

Stated Goals

- ✓To restore the abundance and diversity of wildlife in this ecosystem, of which the Fortymile herd is the most important indicator species.
- ✓To promote healthy wildlife populations for the intrinsic value, as well as consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

5

Since 1995

2001- 2006 Plan

6

Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2006-2012

Sunset



7

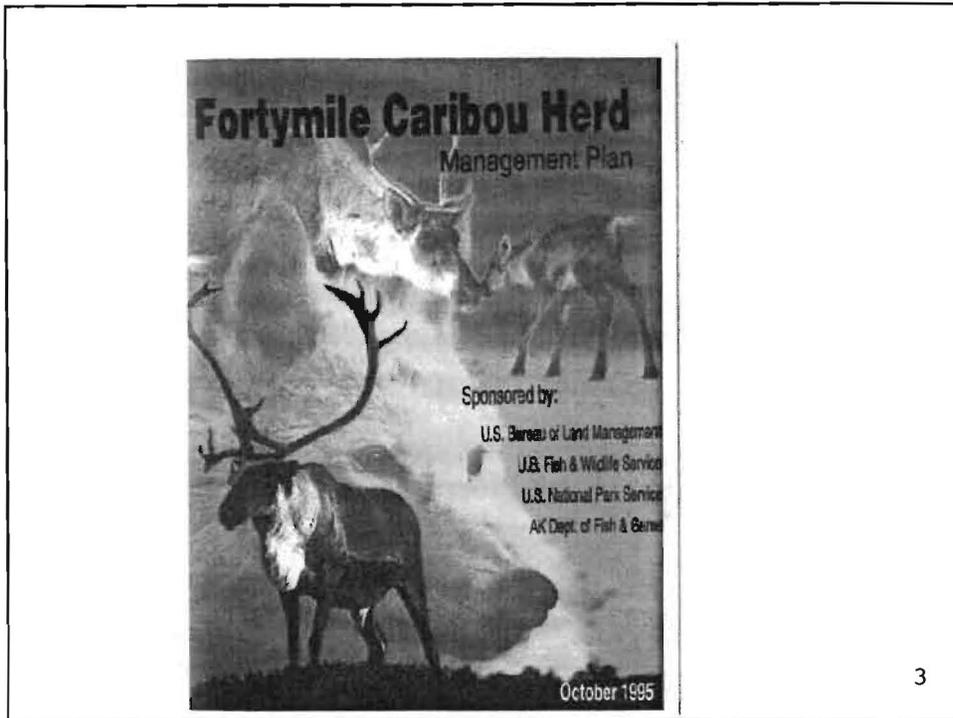
Harvest Management Coalition
Began meeting to update the plan

8

RC 5
FORTY MILE CARIBOU HERD
HARVEST PLAN
2012-2018



The first citizen-driven plan for the Fortymile Herd was developed in 1995



- ✓ About 22,000 caribou
Recovering from all-time low of just over 6,500 in 1973

Agreements

- ✓ Reduced harvest from ~400 to 150 bulls
- ✓ Non-lethal wolf management (sterilization)
- ✓ Retained current bear hunting regulations
- ✓ Yukon Canada: no permits & no hunting

"Harvest Management Coalition"

• Advisory Committees:

- Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, Upper Tanana/Fortymile,
- Anchorage & MatValley

• Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (EIRAC)

9

"Harvest Management Coalition"

• Yukon

- Yukon Government
- Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board
- Dawson District Renewable Resources Council
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (First Nation)

10

Advisors

- Alaska Dept of Fish & Game
- Alaska Dept of Public Safety
- Bureau of Land Mgmt
- Office of Subsistence Mgmt
- National Park Service

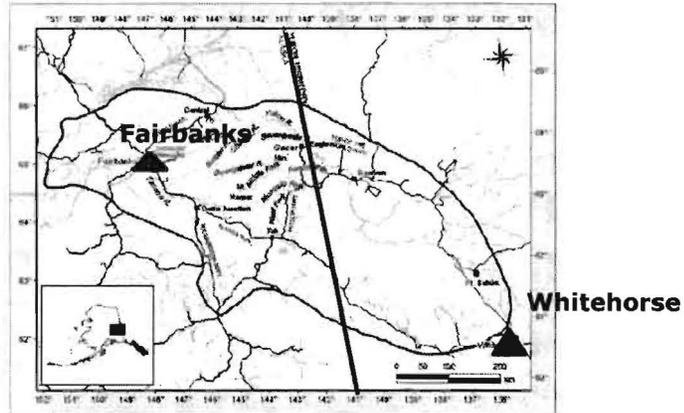
11

Held 3 two-day meetings and drew up this present plan



Goals

1. Continued Growth of Herd & Restore it to Historic Range



13

A scene Yukoners would like to see again (Yukon Archives photo)



Goals

2. Increase allowable harvest
3. Provide reasonable opportunity for Alaska subsistence uses
4. Allow nonsubsistence use opportunities
5. Continue state-federal management of harvest

15

Objectives

Life of Plan 2012-2018

- Continue to increase population 2%-3% annually
- Increase Alaska harvest to 1,000 - 4,000 annually

Long Range

- Population 50,000 - 100,000
- Harvest 1,000 - 15,000



16

Objectives

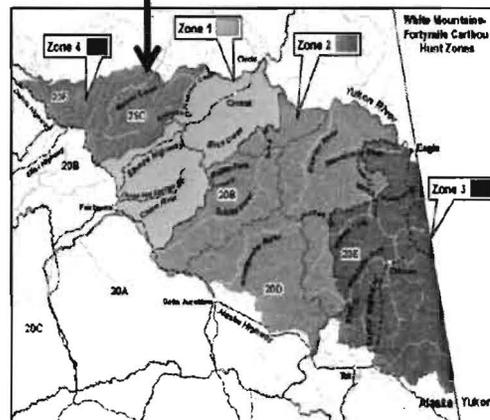
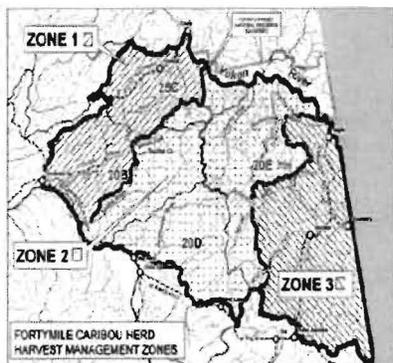
- 14 days hunting to ensure reasonable subsistence opportunity
- 7 days hunting for nonresidents

17

2006-2012

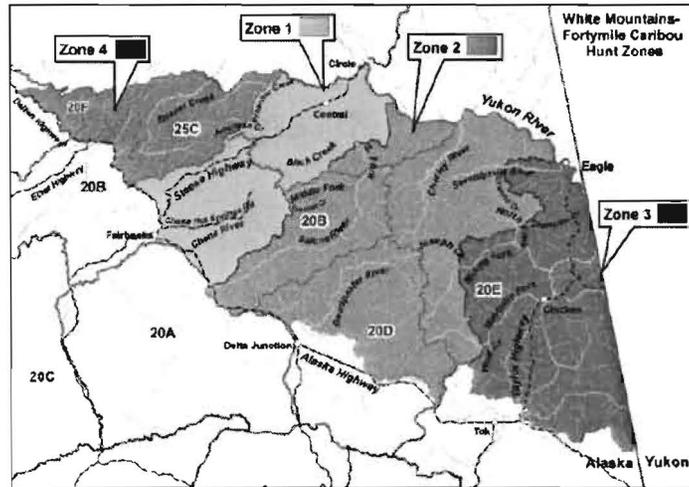
2012-2018

20F and 25C



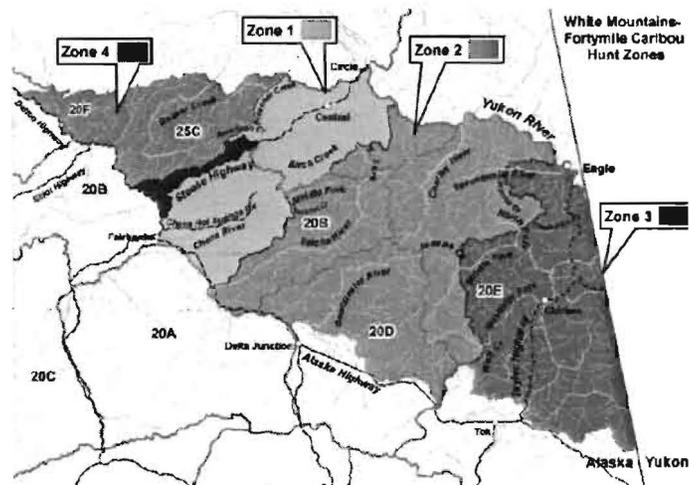
18

Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2012-2018



19

Zone 1 boundary change away from Steese Highway



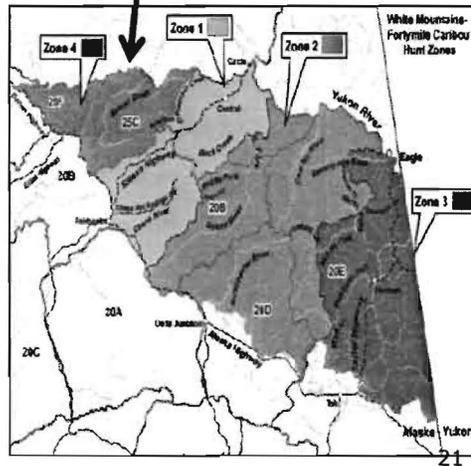
20

1. White Mountains & Fortymile hunted with same

state/federal registration permits

Herds managed separately

4th Hunt Zone Includes White Mountains Herd



Other Changes (Alaska)

- State fall opening date (~~Aug 10~~) to Aug 29 in road-accessible areas
- Fall bag limit: bulls only

Other Changes (Alaska)

- State winter season ending (~~Feb 28~~) March 31
- Expand no proxy hunting from Zone 3 to entire range
- Implement limited registration when caribou congregate near roads

23

70,000: Change total harvest allocation from 3% to 4% of herd size

24

Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2012-2018

Cooperative Effort!

- Federal – State
- AC's within the state
- Alaska – Yukon

Everyone compromised

25

Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2012-2018

Almost there ...

- FSB passed *WP12-74*
 - Joint state/federal permit for both Fortymile & White Mountains Herds
 - Added portions of 20F & 25C that are in Zone 4
 - Fall bag limit: bulls only

26

Summary of Changes

1. Zone 4 –White Mountains Caribou on registration permits
2. Fall bag limit: bulls only
3. Fall open: Aug 29 – road areas
4. Winter close: March 31
5. No proxy throughout range (#195)
6. Limited registration when congregated near roads in winter

27

Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2012-2018

- Asking Board of Game to
- ✓Adopt proposals 192 & 195
 - ✓Endorse this Plan

28

Questions for Harvest Management Coalition?



29

Draft Minutes

RC 6

Fish & Game Advisory Board Meeting – Middle Nenana AC

February 6, 2012

Healy Community Center

In absence of Brent Keith, Chairman, John Basile, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Members present (10): Robert Kohlsdorf, Myron Stokes, Wayne Walters, Paul Van Dyke, Tyler Dynes, Patricia Owen, John Basile, Jacob Mattila, Nan Eagleson, Larry Haddock. Members absent & excused (3): Leroy Sutton, Brent Keith, Jason Reppert

Quorum has been established.

Others present include seven community members and two Board of Game representatives.

Approval of agenda: Motion: Patricia, 2nd: Wayne

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Tabled until they can be produced by secretary

Public Comment:

Question directed toward F&G Rep, Don: Who was chosen to receive comment cards regarding Unit 20 cow hunts?

Answer: All who reported hunting the area.

Comment by community member, Wayne Valcq: In the 70's, there were visually a great number of moose & caribou, now very few are being seen in the same areas. There are concerns about the moose population getting too low, like the caribou herd has. Would like F&G to be more conservative about the harvesting of moose in this area.

Comment by community member, Steve Brosius: Would like to make sure the animals don't get desecrated like in England. There must be a better way to manage them, before they all disappear.

Email written by AC Member, Leroy Sutton, read aloud: In summary, he would vote "No" on the antlerless hunts right now.

Other emailed comments from the community summarized by board members:

Tyler commented that most pro-antlerless hunt letters were from people who resided in cities; whereas, most locals had negative reactions to the antlerless hunts.

Paul commented that most pro-antlerless letters were (also) from hunters with antlerless tags in the past and many were pro-antlerless hunts because it presents a "second chance" for harvest after the regular season.

Robert commented he does not consider the results of the survey to be valid because he believes the wording of the survey to be improperly balanced toward the side of pro-antlerless hunts and therefore has caused skewed results.

John commented that a lot of hunters have conveyed seeing a lot of motherless calves.

Wayne commented that he, personally, is very against the harvesting of cows or calves for any reason.

Report of the Fairbanks Joint AC Meeting held on February 4, 2012 given. Robert, Larry, & John attended to represent the middle nenana AC. A draft meeting summary was provided.

Robert commented that all the advisory board results will go to the Board of F&G. The majority of voting committees must reside in the unit which they are voting for in order to be considered. He believes the BOG is in violation of this rule. He also commented that no Minto AC members were present at the meeting (since they had already discussed and voted within their AC on the issue).

John commented on a Joint AC Meeting discussion of closing the antlerless season early to avoid problems like taking pregnant cows and conflicts with trappers.

Fish & Game Presentation by Fairbanks area biologist, Don Young:

Everyone wants moose for future generations.

Explained why the Department is pushing "For" the antlerless hunts.

Maybe the confusion starts with managing for "a period of time" vs managing in "perpetuity".

The health of the current moose population is decreasing. This is based on a study of reproduction (approx. 80 calves per 100 moose right now). A healthy moose population reproduces approx 120 calves per 100 moose.

There may have been as many as 17,000-18,000 moose in the early 2000's, but they were in very poor health, which is one reason why F&G decided to reduce the target population for the area to 13,000-15,000 (where we are now).

F&G's focus is to manage for a healthy moose population, which includes the harvest of cow moose at this time.

