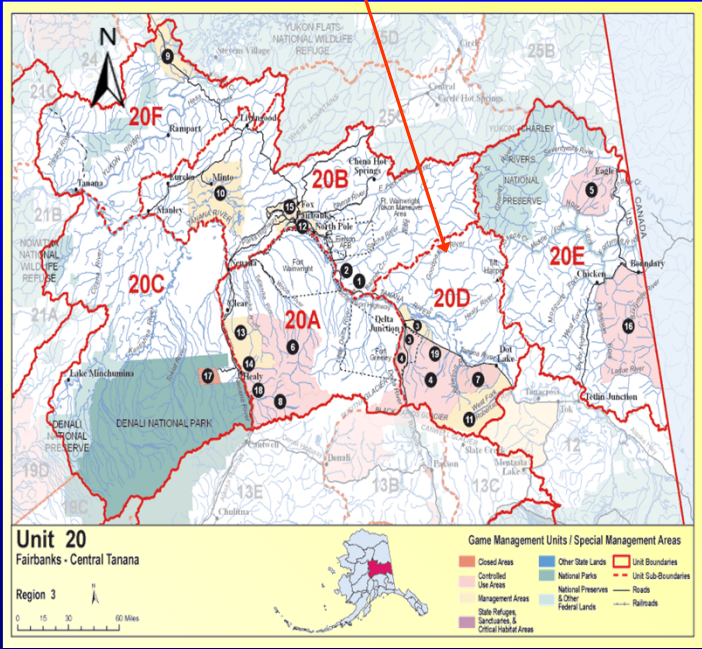


# 2020 Unit 20D Delta Area Overview



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## Unit 20D



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**Delta Area Office**



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**Delta Area ADF&G Staff**



**Robert W. Schmidt**  
**Area Biologist**



**Clint Cooper**  
**FWT IV, Bison**  
**Range Manager**

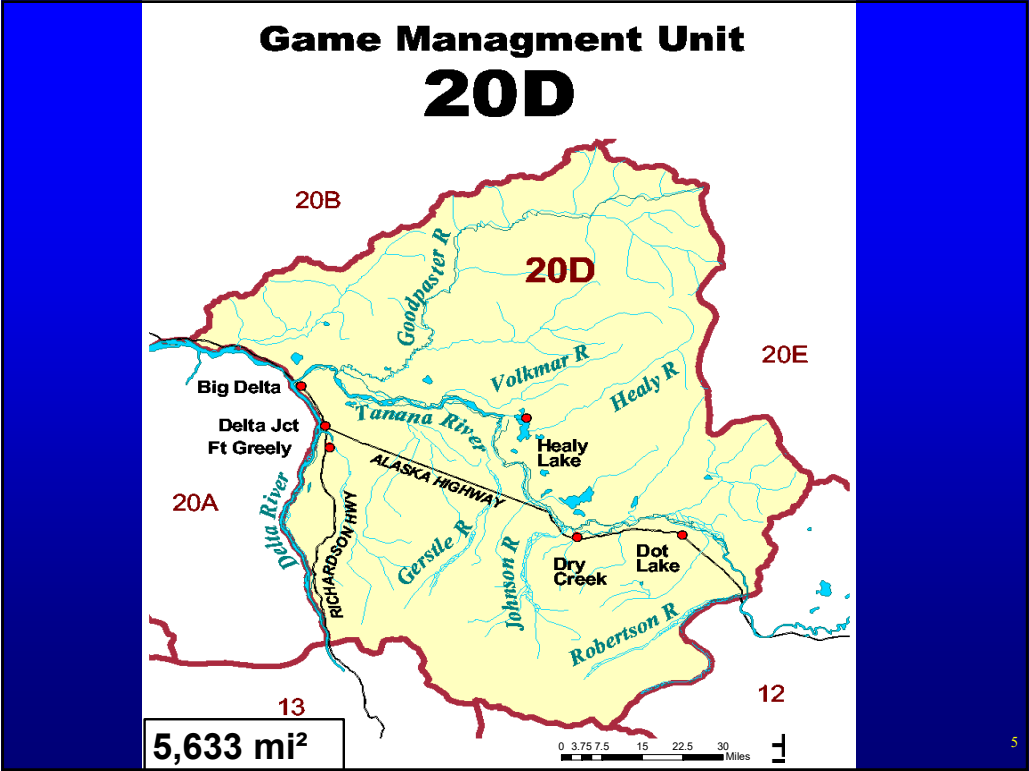


