



# Fairbanks Area

Game Management Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C

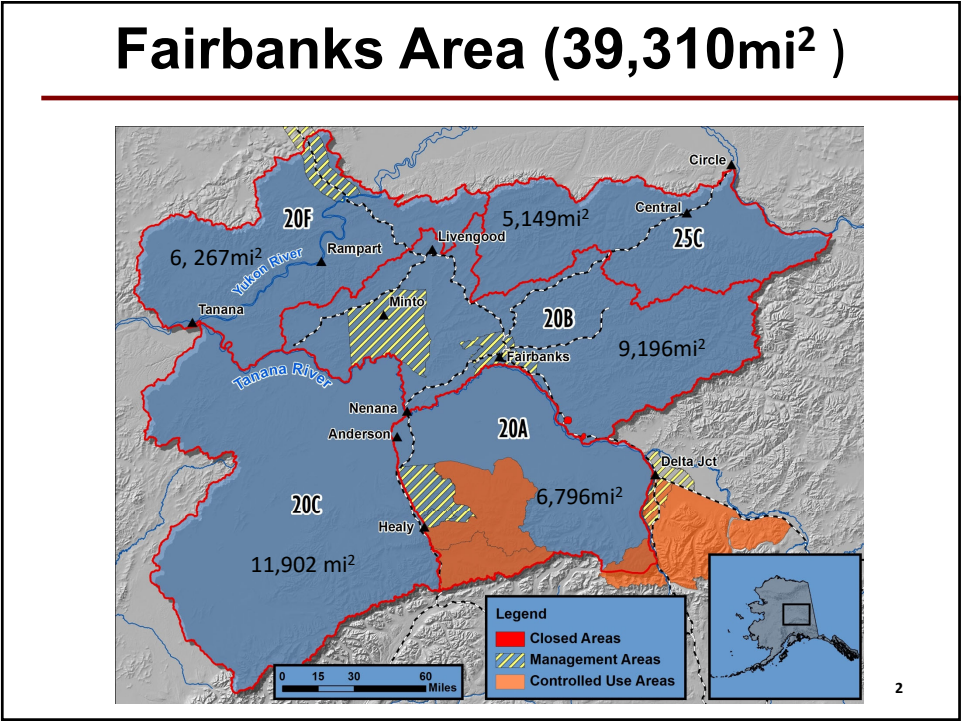
Area Biologist Tony Hollis

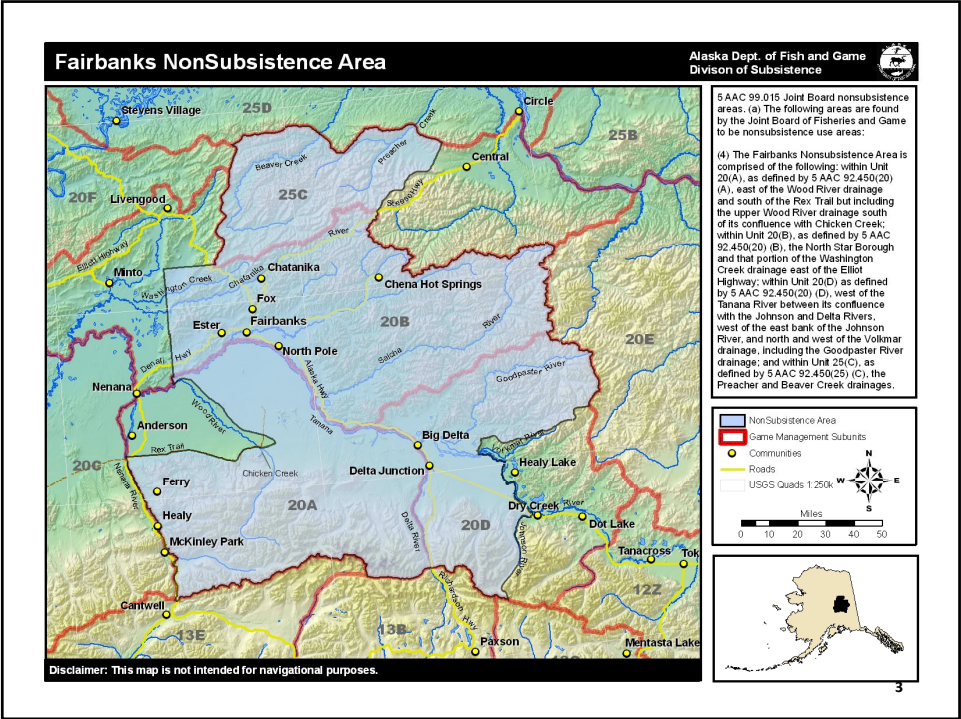


Asst. Area Biologist Mark Nelson

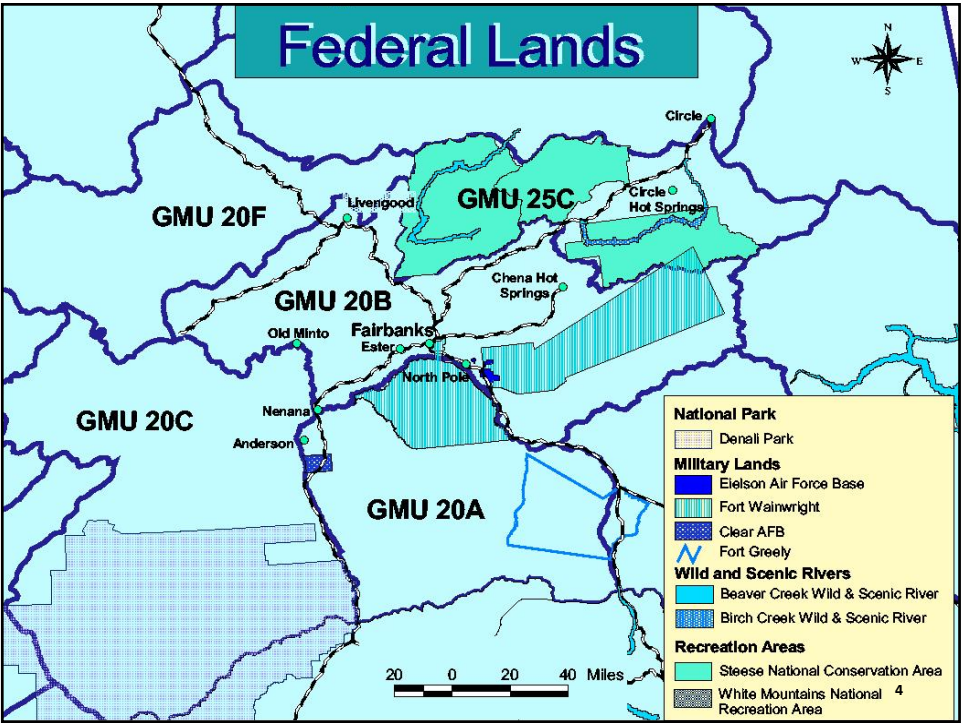


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## Fairbanks Advisory Committees

### **7 Advisory Committees**

- Fairbanks AC- meet monthly
- Middle Nenana AC- meet twice a year
- Minto/Nenana AC- meet once or twice/yr
- Tanana Rampart Manley AC- meet once /year
- Delta AC- attend one meeting per year
- Central AC- meet once per year
- Minchumina AC- just starting back up

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## Fairbanks Area Overview

### **36 proposals for this BOG meeting**

- Unit 20A = 5 moose proposals, 1 caribou
- Unit 20B = 10 moose proposals, 1 waterfowl, 1 IM plan
- Unit 20C = 2 moose
- Unit 20F = 1 wolverine proposal
- Unit 25C = 1 moose proposal
- Wolf = 2 proposals near Denali National Park
- Brown Bear = 3 proposals
- Management areas = 5 proposals for 20A
- Control Use areas = 4 proposals for 20A

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## Furbearers



### **Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C harvest 2014-2018**

- Lynx = 450 per year
- Otter = 28 per year
- Wolverine = 53 per year
- Marten, mink, ermine, fox, coyote, muskrat and beaver = limited harvest data.
- Species are common and we have no conservation concerns.
- 1 wolverine proposal

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## Black bears

### **Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, 25C 2014-2018**



- Population appears stable.
- Harvest = average 200 per year.
- Most of harvest occurs during springtime over bait stations
