

ADF&G staff report

Trends in Region III temperature during early-mid September and potential effects of shifting moose hunting season to a later period in September

Seven public proposals of similar nature on delaying moose season because of warmer temperatures:

- Proposal 19—GMU 20**
- Proposal 29—GMU 20B**
- Proposal 24—GMU 20C**
- Proposal 63—GMU 24C & 24D**
- Proposal 65—GMU 24D**
- Proposal 66—GMU 24D**
- Proposal 80—GMU 24**

Background

Hunter concerns: warmer temperatures in early September are causing

- **lower success in harvesting moose**
- **increased difficulty in meat care**

September temperature trends

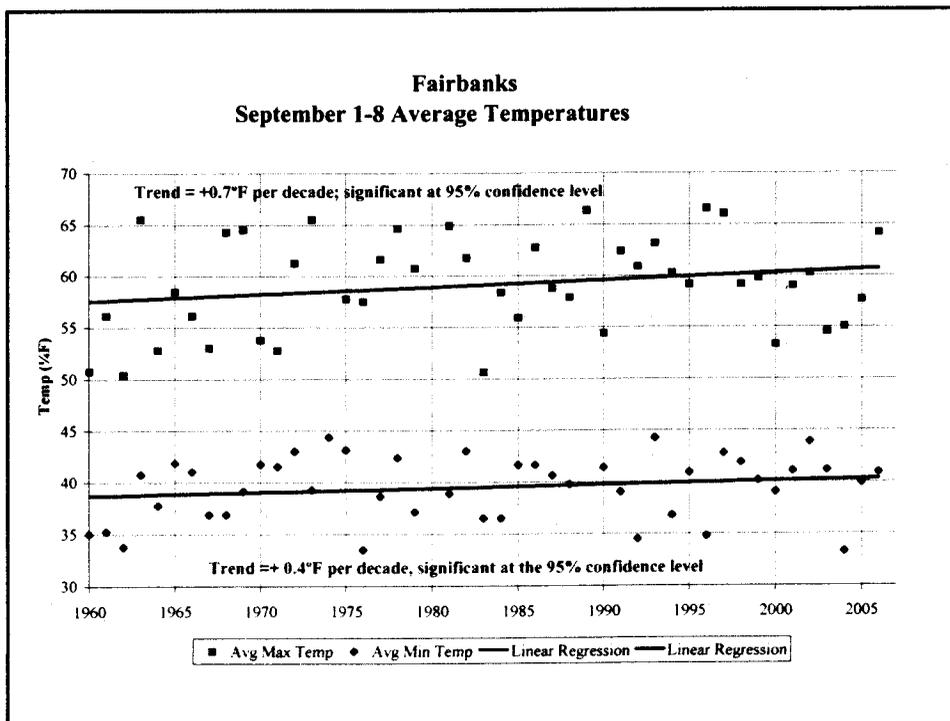
Forecaster with National Weather Service summarized the data:

- **Examined 1-8 September and 9-15 September at Northway, Fairbanks, Tanana, Bettles, Galena, and McGrath**
- **Obtained maximum and minimum weekly temperatures during 1960-2006 (47 years)**
- **The warmest and coldest week during 1960-2006 were excluded to reduce the effect of extreme values on the trend ($n = 45$ years)**
- **Calculated weekly averages for min and max**

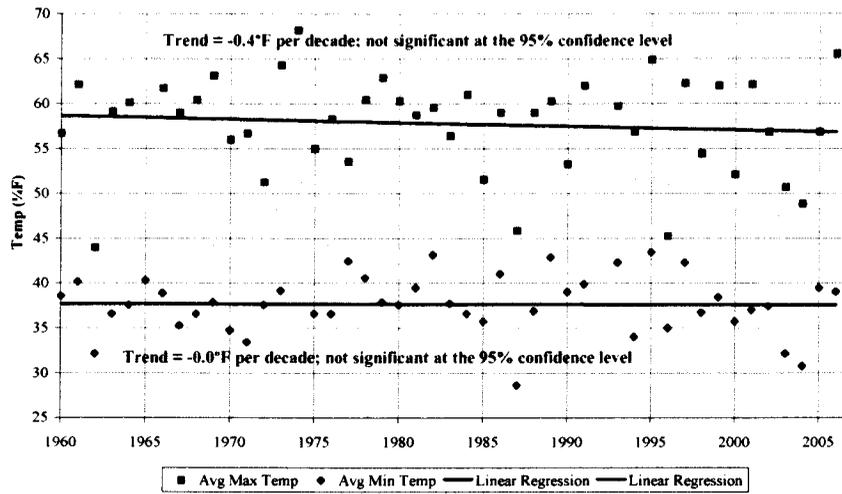
September temperature trends

Results:

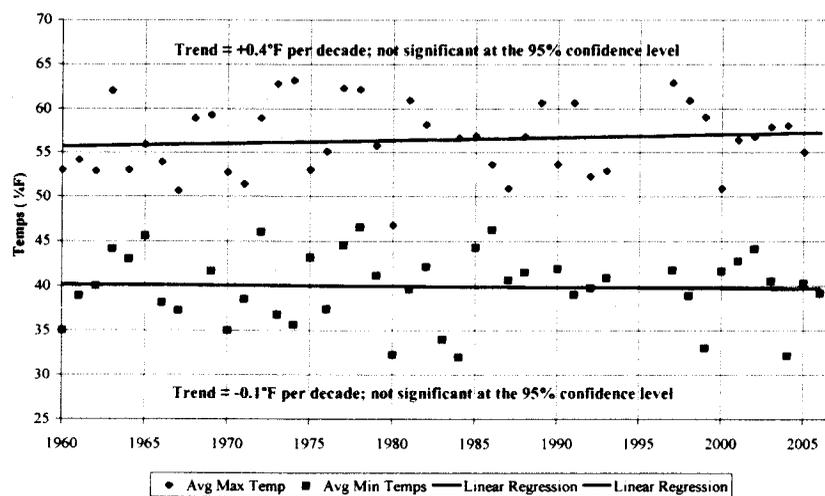
- Significant warming of weekly maximum temperature during 1-8 September at Northway, Fairbanks, Tanana, and McGrath
- Significant warming of weekly minimum temperature during 1-8 September at Fairbanks and McGrath
- No significant warming of weekly maximum or minimum temperatures for any Interior station during 9-15 September

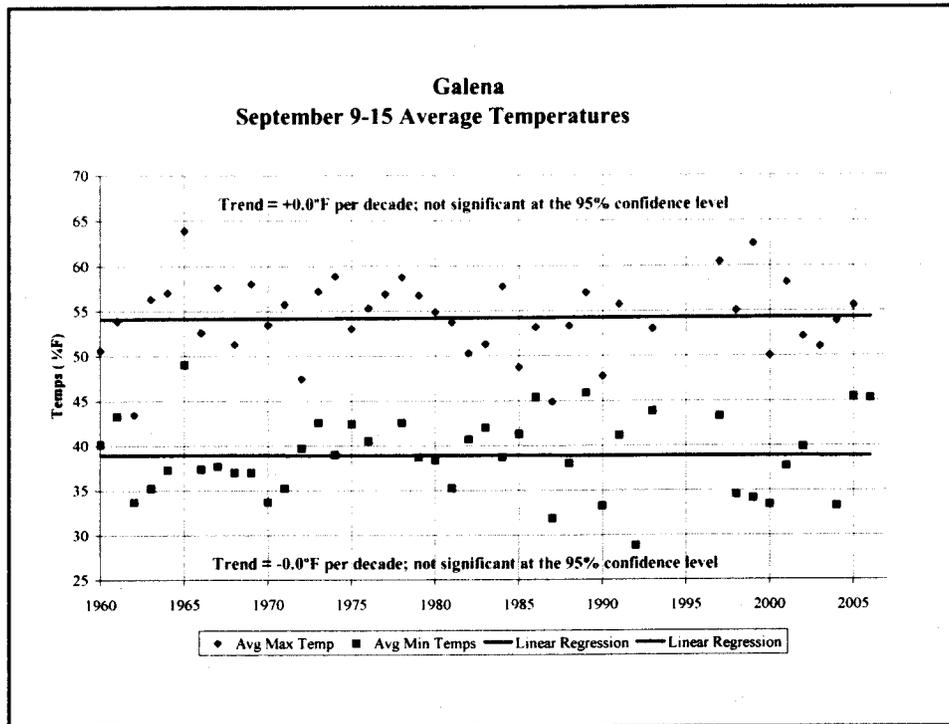


**Fairbanks
September 9-15 Average Temperatures**



**Galena
September 1-8 Average Temperatures**

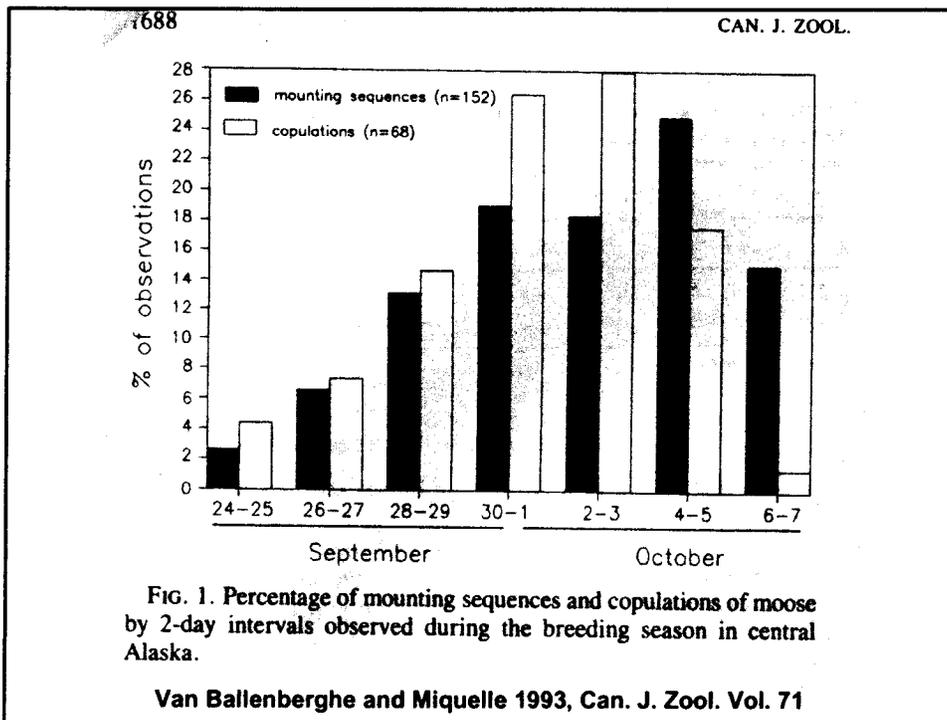
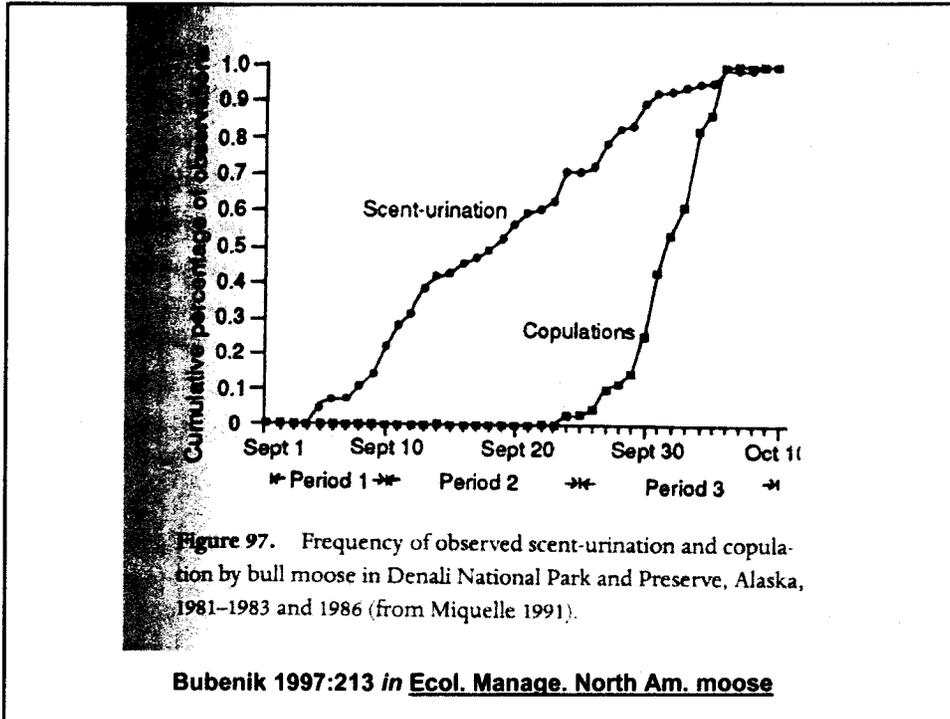




Timing of hunting season

Moose are less vulnerable to harvest in early September

- Spotting moose is harder before leaves have fallen
- Moose may spend more time bedded in shade
- Bulls are generally not responsive to calling (not yet actively breeding)



Late seasons have potential to disrupt moose during active rut

- **Several moose seasons occur during 1 October to 30 November, but many are in high density populations or those with nutritional constraints**
- **Disruption of active rut may not be prudent in low density populations where the objective is for growth**

Factors other than temperature that potentially influence harvest success

- **Hunting access (low water in rivers)**
- **Trend in number of hunters**
- **Moose population trend**

End

RC31

2/28/2008

Agnes Sweetsir
PO Box 8
Galena, AK 99741

Board of Game

RE: PROPOSAL 94 5AAC92.540(8) (a)

I strongly recommend that you do not pass Proposal 94 which would allow for the use of aircraft for hunting moose in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in units 21 and 24. I believe that passing this proposal would

- lead to major conflict among user groups ,
- have a devastating effect on the lives of the people who live in the Yukon Koyukuk area and who depend on getting their moose for subsistence out of units 21 and 24, and
- Drastically decrease the available number of moose available for harvest not only in Units 21 and 24 but other units as well.

There is no way that with our little outboard motors and boats and with the cost of fuel that we could even begin to compete with airplanes. In fact, in this day and age there are families (2, 3 and 4) that are teaming up to share expenses and many are only lucky enough to get one moose. This year we were fortunate to get two small moose to feed 6+ households for the winter. With the exorbitant cost of living, we who live in this rural area depend on getting that moose.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your service to the people in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Agnes Sweetsir

2/28/2008

RC 32

Sidney C. Huntington
PO Box 49
Galena, AK 99741

RE: Proposal 94

Alaska Board of Game:

It has been brought to my attention that because of Proposal 94 – 5AAC92.540(8)(A) Controlled Use Areas , the population of moose on the Koyukuk River is in jeopardy of being made smaller.

As you know the Koyukuk Controlled Use are was created to address over harvesting by aircraft hunters including same day land and shoot and other abuses. The Koyukuk Controlled Use are has been working good for many years; it has provided the local Native hunter and other subsistence hunters of Alaska a place to hunt to provide meat for their families. This has been a real good management tool and has prevented over harvesting.

The number of moose just about holds it's own despite the loss we suffer to predators some years. The moose that were not harvested on the outer edge of the border lines is mostly what keeps the population fairly stable along the Koyukuk Controlled Use area because it is an area not hunted very much even by local hunters using boats. To open it up to aircraft would only help eliminate moose hunting on the Koyukuk River sooner. Early moose hunters see very few moose on the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area because they staff off the river during the heavy boat hunting periods. During the rut season some of the bulls come out to the river to where the cows are. Things have been working real good for nearly 30 years, why destroy the area now just to benefit a few aircraft owners who might take outside hunters in. They have been using boats for years, just the same as everyone else.

I add the following comments on proposal:

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOUCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED.

Yes, only for awhile. The over harvest in the back will eliminate both areas in time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

Who will suffer? All the families along the Lower Koyukuk, including Galena and Nulato and others who rely on moose meat for their tables.

OTHER SOLUTIONS:

Keep it as it is now, no changes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Sidney C. Huntington

RC33

2008 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting
RESOLUTION FORM

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE TO ASSIST THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA (KCUA) BY OPPOSING PROPOSAL 94
- WHEREAS,** the moose population just reached the management objective in 2007 of 30 bulls; 100 cows in Three Day Slough area, and
- WHEREAS,** last year the bull:cow ratio was 25:100 in the Three Day Slough, and
- WHEREAS,** we are opposed to use of aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or moose parts, and
- WHEREAS,** the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area was established to reduce the number of nonlocal hunters accessing the lower Koyukuk River drainage, reduce conflicts between local and nonlocal hunters and to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, and
- WHEREAS,** the number of hunters increased and a registration permit hunt was implemented that did not curb the growth in hunter numbers, and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Game adopted regulations that created a drawing permit, as a result of recommendation of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort, and
- WHEREAS,** those measures are effective in creating substantial disincentive for non-subsistence hunters and have regulated the number of hunters who participate in the registration permit hunt, and
- WHEREAS,** local hunters have serious concerns about allowing the use of aircraft in the area because it could provide the opportunity for hunters to not follow the regulations and illegally increase harvest of moose in the area, and
- WHEREAS,** similar proposals was brought before the Board of Game in the past and did not pass, and
- WHEREAS,** the Koyukuk Tribal Council would like to request that all future requests of allowing aircraft for hunting moose in the KCUA not be considered.
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Koyukuk Tribal Council is in opposition of Alaska Fish and Game Proposal 94 to eliminate airborne prohibition for moose hunters in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in Units 21D and 24D.

Prepared by: Koyukuk Tribal Council

Sponsor
Organization: Yukon-Koyukuk Subregion

Date: February 27, 2008

RC34

NULATO TRIBAL COUNCIL
Resolution No. 2008-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE NULATO TRIBAL COUNCIL OPPOSING PROPOSAL 94,
5AAC92.540 (8)(A), CONTROLLED USE AREAS.

WHEREAS, Proposal 94 intends to amend the access restrictions for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in Units 21 and 24 and,

WHEREAS, the access restrictions is worded, "The area is closed to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or moose parts; however, this does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of moose from a publicly owned airport in the controlled use area" and,

WHEREAS, Proposal 94 wrongfully assumes that the prohibition of aircraft access to the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area is the issue and,

WHEREAS, the protection of wildlife resources and a system to assure the continued sustainability of this resource must be maintained is the issue and,

WHEREAS, the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) prohibits any access of a national wildlife refuge unless it is first determined to be compatible with the purposes for which the refuge is established and,

WHEREAS, purposes of a refuge are fish and wildlife-oriented recreation, ecological research, environmental education and interpretation, and economic use of refuge lands and,

WHEREAS, Proposal 94 wishes to circumvent the purposes for the Koyukuk Refuge without providing any scientific study acquired through experience that aircraft access into the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area is compatible with refuge purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nulato Tribal Council strongly opposes Proposal 94 that would amend the access restrictions to the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

DULY ADOPTED on this 26th day of February 2008.

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the above resolution was duly adopted at a convened meeting of the Nulato Tribal Council, at which time a quorum was present. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, with 0 abstaining.