The consequences if the population grows beyond the current target population? Reproductivity decreases, which results in a less harvestable surplus & more moose competing for less food.

F&G is in the "stabilization" mode right now & is aiming to keep the population where it is (not to further decrease it, as it is within the target).

AC member, Larry, commented that he does not believe the population numbers being produced by F&G. He believes the actual population to be much less based on personal observation and observation by others he has spoken to.

F&G Rep, Don, responds: Many committees & governmental agencies have been working together for 40-50 years to establish an accurate way to count the moose population. It is a solid method. The pictures shown are of samples taken in 2011, which also back up years of statistical sampling.

Question by community member, Erin Dynes: Is there a foreseeable end to the intense management program, now that F&G is in the "stabilization mode"? F&G Rep, Don, responds: When we have a couple of hard winters and the population decreases to 9000 or less, the BOG will consider it.

Don explains the BOG recommendations for antlerless hunts in Unit 20:

- Using the lower 90% CI, rather than point estimate method to base the number of tags to be awarded.
- Reduce the antlerless harvest from 2.5% to 2%
- Reduce zone 2 antlerless hunts from 2.5% to 1.5%

-Reduce the take of antlerless bulls by starting winter hunts Oct 1 and ending Dec 1 & try to get the majority of the harvest during the Fall drawing hunts.

Motion to vote on the matter: Wayne, 2nd: Tyler

Voting to re-authorize the antlerless hunts (with the recommended changes by BOG) for Unit 20.

It was decided that Leroy's proxy letter could not be accepted because not all other members were present at the meeting to approve its acceptance.

(4) FOR: Pat, John, Jacob, Nan

(6) AGAINST: Robert, Myron, Wayne, Paul, Tyler, Larry

The Board has voted NOT to reauthorize the antlerless hunts for 2012.

The Board has also elected John Basile, Vice Chairman, as Middle Nenana AC representative for the Regional BOG Meeting in March.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Wayne, 2nd: Pat

Please Note: All discussions and presentations were geared toward GMU 20A; and not GMU 20 as a whole. The end voting was on proposal 206; reauthorizing antlerless hunts in 20A.



RC 7

Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Jeff Gross
Tok Area Biologist
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Box 355
Tok, Alaska 99780

February 24, 2012

Dear Jeff,

The Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee is requesting a change in the RM865 permit hunt.

We would like to have the Motorized Vehicle Use Restriction verbiage in the RM865 registration permit hunt conditions modified to read:

The use of any motorized land vehicle for hunting moose under an RM865 permit, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game, is prohibited from August 1-September 30, within the area draining into the mainstem of the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River, between GPS coordinates 63° 56.411 N/143° 14.021 W and 63° 56.411 N/142° 49.264 W and south of latitude 63° 56.411 N. This restriction does not apply on the Mitchels Ranch or Square Lake Trails. Maps of the Mitchels Ranch and Square Lake Trails are available at Tok ADF&G.

The amount of fragile wetlands that was torn up in Mosquito Flats during the fall of 2005 by Off Highway Vehicles was astonishing! This incident resulted in the current Motorized Vehicle Use Restrictions in the RM865 hunt conditions. During the falls of 2006 - 2011, reports were again made to the ADF&G in Tok and the Tok AWT concerning moose hunters that again ventured into this the restricted area with heavily loaded ARGOS (6 and 8 wheeled OHVs). In fall of 2011, the amount of OHV travel in the area causing even more damage that was seen in 2005. However, after consulting with AWT personnel in Tok, it has become apparent that the current permit condition is not clearly defined and is essentially unenforceable.

Therefore, the original intent of the motorized restriction on the RM865 permit has not been met.

The original intent was to align the restriction with the Alaska DNR code 11 AAC 96.020 (a) (1) (E), which allows hunters to use "a recreational-type off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler, on or off an established road easement if use of the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion.

These OHVs used by moose hunters during falls 2006 – 2011 to access the Mosquito Flats are

heavily loaded, with curb weights well in excess of 1,500 pounds, especially when coming out with a moose. In addition, the OVHs venturing onto the Mosquito Flats clearly violated DNR code by breaking through the vegetative layer (ground disturbance) along their entire route of travel, which caused ruts visible from thousands of feet in the air that will certainly lead to thermal erosion. These hunters clearly violated the intent of the Motorized Vehicle Use Restriction in the RM865 hunt conditions. But due to the wording of the hunt condition, AWT have been unable to enforce it.

It is clear that any motorized land vehicle venturing onto the Mosquito Flats, other than in the winter when the ground is frozen, will violate the intent of the Motorized Vehicle Use Restriction in the RM865 hunt conditions. Therefore, the proposed verbiage modification calls for restricting the use of all motorized land vehicles on the Mosquito Flats. However, the proposed changes reduce the overall size of the restriction area so they apply to the most fragile portions of the Mosquito Flats (see attached map with legal description) and exclude ridge tops that are used by the OHVs and the trails that have been historically used in this area by OHVs prior to 2005.

Left unchecked, we feel extensive destruction of this important game habitat area is inevitable. This is an important wintering and calving area for moose, and without proper management of this habitat, we feel it will have a significant negative impact on the Moose population, not to mention other game populations. This is the only large wetland area in Unit 20E, representing about 5% of the total land area in Unit 20E. The majority of the other 95% of Unit 20E is ridges and dry valleys. There is no good reason to allow this currently pristine wetland area to be torn up when they can hunt all the way around Mosquito Flats without destruction of wetlands.

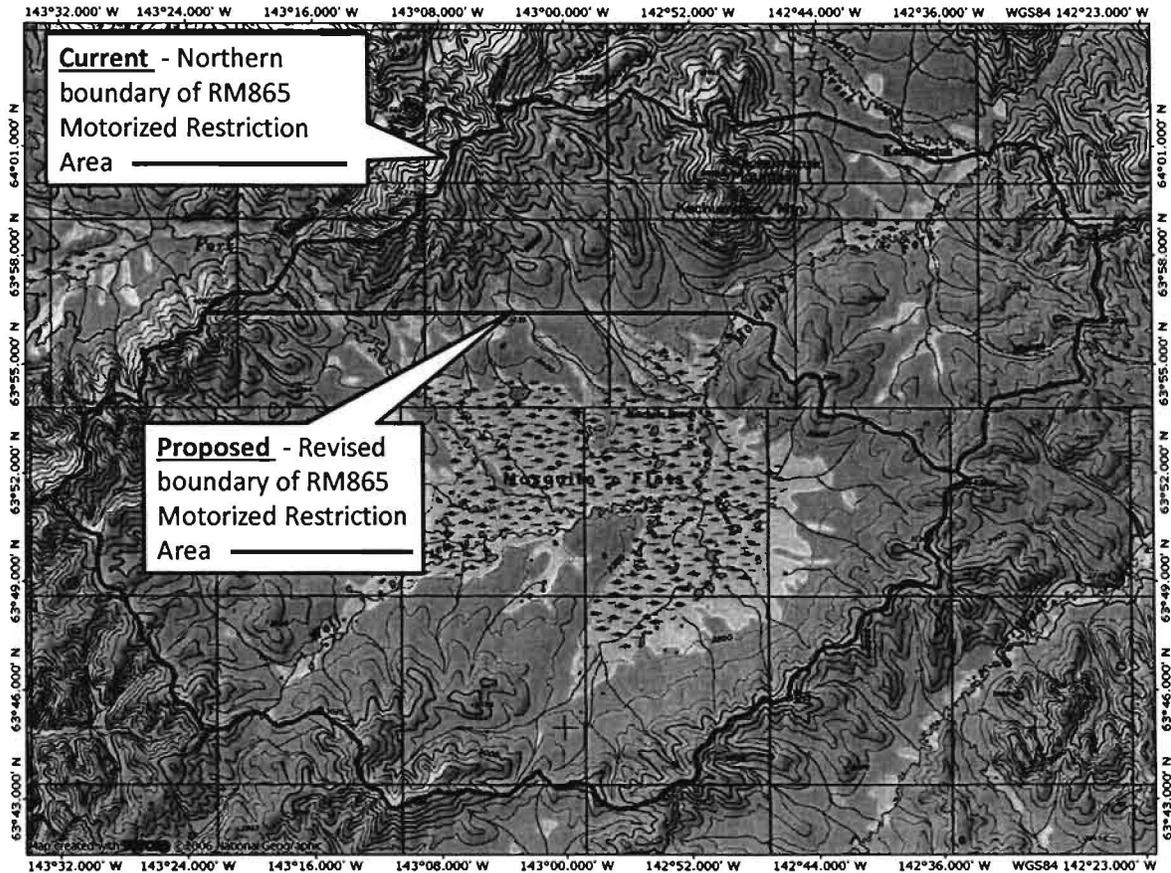
The fires of 2004 burned vast areas in Mosquito Flats, revitalizing this habitat for Moose. However, the underlying permafrost has begun to melt in much of this area, creating an even more fragile vegetative mat. This area has potential to provide great Moose habitat for years to come, but this will not happen if the OHV's destroy the mat before its potential is realized.

While using these OHVs is a violation of Department of Natural Resources regulations because it is a vehicle weighing over 1500 lbs, the State Troopers do not have the authority to enforce DNR regulations.

Therefore, we feel that additional hunting regulations through the registration hunt (RM865) are necessary to address the use of heavily loaded OHVs and ATVs to protect habitat.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and implore you to do something before it's too late.

Terry Brigner- Chairman
Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee



Revised Area description: The area draining into the mainstem of the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River, between GPS coordinates 63° 56.411 N/143° 14.021 W and 63° 56.411 N/142° 49.264 W and south of latitude 63° 56.411 N.





**#137, 138, 139
Resident
Sheep
Hunter
Preference**

1

Region 3 Sheep Proposals

- **#136: Start resident sheep season 7 days earlier than nonresidents' season**

No Recommendation: Allocation

- **#137: Convert nonresident general season to drawing, 15–20% of allowable harvest to nonresidents**
- **#138: Convert all general season to drawing, 90% to residents**
- **#139: Convert nonresident general season to drawing, 5% to nonresidents**

2

109

Advisory Committee Votes

	Prop. 136	Prop. 137	Prop. 138	Prop. 139
Fairbanks	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
Middle Nenana	Adopt		Adopt	
Upper Tanana-Fortymile	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
Other Advisory Committees did not comment				



Proposal 136

- **Start resident sheep season 7 days earlier than nonresidents' season**
 - Includes:
 - **General & drawing hunts**
 - split seasons of drawing hunts

Proposal #136

•Allocation Issue

- Full-Curl regulation guards against over-harvest.

➤Longer/earlier resident general season

- Separate resident & nonresident hunters.

- Moose examples: Resident seasons start 5 days earlier in much of the Region, including Units 12, 20D, 20E.

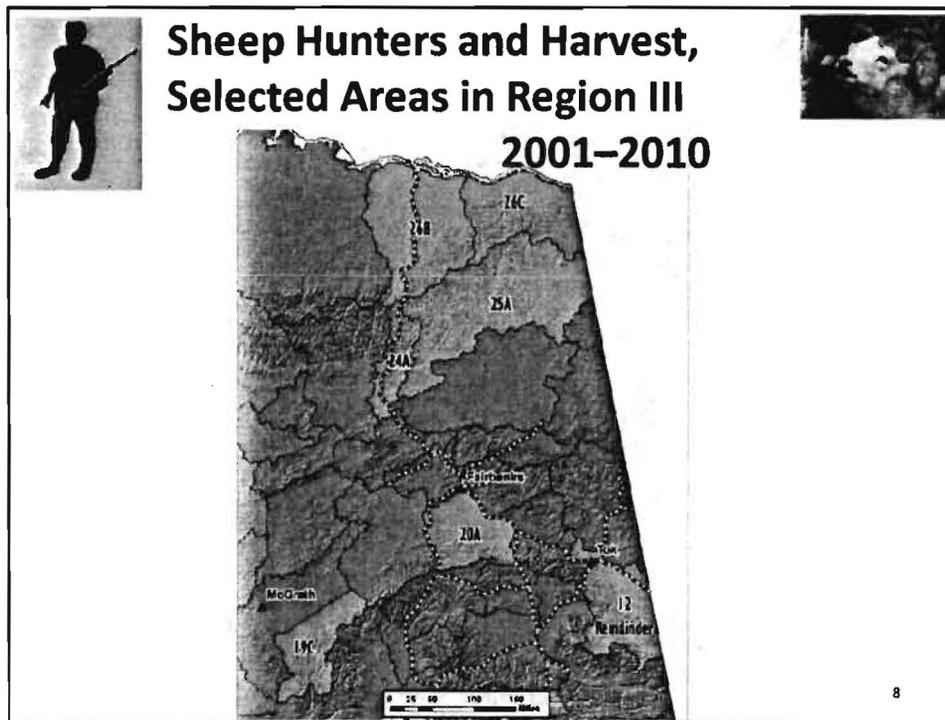
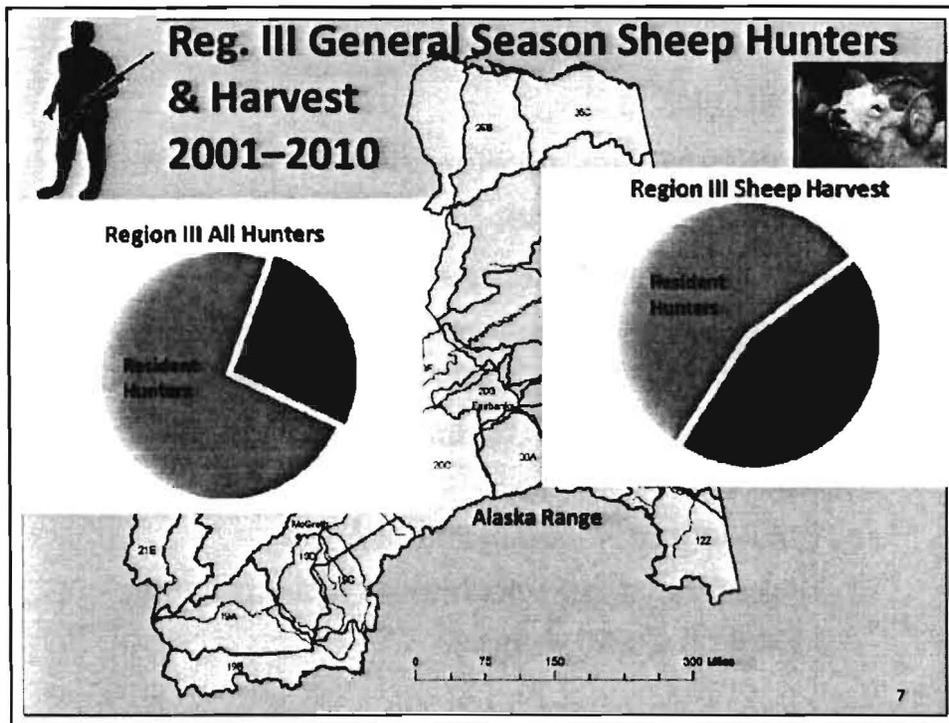
➤Sheep Drawing hunts: Nonresidents limited to 10% of available permits