- Area wide = 796 bait stations per year
- Unit 20B most popular – average 104 bears per year

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## Brown Bears

- Average harvest of 65 bears per year 2014-2018. All units.
- No population estimates in the Fairbanks area units.
- Unit 20A
  - 2009-2013 = Harvest averaged 23 bears per year
  - 2014-2018 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 27 bears per year.
    - Average 4 bears harvested over bait

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## Brown Bears cont.

- Unit 20B
  - 2009-2013 = averaged 10 bears per year
  - 2014-2018 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 15 bears per year.
    - Average 9 bears harvested over bait
- Unit 20C
  - 2007-2011 = averaged 5 bears per year
  - 2014-2018 (w/ baiting) = averaged 15 bears per year
    - Average 8 bears harvested over bait

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## Brown Bears cont.

- Unit 20F, 2012-2016 (No Baiting) = 2 bears harvested per year
    - 2017 = 10 bears harvested, 7 at bait stations
    - 2018 = 3 bears harvested, 3 at bait stations
  - Unit 25C, 2014-2018 = 4 bears harvested per year (no baiting season)
- 3 proposals regarding brown bears

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## Caribou



- 3 herds in the Fairbanks area.
- Delta, Denali and White Mountains herd.
- Denali herd = not monitored
- Delta herd = stable at 2,000-3,000 animals
- White Mountains herd = Declining with less than 300 animals.

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## Caribou Cont.

### **Delta herd**

- Issue 150 drawing permits annually
- 2015-2019 harvest = 59 bull caribou per year harvested.
- Negative IM finding

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## Caribou Cont.

