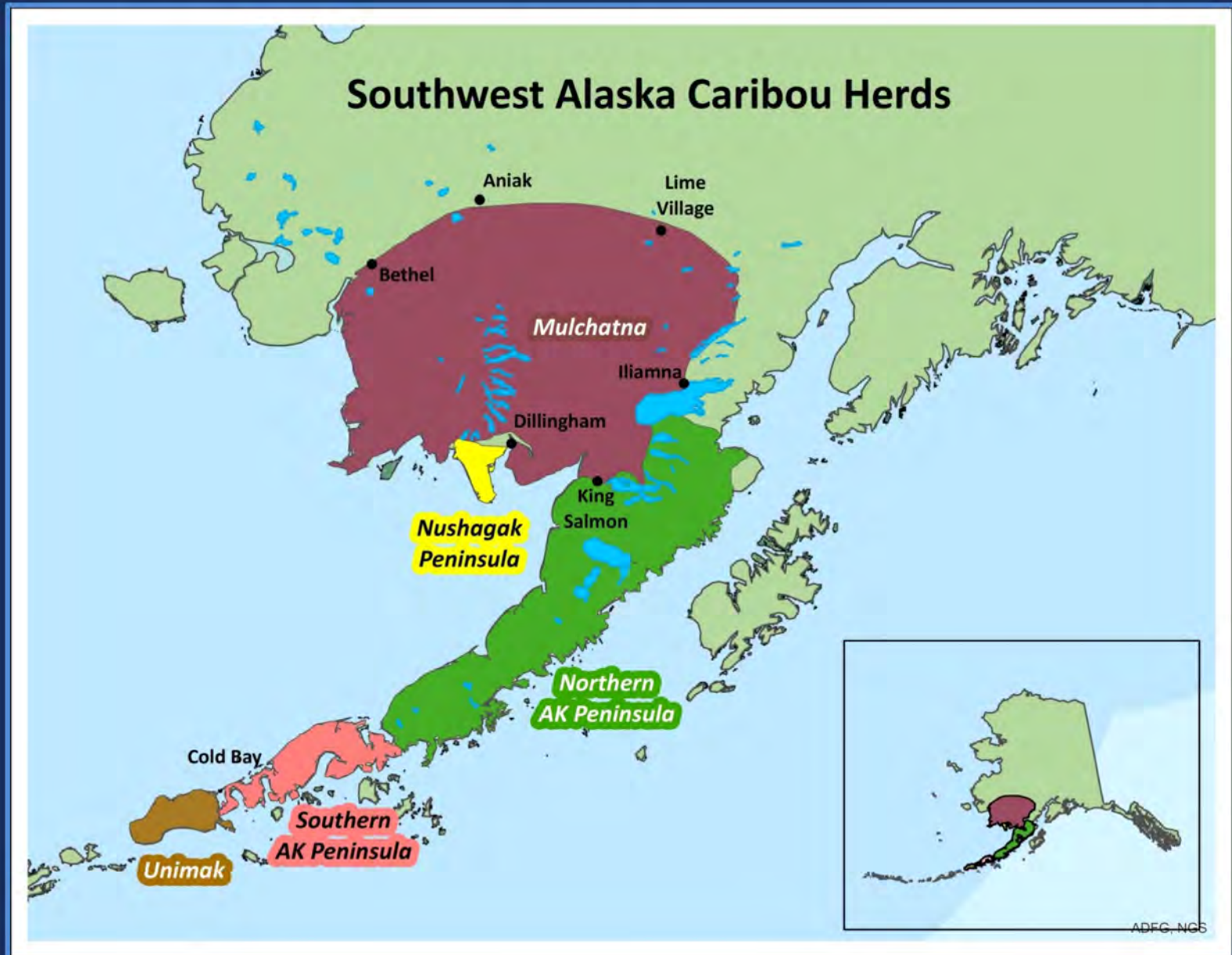
- **This proposal would add Unit 17 to a list of Game Management Units where a snowmachine could be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest.**
- **Caribou, wolves, or wolverine could be shot from a stationary snowmachine.**
- **This proposed change would replicate the regulations for this method and means that have previously been adopted for Units 22, 23, and 26A.**
 - **At that time the board specifically omitted Unit 18 from this list due to differences between MCH and WAH.**

Background

- **Two caribou herds reside in Unit 17, the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH), and the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd (NPCH).**
- **Local harvest on both herds is most effective during winter using snowmachines for access.**
- **When travel conditions are good, hunting pressure on accessible groups can occur repeatedly.**