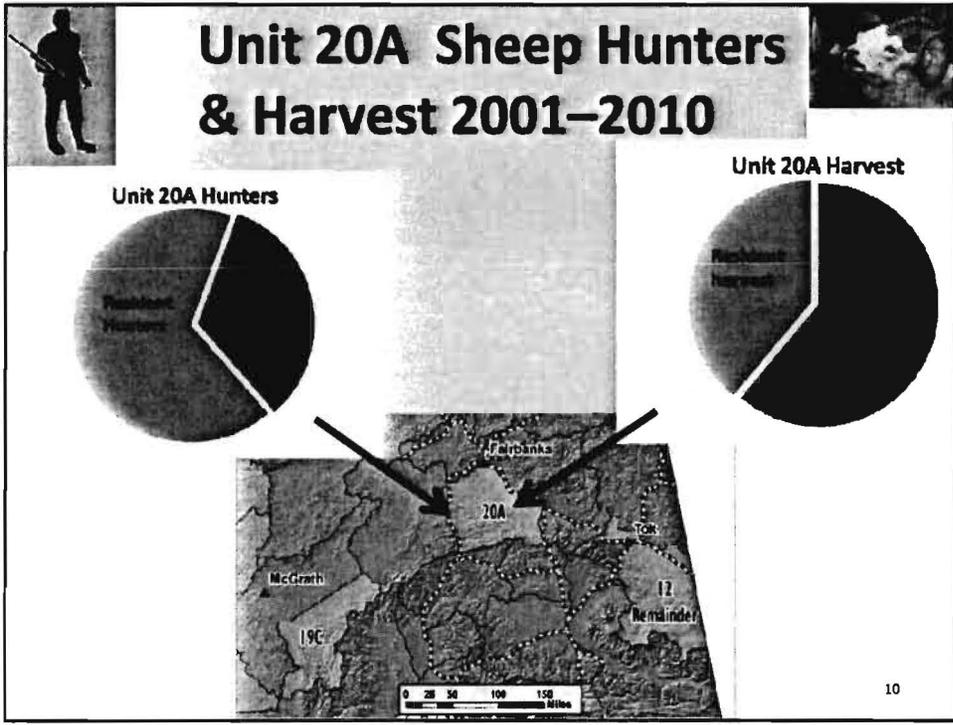
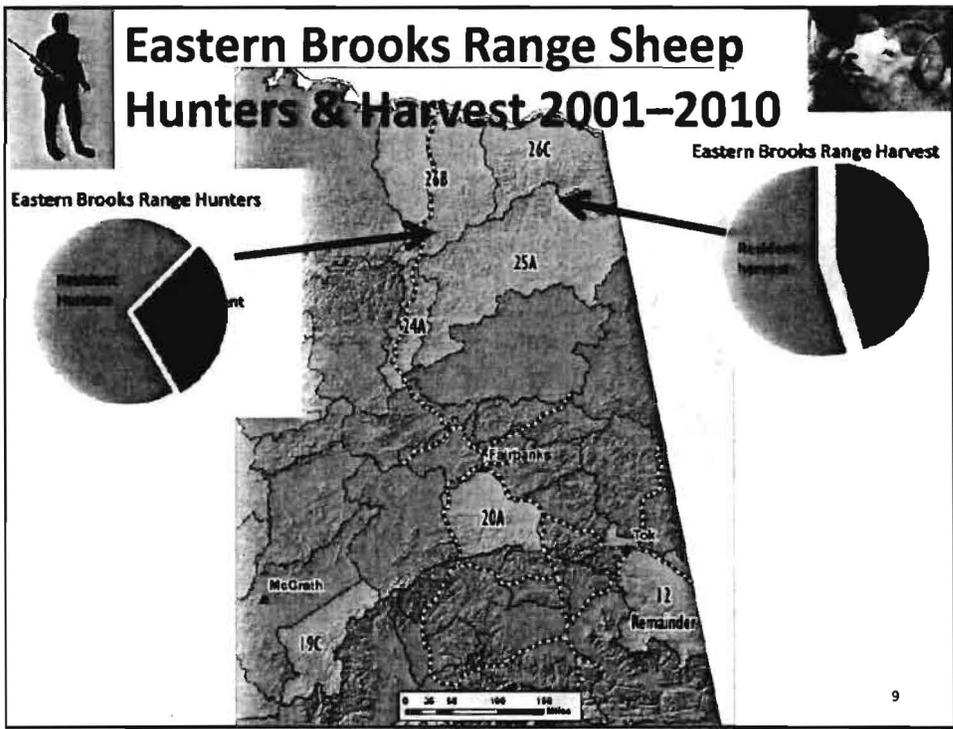
- By regulation (Tok Management Area)

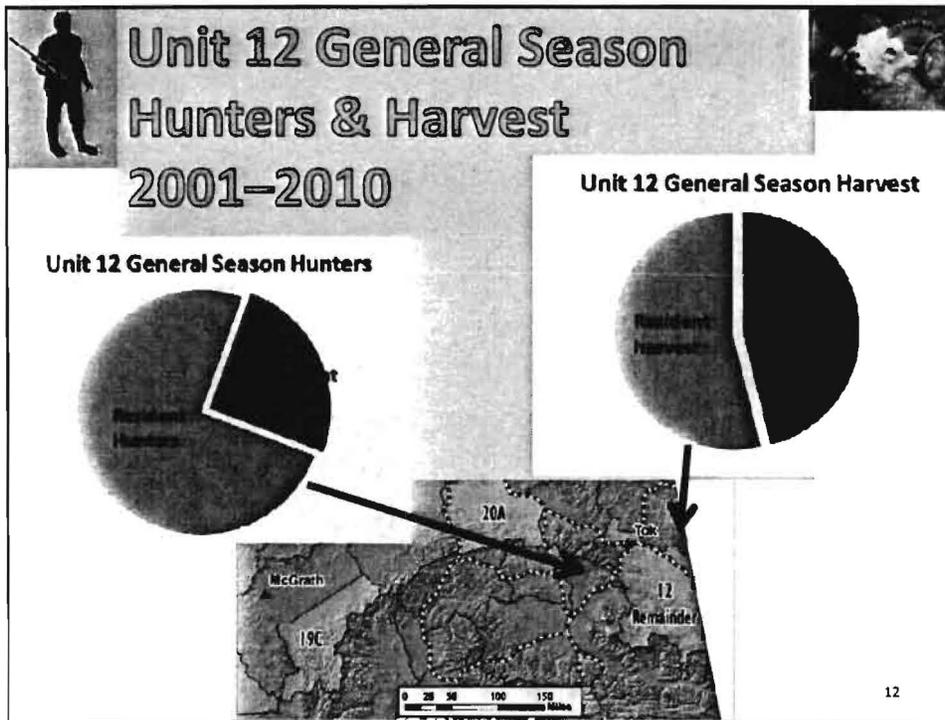
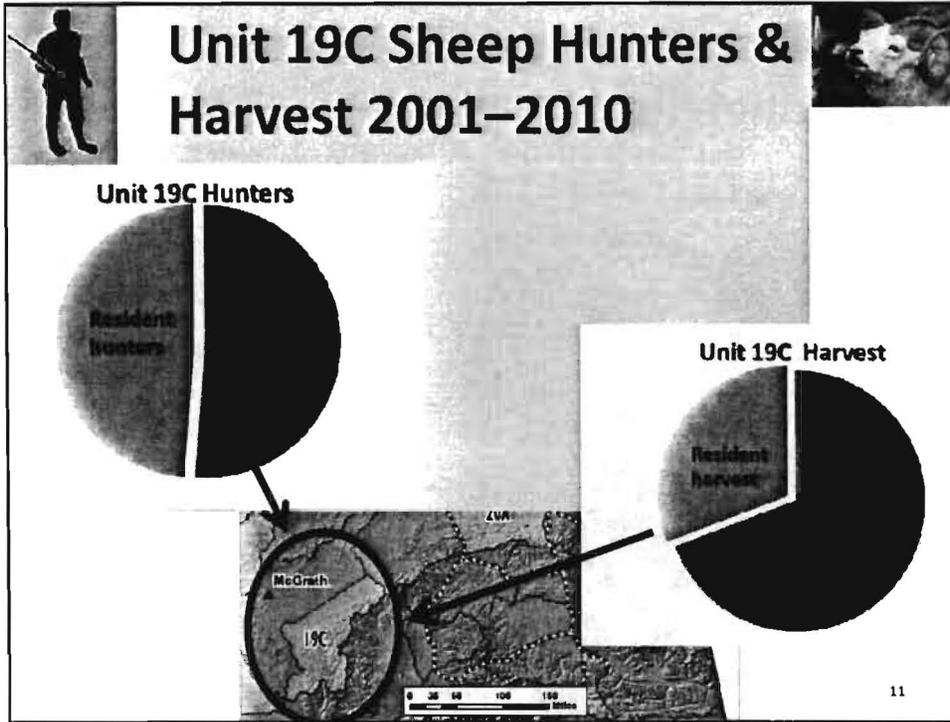
- By make-up of applicants (more residents apply)
(Delta CUA, Mt. Harper)

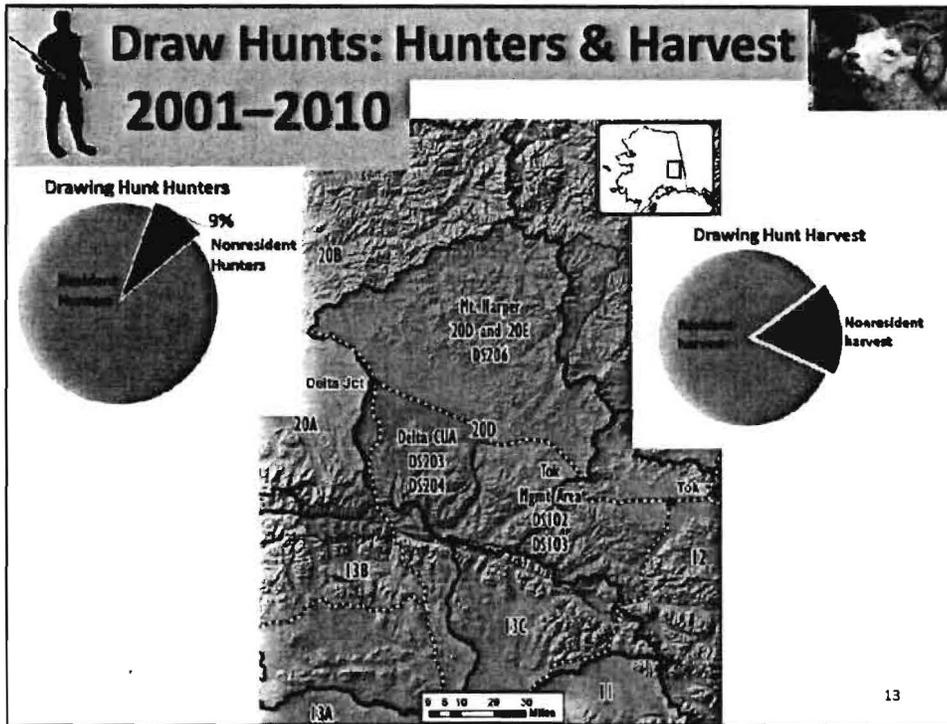
5











Region 3 Sheep Proposals

- #136: Start resident sheep season 7 days earlier than nonresidents' season

No Recommendation: Allocation

Questions?



Proposals 144
**Allow for same-day-airborne hunting of
black bear over bait in Region III.**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

- Currently legal in Units 7, 9–11, 13, 14A, 14B, 15–17, and in any predator control area, provided that the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane (5 AAC92.044).
- Not likely to significantly increase harvest and black bears are currently being harvested far below sustainable yield in Region III

Proposals 144
**Allow for same-day-airborne hunting of
black bear over bait in Region III.**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

- Advisory Committee Votes
 - Delta- Support
 - Eagle- Oppose
 - Fairbanks- Support
 - Upper Tanana- Support

Proposals 144
Allow for same-day-airborne hunting of
black bear over bait in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

- Currently legal in Units 7, 9–11, 13, 14A, 14B, 15–17, and in any predator control area, provided that the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane (5 AAC92.044).
- Not likely to significantly increase harvest and black bears are currently being harvested far below sustainable yield in Region III

Proposals 146
Open year-round coyote hunting and
trapping seasons in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- Not likely to significantly increase harvest
- Not likely to affect region-wide coyote or prey densities
- Hides are very poor quality during the summer
- Could create incidental take issues with other predators, scavengers, and pets
- Current harvest below sustainable limits
- Hunting in summer is possible without incidental take

Proposals 146
Open year-round coyote hunting and
trapping seasons in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

•Advisory Committee Votes

- Eagle- Support
- Middle Nenana- Support
- Fairbanks- Support
- Upper Tanana- Support

Proposals 146
Open year-round coyote hunting and
trapping seasons in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- Not likely to significantly increase harvest
- Not likely to affect region-wide coyote or prey densities
- Hides are very poor quality during the summer
- Could create incidental take issues with other predators, scavengers, and pets
- Current harvest below sustainable limits
- Hunting in summer is possible without incidental take

Proposals 147
Allow the use of helicopters for access
to trapping in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

- Allocation issue
- Use of helicopters would expand the areas that trappers could access
- Other regulations prohibit harassment of furbearers and same day airborne take of furbearers.

