2020 Unit 20D
Delta Area Overview

Unit 20D
Delta Area Office

Delta Area ADF&G Staff

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20D

5,633 mi²

Unit 20D Communities

Fl. Greely, Pop. ~500

Delta Jct., Big Delta, Deltana, pop. ~3,200

Healy Lake, pop. ~25

Dry Creek, pop. ~100

Dot Lake, pop. ~80
Southern Unit 20D

- Mountains of eastern Alaska Range
- Lowlands of Tanana River valley
- Private Agricultural Land ~ 100,000 acres

Northern Unit 20D

- Hills of Tanana uplands
- Lowlands of major river valleys

Unit 20D – Partially Within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area
Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Delta AC serves Delta Jct., Ft. Greely, & Dry Creek

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC serves Dot Lake & Healy Lake
Delta Bison

- Mgmt. based on plan developed with Delta Bison Working Group; Interim mgmt. plan completed in 2012
- Herd size managed by drawing hunt
- Population objective of 360 animals (pre-calving)
- 18,000+ applications per year
- 80–120 permits per year
Delta Bison

- Management Activities
  - Aerial surveys
  - Sex-age composition counts
  - Radio collars
  - Disease surveillance
  - Manage bison forage on DJBR
  - Administer drawing permit hunt
  - Genetics investigations
  - Working with Delta Ag community

Delta Bison

- Avg. hunter success for past 15 years = 70%

- No proposals regarding bison

- Issues
  - Conflict with private Ag. Lands on the Delta Ag. Project
  - Exposure to domestic bison & other livestock
  - Military training on bison calving range
Black Bear

- Extrapolated population of 750
- Harvest objective; not to exceed 15 bears south of the Tanana & 35 bears north of the Tanana
- 2018 Harvest = 36 bears
- Management Activities
  - Registering bait stations
  - Issuing harvest tickets
  - Responding to nuisance bear complaints
- No proposals regarding black bears
- Issues
  - Lack of data on pop. estimates

Brown Bear

- Extrapolated pop. est. of 181–210 bears
- Harvest objective = 5–15 per year
  - Harvest obj. is being met or exceeded
- Current Regulations:
  - No resident tag fees
  - Season = Aug 10–Jun 30
  - Baiting allowed in Unit 20D North
  - Bag limit = 1 per year
- Management Activities
  - Bear sealing
  - Responding to nuisance bear complaints
  - Recently started a pop. ecology study with GPS collars
- 1 proposal regarding brown bear baiting
- Issues
  - Lack of data on pop. estimates
  - Harvest objectives being met or exceeded
**Macomb Caribou Herd**

- IM Pop. Obj. = 600 – 800 caribou
  - 2013 = 1,500
  - 2016 = 1,300
  - 2018 = 1,630
- ANS = 10 – 40

**Macomb Caribou**

- IM Harvest obj. = 30–50 per year
- Hunt by registration permit (RC835)
  - Overlaps DCUA & MPCUA access restrictions
  - Last two days of hunt allows motorized access within the DCUA
- Harvest quota has ranged from 30–70 over past 10 years
Macomb Caribou

- Management Activities
  - Aerial population & composition surveys
  - Hunting season distribution survey
  - Radio collars
  - Registration permits
- 1 proposal regarding Macomb Caribou (methods & means exemption for DCUA)

Issues
- Avoiding overharvest of a small, road accessible herd
- Protecting habitat

Hunt structure:
- Harvest Ticket
  - Any bull (north)
  - SF/50/4 brow tines (south)
- DM 790 - DJMA
- DM 795 - Purple heart / disabled vet.
- YM 792 - Bison Range Youth Hunt
- DM 791 - Antlerless
**Moose**

- Human consumption identified as highest use
- Intensive management adopted 1995
- Population objective = 8,000-10,000
  - 8,490 estimated moose in Unit 20D
- Harvest obj. = 500-700 moose
  - 250 avg. harvest (25% success)

**Management Activities**

- General hunting, drawing & registration permit hunts
- Annual GSPE population estimates
- Annual aerial twinning surveys
- Periodic browse surveys
- Periodic short-yearling weights
- Disease surveillance
- Public meetings

- 1 proposal regarding moose (antlerless)

**Issues**

- Balancing high moose populations with high hunting pressure & controversial antler restrictions
- Developing new survey techniques
- Exposure to livestock diseases
- Moose-human conflict
**Dall Sheep in DCUA**
- Divided into 2 permit hunts, DS203 & DS204
- Average harvest = 47 per year (46% success)
- 2018 minimum count = 985 sheep
- 2019 minimum count = 1,420 sheep

**Dall Sheep – Mt. Harper**
- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, & 20E
- ~240 mi² of sheep habitat
- 2018 minimum count = 110 sheep
- 4 drawing permits for full-curl ram
- 2019 Harvest = 1; 50% success, last 5-yr average success = 75%
**Dall Sheep**

- Management Activities
  - Seal horns
  - Conduct aerial surveys
  - Disease surveillance

- No proposals regarding sheep

- Issues
  - Protecting habitat
  - Disease concern between domestic sheep/goats and Dall Sheep

**Small Game**

- Species:
  - Ruffed grouse
  - Sharp-tailed grouse
  - Spruce grouse
  - Snowshoe hare
  - 3 species of ptarmigan

- Popular hunting area for hunters from across the state & nonresidents
**Small Game**

- **Management Activities**
  - Sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse populations monitored annually
    - Ruffed grouse at low point of 10-year cycle
  - Ruffed grouse habitat management in SW Unit 20D; mainly on DJBR
  - Small populations of willow and rock ptarmigan monitored annually
  - Hare numbers monitored annually
    - In downward trend of cycle

- **1 proposal regarding grouse**

- **Issues**
  - High hunting pressure coupled with ease of access

**Wolf**

- Unit 20D population objective = 15–125
- 2018 population est. ~ 105 in 30 packs
- Harvest average = 35 per year
  - Hunting season = Aug 10 – May 31; average of 7 wolves
  - Trapping season = Oct 15 – Apr 30; average of 28 wolves
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon – Tanana wolf control area
**Wolf**

- **Management Activities**
  - Seal pelts
  - Annual aerial surveys
  - Trapper interviews to estimate population size & distribution

- **No proposals regarding wolves**

- **Issues**
  - Role of wolves in Unit 20D intensive management

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**Unit 20D Wolf Harvest**

AVG. Wolf Harvest by Month, Regulatory Years 2013-2018

- Hunting season: Aug 10 – May 31
- Trapping season: Oct 15 – April 30
Furbearers

- Emphasized species in fur harvest: beaver, coyote, lynx, marten, red fox, & wolverine

- Management Activities
  - sealing furs
  - trapper questionnaire
  - Furbearer-human conflict (beaver)

- 1 proposal regarding lynx (Unit 12 and 20)

- No issues regarding furbearers

Unit 20D Summary

- Bison
  - Slightly above population objective
  - Continue to work with Ag producers to address concerns
  - Delta Junction Bison Range

- Caribou
  - Population and harvest objectives met

- Moose
  - Low end of population objective
  - Below harvest objective

- Dall Sheep
  - Slightly below pop. objective for DCUA; have met objective for Mt. Harper
  - Harvest objectives met or slightly below for DCUA; objective met for Mt. Harper
**Unit 20D Summary**

- **Bears**
  - Overall harvest and female objectives met for brown bears
  - Harvest slightly below objective for black bears
  - High public interest for brown bear baiting
  - Limited data on bear populations

- **Wolf**
  - Population and harvest objectives met

- **Furbearers**
  - Populations are stable

- **Small game**
  - Population cycles are near low point

**The End**

Questions?