**Ellie Mason**  
**FWT III**

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**Unit 20D Communities**

*Ft. Greely, Pop.~500*

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

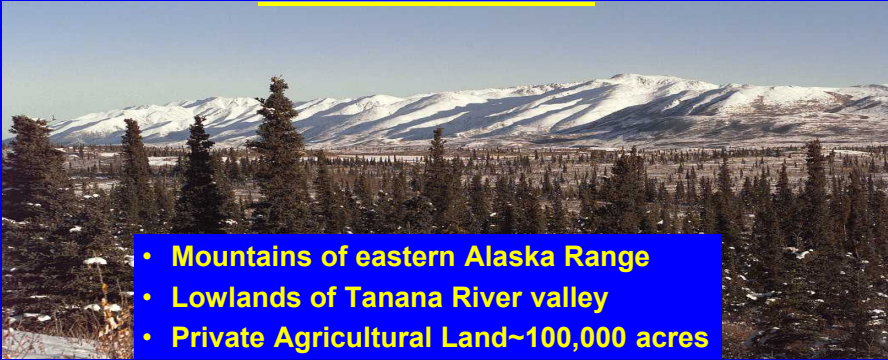
*Healy Lake, pop.~25*

*Dry Creek, pop.~100*

*Dot Lake, pop.~80*


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### Southern Unit 20D



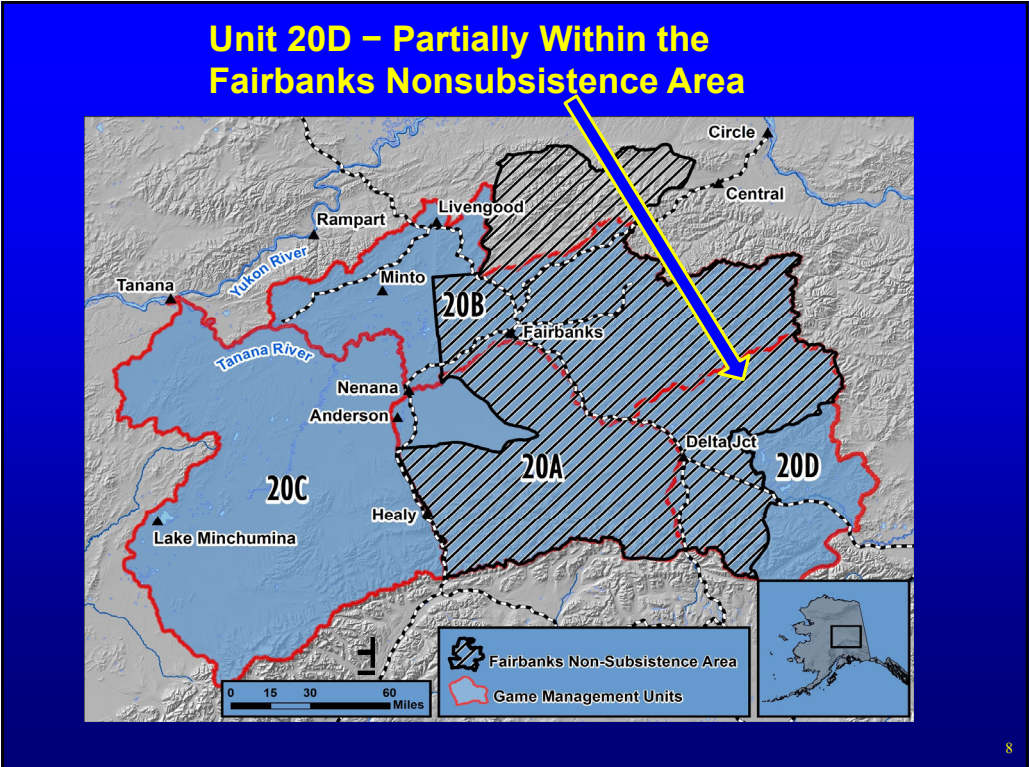
- Mountains of eastern Alaska Range
- Lowlands of Tanana River valley
- Private Agricultural Land~100,000 acres