Proposals 147
Allow the use of helicopters for access
to trapping in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

•Advisory Committee Votes

- Delta- Oppose
- Middle Nenana- Oppose
- Fairbanks- Support
- Yukon Flats- Oppose

Proposals 147

Allow the use of helicopters for access to trapping in Region III.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

- Allocation issue
- Use of helicopters would expand the areas that trappers could access
- Other regulations prohibit harassment of furbearers and same day airborne take of furbearers.

Proposals 149

Extend the season for fox, marten, mink, and weasel in Units 12, 20, and 25C to March 15.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- Proposal uses incidental take during the extended lynx season as justification for extending the season for fox, marten, mink, and weasel.
- Trappers who incidentally catch other furbearers in lynx sets must forfeit those animals to the state. Less than 2 per year.
- Does not justify an open trapping season for fox, marten, mink, and weasel after February. Poor hides, conservation issues
- 4-month season exists for fox, marten, mink, and weasel in this area, which represents a significant opportunity

Proposals 149

Extend the season for fox, marten, mink, and weasel in Units 12, 20, and 25C to March 15.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

- Harvestable surplus is lowest at the end of the season.
- Marten are susceptible to overharvest, especially near urban centers. Much of the area covered in this proposal is near urban centers
- Late season fox in these units are often of no value due to rubbing and other fur damage.
- An alternative would be to return the lynx season ending date to the end of February in Units 12, 20, and 25C in order to re-align seasons

Proposals 149

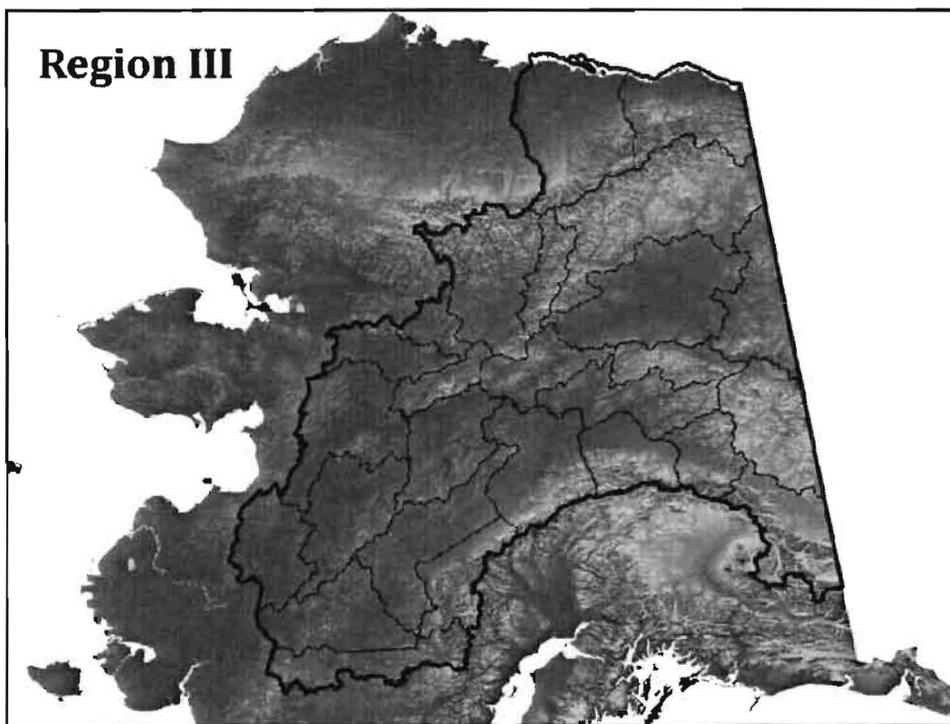
Extend the season for fox, marten, mink, and weasel in Units 12, 20, and 25C to March 15.

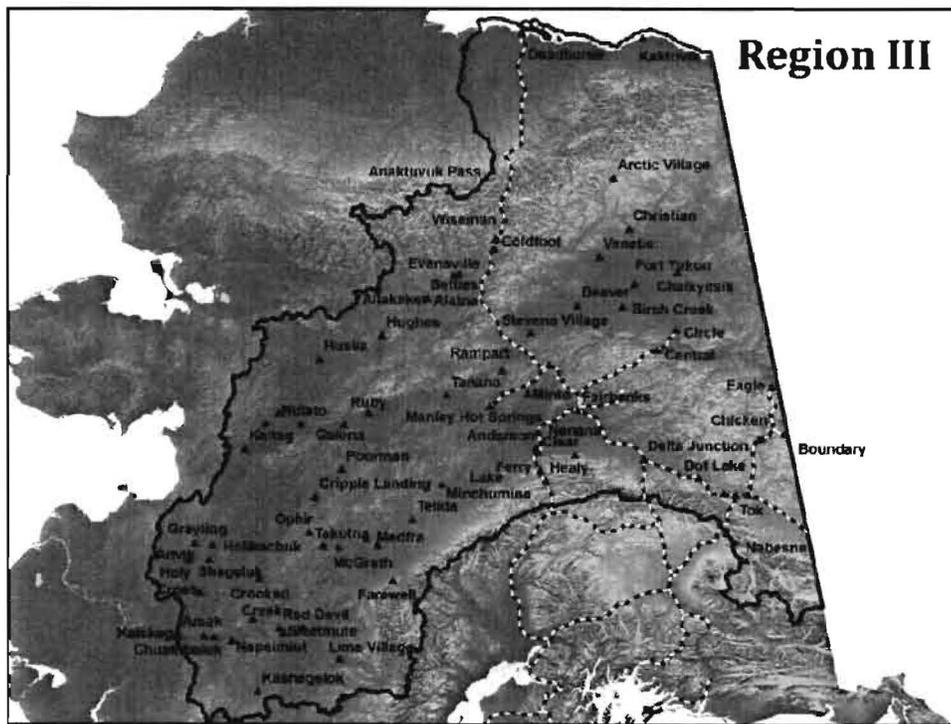
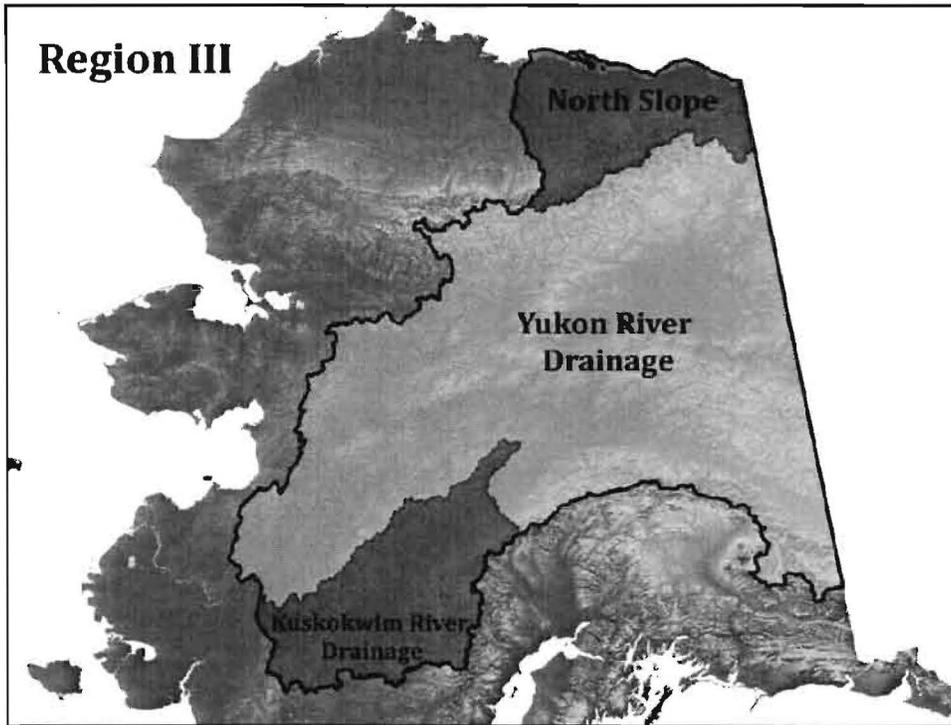
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Adopt

•Advisory Committee Votes

- Delta- Oppose
- Fairbanks- Support
- Upper Tanana- Oppose

**Region III
Division of Wildlife
Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish
& Game**





Fish & Game Advisory Committees (17 total)

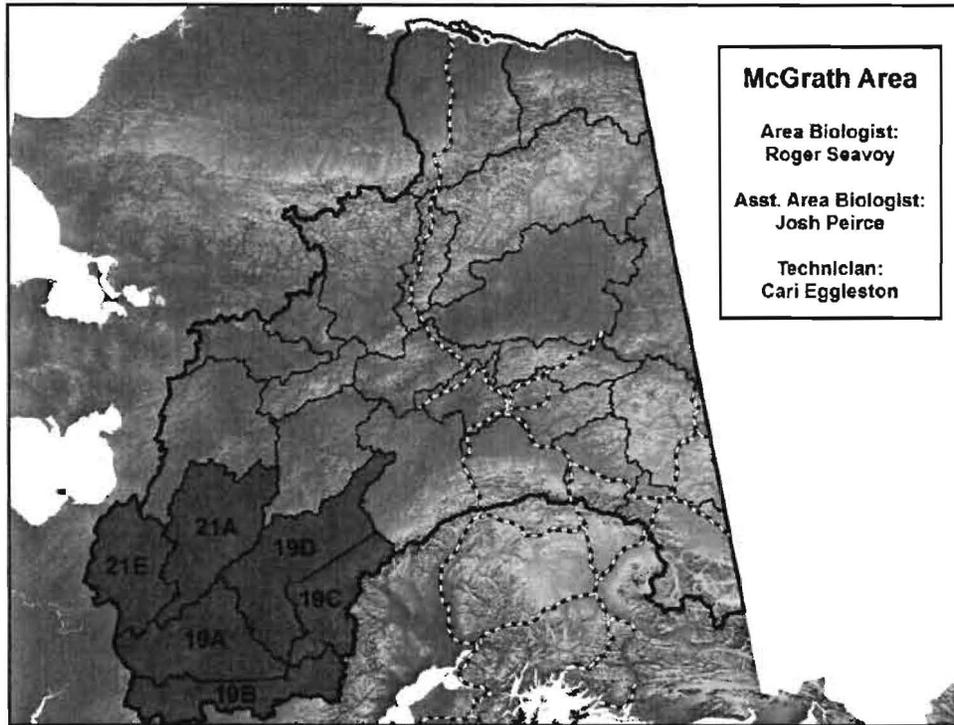
- Central
- Central Kuskokwim
- Delta
- Eagle
- Fairbanks
- GASH
- Koyukuk River
- McGrath
- Middle Nenana
- Middle Yukon
- Minto-Nenana
- Northslope
- Ruby
- Stony-Holitna
- Tanana-Rampart-Manley
- Upper Tanana / Fortymile
- Yukon Flats