Michael J. Stickman
Michael J. Stickman, 1st Chief

Gloria L. Patsy
Gloria L. Patsy, Secretary/Treasurer

Koyukuk Tribal Council
PO Box 109
Koyukuk, AK 99754

RC35

Resolution 08-013

OPPOSITION TO ALASKA FISH AND GAME PROPOSAL 94

- WHEREAS,** The moose population just reached the management objective in 2007 of 30 bulls:100 cows in Three Day Slough area; and
- WHEREAS,** last year the bull:cow ratio was 25:100 in the Three Day Slough area; and
- WHEREAS,** The moose population in the Lower Koyukuk is 24 bulls:100 cows; and
- WHEREAS,** We are opposed to use of aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear and/or moose parts; and
- WHEREAS,** The Koyukuk Controlled Use Area was established to reduce the number of nonlocal hunters accessing the lower Koyukuk River drainage, reduce conflicts between local and nonlocal hunters and to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses; and
- WHEREAS,** the number of hunters increased and a registration permit hunt was implemented that did not curb the growth in hunter numbers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Game adopted regulations that created a drawing permit, as a result of recommendation of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort; and
- WHEREAS,** those measures are effective in creating substantial disincentive for non-subsistence hunters and have regulated the number of hunters who participate in the registration permit hunt; and
- WHEREAS,** local hunters have serious concerns about allowing the use of aircraft in the area because it could provide the opportunity for hunters to not follow the regulations and illegally increase harvest of moose in the area; and
- WHEREAS,** similar proposals was brought before the Board of Game in the past and did not past; and
- WHEREAS,** the Koyukuk Tribal Council would like to request that all future requests of allowing aircraft for hunting moose in the KCUA not be considered.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Koyukuk Tribal Council is in opposition of Alaska Fish and Game Proposal 94 to eliminate airborne prohibition for moose hunters in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in Units 21D and 24D.

Certification

This certifies that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Koyukuk Tribal Council on this 23rd day of February, 2008 with a quorum established with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays and 0 abstain.

Leo Lolnitz
Leo Lolnitz, 1st Chief

2-23-08
Date

Martha Dayton
Attest: Martha Dayton, Sect. /Treasurer

2/23/08
Date

**POINTS TO BRING UP AT
FEBRUARY 29, 2008
FAIRBANKS BOARD OF GAME
MEETING**

- 1. WOLVES AND BEARS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY ALLEGED DECLINE OF MOOSE OR ANY OTHER SPECIES OF BIG GAME IN ALASKA! THIS HAS BEEN PROVEN OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND STILL THE "LUNATIC FRINGE" ELEMENT THAT COMPOSES THE BOARD OF GAME AND HAS TAKEN OVER THE GAME SECTION OF FISH & GAME, AND THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL CONTINUE TO ESPOUSE THE INCORRECT THEORY THAT THESE ANIMALS (WOLVES AND BEARS) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE EVILS IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE WAR IN IRAQ, AND MUST BE WIPED OUT.**

UNFORTUNATELY, LIKE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO WHICH MOST OF THEM BELONG, THEY ARE GOOD AT MANIPULATING AND LYING AND ARE SYSTEMATICALLY DOING JUST THAT! WOLVES, DESPITE THESE GROUPS WEB OF LIES, ARE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO EXTINCTION IN ALASKA.

SOME OF YOU SAY, OH THAT CAN'T BE TRUE - I JUST READ WHERE WOLVES ARE THRIVING IN ALASKA AND THEY JUST GOT TAKEN OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST IN ANOTHER STATE. I BELIEVE THAT STATE WAS MINNESOTA. THERE ARE LESS THAN 1500 WOLVES IN MINNESOTA AND UNREPORTED LARGE NUMBERS ARE KILLED MONTHLY BY RANCHERS AND OTHERS. THERE ARE A LITTLE LESS THAN 50,000 OF A SPECIES OF APE (ORANGUTANS, I THINK, FROM THE ARTICLE

I READ) AND MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, WHO NOTE HOW QUICKLY THEIR HABITAT IS BEING DESTROYED BY HUMANS, FEEL THEY SHOULD BE PUT ON THE ENDANGERED LIST WORLDWIDE. WHOEVER TOOK WOLVES OFF THE ENDANGERED LIST IN MINNESOTA IS WRONG, AND THE ACTION MOST LIKELY SPRANG FROM LOBBYISTS PUSHING THIS ISSUE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS - WANTING TO MINE, LOG OR CONDUCT SOME OTHER KIND OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DON'T WANT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MESSING UP THEIR LOOKING FORWARD TO KILLING WOLVES. SOME MINNESOTA FARMERS/RANCHERS MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE LOBBYING FOR THIS ACTION TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

BACK TO ALASKA -- THE SAME NUMBER OF WOLVES MAY BE KILLED IN ALASKA IN 2008 AS IN THE 1950'S -- THAT NUMBER IS

UNLIMITED!!!

ADD TO THIS THE FACT THAT WOLVES HAVE BEEN MERCILESSLY KILLED FROM AIRPLANES, TRAPPED, STERILIZED, THEIR HABITAT DESTROYED FROM FIRES THAT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO BURN, AND THE FISH & GAME DEPT. HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SPORT HUNTING LICENSES ISSUED TO STATE AND OUT OF STATE INDIVIDUALS -- ANYONE WHO TELLS ME OR THE WORLD THAT WOLF NUMBERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE UNDER THESE ABOMINABLE CONDITIONS, IS A BALD-FACED LIAR!!!

2. THIS IS MY 32nd YEAR OF LIVING IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA. I HAVE WORKED WITH AND KNOW PEOPLE IN

ALL WALKS OF LIFE, MANY WHO HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 30, 40, 50 AND 60 YEARS. WHILE I MIGHT "BUY" THE ISSUE OF A FEW WOLVES ATTACKING DOGS ON CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD, THE OTHER ALLEGED ATTACKS ALL OVER THE STATE, I DO NOT BELIEVE, NOR DO MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES, MANY OF WHOM ARE SPORT HUNTERS AND HAVE BEEN THEIR WHOLE LIFE. WHY WOULD PEOPLE LIE ABOUT THIS ISSUE?? THEIR ARE LOTS OF REASONS. SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO GET THEIR NAME IN THE PAPER. SOME JUST DON'T LIKE WOLVES AND THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO WREAK HAVOC ON THEM. SOME, IN MY BELIEF, HAVE BEEN PERSUADED AND MORE THAN LIKELY PAID MONEY BY THE FOLKS WHO HAVE ORCHESTRATED THIS ENTIRE 'WOLF HYSTERIA ' AGENDA. PEOPLE WITH A DESIRE TO CONTROL, PEOPLE WITH A HEINOUS AGENDA THAT EVEN THEY KNOW IS ABOMINABLE, BUT FOR SOME REASON, WANT "PUBLIC SUPPORT" FOR THEIR ATROCITIES!!

THERE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED INSTANCES OVER THE YEARS WHERE A WILD WOLF ATTACKS SOMEONE'S DOGS -- USUALLY IN THE BUSH OR AN ISOLATED AREA; MANY TIMES WHEN THERE IS NO HUMAN ACTIVITY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, A FEW DAYS , OR EVEN A FEW WEEKS. THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED ON A FAIRLY LARGE SCALE WAS IN THE 1960'S IN THE GOLDSTREAM VALLEY. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOST HIS DOG TO A WOLF THEN. AND THE INCIDENT DID NOT INVOLVE 167 KILLED DOGS LIKE THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED RECENTLY. THERE WERE NOT MORE THAN 10 AND THE PERSON WHO LOST HIS DOG SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS LESS THAN THAT. OF COURSE, THE POWERS THAT BE EXTERMINATED ALL THE WOLVES NOT ONLY IN THE GOLDSTREAM AREA OF FAIRBANKS, BUT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE AS WELL.

THIS ALLEGED WOLF-KILLING SPREE, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, IS CROPPING UP ALL OVER THE STATE. HOW CONVENIENT FOR THE BOARD OF GAME, THE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT IDIOTS WHO SATISFY THEIR BLOODLUST BY EXTERMINATING WOLVES AND THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL MEMBERS!!! I AM SURE THEY FEEL THAT IF THEY PLAY THEIR CARDS RIGHT AND WOLF KILLINGS HAPPEN ALL OVER THE STATE, THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL GO ALONG WITH THEIR HEINOUS PROPOSAL TO KILL ADULT AND WOLF PUPS IN THEIR DENS!!! WRONGO!!!

THE THING YOU GUYS OVERLOOKED IS THAT IT IS TOO MUCH, TOO SOON. IF WOLF BEHAVIOR WAS INDEED CHANGING, SAY BECAUSE OF HUNGER AND DESPERATION FOR FOOD, IT WOULD HAPPEN GRADUALLY OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. IT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN A PERIOD OF A FEW WEEKS OR A COUPLE OF MONTHS IN THE SAME YEAR AS THIS PURPORTED ACTIVITY HAS!!! ANYONE WITH A BRAIN CAN FIGURE THAT ONE OUT!!!

IN MY 32 YEARS OF LIVING HERE, I WAS FORTUNATE TO SEE A WOLF PACK OF 7 ONLY ONCE IN MY LIFE AND THAT WAS IN HAPPY VALLEY. 7 WOLVES WERE CHASING A CARIBOU WITH AN INJURED LEG. THE LEAD OR ALPHA WOLF ALSO HAD AN INJURED LEG, BUY THAT DID NOT STOP HIM FROM BEING AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK. THAT WAS IN 1976. SINCE THAT TIME, I HAVE ONLY OBSERVED A SINGLE WOLF HERE AND THERE IN MY TRAVELS. FRIENDS OF MINE THAT HUNT AND GO INTO THE BUSH HAVE SEEN GROUPS OF 2 OR 3 BUT I KNOW OF NO ONE WHO HAS SEEN A GROUP OF 5 OR MORE. OH, YEAH, THE LARGER PACKS HAVE

BEEN RUN DOWN AND SLAUGHTERED FROM AIRPLANES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS!! HOW CAN ANYONE FORGET THAT!! WHEN I CAME TO ALASKA IN 1975, THE AVERAGE LIFE OF A WOLF IN THE WILD WAS 10-15 YEARS. BY THE LATE 1980'S, THEIR AVERAGE LIFESPAN WAS 7 YEARS MOST PUPS DID NOT SURVIVE TO BE EVEN 1 YEAR OLD, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE BIRTHS. I HAVE NOT CHECKED WITH MY BIOLOGIST FRIEND LATELY, BUT IN JUST TALKING WITH HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS, MOST WOLVES CAUGHT IN TRAPS ARE YOUNG, 1 YEAR OLD OR YOUNGER AND OF COURSE, THE INDISCRIMINATE SLAUGHTER THAT IS GOING ON NOW, ALLOWS ALL OF THEM, ALL AGES TO BE KILLED. I WOULD GUESS, THEREFORE, BASED ON THIS INFORMATION, THAT THE AVERAGE LIFE A WOLF IN THE WILD TODAY IN ALASKA IS 2 YEARS OR YOUNGER. THAT FACT, BY ITSELF, IS AN ABOMINATION !!

- 3. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHERS WHO LIVE, WORK PLAY, AND HUNT IN THIS STATE, THEY ARE ALL VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO MOOSE COW AND CALF HUNTS! THIS INCLUDES ALL THE HUNTERS I KNOW!!**

THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SPORT HUNTING LICENSES ISSUED, BY ITSELF, CAN DECIMATE THE MOOSE POPULATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE STATE. AND YET FISH & GAME KEEPS ON AND ON. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE TO FIGURE OUT IF THE FEMALES AND YOUNG OF A SPECIES ARE KILLED ANNUALLY BY SPORT HUNTERS, THEY ARE GOING ON A FAST TRACK OF DISAPPEARING. YEARS AGO, MOOSE IN THE STATE OF MAINE WERE ALMOST 100% GONE. THE GOVERNMENT

IN THE STATE OF MAINE REALIZED WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WOULD BE IF THEIR MOOSE POPULATION BECAME EXTINCT AND A MANDATE WAS ISSUED THAT BANNED ALL SPORT HUNTING OF MOOSE FOR 35 YEARS!!

GUESS WHAT?? IT TOOK THAT LONG, BUT THE MOOSE POPULATION GRADUALLY INCREASED TO THE POINT THAT THE BAN WAS LIFTED AND A SMALL NUMBER OF HUNTING PERMITS WAS ISSUED AND MAINE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO HUNT MOOSE YEARLY DURING HUNTING SEASON EVER SINCE!!!

WILL IT COME TO THAT HERE IN ALASKA? WELL, IT COULD BUT NOT UNTIL THE GROUPS I HAVE DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE MORE THAN ONCE, HAVE KILLED THE LAST WOLF, THE LAST BROWN BEAR, THE LAST BLACK BEAR, THE LAST WOLVERINE, AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR PLANS TO CAUSE SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS TO MOVE OUT OF THEIR VILLAGES TO THE LARGE CITIES AND GIVE UP THEIR SUBSISTENCE LIFESTYLE FOREVER. WHEN THEY AND THEIR POLITICAL ALLIES HAVE IGNORED GLOBAL WARMING SIGNS, AND CONTINUE TO PERMIT UNCHECKED MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL REMOTE AREAS OF ALASKA -- WELL, AT THAT POINT, THERE WILL BE NO LARGE GAME ANIMALS LEFT FOR ANYONE TO HUNT.

AND, AT THE RATE THEY ARE GOING, IT WILL NOT TAKE VERY LONG!!!

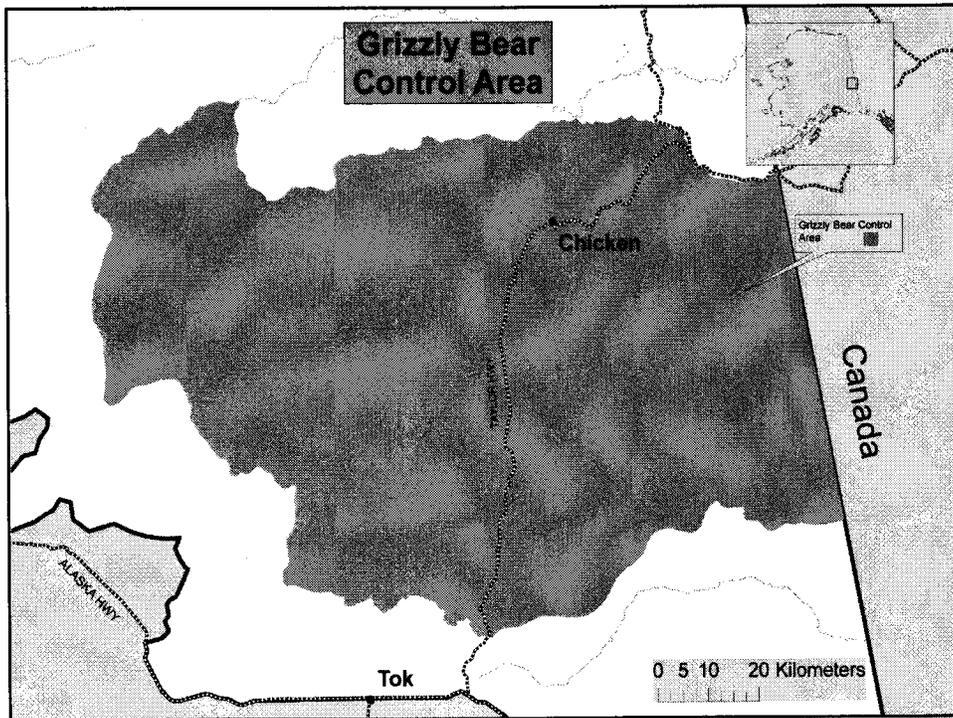
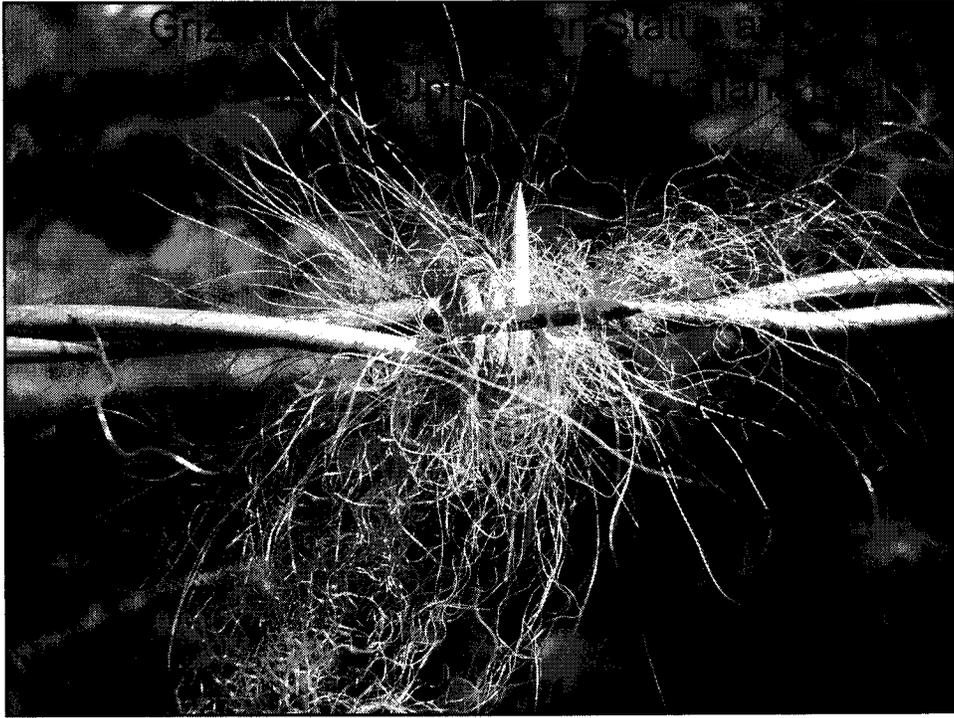
WAKE UP ALASKANS!! NO MATTER IF YOU ARE A SPORT HUNTER, A SUBSISTENCE HUNTER, OR WHAT IS TERMED A "NON-CONSUMPTIVE" INDIVIDUAL WHO JUST

ENJOYS BEING IN THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS, CAMPING OR WHATEVER -- IT IS TIME TO TAKE OUR WILD ANIMALS OUT FROM UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CURRENT BOARD OF GAME!! AS IT STANDS NOW, THEY ARE WORSE THAN USELESS!! THEY NOT ONLY INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE 530,000 ALASKANS WHO DO NOT HUNT, BUT UPON YOUR RIGHTS AS AN ALASKAN HUNTER. DON'T BELIEVE THEM !! WRITE OR CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO DISBAND THE BOARD OF GAME, TO DISBAND AERIAL WOLF KILLING 100% IMMEDIATELY, NOW AND FOREVER, AND TO DISALLOW ANY NEWLY PROPOSED METHODS OF KILLING WOLVES! FURTHER, DISAPPROVE OF ANY AERIAL KILLING OF BEARS AND DISAPPROVE OF MOTHER BEAR AND CUB HUNTS. APPOINT A CITIZENS COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF 2 NORMAL SPORT HUNTERS, 2 SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS (ALASKAN NATIVES PREFERRED) AND 4 NON-CONSUMPTIVE RESIDENTS. AS IT STANDS NOW, THE INDIVIDUALS IN CHARGE OF OUR WILD GAME ARE HORRIBLE STEWARDS OF A RESOURCE THAT BELONGS TO ALL OF US!!!!