### Northern Unit 20D



- Hills of Tanana uplands
- Lowlands of major river valleys

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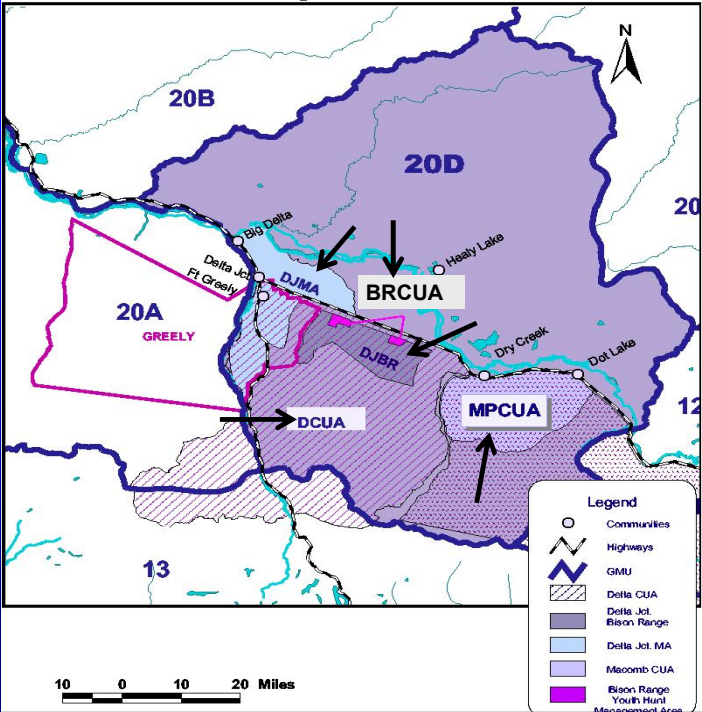
Delta Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee



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

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC serves Dot Lake & Healy Lake

**GMU 20D Special Use Areas**







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**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

A photograph showing a hunter in a white jacket and hat kneeling next to a dead bison in a snowy field. A rifle is leaning against the bison's body. The background shows a flat, snowy landscape under a cloudy sky.

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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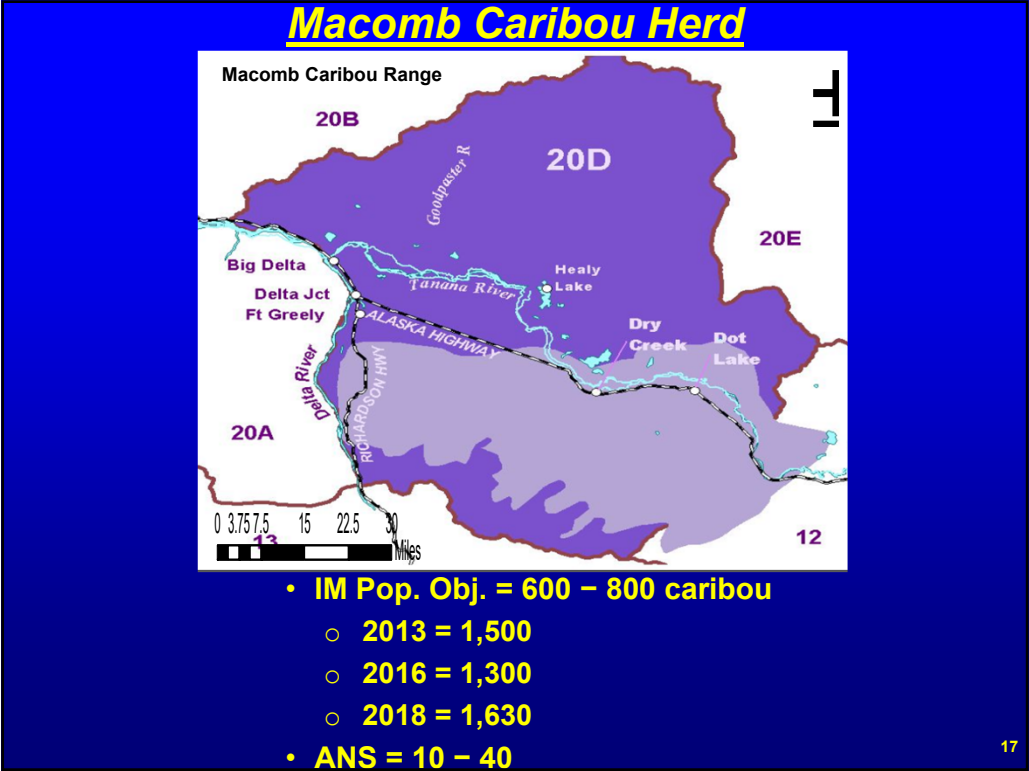
### **Brown Bear**