### **Delta Herd**

- Conduct annual composition surveys.
- Photocensus conducted when possible, but difficult.
- Delta herd often mixes with Nelchina herd.
- Emigration from Delta to Nelchina herds exist.

### ➤ **1 Caribou Proposal**

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## Wolves



### Average annual harvest by unit for 2014-2018

20A = 46 wolves

20B = 63 wolves

20C = 26 wolves

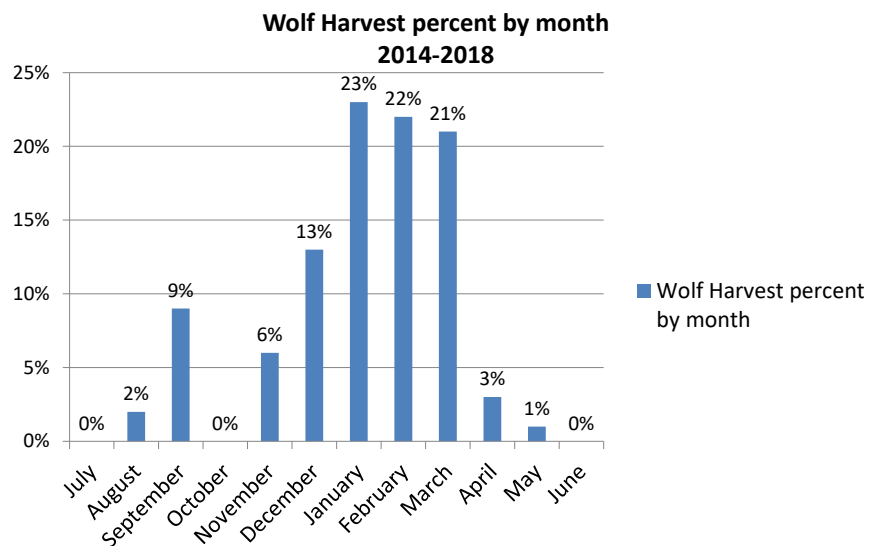
20F = 14 wolves

25C = 25 wolves

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## Fairbanks Area Wolf Harvest



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## Wolves

- Only have wolf density estimates in 20A and 20C. No surveys have been conducted in 20B, 20F or 25C.
- Unit 20A
  - 2015 estimate = 22.3 wolves/1000mi<sup>2</sup>
- Unit 20C
  - 2012 estimate = 10.7 wolves/ 1000mi<sup>2</sup>

### ➤ 2 Wolf Proposals

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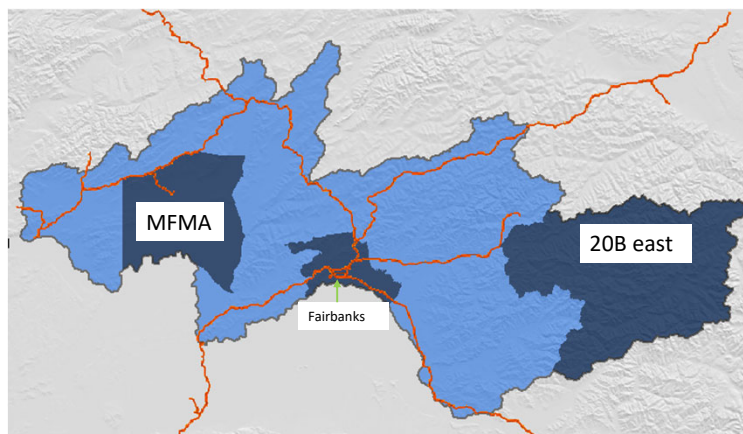
## Minto Flats Wolf project

- Winter 2018 trappers reported catching multiple wolves infested with lice
- Lice had not been confirmed in Minto Flats
- Minto Flats had long history of Follicular Dysplasia
- Began a project in March 2018
- Initial stages were to determine how many wolves in area and how widespread lice was.
- Investigate Follicular Dysplasia

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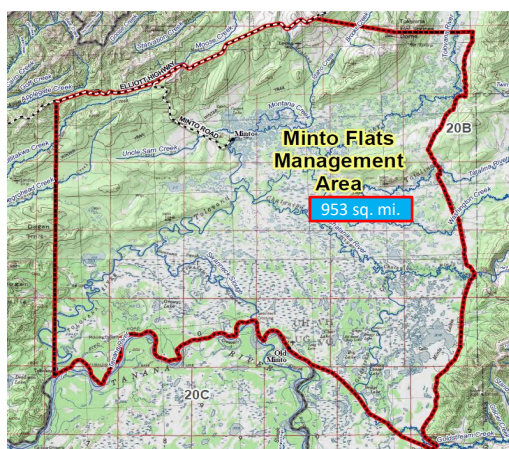
## Unit 20B



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## Minto Flats Wolf project



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## Lousy – *Trichodectes canis*

- Broken guard hair especially along top line
- Yellow diamond patch between shoulder blades
- Hair matting
- Guard hairs present, underfur sparse
- Redness or irritation of skin
- Malodorous
- Lice present (all over, but especially in groin area)