**P.S. ALSO WRITE OR CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO
INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER THE
FUNDS GOVERNOR PALIN HAS ALLOCATED TO
AERIAL KILLING OF WOLVES TO THE ALASKA
HEAD START PROGRAM. ALL ALASKANS,
ESPECIALLY CHILDREN WILL GREATLY BENEFIT
WHEN THIS IS DONE!!!**

Sandra Sedwarft
SANDRA SEDWARFT

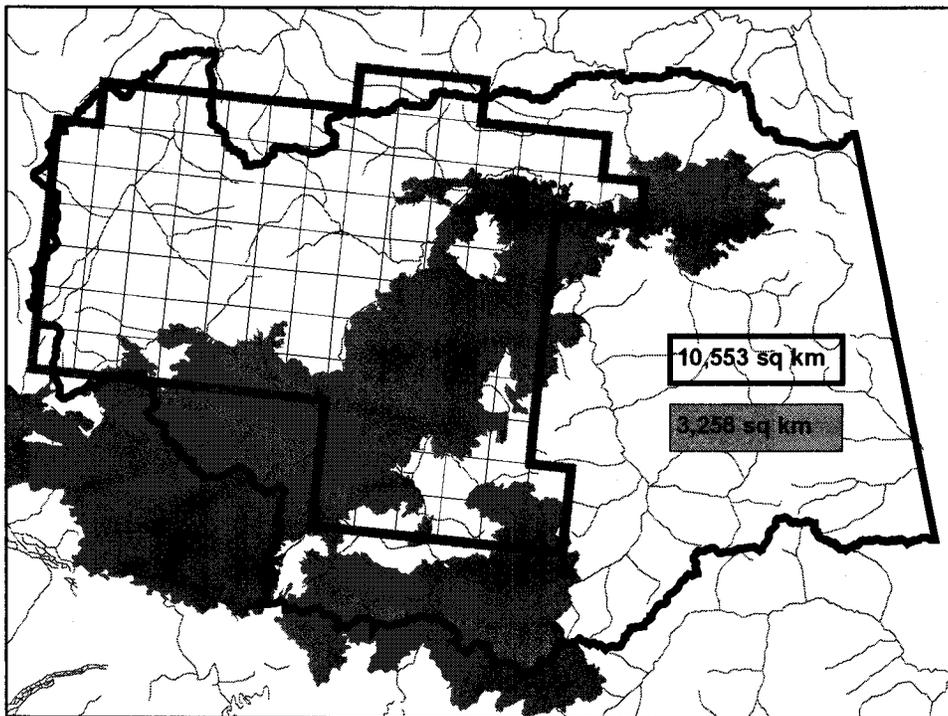
RC37



Precontrol Estimates

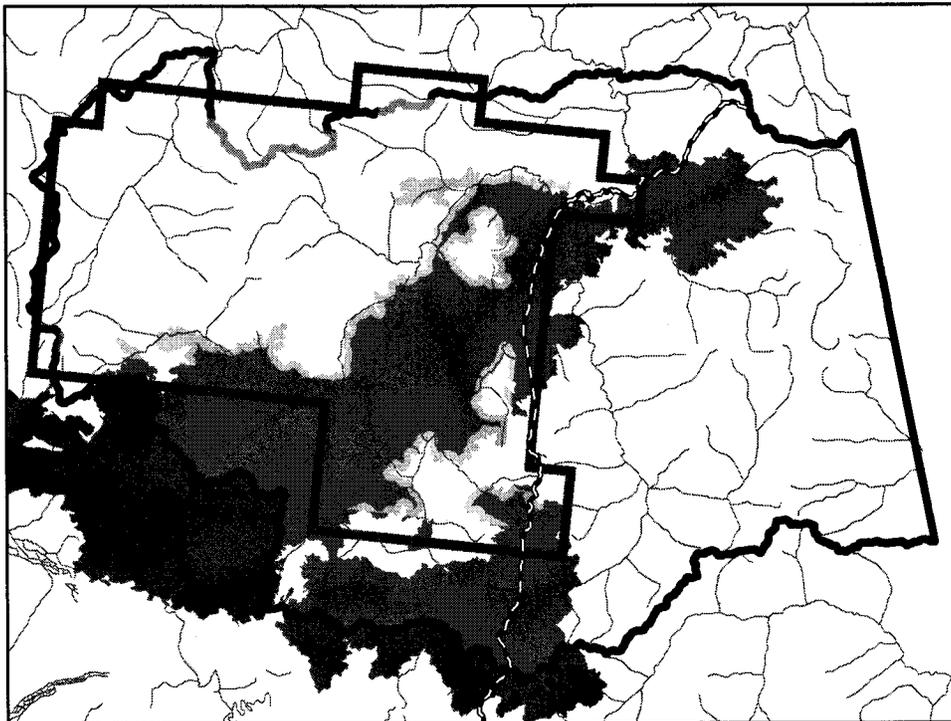
- Core population: 170 grizzly bears
(16.1/1000 km²)
 - Estimate includes results from a 1986 radiotelemetry study of grizzly bears in a 1544-mi² portion of the control area and from a study conducted in GMU 20A during 1981-1998

Evenly distributed throughout area



Study Needs/Objectives

- More current and defensible bear superpopulation and core population and distribution estimates
 - Determine kill objective
 - Evaluate effects of the control program on grizzly bears and moose
 - Evaluate control program methods



Methods

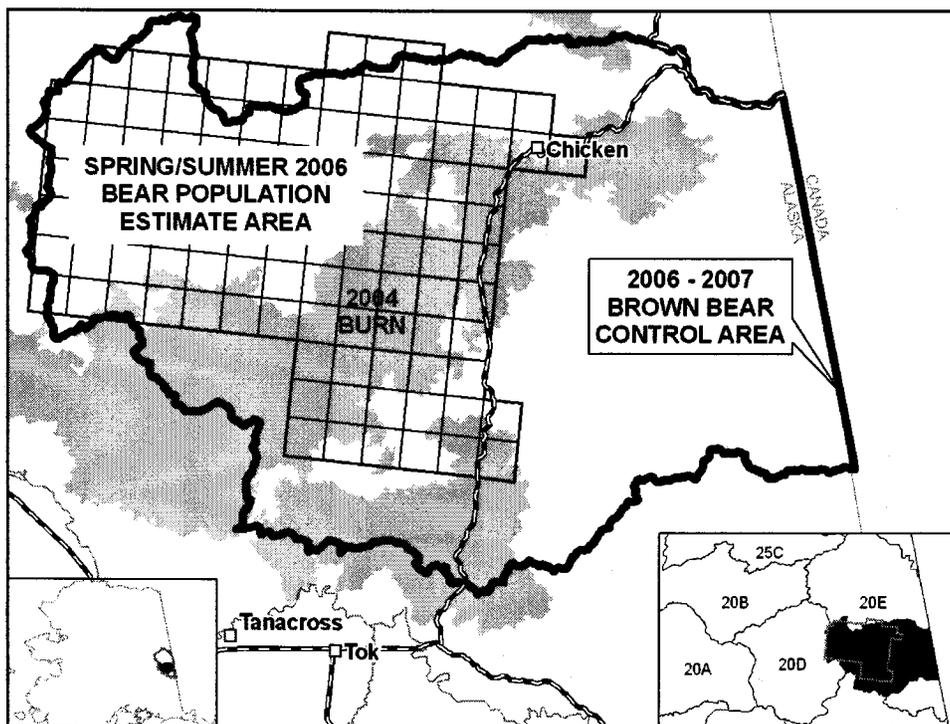
- DNA-based mark/recapture technique
 - Identify individuals and their gender using minute DNA samples
 - Roots of hair have sufficient DNA
 - Bears commonly leave hair at kill sites, rub trees, etc
 - Catch bear hair (individuals) at bait sites
 - Individual genetic tag is the mark (i.e. eartag)
 - Use ratio of newly caught bears to recaptures to generate population estimate





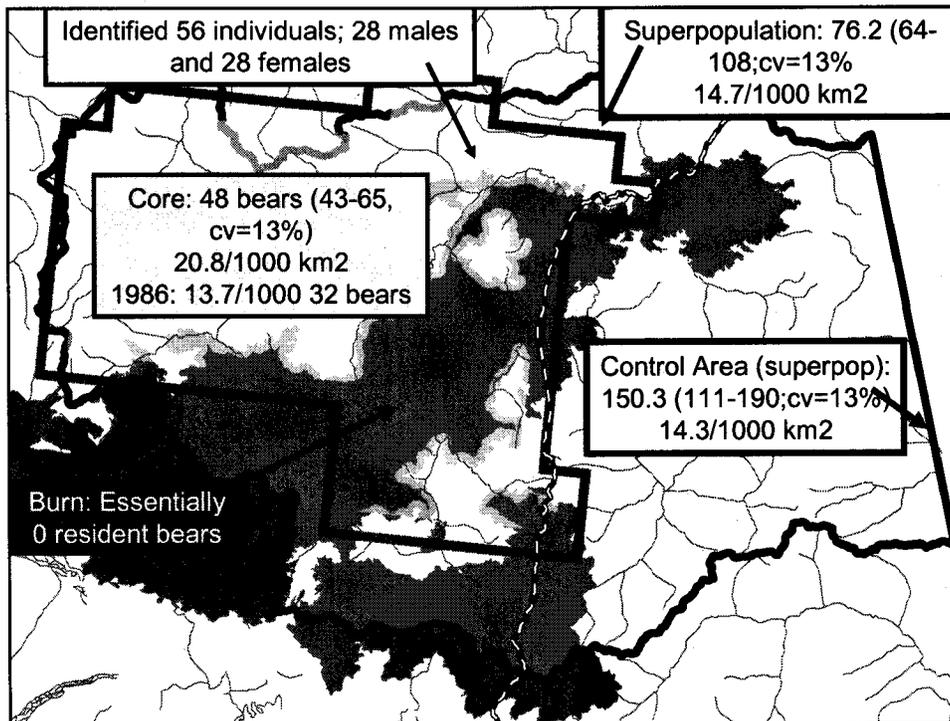
Design

- Study Area: 2005 mi² (49% of control area)
- 106 7x7 km (4.25 x 4.25 mi) sample areas
- 14 day sampling period; 4 different sessions
- Moved traps between sessions 2 and 3



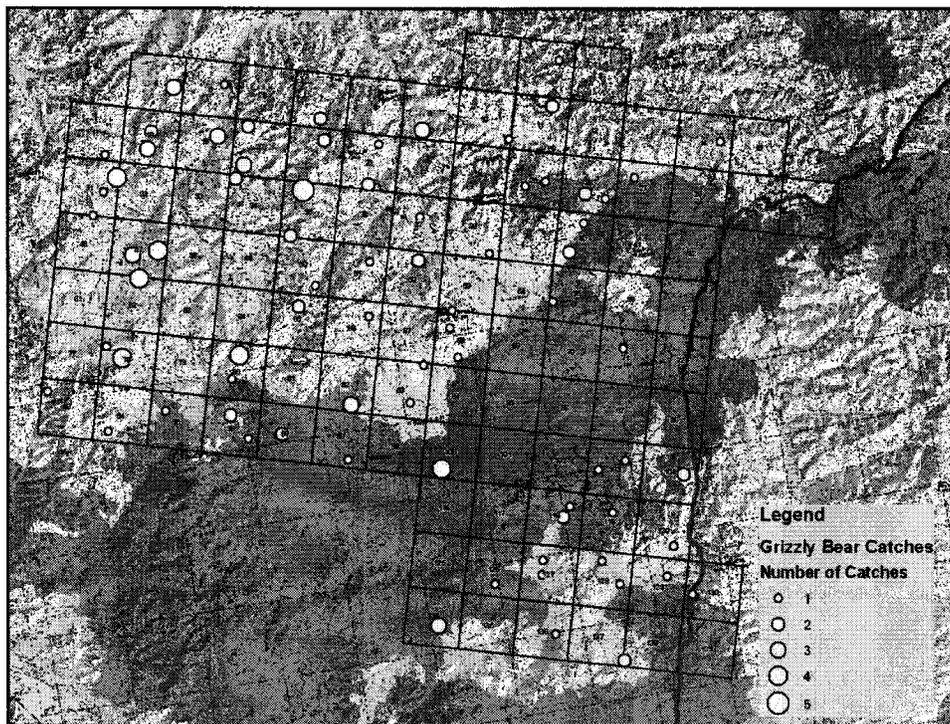
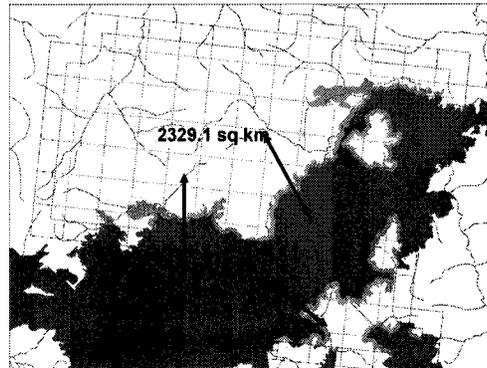
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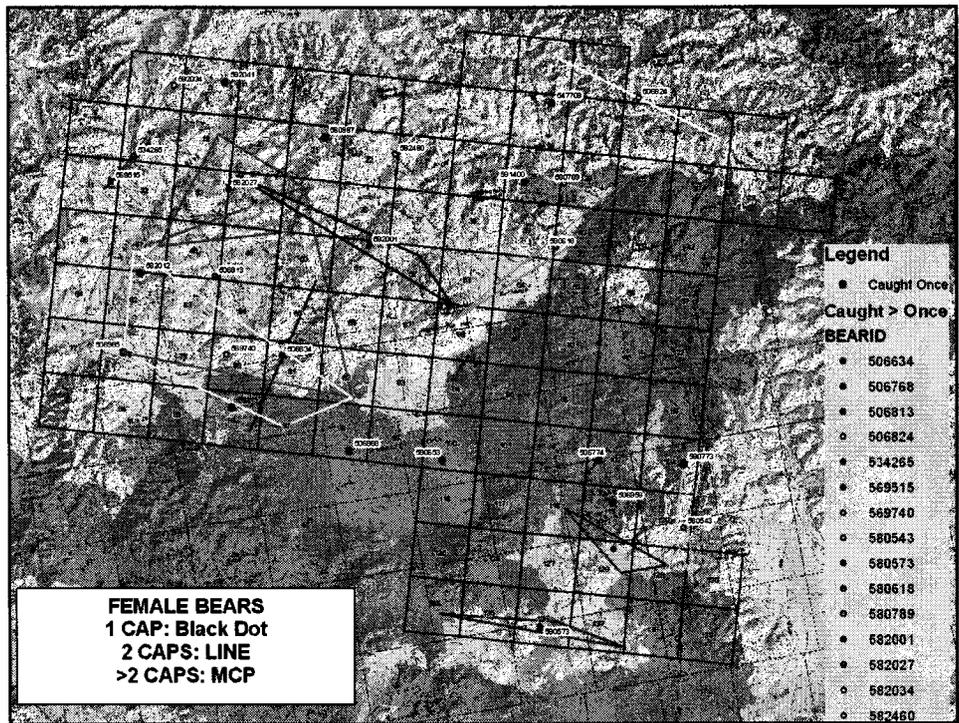
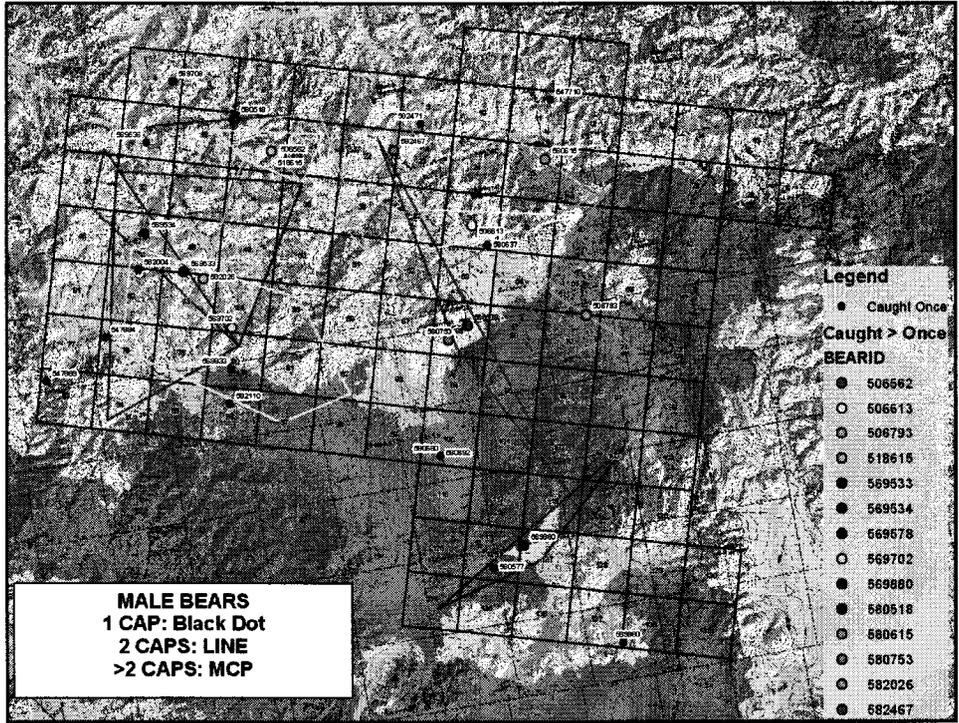
- 1446 hair samples; 573 were from grizzly bears and 406 from black bears
- 500 of the grizzly bear samples were identified to individual
- Individual grizzly bears were caught 1-6 times; 100 individual captures
- Caught grizzly bears in 58/106 sample units (55%)



Bear Distribution

- Data indicate a shift of bears from the burn
- Substantially different compared to 1986-2004

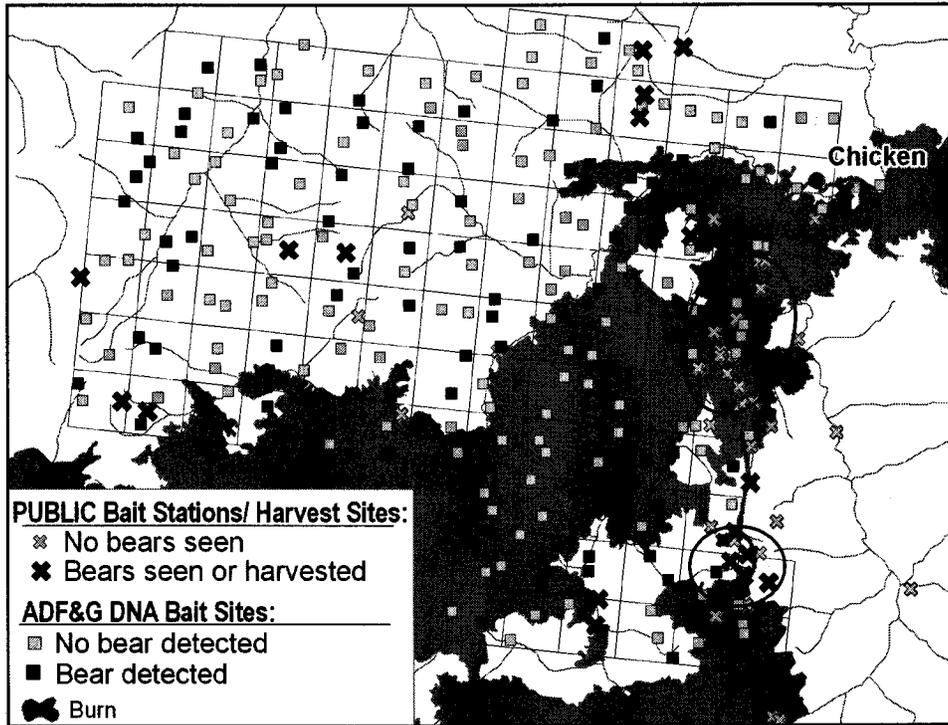




Current Grizzly Bear Status

- Slightly fewer grizzly bears and more restricted
 - Reduced distribution apparently due to recent large fires
- Possible effects on bear control