Management Branch Region III

Roy Nowlin, Management Coordinator

- Area Offices
- Frontline
- Management Support





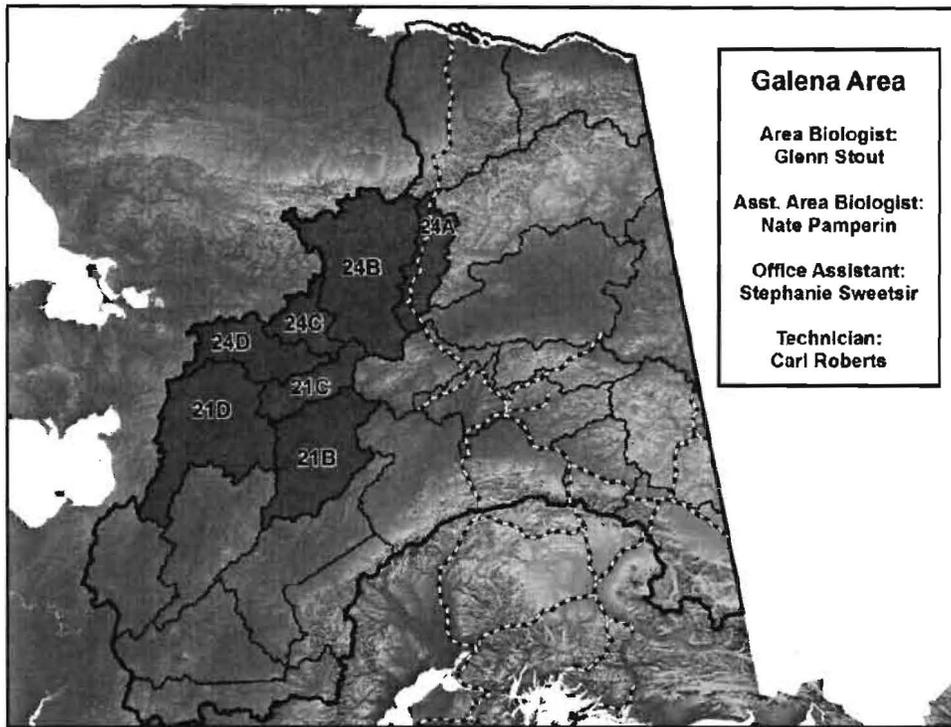
McGrath Office



Josh Peirce
Asst. Area Biologist



Roger Seavoy
Area Biologist



Galena Area

Area Biologist:
Glenn Stout

Asst. Area Biologist:
Nate Pamperin

Office Assistant:
Stephanie Sweetsir

Technician:
Carl Roberts

Galena Area



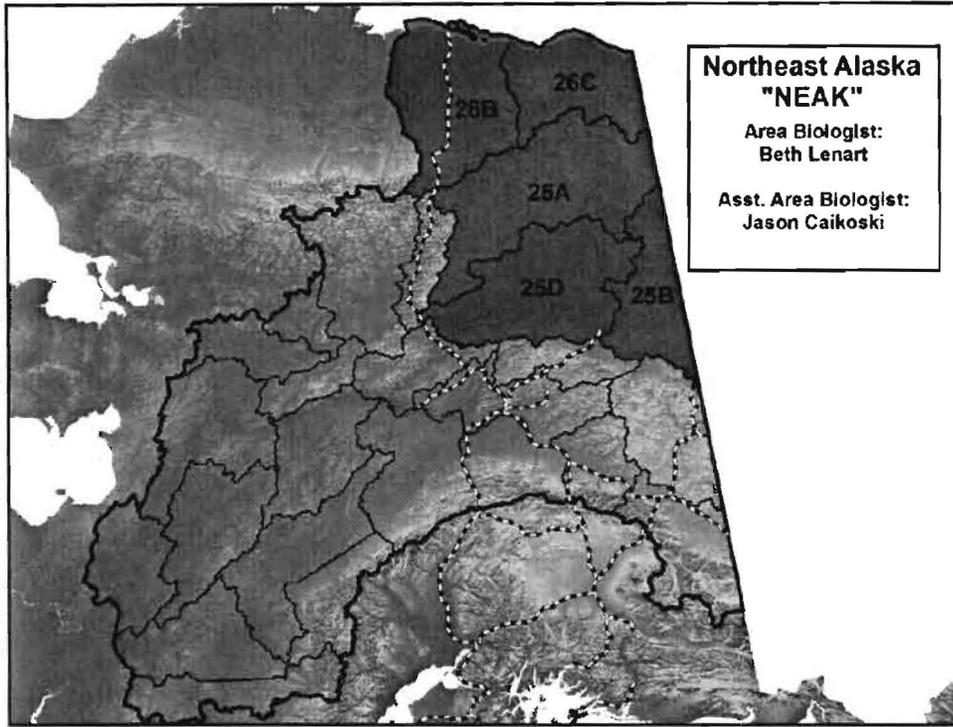
Glenn Stout
Area Biologist



Carl Roberts
Galena Area
Tech

Nate Pamperin
Asst. Area
Biologist





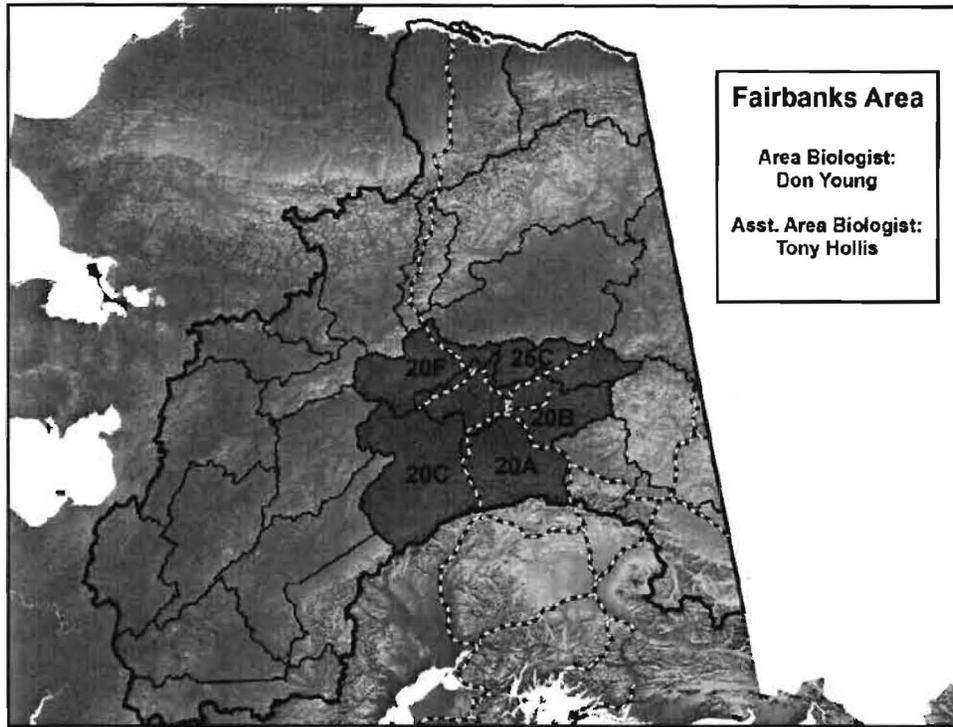
North East Area



Beth Lenart
Area Biologist



Jason Caikoski
Asst. Area Biologist



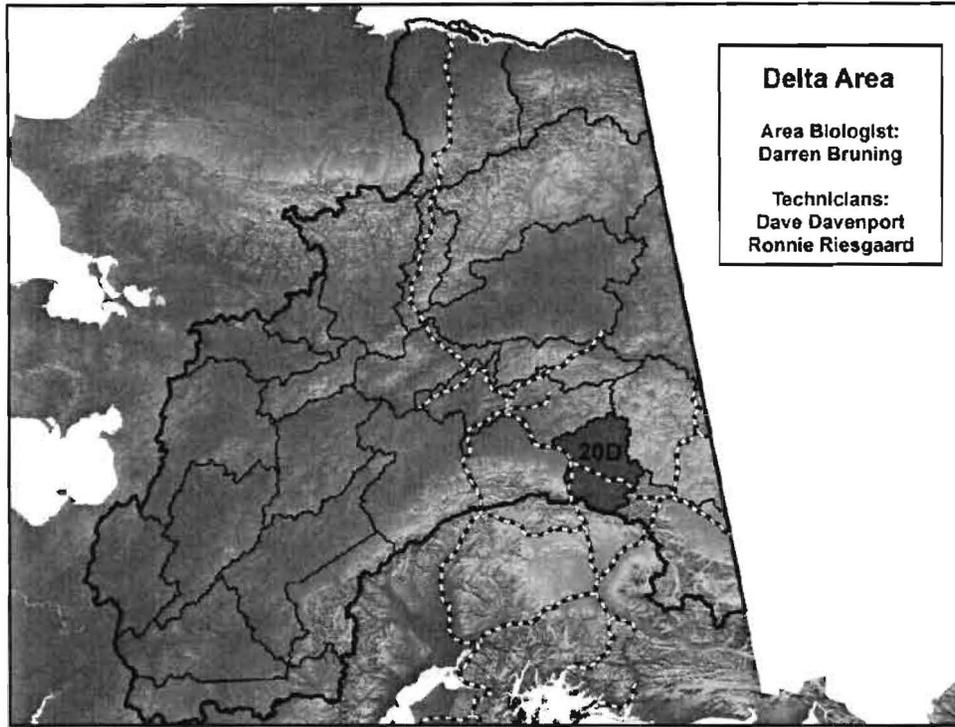
Fairbanks Area



Don Young
Area Biologist



Tony Hollis
Asst. Area Biologist



Delta Office

Darren Bruning
Area Biologist



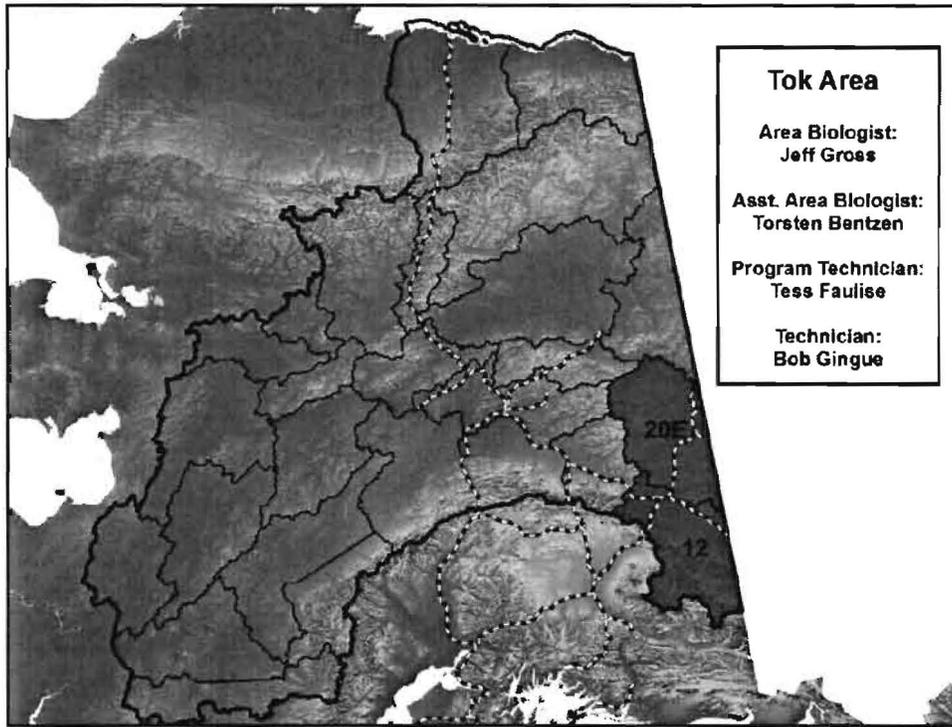
Ron Riesgaard
Delta Bison Tech



Dave Davenport
Delta Tech



This section is titled 'Delta Office' and features three individuals. On the left is a photograph of Darren Bruning, an Area Biologist, standing in a light-colored jacket and dark pants. To his right are two smaller photographs. The top one shows Ron Riesgaard, a Delta Bison Tech, standing in a field with a camera on a tripod. The bottom one shows Dave Davenport, a Delta Tech, sitting in a small boat on a body of water.



Tok Office



Jeff Gross
Area Biologist



Torsten Bentzen
Asst. Area Biologist



Bob Gingue Tok Area Tech



Tess Faulise
Tok Program Tech

Fairbanks Frontline



**Carl Roberts, Cam Carroll,
Melissa Smith**
Fairbanks Frontline Techs



Jackie Kephart
Frontline Supervisor

Management Support



Doreen Parker McNeill
Asst. Management Coordinator



Cathie Harms
Regional Program Manager

Management Support



Jessica Mitchell
Statistics Tech



Rob DeLong
Analyst Programmer



Rita St Louis
Wildlife Planner

Research Branch Region III

- **Scott Brainerd**
 - Research project leaders
 - Research support



Research Staff



Kalin Seaton
Research Biologist



Tom Paragi
Research Biologist

Research Staff



Mark Keech
Research Biologist



Craig Gardner
Research Biologist

Research Staff



Steve Arthur
Research Biologist



Dick Shideler
Research Biologist

Research Staff



Rodney Boertje
Research Biologist

Research Support



Brian Taras
Biometrician



Laura McCarthy
Publications Technician

Wildlife Diversity Staff



Travis Booms
Wildlife Diversity Biologist

Wood Bison Staff



Bob Stephenson
Wood Bison Biologist



Tom Seaton
Wood Bison Biologist

Veterinary Services Staff



Kimberly Beckman
Wildlife Veterinarian



Stephanie Crawford
Veterinary Technician

Creamer's Field Refuge Staff



Laurie Boeck
Creamer's Field Refuge Biologist



Mark Ross
Creamer's Field Refuge Educator

Wildlife Education and Outreach

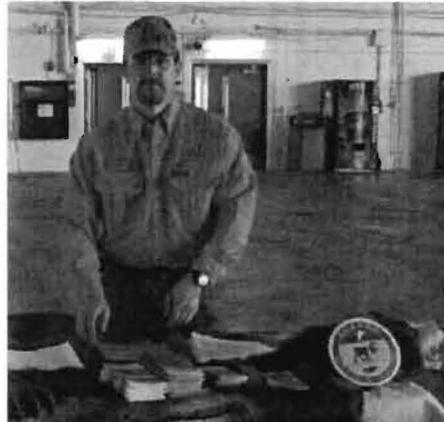


Mike Taras
Wildlife Educator

Hunter Education



Bob Hunter
HIT Coordinator



Ray Johnson
HIT Tech

Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range Staff



John Wyman
Range Manager



Tom Halverson
Range Tech



Ryan Baum
Range Tech

Administrative Services Region III



**Tamara Johnston-Nile, Dawn Wood, Brenda Viers, Betsy Torres,
Wendy Blakeman**

Current Funding Region III

- Current budget: ~\$8.0 mil
Does not include Marine Mammals or
Veterinary Services

Current Funding Region III

- Current budget: ≈\$8.0 mil
Does not include Marine Mammals or
Veterinary Services
- \$3.1 operational

Current Funding Region III

- Current budget: ≈\$8.0 mil
Does not include Marine Mammals or
Veterinary Services
- \$3.1 operational
- \$4.9 personnel

Current Funding Region III

- Current budget: ≈\$8.0 mil
Does not include Marine Mammals or
Veterinary Services
- \$3.1 operational
- \$4.9 personnel
- 39% operation

Current Funding Region III

- Pittman-Robertson: \$5.2 (federal, F&G Fund)

Current Funding Region III

- Pittman-Robertson: \$5.2 (federal)
- State Wildlife Grant: \$0.2 (federal)