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## Follicular Dysplasia

- Long guard hairs, unbroken along the top
- No matting of the hair
- Loss of guard hair on sides, bilaterally symmetrical, fuzzy underfur present
- Sometimes tail and under neck also affected
- Underfur may be kinked, poodle-ish
- No redness or irritation of the skin
- No malodor and no lice present



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## Results

- 2018
  - Found 9 packs = 82+ wolves
  - 2 packs over 20 wolves
  - deployed 9 collars in 5 packs
  - 4 packs confirmed to have lice, 4 packs looked to have lice from air, 1 unknown pack
  - Most packs have FD
- 2019
  - Found 10 packs = approx. 47 wolves
  - Total of 20 radio collars in 9 packs
  - 1 pack confirmed to have lice, 1 shows possible signs of lice, 6 packs show no signs of lice, 2 unknown packs
  - FD in most packs
- 2020
  - Found 9 packs with 59 wolves
  - Total 20 radio collars in 8 packs
  - Only 1 pack has signs of lice
  - Most packs have FD

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## What's happening now

- Continue to monitor the wolf population and the lice prevalence
  - Decide if any actions need to be taken
  - Are lice cyclic in wolf populations?
- Trying to determine what causes the FD and why
  - Working with ADF&G and CSU vet staff
  - Collecting lots of biological samples

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## Small Game

- Snowshoe Hare populations are near peak or maybe just past
  - Very unusual hare cycle
- Grouse populations are currently low
- Ptarmigan populations appear to be stable

➤ **1 proposal regarding waterfowl**

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## Sheep

- Alaska Range (20A) - Populations appear to be stable
- 2014-2018 Harvest = Average 107 rams per year
- 2014-2018 Hunters = Average 280 sheep hunters per year

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## Sheep Cont.

- Units 25C (White Mountains) and 20B (Tanana Hills) – Population Declining/low– effort and harvest relatively low
- 2014-2018 Harvest = 8 rams per year
- 2014-2018 Hunters = 41 per year
- **0 sheep proposals this cycle**

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## Moose

- Fairbanks area units continue to have high effort and high harvest.
- 2014-2018 = 31,330 hunters harvested 7,352 moose.
- 6,266 hunters per year harvest 1,470 moose per year.
- Fairbanks area has a lot of access and a large population of people.
- Survey data seems to be getting harder to get, lack of snow in the fall
  - Influences antlerless moose harvest
  - Results in more conservative harvest

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## Moose Cont.

### Game Units 20C, 20F, 25C

- Lower density moose populations
- For the most part don't get surveyed.
- Harvest and effort is monitored in these units.
- No antlerless moose hunts.

### Game Units 20A and 20B

- High density moose populations.
- Survey moose regularly
- Population estimates and twinning surveys.
- Research conducted.
- Antlerless hunts exist.

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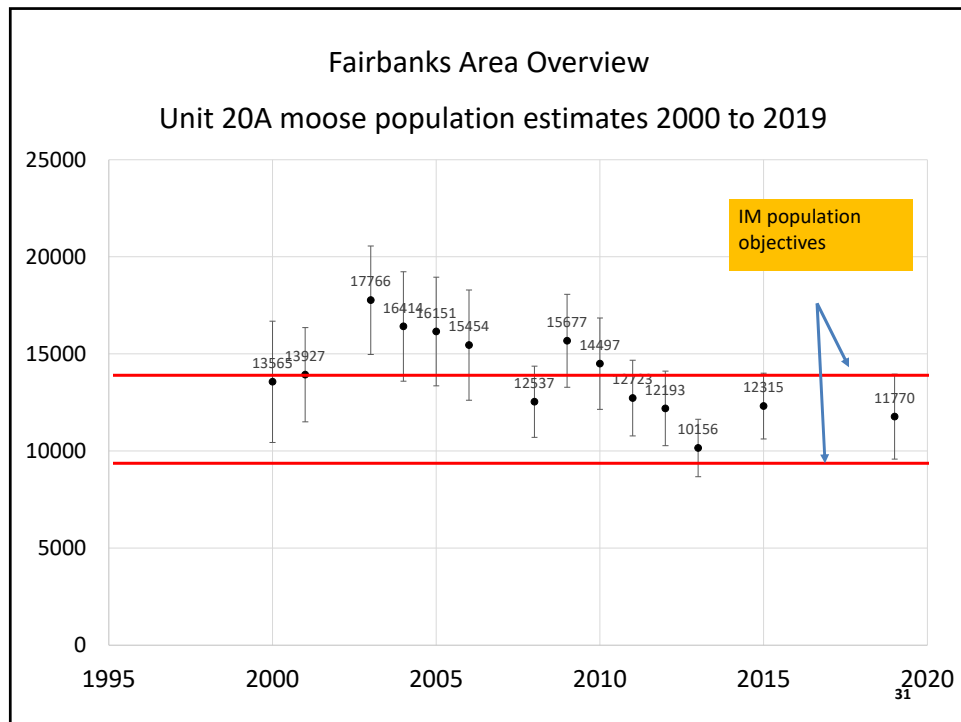
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## 20C Moose