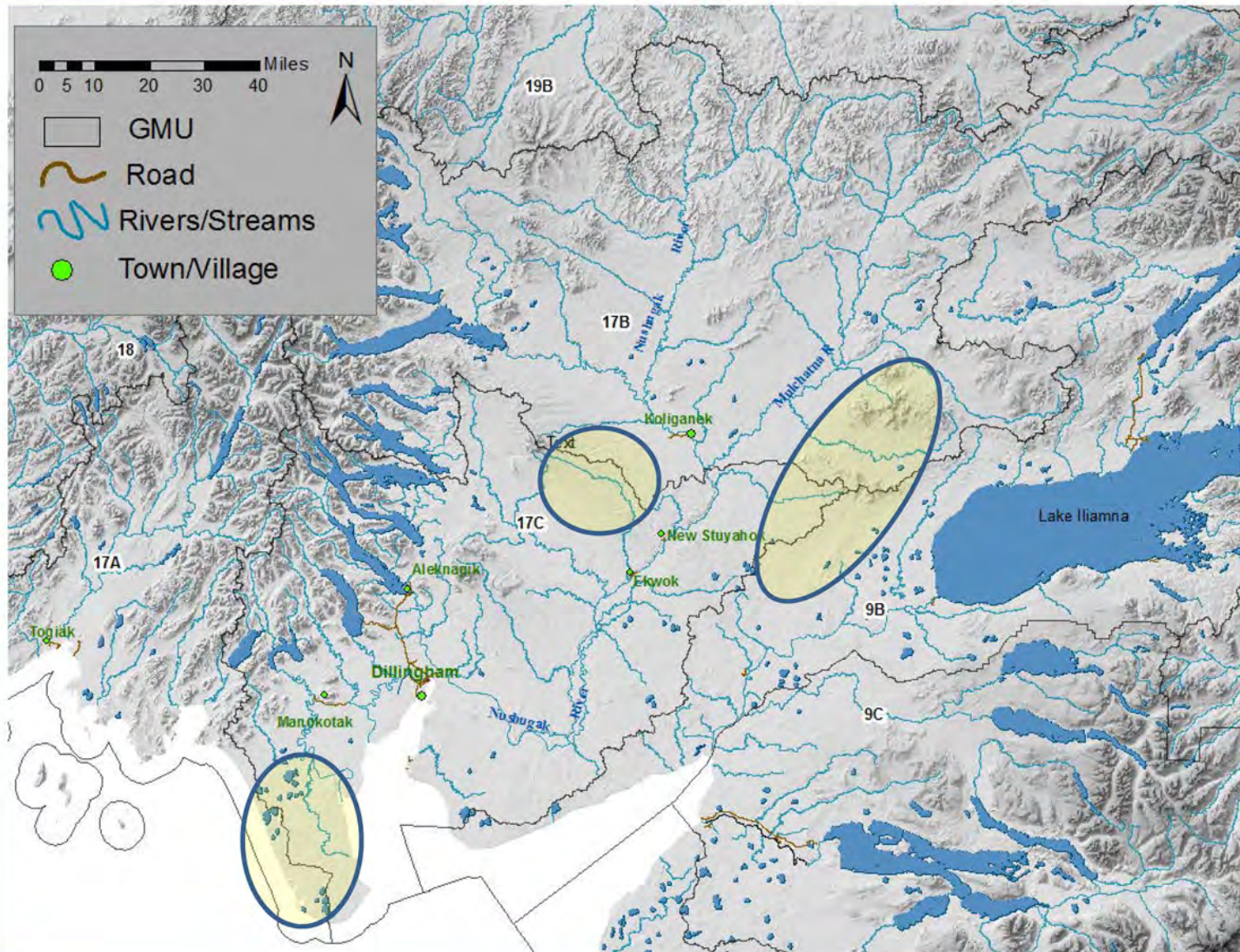
Proposal 148

Caribou, wolf & wolverine/Unit 17



Proposal 148

Caribou, wolf & wolverine/Unit 17



Management Considerations

- **Concern for the impact positioning could have on groups of caribou, where many members could be disturbed in a single event.**
- **Most of the successful hunting by snowmachine takes place in late winter when caribou may already be nutritionally stressed.**
- **The spatial distribution of the Nushagak Peninsula herd, and at times the Mulchatna herd predisposes groups to repeated disturbances.**

Summary

- **The positioning of caribou though better for hunting success, could negatively affect caribou condition and survival.**
- **Increased effectiveness in harvesting wolves from snowmachines could help meet IM objectives for the Mulchatna caribou herd.**

Allow the use of a snowmachine for positioning caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

<i>Nushagak AC:</i>	<i>Support (7–2)</i>
<i>Togiak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>
<i>Lake Iliamna AC:</i>	<i>Support (5–0)</i>
<i>Naknek/Kvichak AC:</i>	<i>No Action</i>

**Liberalize the season and methods and means
for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17.**

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–9)
Togiak AC:	Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Oppose (0–9)

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer Trapping.