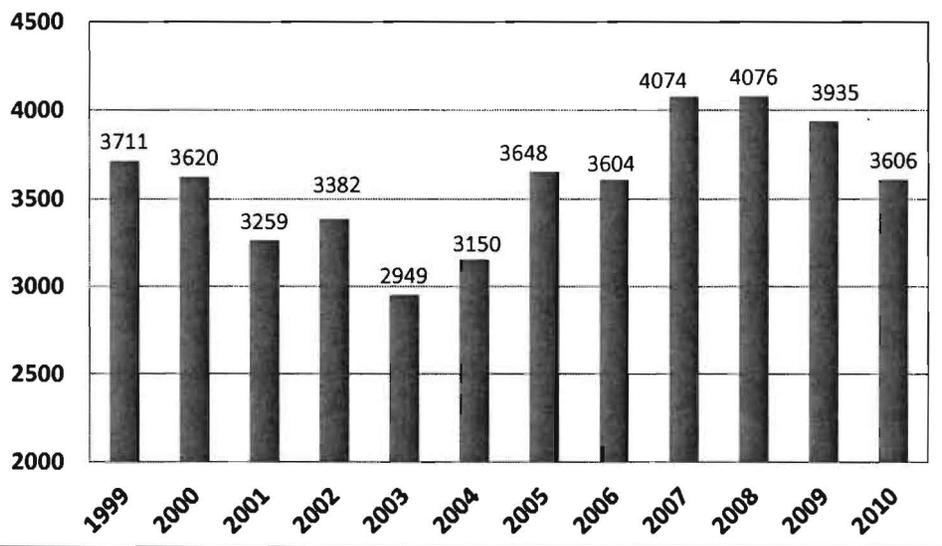
Current Funding Region III

- Pittman-Robertson: \$5.2 (federal)
- State Wildlife Grant: \$0.2 (federal)
- General Fund: \$1.7 (state)

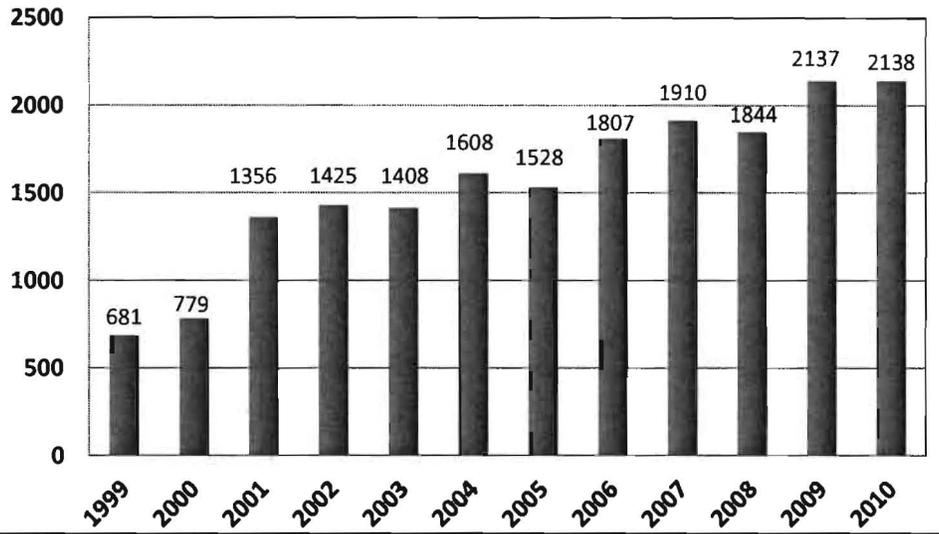
Current Funding Region III

- Pittman-Robertson: \$5.2 (federal)
- State Wildlife Grant: \$0.2 (federal)
- General Fund: \$1.7 (state)
- “Soft Money”: \$0.7 (various)

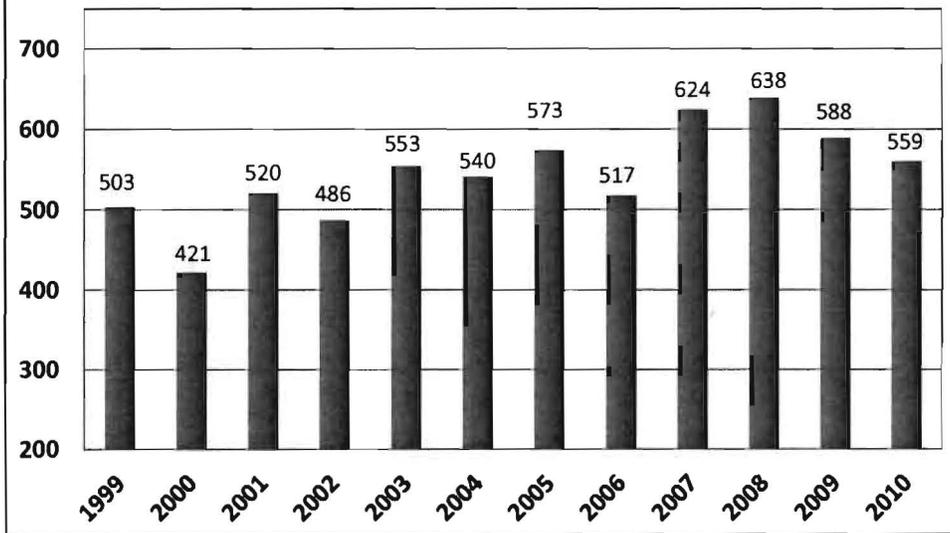
Region III Moose Harvest 1999-2010

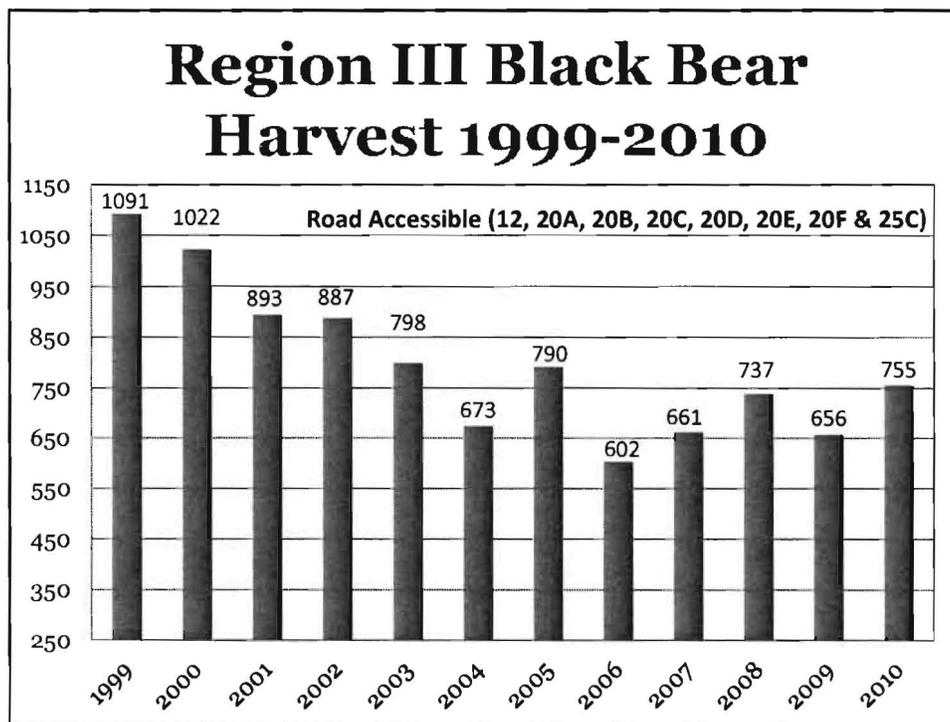
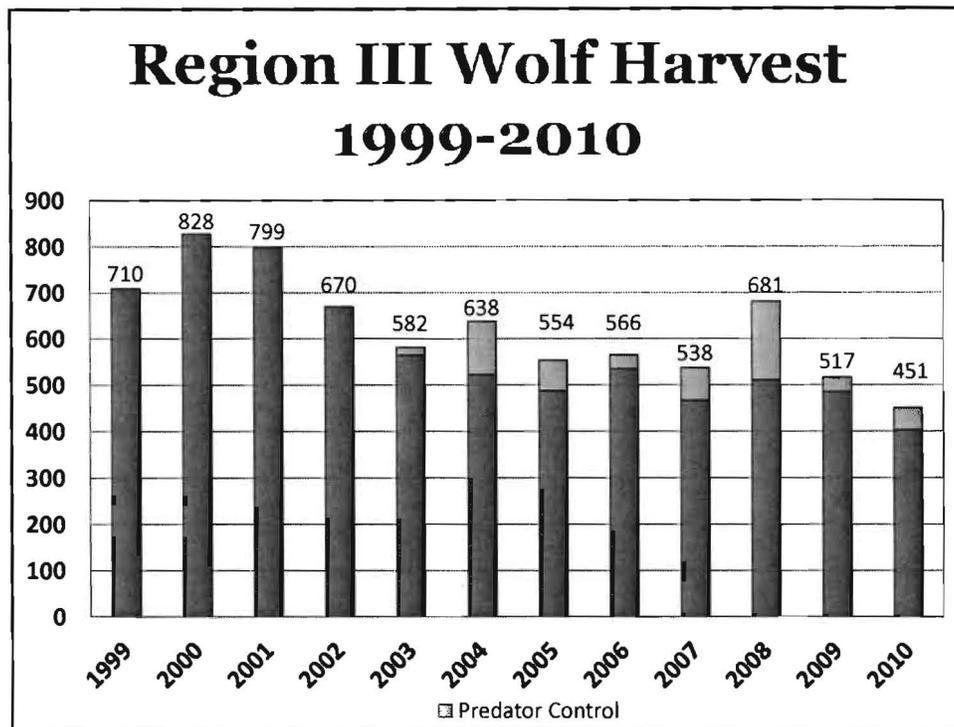


Region III Caribou Harvest 1999-2010

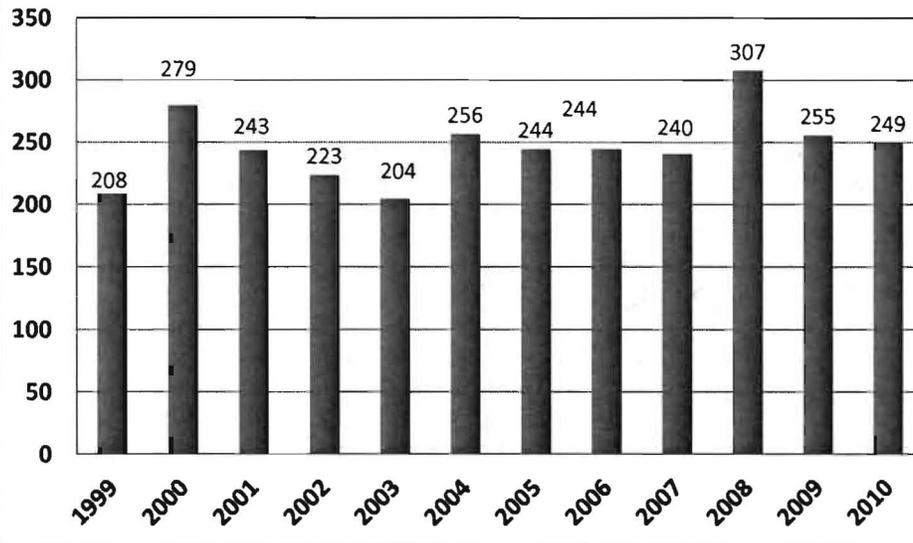


Region III Sheep Harvest 1999-2010

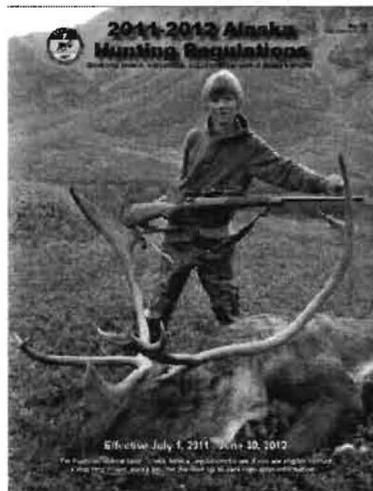




Region III Grizzly Bear Harvest 1999-2010



Regulatory Proposal Highlights



Research Program



Board of Game Process



Wood Bison



Delta Bison



Forty-Mile Caribou Harvest Plan & Management



Muskox Recovery Project



Intensive Management





Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH)
Harvest Management



FCH Population & Harvest

- **Population Objective**
 - Currently herd at ~51,000
 - IM Objective = 50,000-100,000
- **Harvest Objective**
 - Currently at 1000 (up to 25% cows)
 - **Low end of the IM Objective**
 - IM Objective = 1,000-15,000

Current Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan

- Guide Harvest Management 2006-2012
- Primary goal = *HERD GROWTH*
- Secondary goal = Increase harvest when herd grows.