- 2011 population estimate = 3800 moose
- 2011 bull:cow ratio = 49:100
- The IM population objective = 3,000-4,000 moose
- The IM harvest objective = 150-400 moose
- 2014-2018 average harvest = 163 moose
- The harvestable surplus = 190 moose
- 2 proposals

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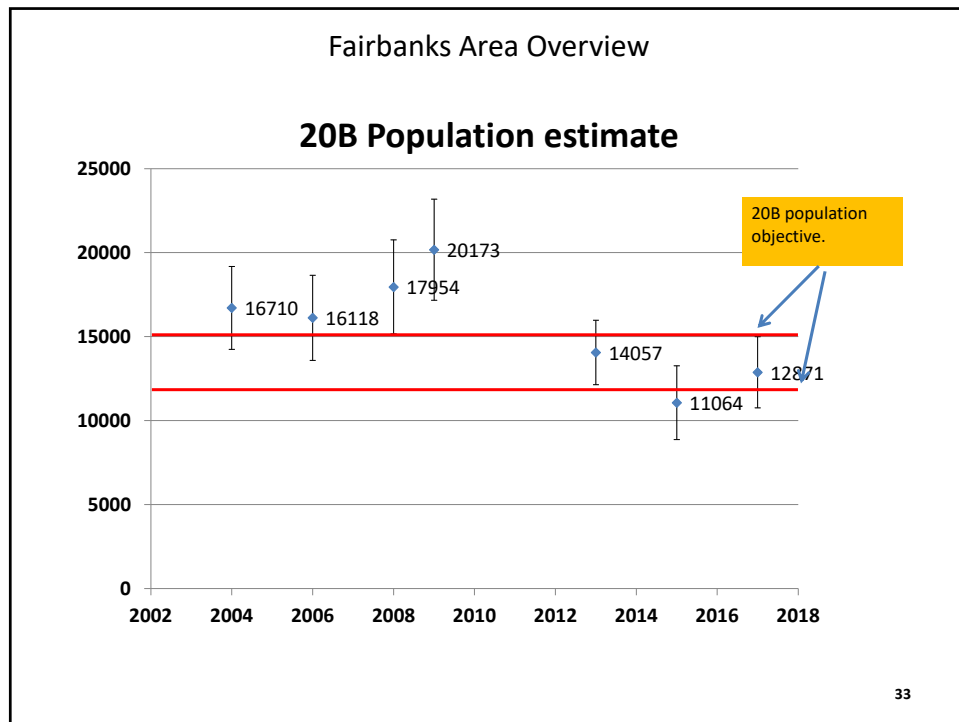
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## 20A Moose

- IM Population Objective =10,000-15,000
- IM Harvest Objective = 600-900
- 2014-2018 = 1695 hunters annually
- 2014-2018 = 536 moose harvested annually
- Unit wide Bull:cow ratio = 36:100
- Unit wide Calf:cow ratio = 35:100
- 5 proposals

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**Unit 20B Moose**

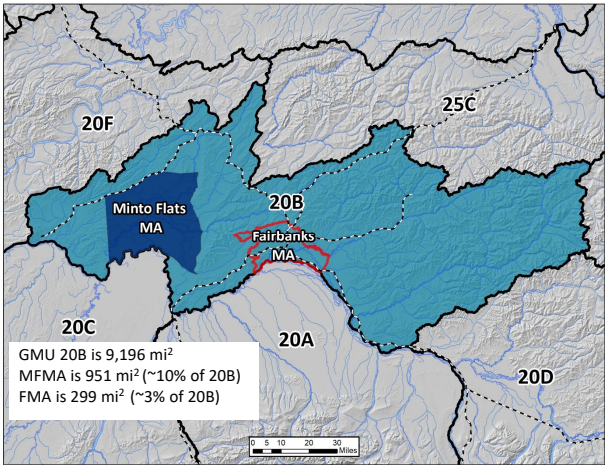
- IM Population Objective = 12,000-15,000
- IM Harvest Objective = 600-1,500
- 2014-2018 = 3,435 hunters annually
- 2014-2018 = 539 bulls and 110 cows harvested annually
- Unit wide Bull:Cow ratio= 17:100
- Unit wide Calf:cow ratio = 38:100