<u>Species and Units</u>	<u>Open Season</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>
Beaver		

Units 9 and 17;	Oct 10–May 31	No limit
	Apr 15–May 31*	2 per day

**During April 15- May 31 firearms may be used to take up to 2 beaver per day if the meat is salvaged for human consumption; and in Unit 17 a firearm or bow and arrow may be used to harvest beaver from December 1-April 14, provided that the meat is salvaged.*

Proposed Regulatory Changes

- No closed season.
- May shoot up to the established bag limit of beaver with either a firearm or bow and arrow throughout the season provided that either the meat or hide is salvaged.
- From June 1 to October 9, taking beaver by any other means other than a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited.
- Beaver taken only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.

Proposal 149

Beaver/Units 9&17



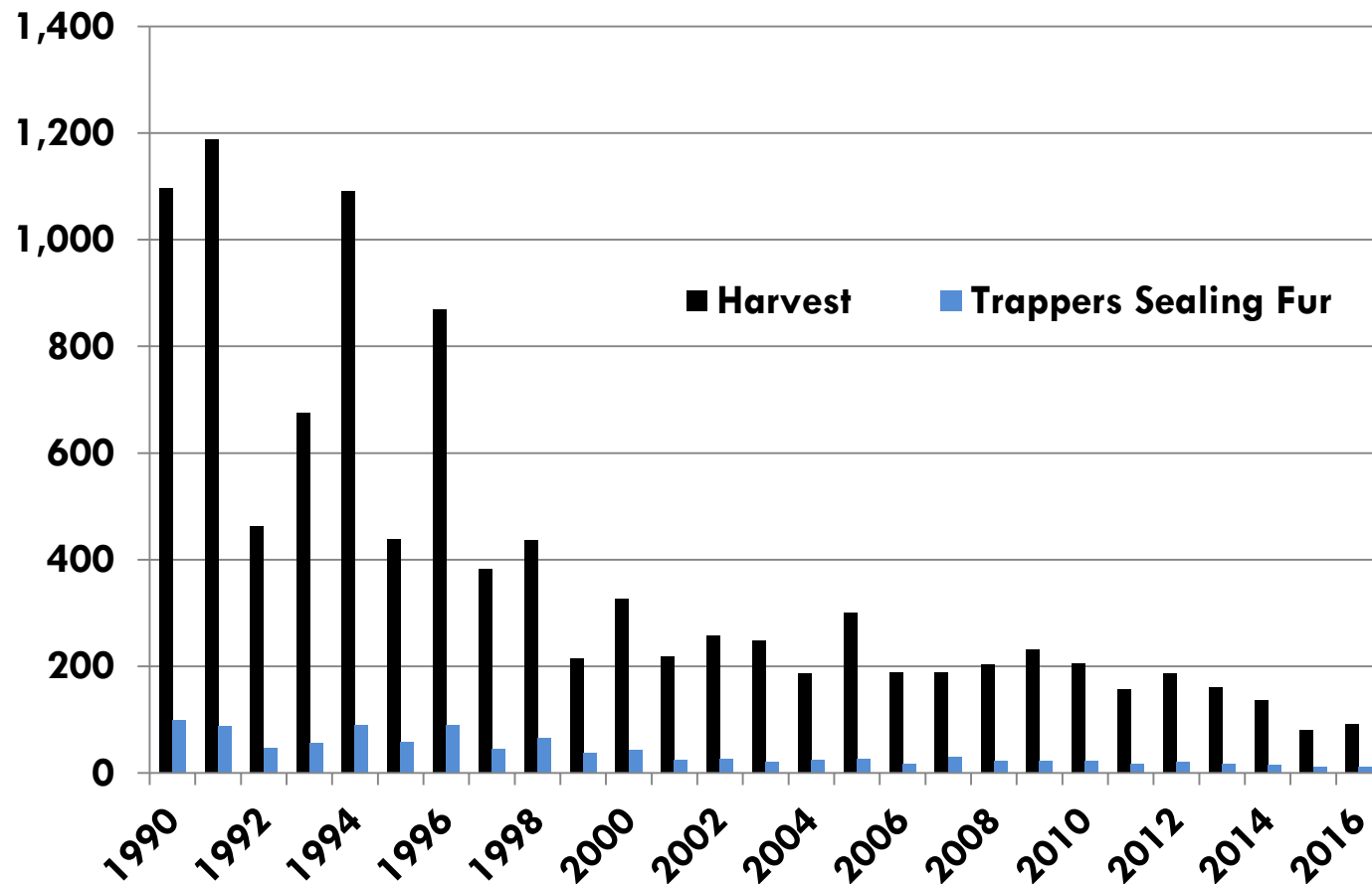
Status of Beaver Populations

- **Beaver are widespread and relatively abundant throughout Units 9 and 17.**
- **Beaver regulations have been liberalized substantially over the past 30 years because of this abundance.**
- **Harvest and effort have declined during this same period.**
- **The department does not currently have any concerns with beaver conservation at the GMU level.**