- 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

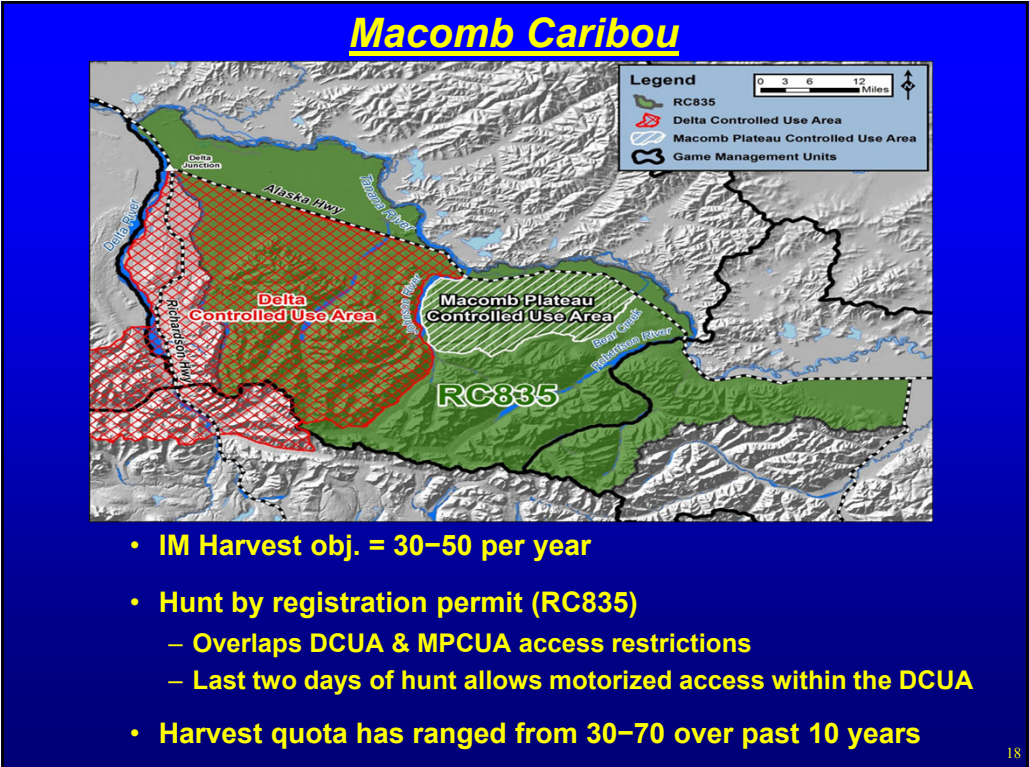
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### Macomb Caribou

- 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

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### Moose

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

The map illustrates the hunting structure for Moose across several Game Management Units (GMUs). Key areas include the Delta Junction Mgmt Area, Delta Junction GMU 20A, Delta Junction GMU 20D, Bison Range Youth Hunt Mgmt Area, and GMUs 12 and 13. Regulations for residents and non-residents are specified for each area, covering hunting seasons, antler requirements, and special permits like the Harvest Ticket. A scale bar indicates distances up to 24 miles.