Brown Bear Control Program MB 303 as of Oct. 9, 2007	RY 04	RY 05	RY 06	RY 07
Number of MB303 Permittees	111	28	40	18
Brown Bears Harvested under MB303	2	3	1	1
Brown Bears harvested under mb303 that were Issued Sale of Hide permits.	n/a	3	1	1
Brown Bears harvested under General Season In Control Area	8	5	5	4
Brown Bear bait stations registered	46	4	22	0
Number of MB303 bears taken over bait	1	0	0	0
Number of Black Bear Sale of Hide Permits Issued for bears taken in Predator Control area	n/a	2	6	0



Bear Control Methods and Bear Distribution

- Because of relationship between bear distribution and human access, control methods have not been tested

Bear Numbers and Distribution and Moose

- Moose still present; bears are not
- Hypothesis: The moose population within the 4000 km² burn will increase regardless of the control program's success
 - Ladue River and Teslin case histories



Summary

- Bear numbers (150) in the control area are less (12%) than the original estimate (170)
- Bear distribution is more limited
- Both these changes can mostly be explained by reduced use of area disturbed by the 2004 wildfires
- Bear numbers are more concentrated outside the burn compared to original estimates

RC38

FACTORS AFFECTING MOOSE
VULNERABILITY TO WOLF SNARES: POSSIBLE
SOLUTIONS



Issues

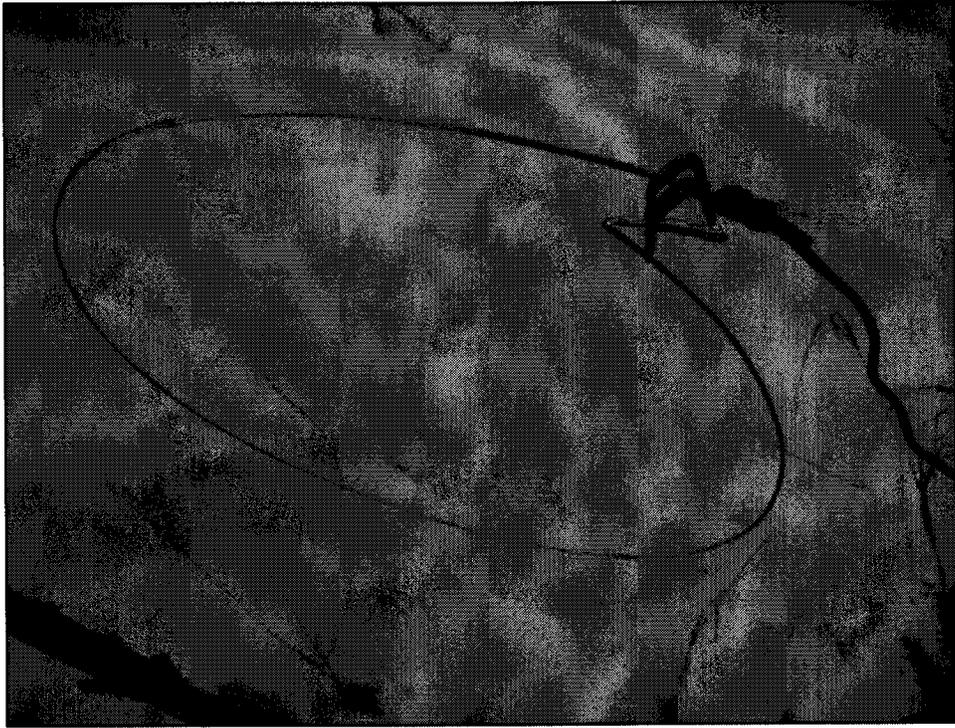
- Accidental catch of moose, caribou, and deer in wolf snares
 - Not population limiting but can and should be reduced
 - Vulnerability of moose to wolf snares has reduced trapping opportunity

Objectives

- Identify characteristics explaining vulnerability of moose capture to wolf snares
- Determine if modifications to wolf snares can reduce moose vulnerability without reducing effectiveness for wolves and trappers
- Reduce the chance of injury to accidentally caught ungulates in wolf snares

Methods-Moose Vulnerability

- Observed moose encounters with wolf snares at the Kenai Moose Research Center
 - Evaluated catch rates by snare size; nose vs. leg catches; and habitat effects on catch rate and type
- Estimated wild moose catch rates by snare loop size and habitat
 - Mimicked common wolf sets

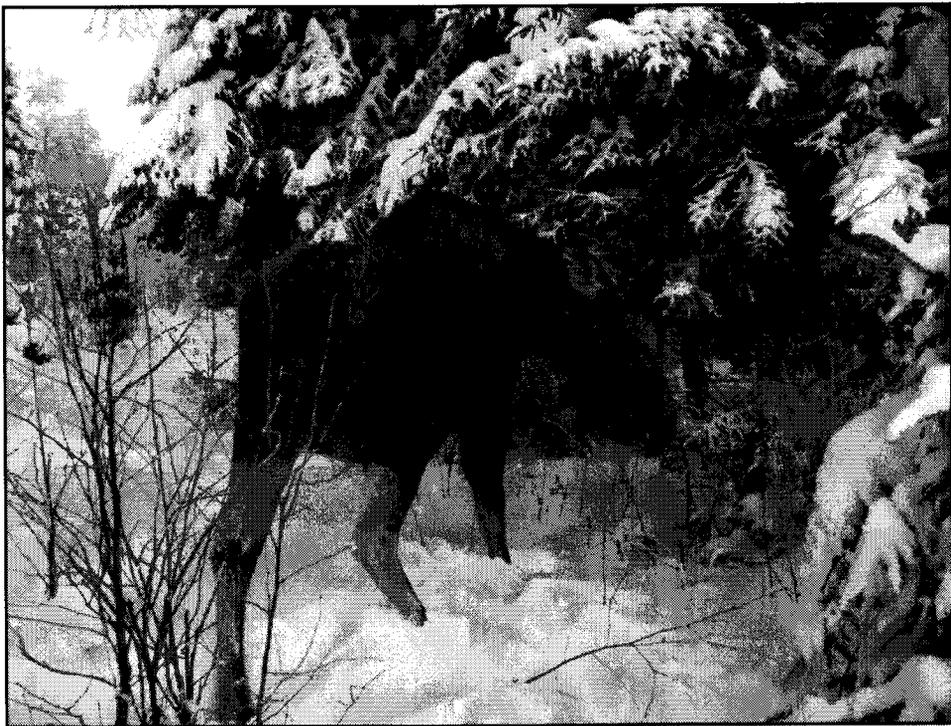


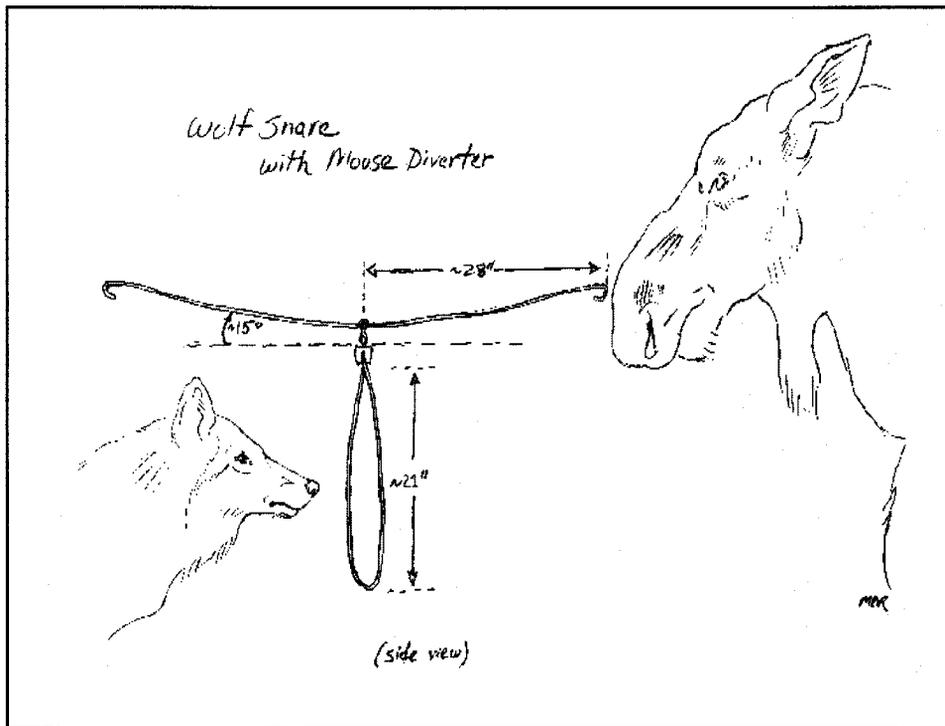
Results: Moose Vulnerability

- Observed 283 moose encounter wolf snares at MRC
 - No fear of snares
- First contact was with chest/shoulder (60%), nose (34%), top of legs (4%) or side (2%)
 - Contact point somewhat different with different loop sizes
- Fate
 - 65% of the snares were knocked down
 - 86.4% formed 6-15" loops and laid along surface of snow
 - 21% pushed aside
 - 14% caught moose
 - Leg catches occurred after snare was knocked down
 - No difference between nose and leg catches or by snare size
 - Catch type (leg or nose) varies with behavior/habitat

Results: Vulnerability

- Capture rate of wild moose that had encountered a snare was 34.7%
 - Higher rate indicates other factors affect moose vulnerability after initial encounter
 - Knocked-down snares and trap period





Results of Modification to Reduce Vulnerability

- At MRC, 42 moose encounters with 0 captures
 - Moose contacted diverter wire first and not snare
 - Knocked down diverter snares formed 6-15" loop
- Documented 58 wild moose encounters; 7 captures
 - All captures appeared to be leg catches and occurred in diverter snares left unchecked for ≥ 12 days
 - Lower catch rates compared to unmodified snares
- Diverter wires essentially eliminated nose catches and reduced leg catches
 - Breakaway system still necessary

Efficiency of Diverter Snare

- Snare was tested primarily by 2 private trappers
 - 10 wolves caught
 - 9 moose encounters; 0 captures
- Trappers saw no evidence of wolves shying away from snare
- Diverter snares were prone to wind affects

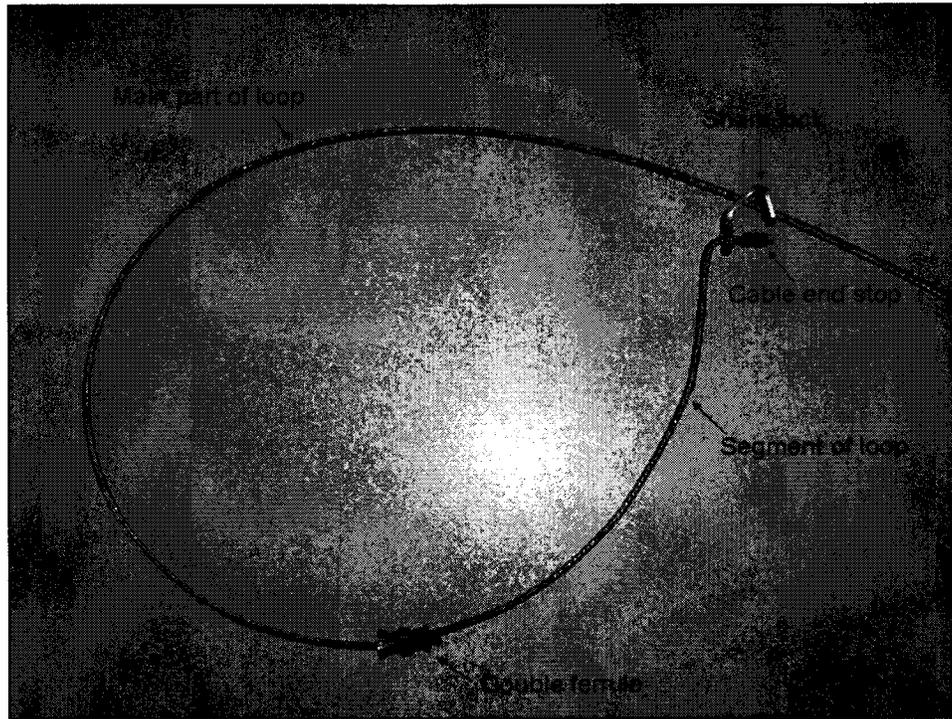


What Would Make a Better Breakaway System?

- Reduced chance of injury to ungulates
- Less force required for leg-caught ungulates to break free than neck-caught wolves
- System will work on any size wolf snare cable and with any lock
- Simple modification

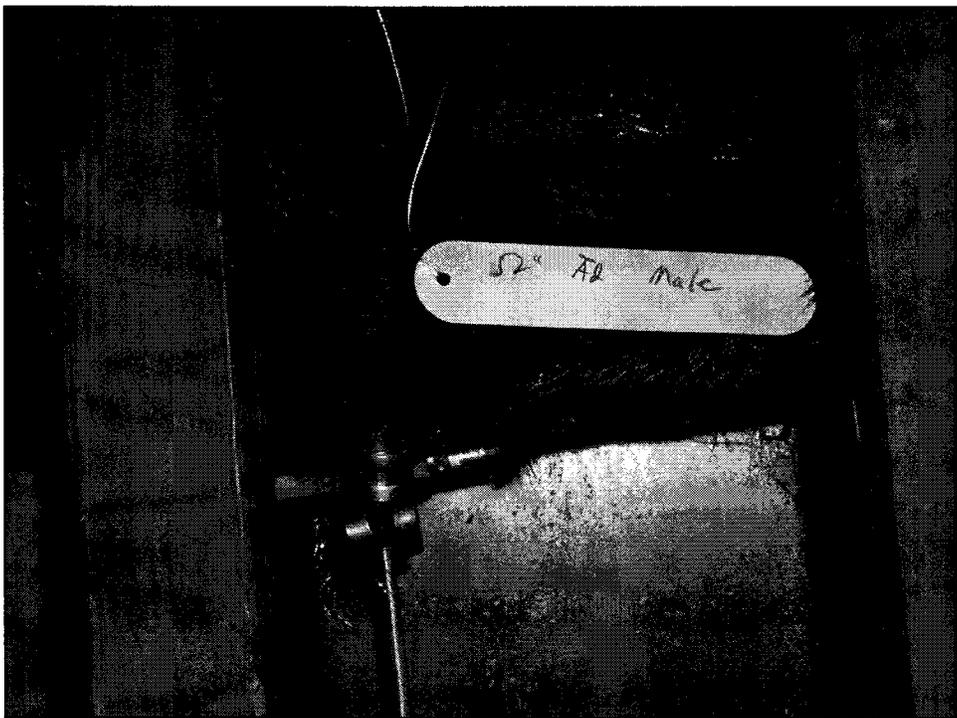
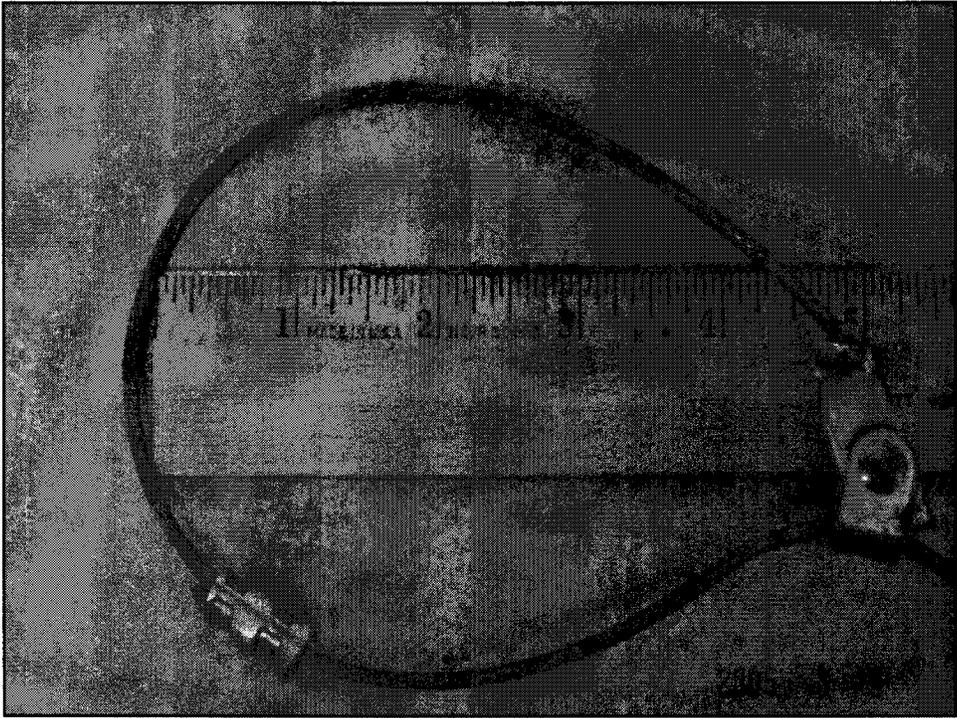
Tested Design

- Incorporated a cinch stop that was also the breakaway mechanism

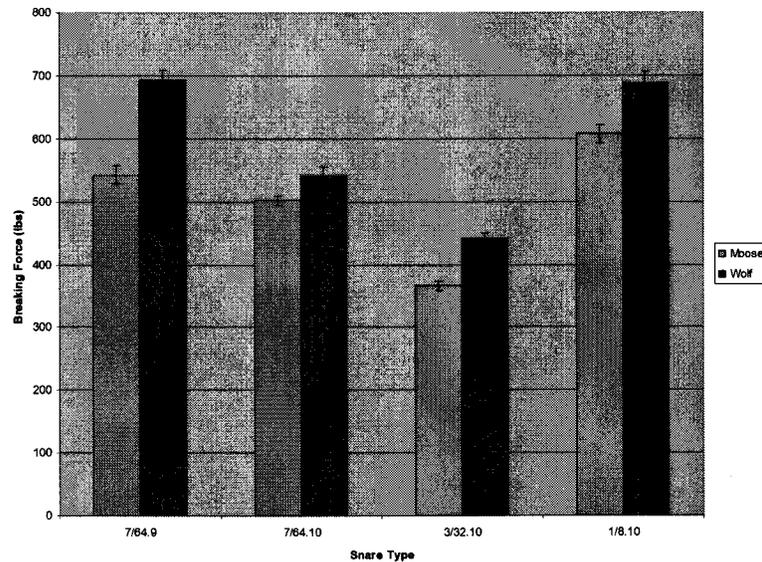


Can a Cinch Stop Work?