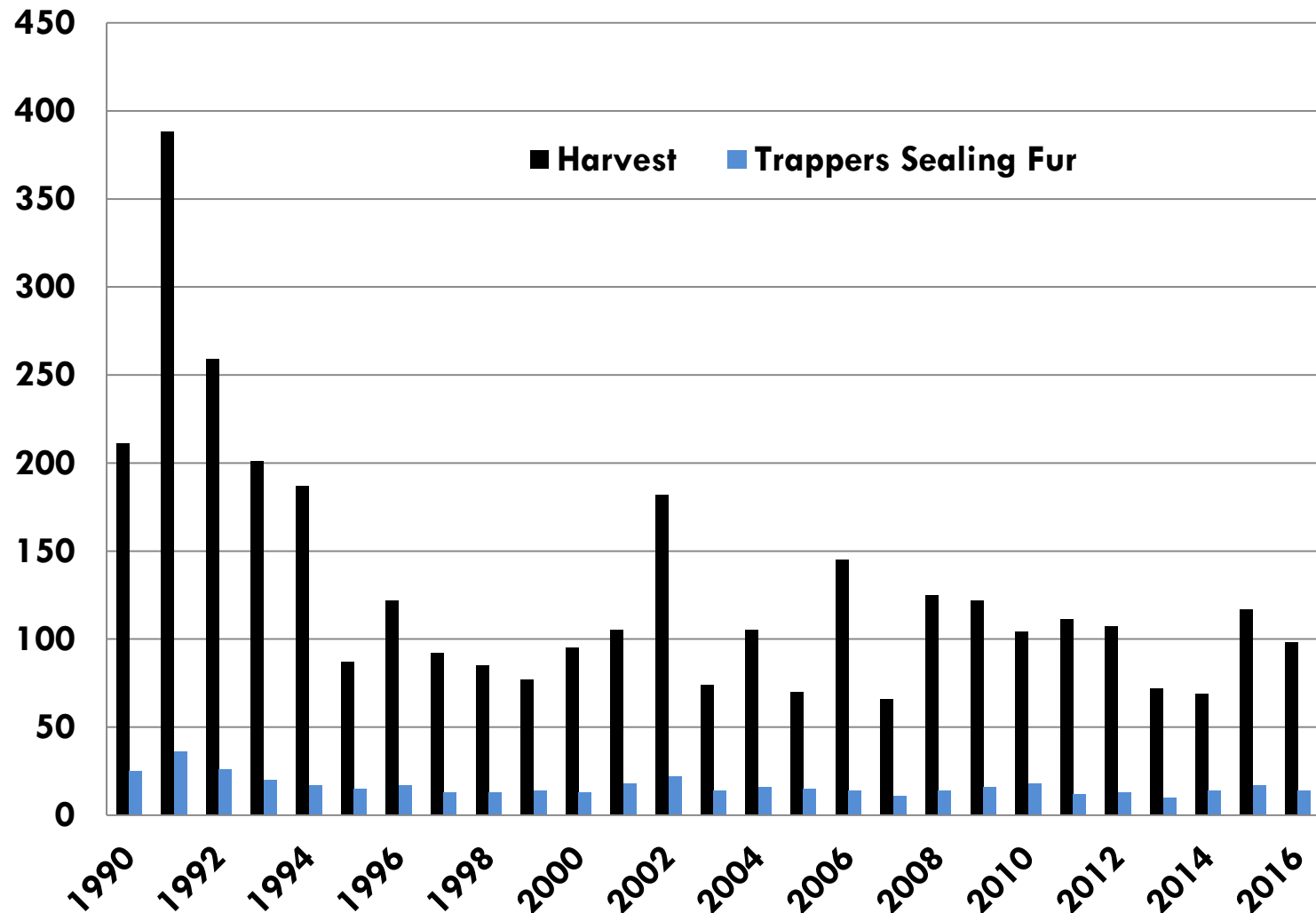
Effect of Proposed Changes

- There could be some local depletion of beaver in easily accessible areas.
- Wounding loss may result with firearm harvest.
- The revised sealing requirement would render our sealing program in southwest Alaska ineffective.
 - ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire (2013) indicates about 41% of fur across state is not sold commercially – 59% in SW Alaska.

Unit 17 Beaver Harvest RY90-RY16



Unit 9 Beaver Harvest RY90-RY16



Summary

- The department does not currently have any concerns with beaver conservation at the GMU level.
- Proposed changes could lead to some wounding loss as well as local depletions of beaver.
- Change in sealing requirements would impact departments ability to monitor beaver harvest.

**Liberalize the season and methods and means
for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17.**

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC:	Oppose (0–9)
Togiak AC:	Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC:	No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC:	Oppose (0–9)