Area	Residents	Non-residents
Delta Junction Mgmt Area	Sept 1 - 15 1 bull 5/8" or 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines	Sept 5 - 15 1 bull with 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines
Delta Junction GMU 20A	Sept 1 - 30 1 5/8" bull or 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines 1 bull per lifetime	Sept 5 - 15 1 bull with 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines
Delta Junction GMU 20D	Sept 1 - 15 1 bull 5/8" or 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines	Sept 5 - 15 1 bull with 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines
Bison Range Youth Hunt Mgmt Area	Sept 1 - 30 1 5/8" bull or 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines 1 bull per lifetime	Sept 5 - 15 1 bull with 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines
GMU 12	Sept 1 - 15 1 bull	No open season
GMU 13	Sept 1 - 15 1 bull	Sept 5 - 15 1 bull 50"+ antlers or 4+ brow tines

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## 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)



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## Moose

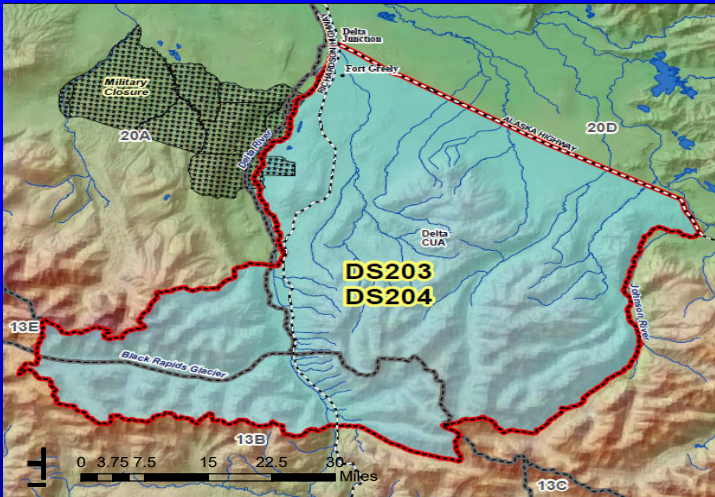
- Management Activities
  - General hunting, drawing & registration permit hunts
  - Annual GSPE population estimates
  - Annual aerial twinning surveys
  - Periodic browse surveys
  - Periodic short-yearling weights
  - Disease surveillance
  - Public meetings
- 1 proposal regarding moose (antlerless)
- Issues
  - Balancing high moose populations with high hunting pressure & controversial antler restrictions
  - Developing new survey techniques
  - Exposure to livestock diseases
  - Moose-human conflict

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**Dall Sheep in DCUA**

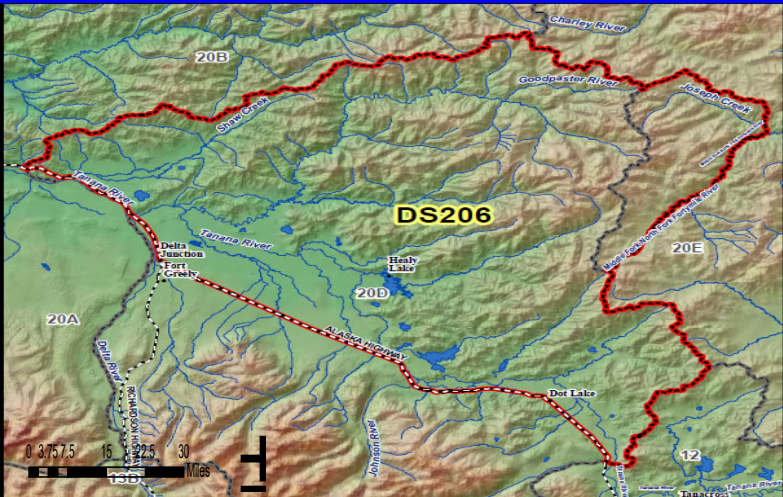


- Divided into 2 permit hunts, DS203 & DS204
- Average harvest = 47 per year (46% success)
- 2018 minimum count = 985 sheep
- 2019 minimum count = 1,420 sheep

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**Dall Sheep – Mt. Harper**



- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, & 20E
- ~240 mi<sup>2</sup> 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%

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## **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

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## **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**



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### 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

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### 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



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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

Month	6 yr avg. % harv.	Count
Jan	28%	9
Feb	15%	5
Mar	19%	6
Apr	1%	0.2
May	0%	0
June	0%	0
July	0%	0
Aug	2%	0.7
Sept	6%	2
Oct	1%	0.3
Nov	10%	3
Dec	19%	6

Hunting season: Aug 10 – May 31

Trapping season: Oct 15 – April 30

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### **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**

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### **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

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## **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

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## **The End**



**Questions?**

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