- Differences in loop circumference
 - Average snare circumference to catch wolves was 12.8" (10.5-15.25"); females=12.6"; males=13.1"
 - Snare circumference on front and rear legs of 9 different moose was < 10.5"



Breaking Strengths



Breakaway Efficiency

- Efficiency for 7/64 9.4 and 10.4 combined
 - Caught 37 wolves, 1 escaped (foot caught)
 - Caught 11 moose, 10 escaped
 - Restrained moose caught by neck
- Mechanism not designed for release if snare is around the nose or neck of moose

Summary

- Moose and other ungulates are vulnerable to wolf snares due to lack of wariness, loop size, setting height, and where and how they encounter the snares
- Wolf snares can be altered to reduce moose vulnerability to capture
- A cinch stop/breakaway mechanism is efficient in restraining wolves but allows most leg-caught moose to escape and reduces the chance of injury to moose while restrained
- Both modifications can work in concert with other breakaway systems
- Design can work to reduce capture of caribou and possibly deer

FC 39

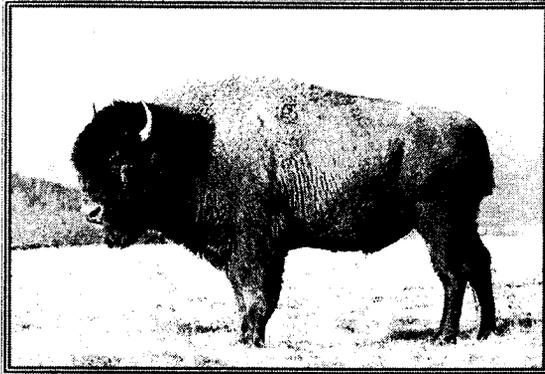
FBKS AC WRITTEN COMMENTS

<p>130 Reauthorize Antlerless moose in 20A</p>	<p>Support With Condit.</p>	<p>13-2-0-0</p>	<p>The Fairbanks Fish and Game advisory committee authorizes antlerless moose hunting in GMU 20A up to a harvest of 200 animals with two conditions. 1. The definition of "antlerless moose" shall be: "One antlerless moose by permit. However, no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf." 2. Antlerless moose harvest shall be limited to (using 2007-2008 zone boundaries) Zones 2 (southern portion), 4, 5 & 6. The intent is for the antlerless hunts to be in the southern portions of these zones away from the Tanana River corridor. The FAC will consider new zone boundaries is discussions with the Healy-Middle Nenana River, Minto-Nenana and Delta advisory committees and the department.</p>
<p>131 Reauthorize Antlerless moose in 20B</p>	<p>Support With Condit.</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	<p>The Fairbanks Fish and Game advisory committee authorizes antlerless moose hunting in GMU 20B up to a harvest of 150 animals outside the Fairbanks Management Area (keeping the same number used previously for inside the FMA) with the following condition. Antlerless moose is defined as: "One antlerless moose by permit. However, no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf." <u>No new antlerless zones or areas in 20B</u></p>
<p>132 - 133 Antlerless moose reauthorize. in GMU 22C, 22D, remainder and 23</p>	<p>No rec.</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	
<p>134 GMU 26A antlerless moose reauthorization</p>	<p>No rec.</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	
<p>135 GMU 20D Antlerless moose Reauthorization</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	<p>We support this hunt and the Delta AC.</p>
<p>136 Region II Reauthorization of Brn bear tag fee Exemption</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	<p>Region II has many GMU's and subunits that have depressed or declining moose and other ungulate populations. Additional bear harvest will help. Bear populations, where known, many times the Board set population objectives.</p>
<p>137 Reauthorization 19A&B, 20D&E, 21B,D&E, 25C&D Brn bear tag exempt And</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>15-0-0-0</p>	

Ahtna Inc. PC7
Alaska Miners Association PC1
Alaska Outdoor Council PC65
Alaska Professional Hunters Association
PC51
Alaska Professional Hunters Association
w/Am. PC51
Alaska Trappers Association - Randy
Zarnke PC45
Alaska Trappers Association - w/Am.
Randy Zarnke PC45
Alaska Travel Industry Association
PC53
Allen Avinger PC6
Andrew Keller PC58
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers -
Mark Richards PC66
Banjo Mcgeiff PC44
Betsy Chronic PC29
Bill Renel PC60
Central AC1
Central Peninsula AC11
Cliff Eames PC9
Connie Page PC61
Copper Country Alliance PC24
Copper River / PWS AC10
Dave Machacek PC8
Dave Machacek w/Am. PC8
Dave Morris PC13
David Pott PC4
Debbie McBride PC14
Deborah Waugaman PC48
Defenders of Wildlife PC56
Delta AC2
Division of Natural Resources PC31
Donald Winston PC43
Ellen Americus PC50
Fairbanks AC3
Fairbanks w/Am. AC3
Form Letter with 103 Signatories PC67
Fran Mauer PC28
Harvey Jessup PC49
J. Thomas Porter PC35
Jack Fredrick PC37
James Greenleaf PC42
John Greenleaf PC32
John Guichici PC3
John Morak PC2
Joseph Brooks PC40
Joshua Lawhorne PC34
Kathy Libby PC21
Kneeland Taylor PC52
Koyukuk AC4
Larry Dalrymple PC59
Larry Dalrymple w/Am. PC59
Lime Village Traditional Council PC55
Mark Selvagg PC41
Marty Lambert PC62
Marty Lambert w/Am. PC62
Mat Valley AC12
Mat Valley w/Am. AC12
Mat. Calley Sportsmen PC27
Middle Nenana AC5
Middle Nenana w/Am. AC5
Middle Yukon AC6
Middle Yukon w/Am. AC6
Mike Brase PC57
Mike Turner PC15
Nathan Miller PC33
National Park Service PC18
Native Village of Nunapitchuk PC12
Nelson Grier PC68
Oscar Chavez PC46
Peter Rotandi PC36
Phyllis Haggland PC17
Red Devil Traditional Council PC23
Representative Mike Kelly and 34
signatories PC64
Rob Jones PC19
Robert Angrisano PC22
Ron Greenleaf PC39
Ruth McHenry PC25
Steven Borell PC20
Stoney Holitna AC7
Stoney River Traditional Council PC54
Susan Olsen PC5
Tom Lamal PC26
Tommy Geyer PC11
Tommy Geyer w/Am. PC11
Upper Tanana 40 mile AC8
Upper Tanana 40 mile w/Am. AC8

USFWS - Subsistence Management
PC30
USFWS - Subsistence Management
w/Am. PC30
USFWS PC47
Vern Fiehler w/Am. PC10
Vickie Greenleaf PC38
Wales Native Corporation PC63
Wayne Heimer PC16
Yukon Flats AC9
Yukon Flats w/Am. AC9

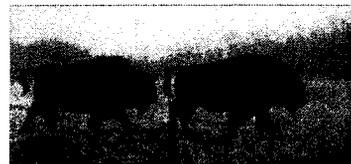
March 2008 Board of Game Wood Bison Project Update



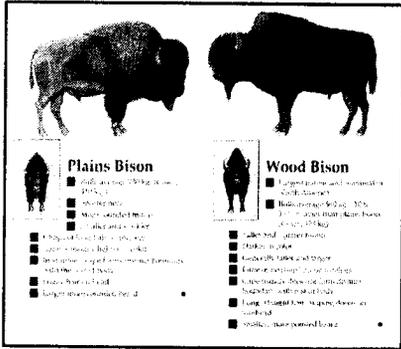
Bob Stephenson, Wood Bison Project Biologist
Randy R. Rogers, Wildlife Planner

Presentation Overview

- Background on wood bison
- History of the wood bison restoration effort
- Results of the 2007 Environmental Review of Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska
- Update on current effort to import wood bison to Alaska
- What comes next?

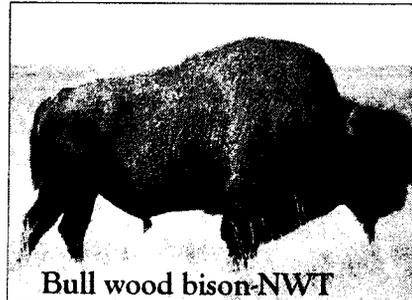
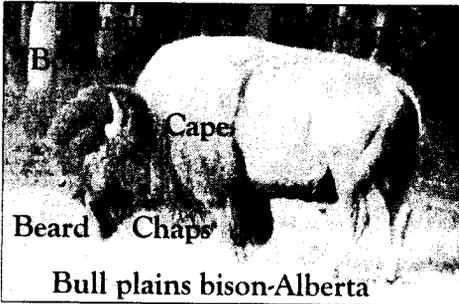


Background on Wood Bison



Wood bison and plains bison: northern and southern subspecies

- Differ in size, shape of hump, color, cape, bonnet, beard, and chaps



ADF&G worked with Dale Guthrie, a paleontologist at UAF, other scientists and Native elders to explore the history of bison in Alaska.



More information in historic accounts from Native Elders



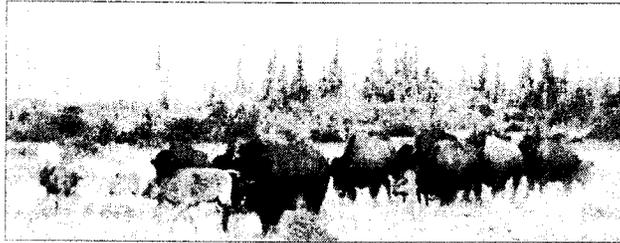
Reverend
David Salmon,
Chalkyitsik, AK

- Elders from Alaska, Yukon and NWT contributed traditional knowledge.
- Bison were hunted extensively and used as a source of food and materials.
- Bison disappeared within last few centuries.



Mary Sam
Beaver, AK

**Wood bison and plains bison were
nearly extirpated at about the same
time**



- In the early 1900's only about 400 wood bison remained in Canada.
- There are now about 4,000 wood bison in healthy free-ranging herds in Canada.

**Wood bison are the largest land
mammal in North America**



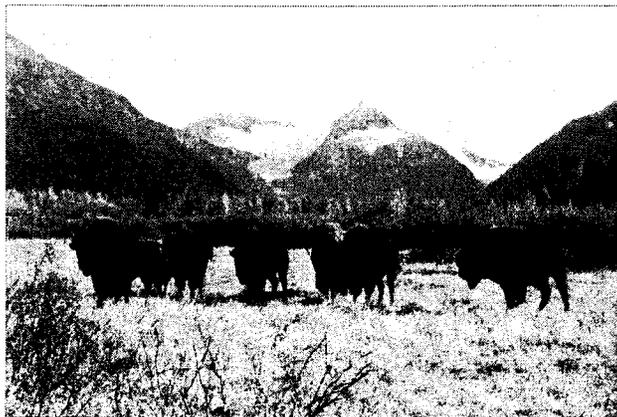
**Wood bison bull at the Alaska Wildlife
Conservation Center, Portage**

Why are people interested in wood bison restoration in Alaska?

- To enhance Alaska's ecological and wildlife diversity.
- To provide an additional resource for people to use and enjoy.
- To contribute to bison conservation in North America and help secure the long term survival of wood bison.
- To establish a large grazing species as climate change occurs, possibly shifting habitat more toward grasslands.



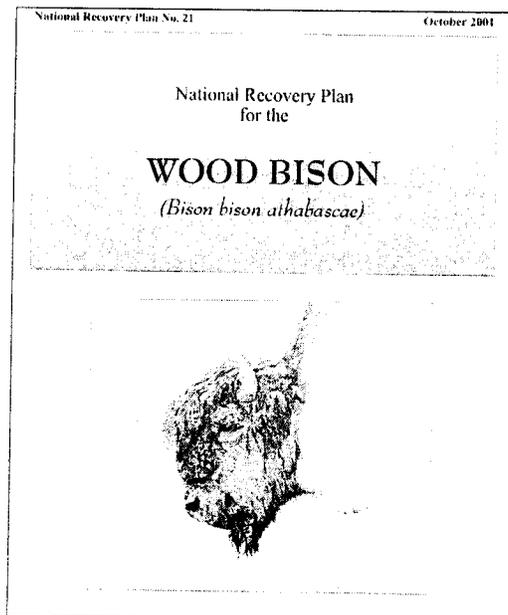
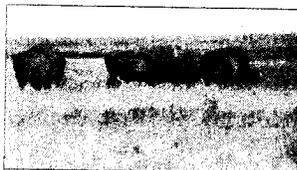
History of Alaska's Wood Bison Restoration Project





Wood bison restoration has been discussed with Yukon Flats residents and many other interests since the early 1990's.

Restoration in Alaska is an important part of Canada's wood bison recovery plan and other bison conservation initiatives.



**The proposal to restore wood bison
in Alaska has been evaluated for
over 15 years**

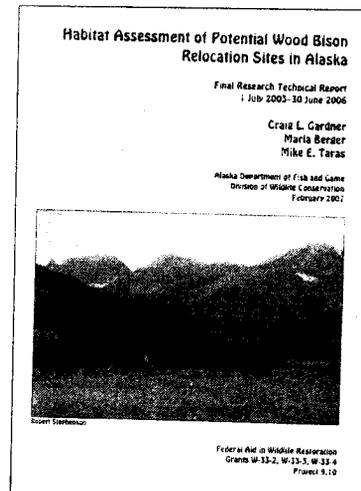


Extensive review by scientists

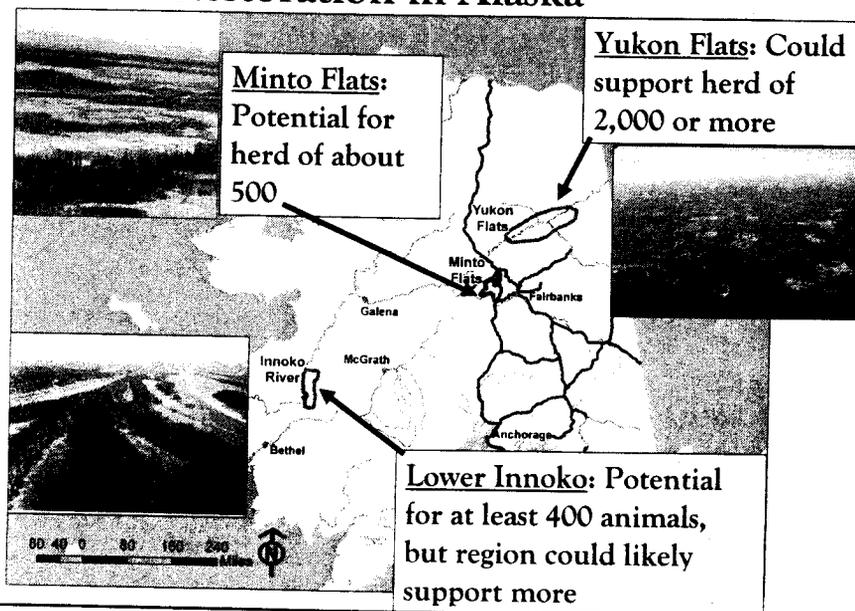
- **ADF&G Feasibility Assessment of Reintroducing Wood Bison on Yukon Flats, 1994.**
- **Technical Peer Review by the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 1998.**
- **Joint review of wood bison restoration by the ADF&G and USFWS, 2003.**
- **Multiple reviews by scientists at the 2005 Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group meetings.**
- **Wildlife Transplant Policy Committee review in 2007 concluded that “wood bison restoration will not adversely affect other species of wildlife or existing human uses of wildlife.”**

Key habitat assessment considerations:

- Suitable habitat and plant forage species
- No risk of contact with domestic livestock that could be a source of disease
- No risk of interbreeding with plains bison
- Habitat that will support the Minimum Viable Population of at least 400 animals- Larger herds are desirable



Sites Being Considered for Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska



Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group

- **Bud Burris**, Fairbanks AC and Alaska Outdoors Council
- **Bob Byrne**, Safari Club International, Washington, D.C.
- **Paul Edwin**, Chalkyitsik Village Council
- **Nancy Fresco**, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Fairbanks
- **Arnold Hamilton**, GASH AC, Shageluk
- **Ronnie Rosenberg**, animal welfare considerations, Fairbanks
- **Ron Silas**, Minto Village Council
- **Bruce Thomas**, Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments, Fort Yukon
- **Nicole Whittington-Evans**, The Wilderness Society, Anchorage



In 2005 the Wood Bison Restoration Advisory Group recommended moving forward with wood bison restoration and continuing to pursue wood bison restoration at all three potential release sites.

Wood bison restoration presents an opportunity for conservation organizations including sportsman's, Native and environmental groups, to work in partnership on a major North American wildlife conservation effort.



Environmental Review of Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska, April 2007

Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska:
A Review of Environmental and Regulatory Issues and
Proposed Decisions for Project Implementation



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation



April 2007

- All three sites are suitable for wood bison
- Would have minimal or no negative environmental effects
- Would make a significant contribution to international wood bison conservation efforts
- Can enhance the diversity of Alaska's wildlife resources and provide significant benefits to people

Major Issues

- Concerns about U.S. Endangered Species Act (impacts on oil development or other land uses)
- Future harvest allocation and access
- Disease testing and health certification
- Funding- potential private and public sources



Public Review and Comment

- 130 copies of the ER were mailed out
- 2,000 copies of the Wood Bison News with a 12-page summary of the ER and public comment form.
- Public notices published in the Anchorage and Fairbanks newspapers
- Press release with television, public radio and newspaper coverage.



Numerous opportunities for public review and comment

- State Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Federal Regional Advisory Council meetings.
- Presentations to sportsman, Native, environmental and business groups.
- Newsletters and opportunity for written comments.



Organizations that provided comments

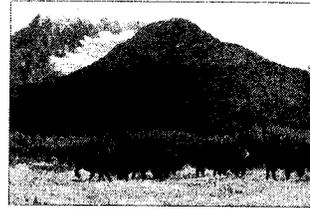
- Stevens Village Tribal Council
- Turner Endangered Species Fund
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Doyon, Ltd.
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Shageluk Tribal Council
- Safari Club International
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Kenai Chapter SCI
- World Wildlife Fund
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Alaska Outdoors Council
- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Deloycheet, Inc.

Overview of Comments Received

- 93% favored ADF&G continuing to work on wood bison restoration
- Only 2 expressed opposition to the project.
- 60% supported the proposed action of moving forward with site-specific planning on Yukon Flats and Minto Flats.
- Many comments supported one or more sites as the first priority and several supported all three sites.

Common themes

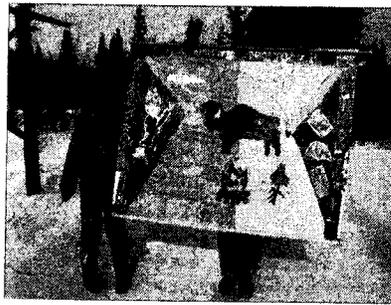
- Several wildlife conservation organizations noted the importance of the project as “a conservation goal of the highest order in terms of ecosystem and human values.” (quote from AOC)
- Doyon, Ltd. expressed concern about potential impacts on oil and gas development if wood bison in Alaska have status under the Endangered Species Act.



- Many comments suggested that wood bison restoration should be pursued first on state lands in the Minto Flats area, where logistics and cost will be less and harvest will be controlled solely by the Alaska Board of Game.
- Many others emphasized the importance of providing harvest opportunities for local and non-local hunters in the future.



- Other comments noted that Yukon Flats has the best habitat and can support a larger herd that will maintain genetic diversity of wood bison and can provide a greater level of harvest in the future.
- There was also support for wood bison restoration on the lower Innoko/Yukon River



**Notice of Decision based on public
comments on the ER, December 21, 2007**

- ADF&G will continue efforts to restore wood bison in Alaska.
- Minto Flats will be the first area where the Department will conduct site-specific planning and work to implement wood bison restoration.
- The Department will also pursue opportunities to restore wood bison on Yukon Flats and the lower Innoko/Yukon River areas. Large populations are important to the future of wood bison.