➤ 10 Proposals

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# Game Management Unit 20B

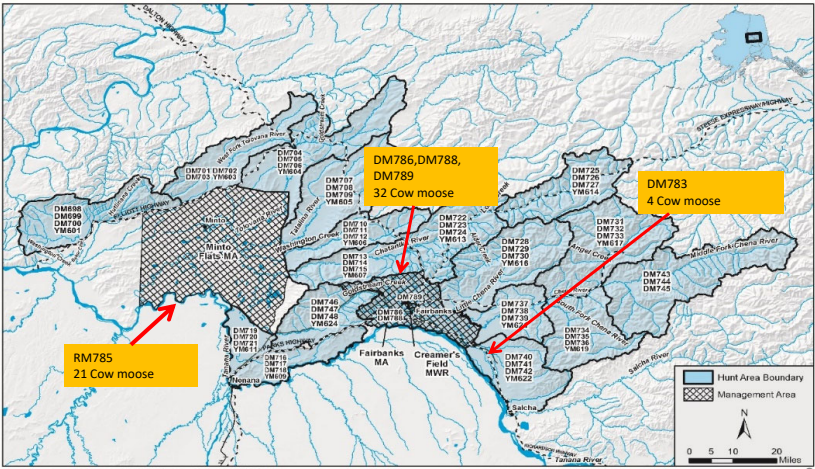


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# 2019 Antlerless moose harvest

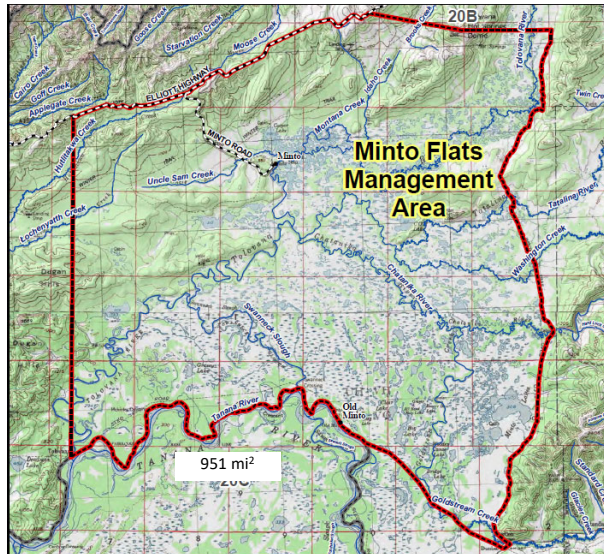
57 total cow moose harvested



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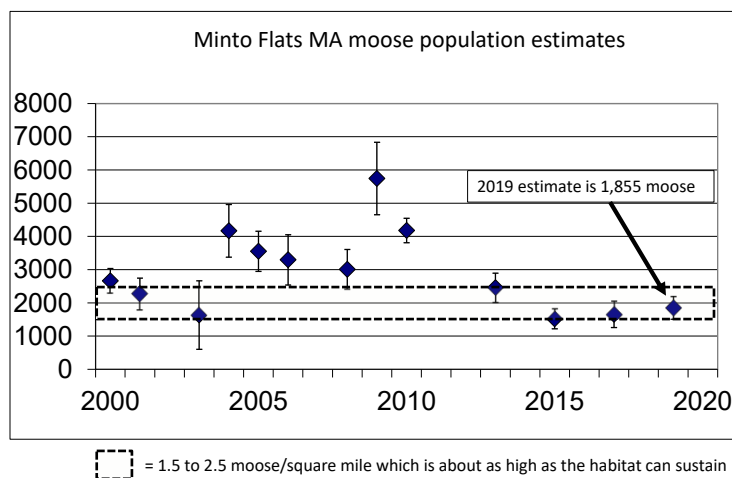
## Minto Flats Management Area



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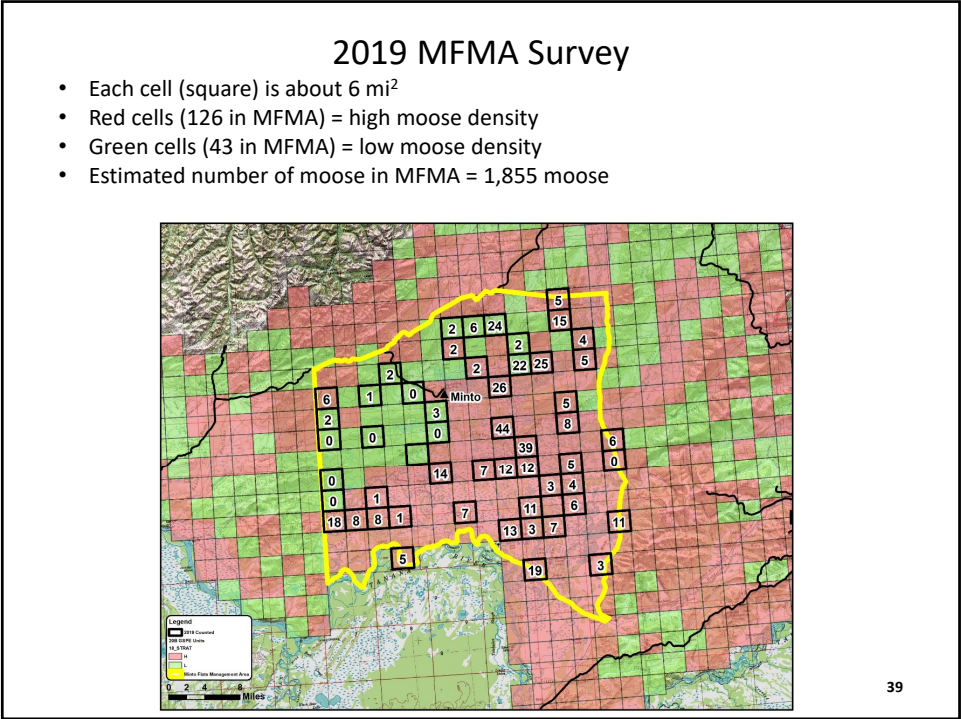
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## Minto Flats Management Area