2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

- Total international harvest
 - 2-3%
- Alaska
 - 65% of total annual herd quota
- Yukon
 - 35% of total annual herd quota
 - *Little Harvest* in Yukon to-date
 - Primarily back to herd growth

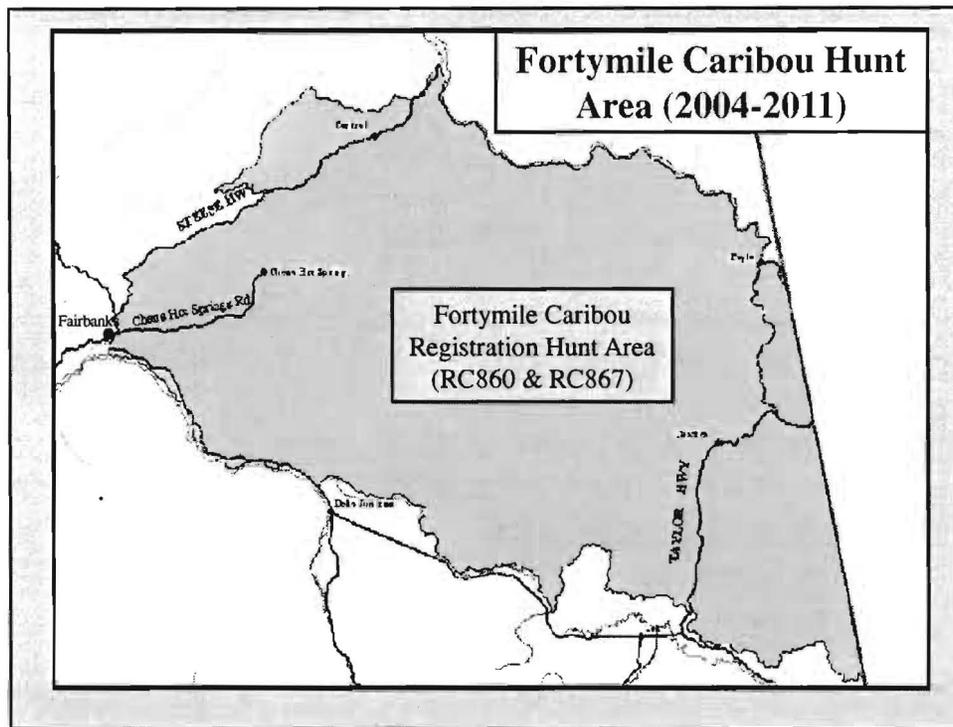


2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

- **Annual Alaska Harvest Quota**
 - Maintain quota at 850 ($\pm 15\%$) until the herd reaches 50,000 (pre-calving) **(2006-2010)**
 - Maximum of 25% cow harvest
 - Increase quota to 1,000 ($\pm 15\%$) once the herd reaches 50,000 (pre-calving) **(2011)**
 - Maximum of 25% cow harvest
- **Information/educational** Use I&E programs to encourage hunters to harvest bulls during either sex hunts
- **Federally qualified hunters**
 - 100 caribou cumulative harvest (all seasons)
 - includes all successful hunters who live in federally qualified communities

Quota Allocation (Alaska)

- **Fall Hunt** is traditionally the main hunt.
 - 75% of annual Alaska quota
 - Resident & non-resident hunting
- **Winter Hunt** is traditionally limited to Alaskans only
 - 25% of annual Alaska quota

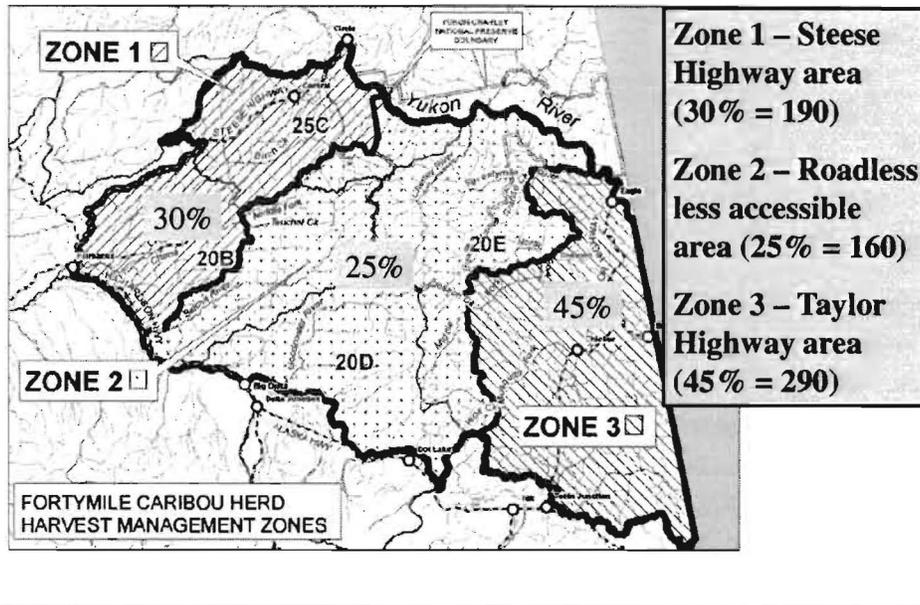


2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

- Hunt structure

- Joint State/Federal Registration Hunt (Alaska)
- 3-day reporting period for successful hunters
- Seasons can be closed by EO if quota reached

Fall Quota Allocation (Alaska)



2006–2009 Fall Hunt (All Zones)

- **Residents**
 - Season: August 10-September 30
 - Bag: 1 caribou
- **Nonresidents**
 - Season: August 10-September 20
 - Bag: 1 bull

Fall Hunt (2010-2011) Interim Regulations

- **Purpose of Interim Regulations:**
 - To bring harvest management back under control following 2009 season
 - Increase hunter opportunity (*season length*)
 - Minimize likelihood of heavy roadside harvest
- **Residents**
 - Season:
 - Zone 1 & 3: **August 29** – September 30
 - Zone 2: August 10-September 30
 - Bag: **1 bull**
- **Nonresidents**
 - Season:
 - Zone 1 & 3: **August 29** – September 20
 - Zone 2: August 10-September 20
 - Bag: 1 bull

2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

- **Winter quota allocation**
 - **60%** should be allocated to the road accessible zone (either **Zone 1** or **Zone 3**) where the majority of the herd is located immediately prior to the opening of the winter season
 - **Zone 2** should be included in the in the hunt area that is allocated the 60% portion of the quota
 - **40%** of the quota should be assigned to the remaining zone

Quota Allocation & Harvest

	RY04 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY05 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY06 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY07 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY08 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY09 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY10 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY11 Quota /Harvest (Days)
Zone 1 RC860 (Stees/Chena)	230/99 (52 days)	230/39 (52 days)	190/42 (52 days)	190/43 (52 days)	190/204 (5 days)	190/276 (3 days)	190/93 (28 days)	225/228 (5 days)
Zone 2 RC860 (Roadless)	90/123 (52 days)	90/151 (22 days)	160/135 (52 days)	160/148 (52 days)	160/199 (44 days)	160/163 (40 days)	160/137 (52 days)	185/135 (53 days)
Zone 3 RC860 (Taylor)	320/308 (52 days)	320/282 (10 days)	290/305 (8 days)	290/409 (4 days)	290/315 (7 days)	290/601 (3 days)	290/226 (33 days)	340/468 (5 days)
TOTAL Fall Quota	640/530	640/472	640/482	640/600	640/718	1033/1057	600/454	750/831
Zone 1 RC867 (Stees/Chena)	200*/178 (91 days)	151*/4 (90 days)	224*/221 (9 days)	148*/274 (2 days)	85*/139 (4 days)	3 (Fed Hunt Only)	205/209 (74 days)	147/150 (90 days)
Zone 3 RC867 (Taylor)	135*/141 (3 days)	227*/261 (90 days)	149*/148 (14 days)	99*/135 (1 days)	56*/51 (1 days)	23 (Fed Hunt Only)	135/56 (117 days)	59/100 (90 days)
TOTAL Winter Quota	335*/315	378*/265	372*/369	247*/409	141*/190	50/26	340/265	250/No Data
ANNUAL QUOTA	850	850	850	850	850	1033	755	1000
Annual Harvest	845	737	851	1009	908	1083	719	831-Fall Only

* This number is the actual quota, which equals the preseason winter quota allocation plus the unfilled portion of the fall quota that was added to the winter quota.



2006-2012 Harvest Management Plan

• Winter Hunt (2006–2011)

- Season:
 - December 1-February 28 (state)
 - Alaska residents only
- Bag: 1 caribou

Quota Allocation & Harvest

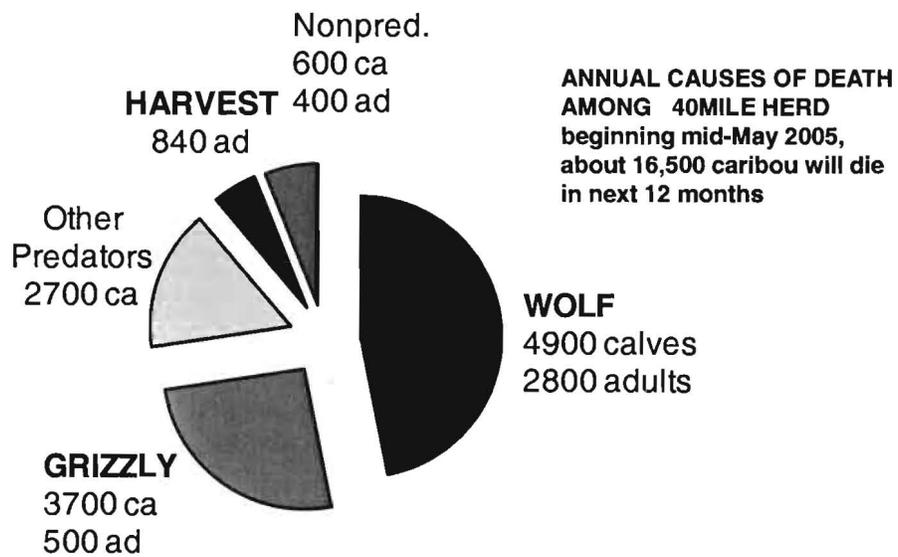
	RY04 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY05 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY06 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY07 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY08 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY09 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY10 Quota /Harvest (Days)	RY11 Quota /Harvest (Days)
Zone 1 RC860 (Steese/Chena)	230/99 (52 days)	230/39 (52 days)	190/42 (52 days)	190/43 (52 days)	190/204 (5 days)	190/276 (3 days)	190/93 (28 days)	225/228 (5 days)
Zone 2 RC860 (Roadless)	90/123 (52 days)	90/151 (22 days)	160/135 (52 days)	160/148 (52 days)	160/199 (44 days)	160/163 (40 days)	160/137 (52 days)	185/135 (53 days)
Zone 3 RC860 (Taylor)	320/308 (52 days)	320/282 (10 days)	290/305 (8 days)	290/409 (4 days)	290/315 (7 days)	290/601 (3 days)	290/226 (33 days)	340/468 (5 days)
TOTAL Fall Quota	640/530	640/472	640/482	640/600	640/718	1033/1057	600/454	750/831
Zone 1 RC867 (Steese/Chena)	200*/178 (91 days)	151*/4 (90 days)	224*/221 (9 days)	148*/274 (2 days)	85*/139 (4 days)	3 (Fed Hunt Only)	205/209 (74 days)	147/150 (90 days)
Zone 3 RC867 (Taylor)	135*/141 (3 days)	227*/261 (90 days)	149*/148 (14 days)	99*/135 (1 days)	56*/51 (1 days)	23 (Fed Hunt Only)	135/56 (117 days)	59/100 (90 days)
TOTAL Winter Quota	335*/315	378*/265	372*/369	247*/409	141*/190	50/26	340/265	250/No Data
ANNUAL QUOTA	850	850	850	850	850	1033	755	1000
Annual Harvest	845	737	851	1009	908	1083	719	831-Fall Only

* This number is the actual quota, which equals the pre-season winter quota allocation plus the unfilled portion of the fall quota that was added to the winter quota.

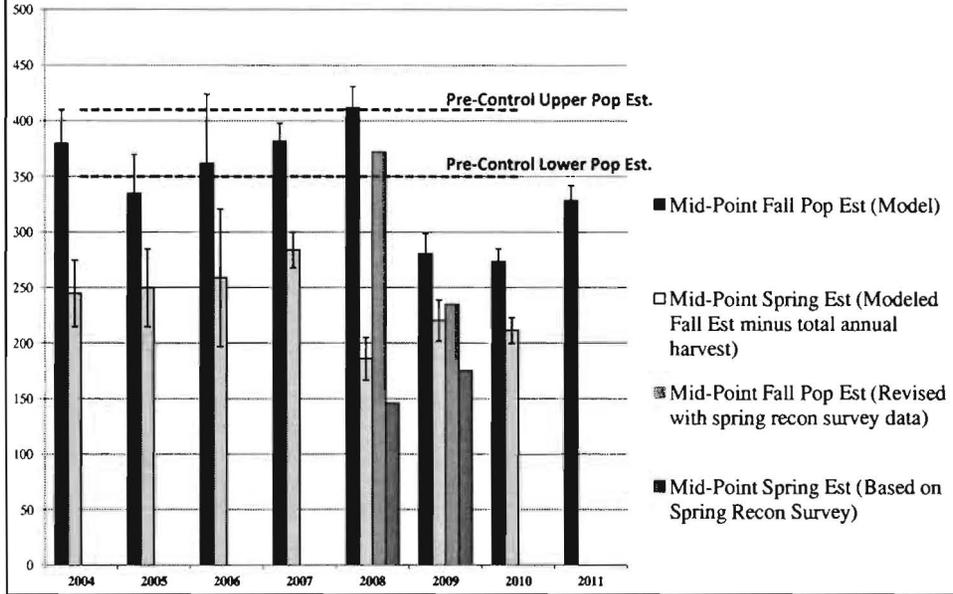
Future Management

- Growth and Harvest potential?