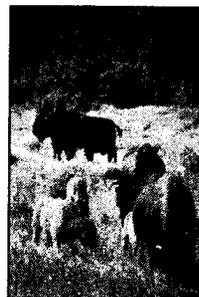


- ADF&G is committed to ensuring that the benefits of wood bison restoration are shared among local and non-local residents of Alaska and others.
- Future harvest management will be an important topic during site-specific planning efforts. In this setting, local and non-local interests can work cooperatively to develop recommendations to the BOG and FSB regarding principles to guide future harvest allocation.



Reasons for Addressing Minto Flats First

- Encompassed by the Minto Flats State Game Refuge
- Support from the Minto-Nenana, Tanana- Manley-Rampart and Fairbanks AC's and local residents
- Road access - reduced logistical challenges and costs
- Future decisions about subsistence use and harvest allocation can be made by the Alaska Board of Game



Current Efforts to Import Wood Bison from Canada

- ADF&G hopes to import about 60 young wood bison from Elk Island National Park in Alberta in 2008.
- Bison will be held for about 2 years in Alaska for health monitoring—earliest date for first release to the wild is spring 2010 or 2011.



January 2008 Wood Bison Roundup Elk Island National Park



- 61 wood bison calves, yearlings and two year olds were separated out of a herd of over 300 for transport to Alaska



Wood bison being held for import
to Alaska



Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center – Portage, AK



AWCC: An Essential Partner in Wood Bison Restoration

- Temporary handling facility to maintain bison and complete disease testing until wood bison can be released into the wild.

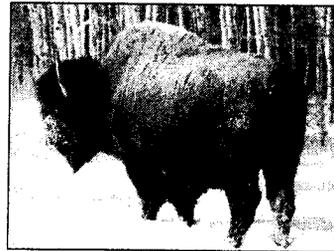


- 27 wood bison already at AWCC



What comes next?

- ADF&G is working with Canadian agencies, the Alaska State Veterinarian and others to obtain permits needed to import bison.
- Work with local and non-local interests to develop cooperative management and implementation plans for specific restoration sites, beginning with Minto Flats.



Status of Import Permits

- Have obtained USFWS import permit, and export permit from Canadian Wildlife Service.
- The USDA has reopened the border between U.S. and Canada to import of bovines.
- Working to resolve remaining issues between USDA and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and obtain export and import permits from these agencies.
- Import being planned for late spring.

Status of wood bison under the U.S. Endangered Species Act

- Currently listed as endangered “in Canada”
- Were downlisted to “threatened” under Canada’s Species at Risk Act in 1988.
- Action on petition from Canada to downlist to “threatened” on the U.S. ESA is pending.
- USFWS recently reversed earlier position; species will have some degree of status under ESA.
- Working with FWS to determine if a Section 10(j) Experimental – Nonessential, or Section 4(d), rule is best way to remove regulatory burden and provide for future harvests.

Project Funding

- Pittman-Robertson Funds and the Fish and Game Fund have supported staff costs
- Completed a \$10,000 grant from the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program
- Turner Foundation grant of \$100,000
- AWCC in-kind contribution of \$50,000
- FWS approved a new SWG proposal for \$300,000 using the Turner and AWCC contributions for the necessary 1:1 match

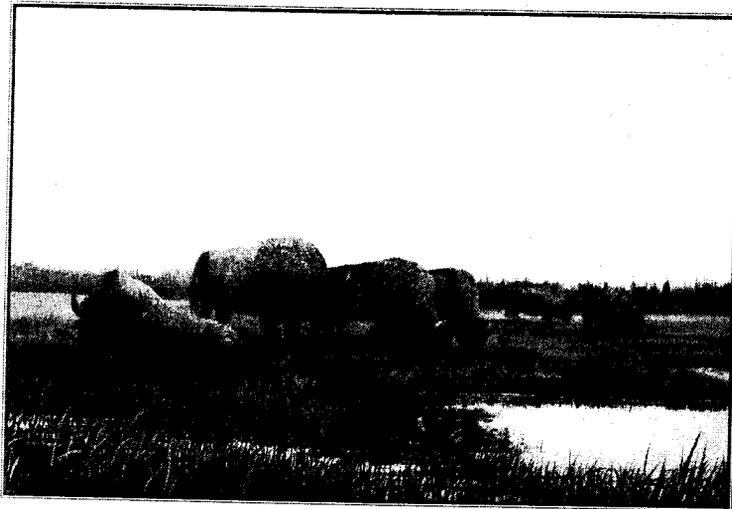
Summary

- ADF&G has made a major effort to thoroughly evaluate the possibility of restoring wood bison in Alaska, involve the public and try to “do it right.”
- To succeed the project depends on continued support and cooperation from diverse interests.
- No Board action necessary at this time.



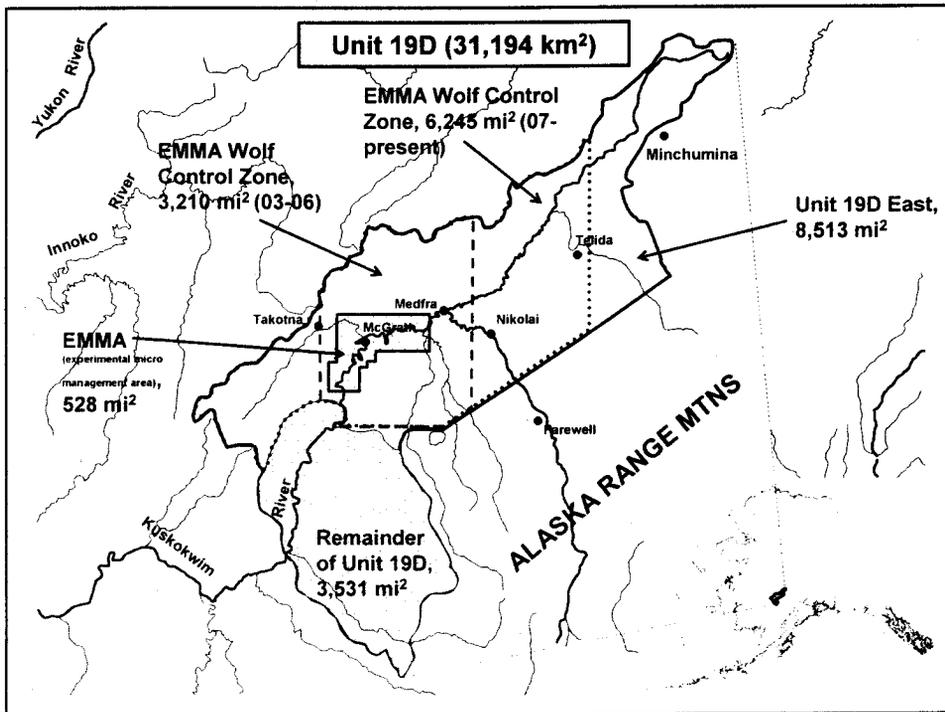
Governor Sarah Palin, artist Randall Compton and daughter,
and Dr. Stephen Sutley

Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska



Painting by Randall Compton

A Wildlife Conservation Opportunity for the 21st Century



The best way to summarize this project is to identify and explain the major management and research efforts that have occurred and then discuss the effects on the moose population.

Bears:

*Removed 75 black bears and 7 grizzly bears (> 1 year-of-age) during spring 2003 from the EMMA or the immediate vicinity.

*Removed 34 black bears and 1 grizzly bear during spring 2004 from the EMMA, 7 of these black bears were previously captured and moved during 2003. Therefore, the total number of individual black bears removed from the EMMA was 102.

*Based upon the removal of these individuals as well as sightings of other bears within the EMMA that were not captured, we estimated that the 528 mi² EMMA had a black bear population of approximately 130 black bears, or 95 bears/1,000 km², in spring 2003 prior to the start of removals.

Therefore, we estimate that we removed approximately 75% of the black bear population by the end of spring 2004.

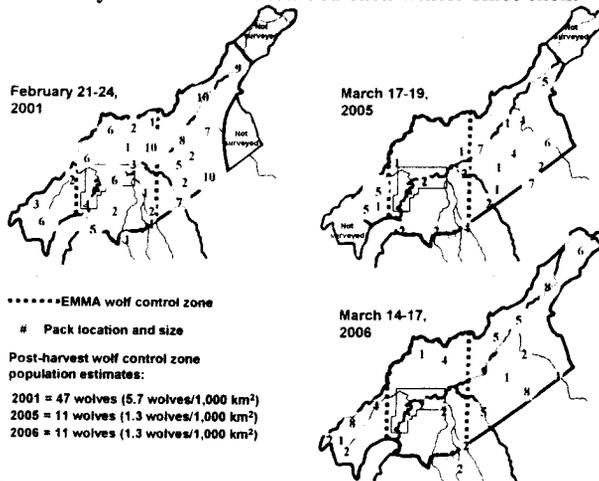
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The best way to summarize this project is to identify and explain the major management and research efforts that have occurred and then discuss the effects on the moose population.

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2001/02	18	23
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2003/04	27 (17)	27
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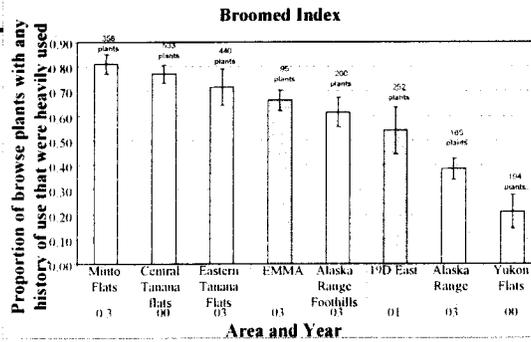
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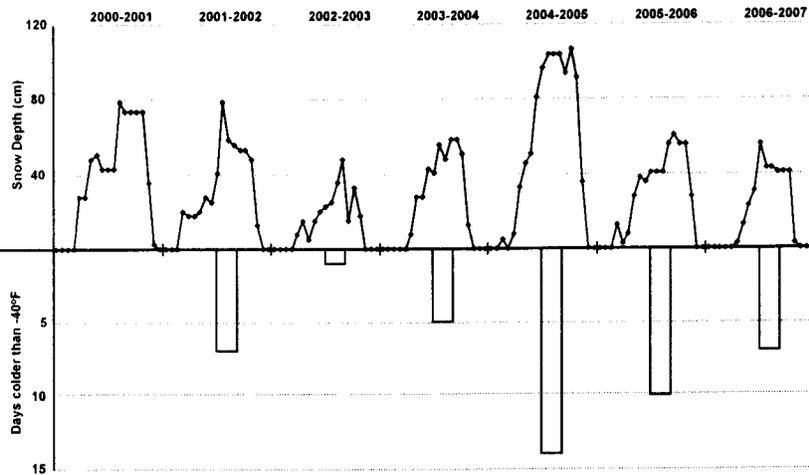
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Percent current annual growth removed from browse species measured within the EMMA, 2003

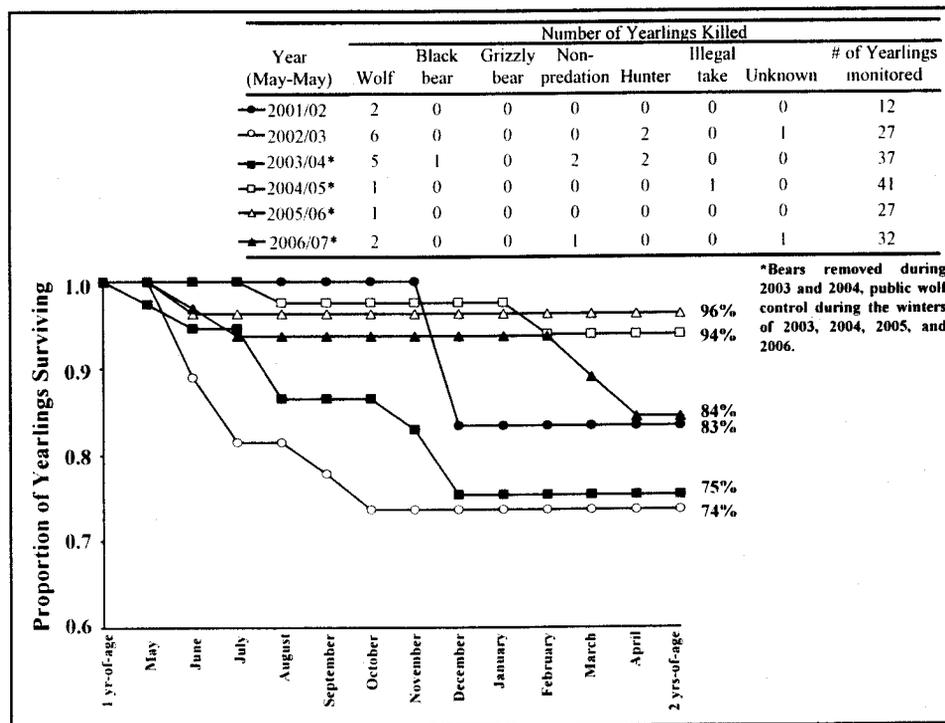
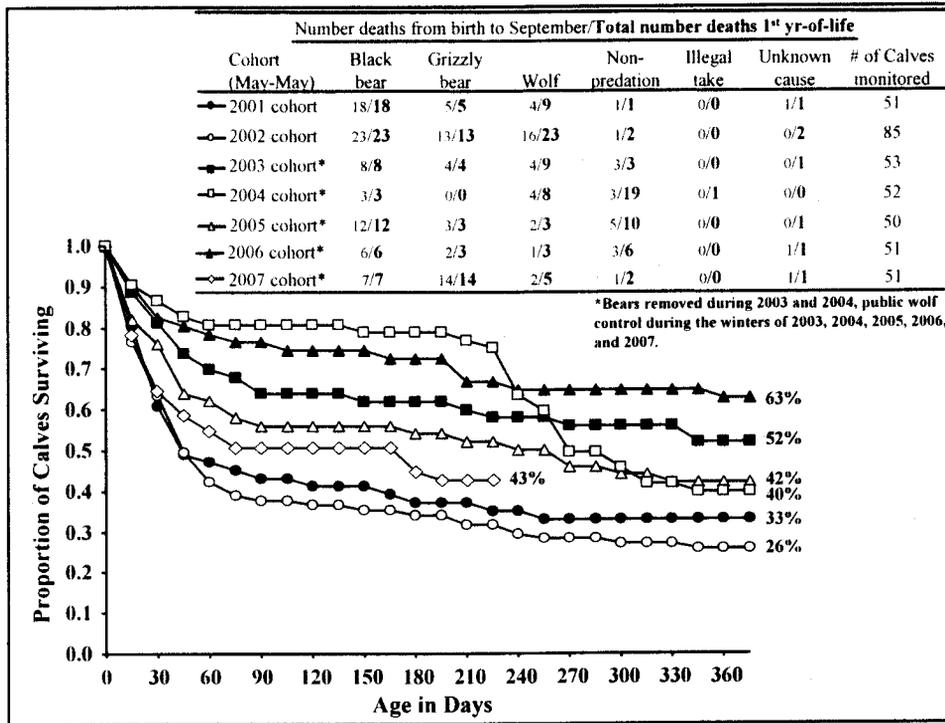
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High-use wintering sites	28% (50)	23% (7)	24% (10)	20% (33)	40% (3)	17% (30)	50% (4)	24% (137)

Cumulative winter snow depth and temperature for McGrath during 2000 thru 2006.



The best way to summarize this project is to identify and explain the major research efforts that have occurred, identify and explain the major management actions that have occurred, and then discuss the effects on the moose population.

Effects on the moose population:



**Annual Sources of Mortality and Survival for Radiocollared Adult
Female Moose Within or Near the EMMA, 2001-2006**

Year (May- May)	Number of Adults Killed							# of Adults monitored	Annual survival rate
	Wolf	Black bear	Grizzly bear	Non- predation	Hunter ^a	Illegal Take	Unk		
2001/02	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	22	86%
2002/03	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	35	89%
2003/04*	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	42	95%
2004/05*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	100%
2005/06*	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	64	98%
2006/07*	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	72	97%

^aFemale moose harvest would only be legal under special potlatch/cultural regulations.

*Bears removed during 2003 and 2004, public wolf control during the winters of 2003 thru present.

Results of 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 Moose Surveys in the EMMA

Year	Area	Estimate ^a with SCF applied (moose/mi ²)	Calves:100 Cows	Bulls:100 Cows	Yearling bulls:100 cows
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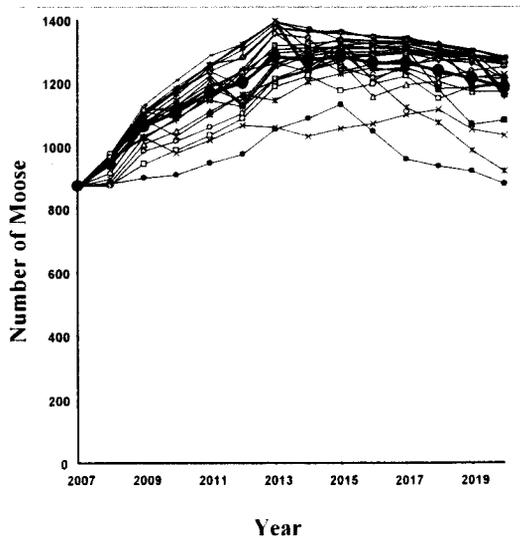
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2001	73% (22)	100% (3)	25% (16)	--	0.71 (25)	18.1 (24)	15.8 (20)	178.1 (15)
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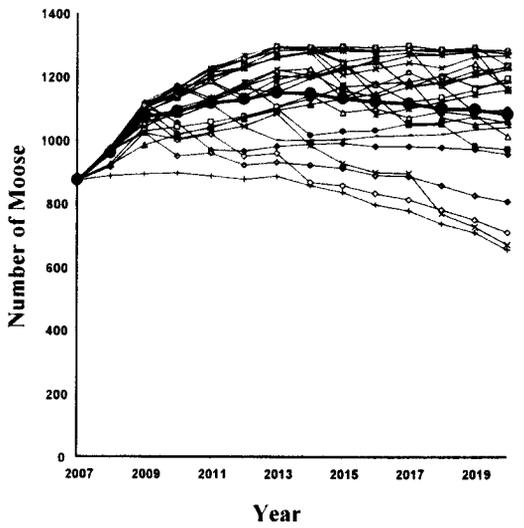
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"Pred-Prey" Modeling



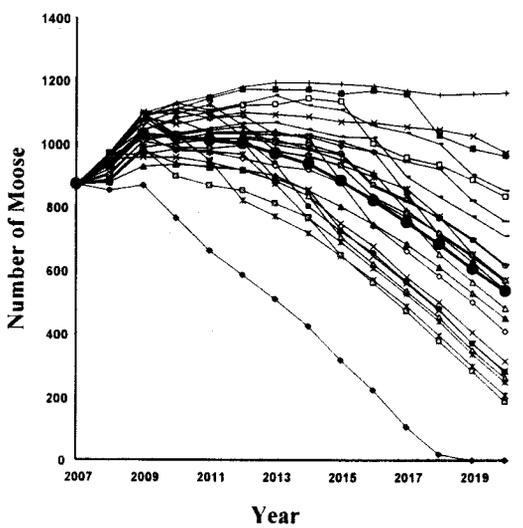
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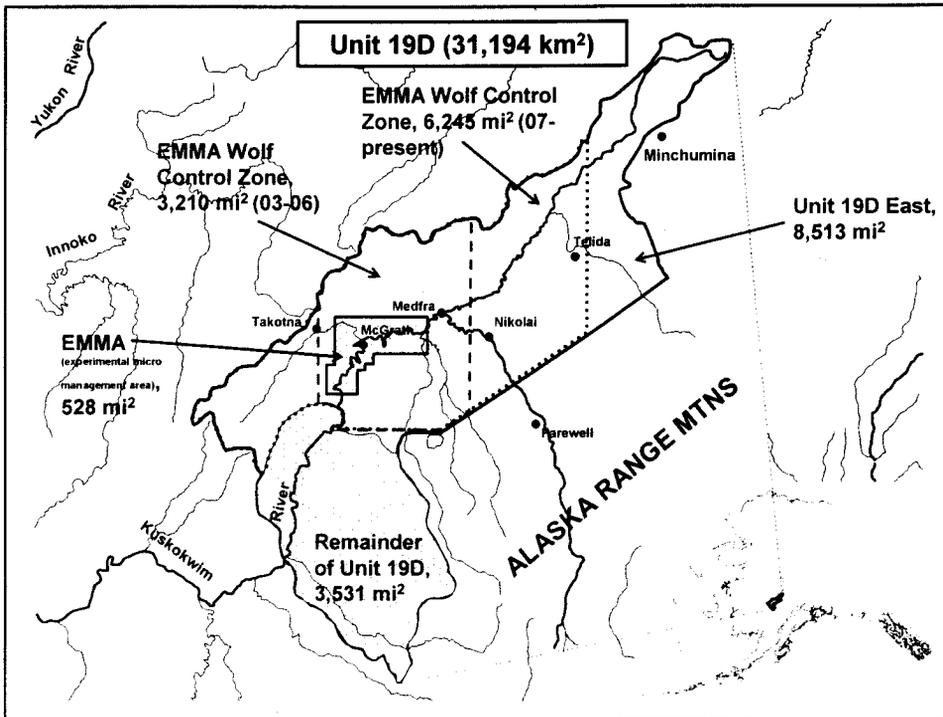
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***Parturition rates and twinning rates remain high indicating a potential for further population increase.**

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If public wolf control is ended and trappers can take approximately 25% of EMMA wolves on a yearly basis the moose population will; increase at slower rate, stabilize at a lower population level than with wolf control, and will have a greater chance of adverse weather impeding population growth. But moose harvest can still be accommodated.