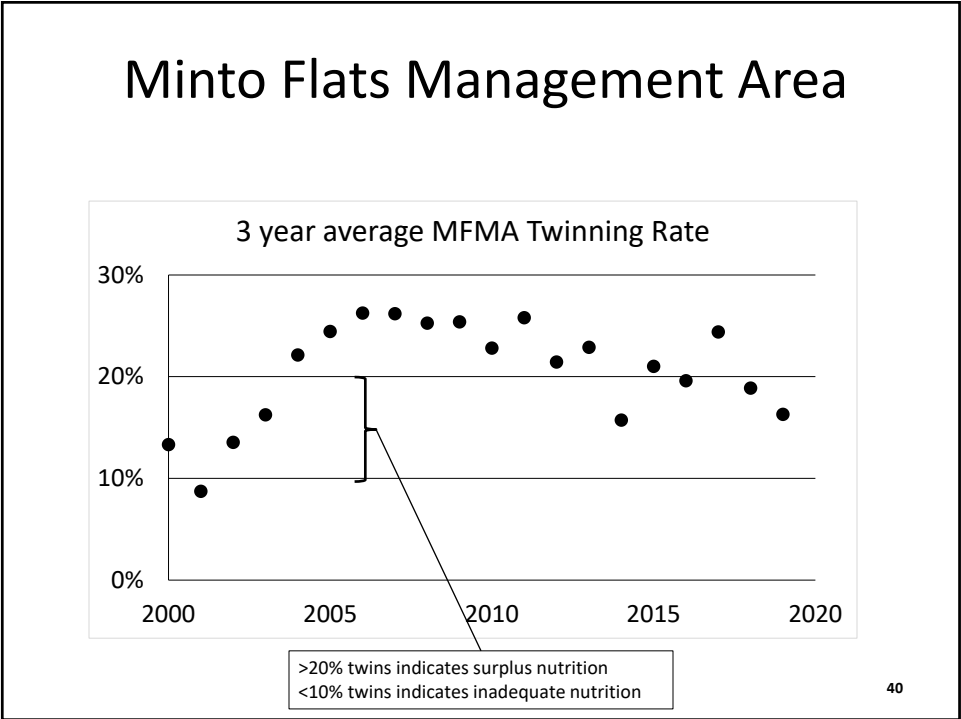


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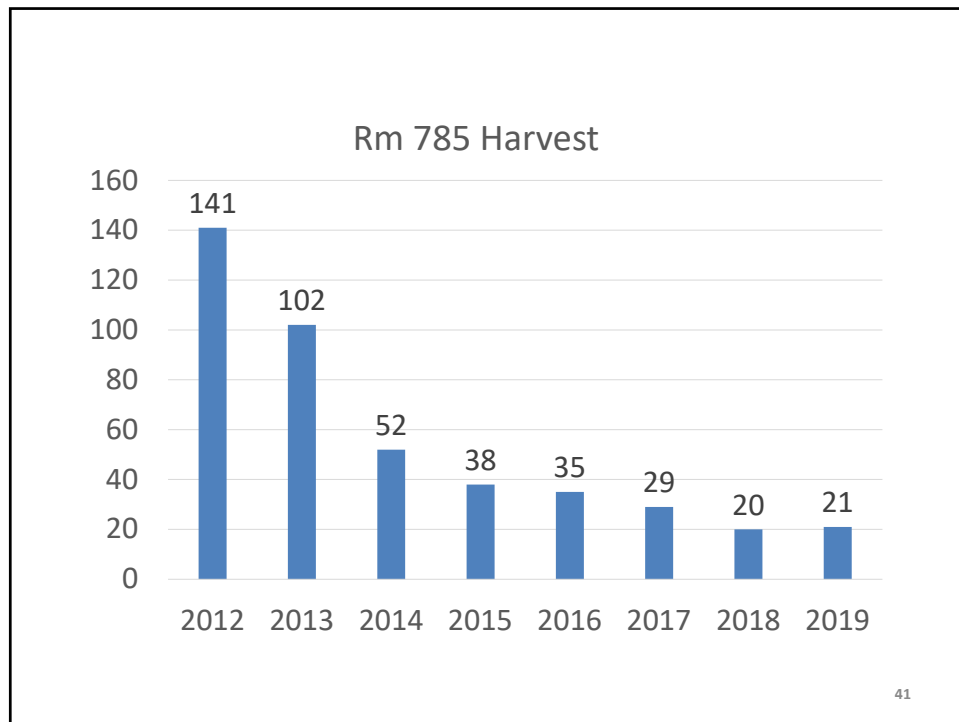
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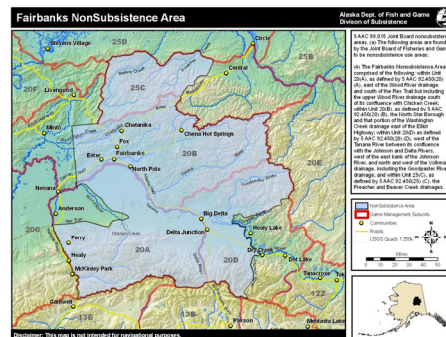
## 20B Ceremonial Harvest