If moose are harvested at high levels and little effort is taken to harvest wolves in the EMMA, we can expect the population to begin a decline after several years.



The best way to summarize this project is to identify and explain the major management and research efforts that have occurred and then discuss the effects on the moose population.

Bears:

*Removed 75 black bears and 7 grizzly bears (> 1 year-of-age) during spring 2003 from the EMMA or the immediate vicinity.

*Removed 34 black bears and 1 grizzly bear during spring 2004 from the EMMA, 7 of these black bears were previously captured and moved during 2003. Therefore, the total number of individual black bears removed from the EMMA was 102.

*Based upon the removal of these individuals as well as sightings of other bears within the EMMA that were not captured, we estimated that the 528 mi² EMMA had a black bear population of approximately 130 black bears, or 95 bears/1,000 km², in spring 2003 prior to the start of removals.

Therefore, we estimate that we removed approximately 75% of the black bear population by the end of spring 2004.

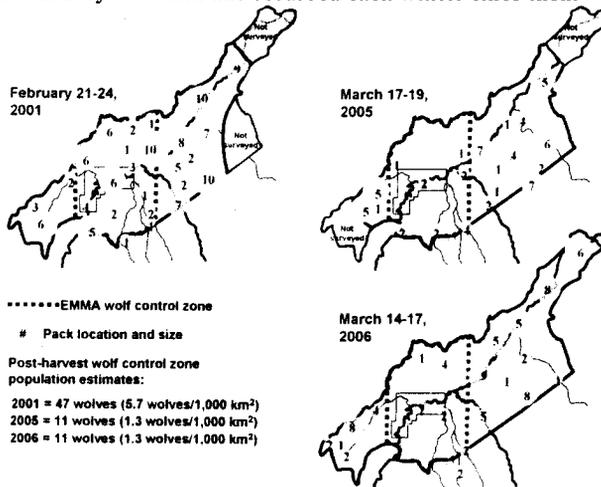
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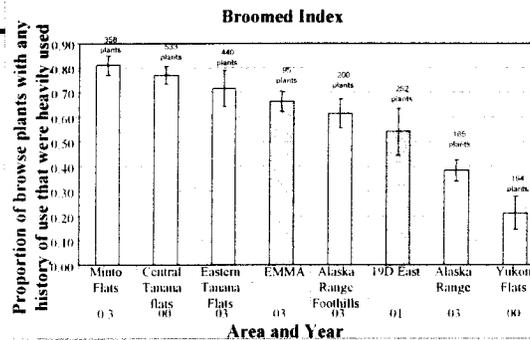
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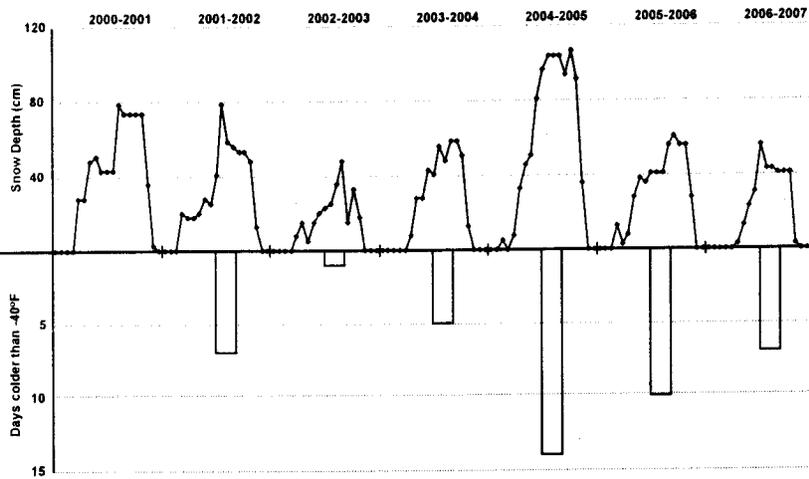
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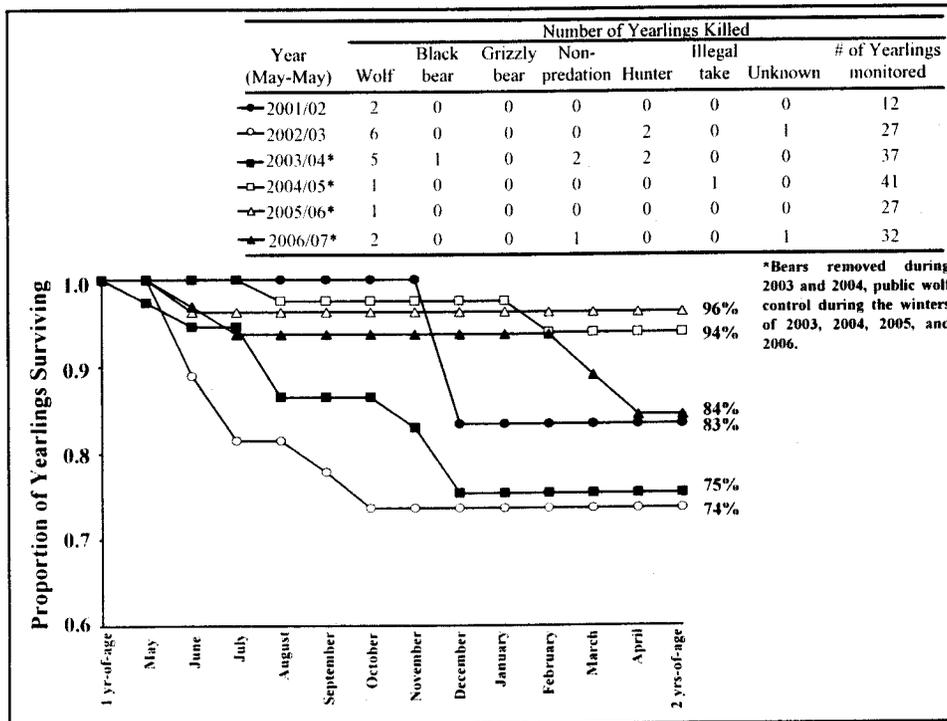
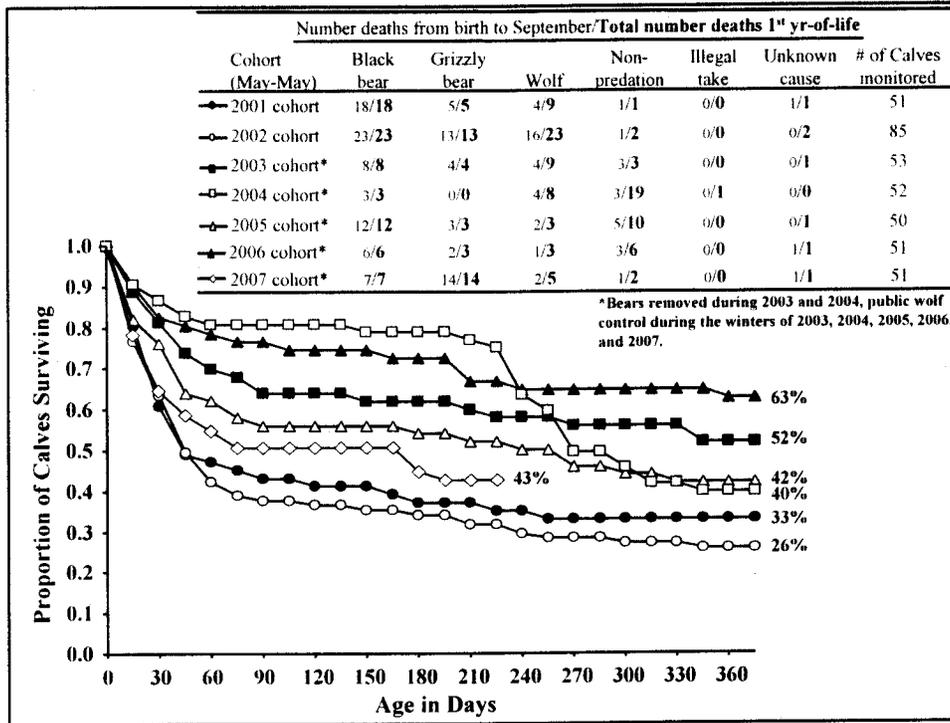
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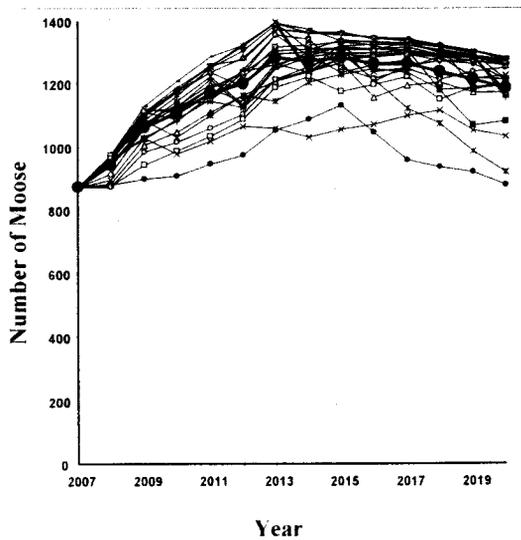
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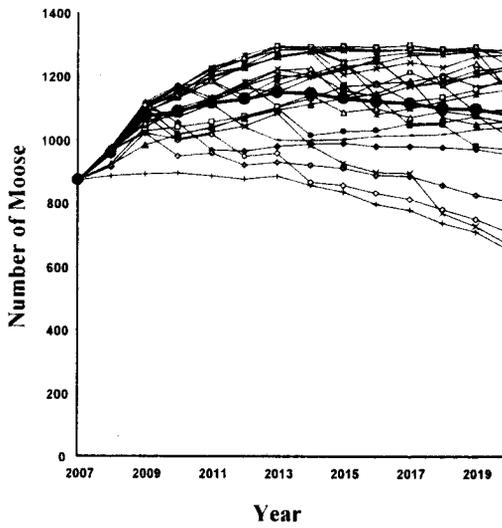
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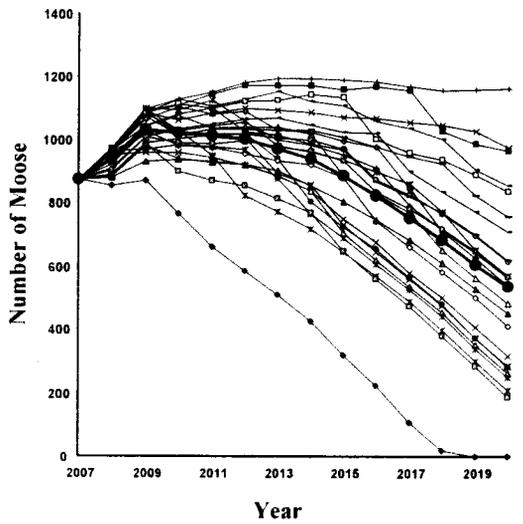
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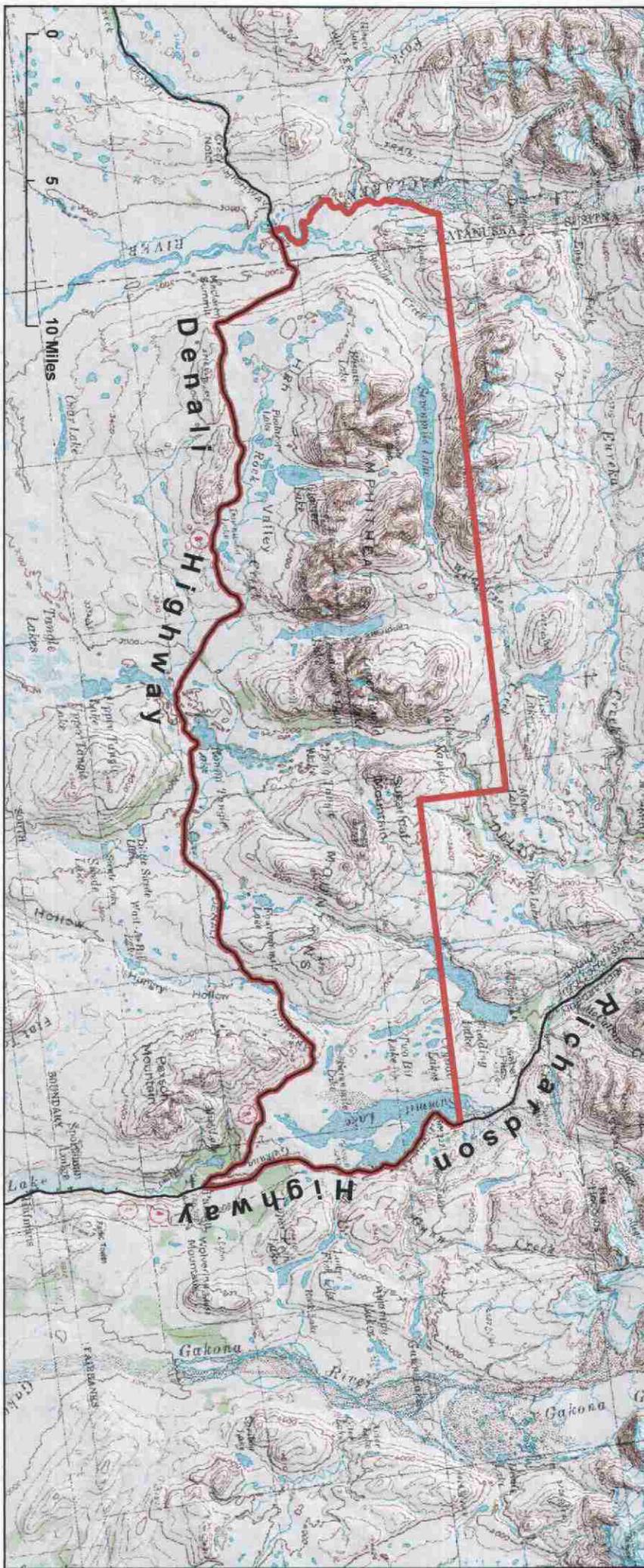
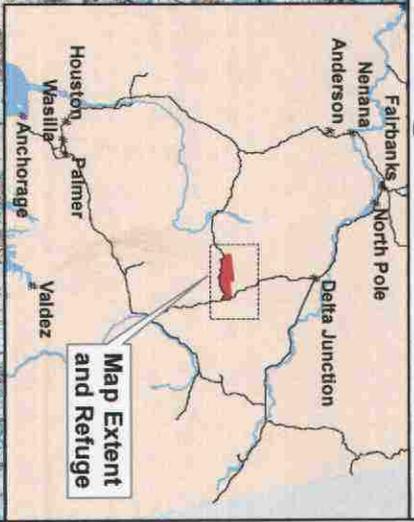
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Proposed Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge

Map Area



Map Extent and Refuge



44

Date: 26 August 1994
To: Chris Smith
From: Jack Whitman
Re: Notes on Holitna CUA

Re: Proposal 87

Figure 7 displays reported hunter success rates in Subunit 19A of hunters from GMU 18, as well as depicting success rates by all hunters combined (including GMU 18 hunters). This clearly indicates that GMU 18 hunters have enjoyed higher moose hunting success rates than other segments of the hunting population during 4 of the last 6 years. Most notably, the success rates increased substantially during the 1992 and 1993 seasons, during which time the horsepower restrictions have been in effect. I hesitate to get too froggy, but Figure 7 kinda smacks of good management.

Figure 8 shows reported hunter success rates in GMU 19B by hunters from GMU 18 and hunters from all residences. It too, indicates that GMU 18 residents have enjoyed higher success rates during 5 of the last 6 years than the general hunting populace in GMU 19B. I really don't understand the lawsuit. Please explain.

Figure 9. It's obvious from the mandatory hunter reports that success rates throughout GMU 19 by GMU 18 residents has increased substantially during the 2 years that the horsepower restrictions have been in place. Further, during 1992 (the first year of the horsepower restriction), GMU 18 hunters harvested more moose than at any time during the previous 6 years in GMU 19.

Further, I would bet that if the GMU 18 hunters would quit poaching the Unit 18 moose and let them build to reasonable population levels, they wouldn't have to travel to GMU 19 to hunt; they would have plenty to go around if they'd allow them to become established.

It should be noted, that if subsistence harvest of moose is the real issue, the total reported take in the Holitna and Hoholitna River drainages (where local hunters, both Unit 18 and Unit 19 residents, make up the vast majority of users) was higher during the 2 years of the horsepower restrictions than during any of the 3 preceding years.

If safety of boaters is the issue, the bigger the boat, the bigger the wake. It could be argued that the big boats (generally from GMU 18) are a hazard to the local (GMU 19) residents. The GMU 18 hunters should learn how to pack a boat reasonably and not overload.

There are myriad variables in regards to the question of number of river miles available to hunters, making it very difficult to obtain a pat answer. Annual (or daily) water levels, whether the boat is equipped with a lift, short shaft, jet unit, etc., as well as knowledge/skill level of the pilot all make a tremendous difference in whether a stream is "navigable". Nevertheless, I've made a stab at estimating the miles of navigable waterways in GMU 19.