### Inside the FNSA

- Need report form filled out prior to hunting
- Required to report after harvesting within 15 days

### Outside FNSA

- Verbal notification
- Verbal report after harvesting moose
- Most ceremonial harvest under reg 5 AAC 92.019



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## Unit 20B Ceremonial Harvest

Year	Reports	# Moose Requested
2017	42	60
2018	33	58
2019	38	62

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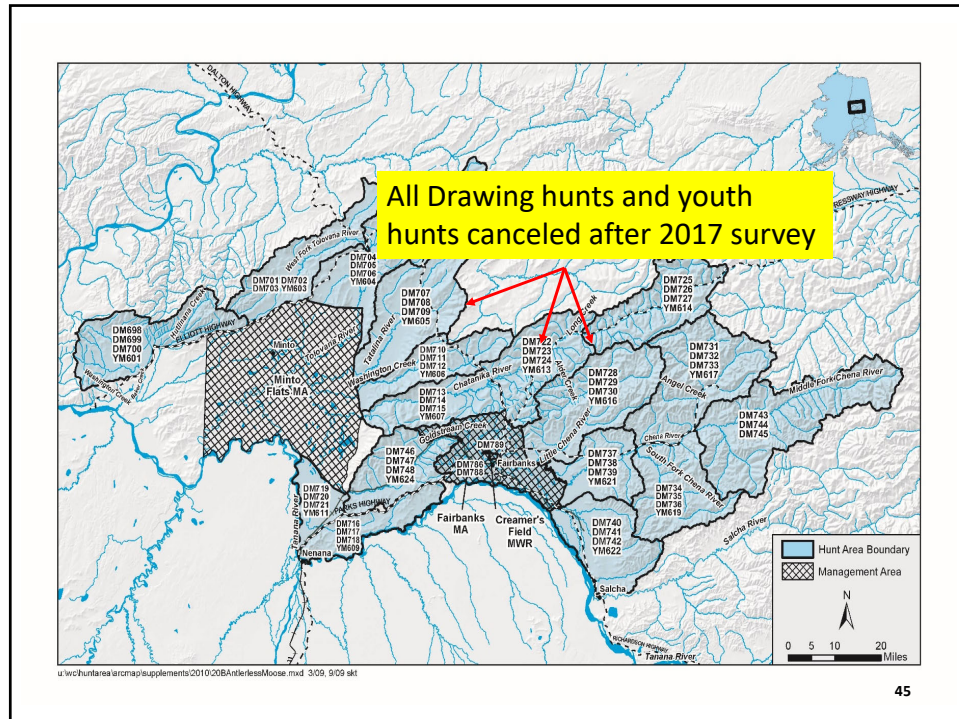
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## Ceremonial Harvest

- Majority of ceremonial harvest occurs along the road system in the Fairbanks area
- Ceremonial harvest requesters may seek as many as 5 or more moose for harvest (sometime other species such as caribou)
- People come from all around the state to participate
- Reporting is low

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## Recent Timeline

- 2017 conducted Unit 20B population estimate in November
- Canceled drawing permit hunts in large portion of central and western Unit 20B
  - Harvestable surplus = 100 cow moose; 30 in MFMA, 30 in FMA
  - Remaining harvest only for ceremonial use
- 2018- More than normal ceremonial harvest requests in MFMA
  - Estimated harvest = 10 cows (Normal estimated 3-4 moose)

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## Recent Timeline continued

- October 2018, reduced the RM785 quota for MFMA from 30 to 20 due to estimated harvest (10) from ceremonial harvest in MFMA
- December 2018, added MFMA to statewide list of areas in which cows can not be harvested for ceremonial harvest
- December 2018 to June 2019
  - 15 ceremonies requested 27 moose in 20B (1.8 moose/ceremony)
- July 2019 – MFMA removed from list
- Unit 20B has not been restricted for ceremonial harvest since

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## Minto Flats Management Area

- We don't anticipate having to moderate cow harvest again
- Better reporting of ceremonial harvest will help us determine when too many cows are being taken
- The population is currently stable and we would like to keep it stable
- In ~86% of GMU 20B the only cow harvest allowed is ceremonial harvest

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Fairbanks Area

**Questions?**

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