When the entire Kuskokwim upstream of Kalskag (including the tributaries) is considered, I estimate there are about 650 river miles navigable by "large" boat, of which about 200 miles are on the Holitna/Hoholitna (31%). When smaller and/or shallower streams are considered, about 1,900 miles of waterways are available, of which the Holitna/Hoholitna Rivers make up less than 14% (about 260 miles).

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DIVISION

PROPOSAL 119. 5AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS.

This proposal would delete the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area.

Moose populations, as reflected by composition/trend surveys in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers, are doing well. No surveys were conducted during fall 1995 because of the lack of adequate snow cover, but until that time, populations appeared to be increasing (Figures 1, 2). With the increases in moose populations, there were limits imposed on motor size, but the reported harvest remained high (Figure 3). Throughout 19A, hunters from Unit 18 had very high reported success rates immediately following the instigation of the 40-hp limit, as did hunters from other areas (Figure 4). According to hunter harvest reports, the 40-hp restriction has resulted in marginally fewer Unit 18 hunters using 19A, but those that chose to hunt there had higher success rates. With the increases in the moose population, the increased harvest, and the increases in reported hunter success rates, the regulation prohibiting boats with motors in excess of 40-hp has apparently worked well.

Figure 1. Moose per hour figures from Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during the period 1976-1994.

Figure 2. Number of bull moose observed in the Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during 1976-94.

Figure 3. Total reported harvest of moose from 19A from 1983-1994.

Figure 4. Comparison of hunter success rates in 19A during the period 1983-94.

**Alaska Board of Game Region III Meeting
Feb. 29 - March 10, 2008**

Sleetmute Traditional Council Proposal Comments

Proposals 8, 9, 83, 99, 100, 103, 105, 112, 137, 138 - Supported. The Sleetmute Traditional Council, (STC), supports proposals that encourage and increase the harvest of predators, due to the decline in moose stocks in GMU 19, and many other areas of the state. When advisory committees in an area sponsor these sort of proposals or proposals to start new comprehensive predator management plans, it is evident that predator management is needed there and STC supports them.

Proposals 101 & 104 - Supported. These proposals are to extend the 2 predator management programs for several years - in GMU 19 A, and 19D. These programs are working, but need more time.

Proposals 102, 106, & 113 - Opposed. These proposals are attempts to terminate 3 predator management programs. These programs are effective and require more time. The state went through a long period with NO predator control for 11 or 12 years. It is unrealistic to expect there to be a large harvestable surplus in so short a time period

- All 3 claim they have not been effective in increasing moose harvest. **In Prop 102, (19A), a closure and Tier II have been put in place. How could hunter harvest possibly have increased there??**
- Also claimed is that these programs are too expensive. **They are not when compared to what it would cost if the ban initiative were passed, and ADF&G personnel were required to do it!**

Proposals 12 & 14 - Opposed. Both of these proposals eliminate antler restrictions and lengthen the moose season in 19B. The sponsor of Proposal 14 didn't get a moose. If these hunters are having trouble getting spike/fork moos in 19B, it is evident that the 19A moose closure needs to be extended into 19, as the Sleetmute Traditional Council, (STC) testified when it made the 19A/B closure proposal 2 years ago . There is no recent information on population density and composition in 19B. Keeping the spike/fork restriction is necessary to insure that some moose are left for recruitment.

Proposal 13 - Supported. (See STC comments on 12 and 14.) This Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, (CKAC), proposal speaks for itself, and is also supported by the comments made by the Stony Holitna Advisory Committee, (SHAC). This is what STC **Proposal 64** addressed at the Spring, 2006 BOG meeting 2 years ago.

Proposal 87 – Supported. The Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area is definitely NOT “a frivolous regulation” as its sponsor said. Hunters who live outside of 19A The people living within 19A use much smaller outboard motors for their transportation and hunting due to cost of larger motors, cost of fuel, and lack of jobs and income in the area. There is also no commercial fishing in 19A.

The SHAC comments on this proposal list most of the reasons the 40 hp limit was imposed in the first place.

Making a proposal like this – that would increase the amount of hunting pressure at the present time - when the resource is depleted to the point it is now – would work in opposition to moose population recovery.

Main Points in Support of Proposal 13 Stony Holitna Advisory Committee

- There is no data on 19B – ADF&G has been using 19A as a proxy to interpret 19B moose populations.
- There has been one moose survey (2005) done in 19B since 2001.
- The Amount Necessary for Subsistence in 19B is 20-24 moose.
- There is more than adequate opportunity for resident/subsistence and nonresident harvest in upland 19B.
- There is no predator management program implemented in 19B. The largest pack sighted during the ADF&G wolf survey this year was on the 19A/B border.
- This proposal is not intended to limit in any way those hunters in the upland areas of 19B which are not in the immediate vicinity of the river corridors.
- The regulation is unenforceable as it is now.
- The state does not have the financial resources to have a checkpoint at the mouth of the Holitna as was done in past years.
- There are only 2 Wildlife Troopers for this part of the state.

19B Harvest

	<u>successful</u> <u>residents</u> plane/boat	<u>successful</u> <u>nonres.</u> plane/boat	<u>unsuccess</u> <u>residents</u> plane/boat	<u>unsuccess</u> <u>nonres</u> plane/boat	<u>total</u> <u>res.</u>	<u>total</u> <u>nonres</u>
2006-2007	4/1	17/3	28/15	29/5	48	55
2007-2008 (prelim.)	1 /4	10/1	11/11	25/0	28	36

ADF&G Comments on Proposal 13
Answers from Stony Holitna Advisory Committee – (in red)

Proposal 13

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Close moose hunting in Unit 19B within the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area (CUA)

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The Holitna-Hoholitna CUA was established by the Board to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. *It was also established as a response to a lawsuit (instigated by and for interests from outside GMU 19) between Sleetmute and the state.)* It applies to the waterways only, and this proposal does not define a land area where hunting would be closed. Therefore, our comments address a 4-mile wide corridor similar to the adjacent nonresident closed area. *This is correct, and is addressed in the “Other Solutions Considered” section of the proposal. This proposal is primarily addressing access to the area for moose hunting by boat – by ALL user groups, both resident and non-resident. Although moose densities are low in this area, the current antler restrictions provide sustainable hunting opportunity consistent with the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan (CKMMP) The CKMMP originally set up a Tier I registration hunt in 19A, and the moose stocks in 19A, particularly in the Holitna drainage portion, continued to dive. The benefits gained by the predator management program were cancelled out by unrestricted numbers of hunters continuing to hunt there. The summer after the first winter of the predator management program, there was a noticeable increase in the # of young bulls. They were not there after that fall hunt – when roughly 60 moose were taken. When the closure went into effect, the populations started increasing. Having at least one of these tools in place in 19B, would be a prudent choice. The ADF&G had not done a survey since 2001, and when they did in fall, 2004, a different method was used. As the ADF&G biologist said at the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee meeting, that due to different methods being used, there was no way to compare moose numbers from the 2001 survey with the 2004 survey.*

When the current seasons and bag limits were adopted, the moose density in adjacent Unit 19A was low and falling (from 1.25 moose/mi² in 1998 to 0.27 moose/mi² in 2005.) In 19B, densities were similar, but because fall 2005 composition data in Unit 19B showed adequate bull:cow ratios (66 bulls:100 cows). A hunt with antler restrictions was allowed as a conservative way to provide some hunting opportunity for both residents and nonresidents consistent with the CKMMP.

On page 6 of the CKMMP, under “Issues of Concern Identified by the planning committee”, the “Overall Problem the Plan is Intended to Address: How can the moose population in Units 19A and 19B be restored to avoid impending Tier II hunting restrictions and to maintain opportunities for human use of the resource?”

How could anything be more clearly stated?? The CKMMP became more concerned with managing people than wildlife. There was a consensus of members who were more interested in avoiding a Tier II hunt, and the continued unrestricted hunting of a threatened wildlife population, than with saving and rebuilding the herd. It was a mistake to allow any continued hunting in upper 19A, which was admitted by the Department at the spring, 2006 BOG meeting, and we believe it is another mistake to allow continued hunting in the area of concern.

The moose counts on the river itself were similar in both 19A & B. When Traditional Councils from villages of 19A (Sleetmute, Stony River, Lime Village), supported Sleetmute Traditional Council's Proposal # 64 (similar to ADF&G's #70) at the spring, 2006 BOG meeting, it was with the understanding that most of the navigable waters of the Holitna Drainage (including the 19B portion) would be closed to moose hunting. The board chose to apply the closure to 19A only. The fact that the existing nonresident closed area in this drainage covers the areas under consideration is an evident demonstration of common sense as to how to manage the same moose stocks in the drainage through and access modes rather than the imaginary line between 19A & B. That is why that exact alternate description is listed under "Other Solutions." **[A reading of Spring BOG Proposals 62-67, and 69 & 70 addresses these issues well]**

We recognize the potential enforcement issues raised, and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers intend to patrol as in previous years, with additional emphasis when warranted. However, any abuses have not prevented the beginnings of a moose population recovery in Unit 19A as indicated by improved numbers of calves and yearlings. The surveys done since the Nov. 2005 survey have not spent nearly the same amount of time or covered anywhere near the same area. These surveys were done in the best habitat area in the central part of the drainage, along the rivers, where whatever moose existing at any given time have always consistently been concentrated. There have been no surveys in 19B since Nov. 2005.

Fall, 2007 composition surveys included 12% yearling bulls, 22% twins, and 45 calves: 100 cows. A density estimate is scheduled in late March 2008 to continue monitoring population status and trend. Is this density estimate going to be done in 19A only, as in recent years? Because the GMU subunit this proposal is mainly concerned with river accessed 19B.

The department recognizes this proposal also has an allocation element and is neutral on this aspect of the proposal. This proposal also has subsistence implications because closing the moose season within the Holitna-Hoholitna CUA closes an area open to residents who access the Holitna-Hoholitna CUA primarily by boat but does not change moose seasons outside the CUA. Proponents of this proposal – 2 advisory committees, and 4 traditional village councils representing the people who live in this part of GMU 19 – (those who are most directly dependent on this area) - know this and support it. The majority of the people from these villages have been hunting on the Kuskokwim River since the closure was put in place. Local residents realize that the continuation of predator management in 19A as well as the whole state is constantly threatened. They are willing to do whatever it takes to facilitate a recovery of moose stocks. BOG members will take note that proposals 10, 12, and 14 (all advocating elimination of the antler

restriction in 19B), were made by residents living outside GMU19. Most of Unit 19B, away from the river and outside the CUA is open to residents and nonresidents who access this area primarily by aircraft. Before the CUA could be closed to subsistence moose hunting, the board would have to consider whether reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses would still be provided without restricting nonsubsistence opportunities in Unit 19B.

To recap main points;

- **There is no data on 19B – ADF&G has been using 19A as a proxy to interpret 19B moose populations.**
- **There has been one moose survey (2005) done in 19B since 2001.**
- **The Amount Necessary for Subsistence in 19B is 20-24 moose.**
- **There is more than adequate opportunity for resident/subsistence and nonresident harvest in upland 19B.**
- **There is no predator management program implemented in 19B. The largest pack sighted during the ADF&G wolf survey this year was on the 19A/B border.**
- **This proposal is not intended to limit in any way those hunters in the upland areas of 19B which are not in the immediate vicinity of the river corridors.**
- **The regulation is unenforceable as it is now.**
- **The state does not have the financial resources to have a checkpoint at the mouth of the Holitna as was done in past years.**
- **There are only 2 Wildlife Troopers for this part of the state.**

GMU 19A & B Closure Discussion, Map & Violation Statements.

At the March, 2006 BOG meeting the simplest and most sensible fix for this situation would have been for BOG to adopt the Sleetmute Traditional Council's proposal #64 - section on 19B, along with the closure in 19A.

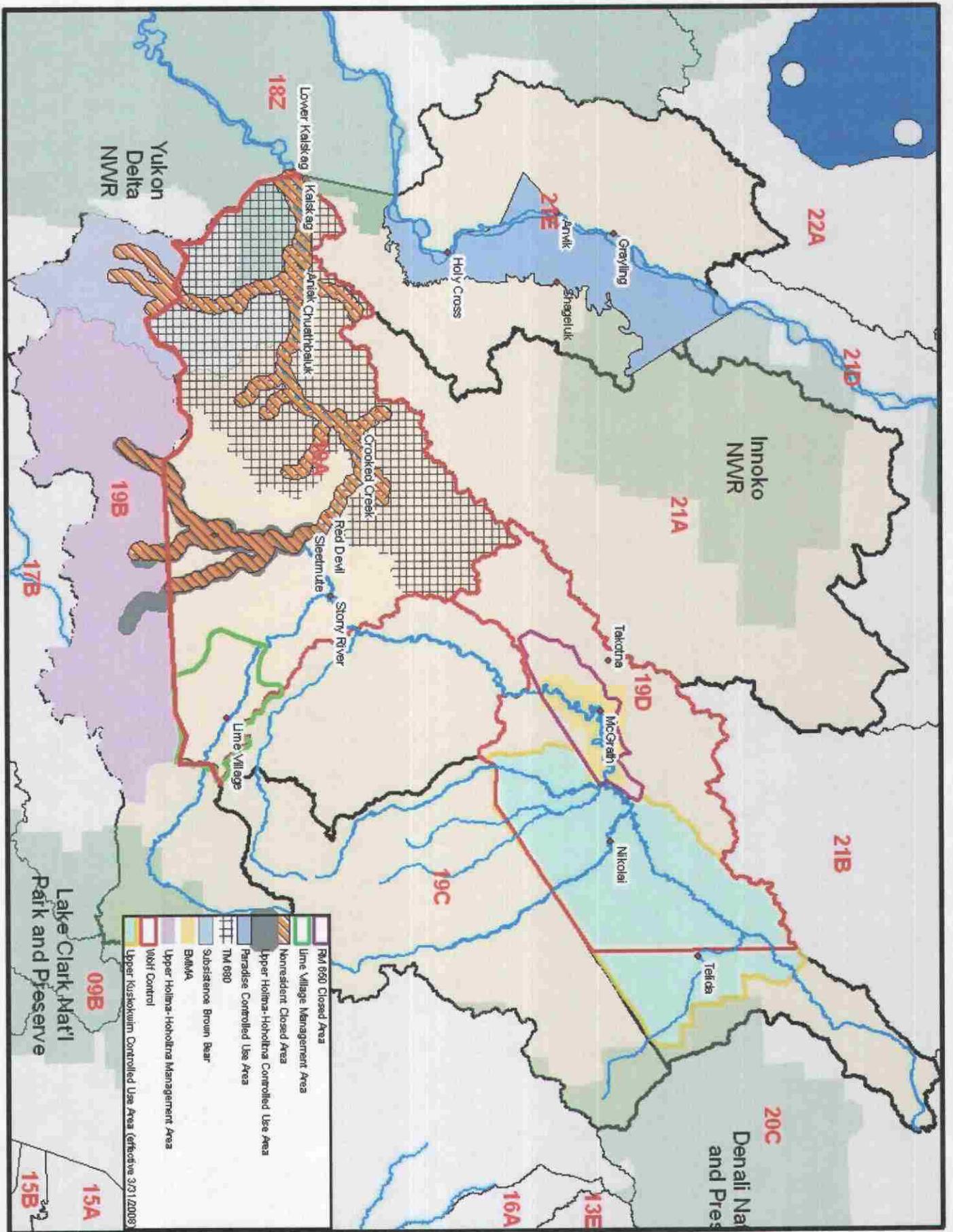
"Unit 19B: No open season for moose on all navigable streams in the Holitna drainage in the unit. This would require an extension of the river corridor further into 19B and applying the existing closure for nonresidents to residents as well."

BOG adopted proposal #70, by ADF&G, which was acceptable, in that it **did** apply a closure for moose in GMU 19A upriver from the mouth of the George River, and excepting the LVMA. However, it did not address the problem of 19B in the Holitna drainage.

Not closing the corridor to all moose hunting, (the same as downriver in 19A), invites a host of abuse along with improvable, unenforceable situations.

The people of the area have voluntarily given up their right to hunt. We figured that this, along with the predator control program would be the most effective way to allow the moose stocks an opportunity to rebuild. It is working, but would be much more effective if the closure included the navigable portion of the river that The Holitna-Hoholina Controlled Use Area covers. This covers the area of concern fairly well, **but** the Non-resident Closed Area in the Holitna Drainage leaves out 19B on the Hoholitna River. On the Titnuk the description is the same, and the only difference on the Holitna, is that the closed area goes up to the mouth of the Chukwon, (also preferred), rather than to Kashegeluk as in the Holitna-HoHo CUA.

Either one of these 19B inclusions would be better than the existing situation, **but a closure to all boat-accessed moose hunting in the Holitna Drainage would do the cleanest, best, and most enforceable job.**



[White box]	Fwi 650 Closed Area
[Green box]	Lime Village Management Area
[Blue box]	Nonresident Closed Area
[Red box]	Upper Holtna-Hoholtna Controlled Use Area
[Yellow box]	Paradise Controlled Use Area
[Black box]	TM 680
[Blue box with diagonal lines]	Subsistence Brown Bear
[Blue box with diagonal lines]	BAA/BA
[Purple box]	Upper Holtna-Hoholtna Management Area
[Red box with diagonal lines]	WWT Control
[Green box with diagonal lines]	Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (effective 3/21/2008)

Lake Clark Mat'l
Park and Preserve

Denali Nat'l
Park and Preserve

In Sept. of 07, Brian and Tim Andreanoff and Phillip Bancroft, all from Sleetmute were hunting by boat on the Hoholitna River. This is what they observed.

We went up and camped near the Rock Lady, just inside 19B. That was about Sept. 15th. We had passed a camp just below Big Dimond in 19A - about 2 hours downstream of our camp.

In the camp there were 2 boats. One was a silver Alweld with a green canopy and a 40hp Yamaha on it. The other was a green aluminum about 18 foot with a 40 hp Yamaha.

For several days one of the boats would go past with the 4 hunters in it – 2 native and 2 white. They would go back downriver each evening. So they were hunting in 19A and 19B.

Our outboard broke down and we started drifting down on Sept. 22. We passed by these hunters and their camp on the 23rd. There was meat hanging from a rack, which looked to be enough from 2 moose.

They passed us near Townsite Creek on their way downriver. There was one set of moose antlers visible.

Brian Andreanoff
Tim Andreanoff
Phillip Bancroft

On Sept. 18, 2007 Vern Zaukar, his son Vern Jr., and Scott Greger were hunting by boat on Titnuk Creek. The following is their account of what they saw that day.

We were on our way up to get to the open area to hunt moose, since 19A is closed to moose hunting downstream of Fuller Mountain.

About 1 ½ -2 hours, by boat, below Fuller Mountain, we passed a short, V-hulled Lund boat with a 40 hp mercury on it, and 2 middle-aged men in it. Around the next bend was a meat rack of spruce poles. There was meat hanging on it, but no camp there.

20-30 minutes further upstream there was a big camp with 3 boats beached. There were 2 moose racks there and several people-men, women, and kids. We could tell they had been there awhile, since they had put up a plywood steam bath. This camp was about 1 hour below Fuller Mountain.

We slowed down as we drove by, and told them they were in an area closed to moose hunting. We didn't wait for an answer, and didn't think of taking pictures of the boats or meat.

It was bad, rainy weather, and we continued upriver. We found evidence of one moose kill near Fuller Mt., but saw no signs of any camp. A little further upstream we had to cut through a log jam, and went quite a distance above the mountain where we killed a bull.

Scott Greger, Sleetmute
Vern Zaukar, Sleetmute