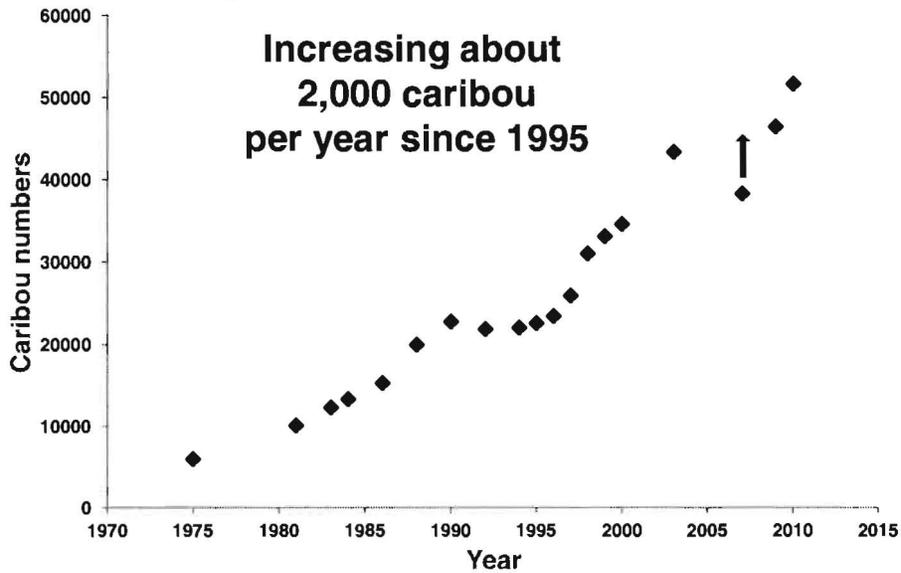
Fortymile Research 1990-2008



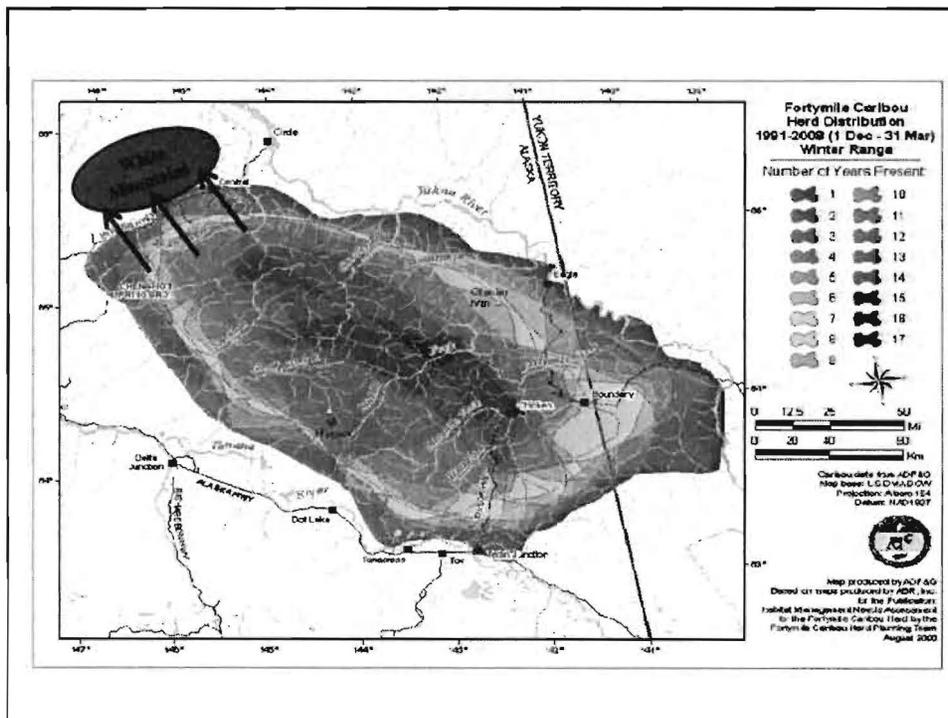
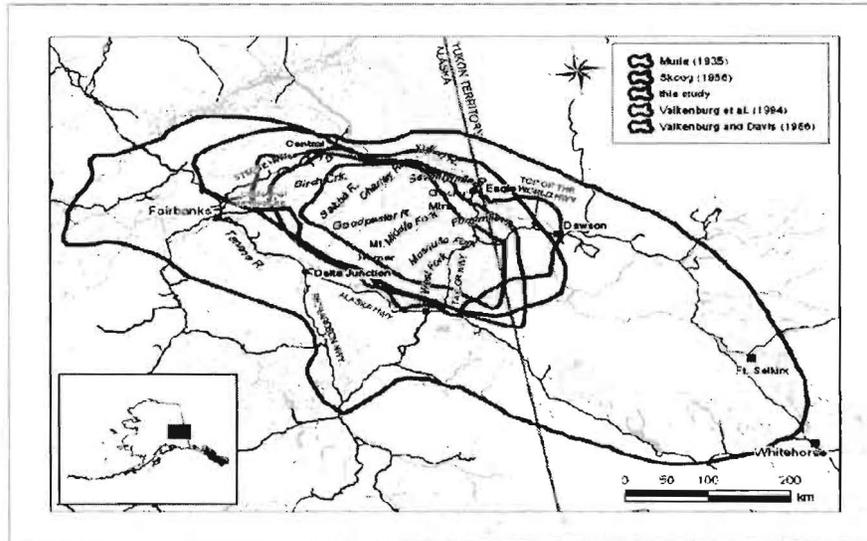
2004-2011 Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Area Wolf Population Estimates



Fortymile caribou numbers



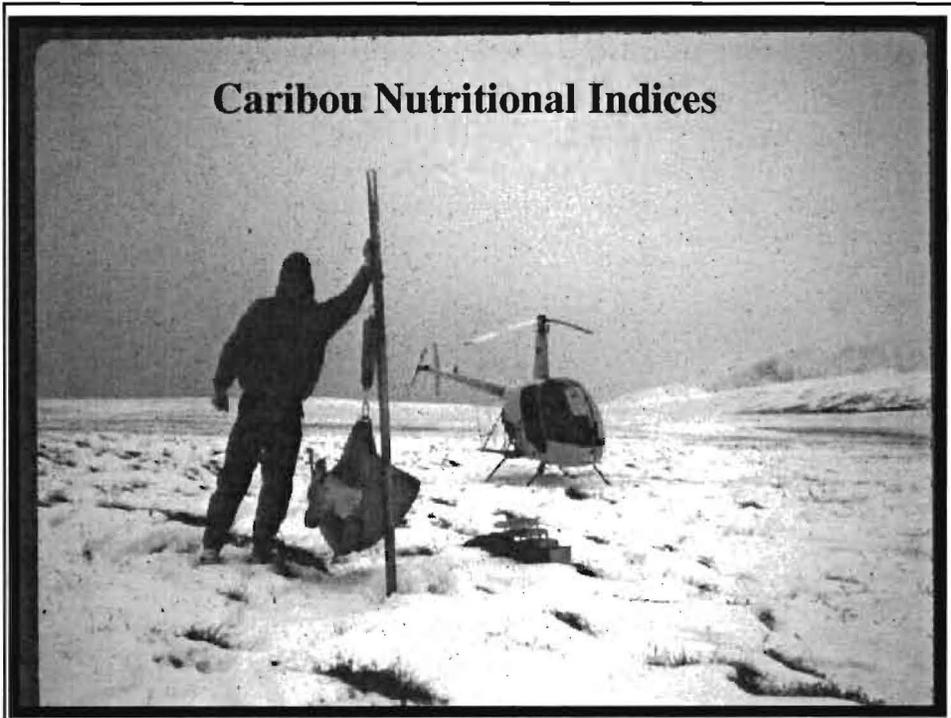
5 Multi-year Ranges of the Fortymile Caribou Herd: Predicting historical herd size

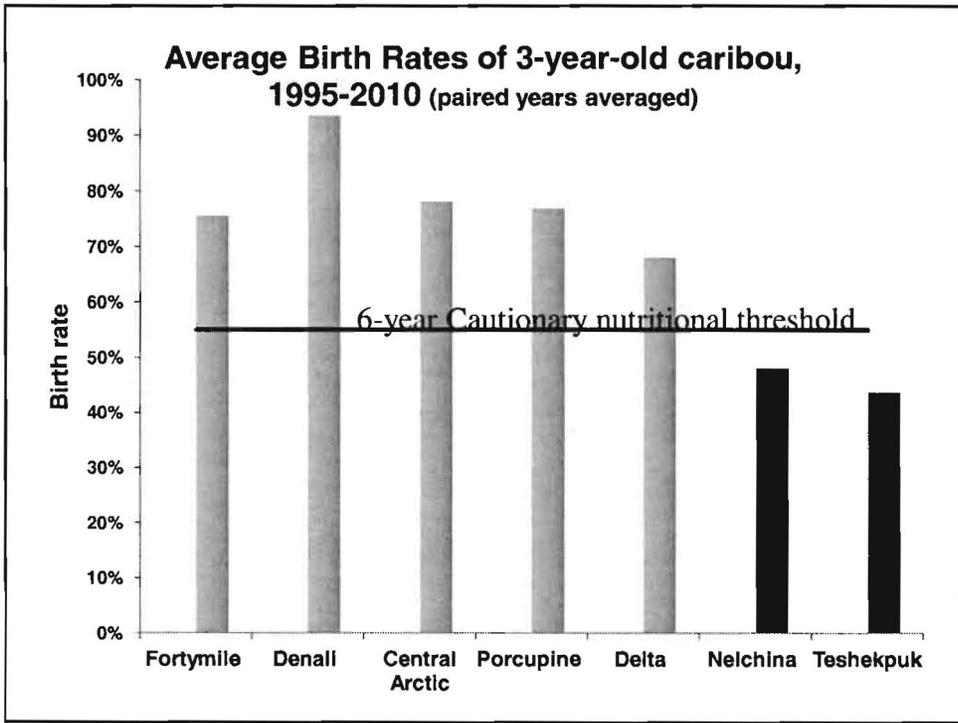
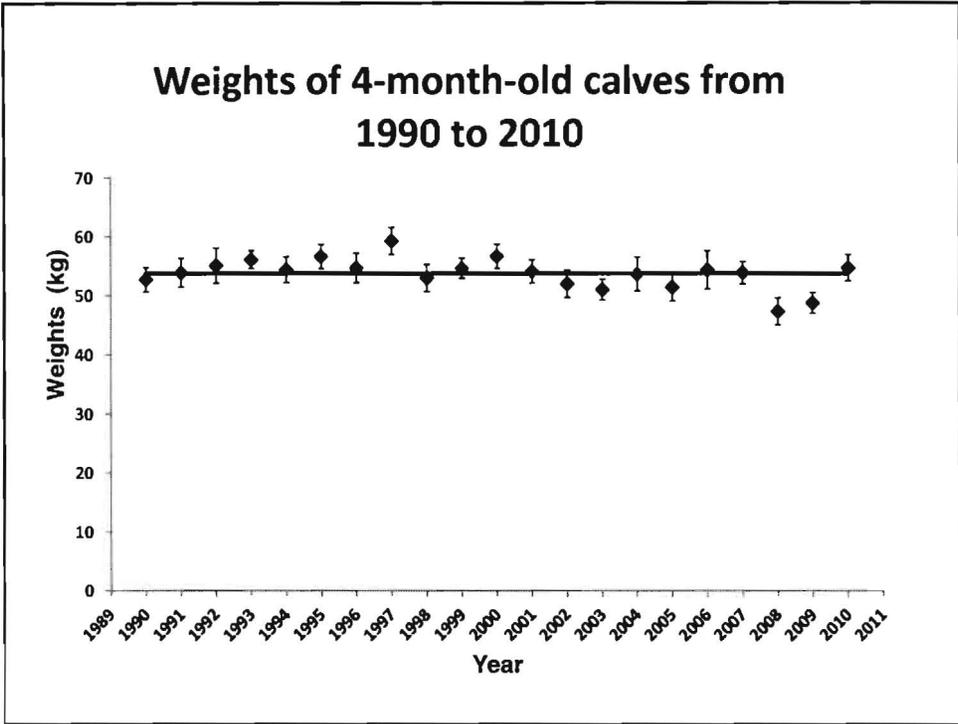


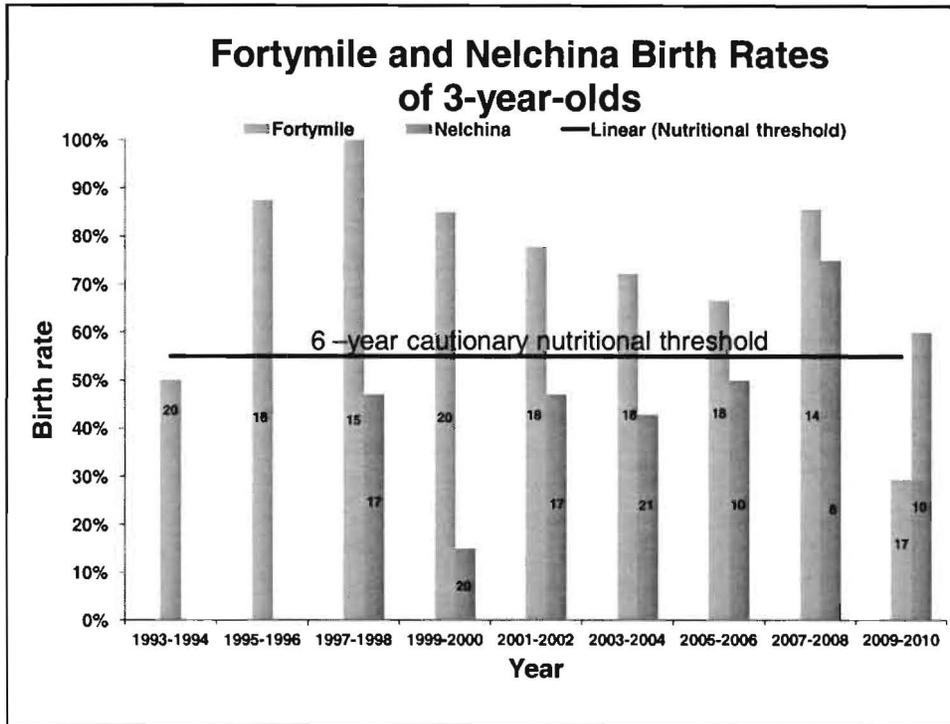
Future Management

- Growth and Harvest potential?
- When to stabilize herd?
 1. Herd Health

Caribou Nutritional Indices







Future Management

- **Growth and Harvest potential?**
- **When to stabilize herd?**
 1. Herd Health
 2. Harvest required to stabilize the herd?
 - **5% to cap herd now**
 - 50,000 caribou @ 5% = 2,500 caribou
 - 100,000 caribou @ 5%? = 5,000 caribou
 - Or perhaps higher? 6-10% = 6,000 – 10,000?
 - Swamp predators?

2012 - 2018 Hunt Management Challenges

- **Fortymile Herd Range Expansion**
 - White Mountains Area
 - Historically used by the Fortymile Herd

2012 - 2018 Hunt Management Challenges

- **Fortymile Herd Range Expansion**
 - White Mountains Area
 - Historically used by the Fortymile Herd
- **White Mountains Caribou Herd**
 - 600 Caribou
 - Limited access
 - RY03–RY07 (lightly harvested)
 - Avg. = 8/yr (range 6–12/yr.)
 - RY08–RY10 (increased harvest reports)
 - Avg. 23/yr (range 20–25/yr.)

2012 - 2018 Hunt Management Challenges

- **Hunters, caribou and roads (Zones 1 & 3)**
 - **Hunter concentration + Herd road crossing =**
 - Heavy Roadside Harvest
 - Harvest Control Issues for Managers
 - Safety Issues

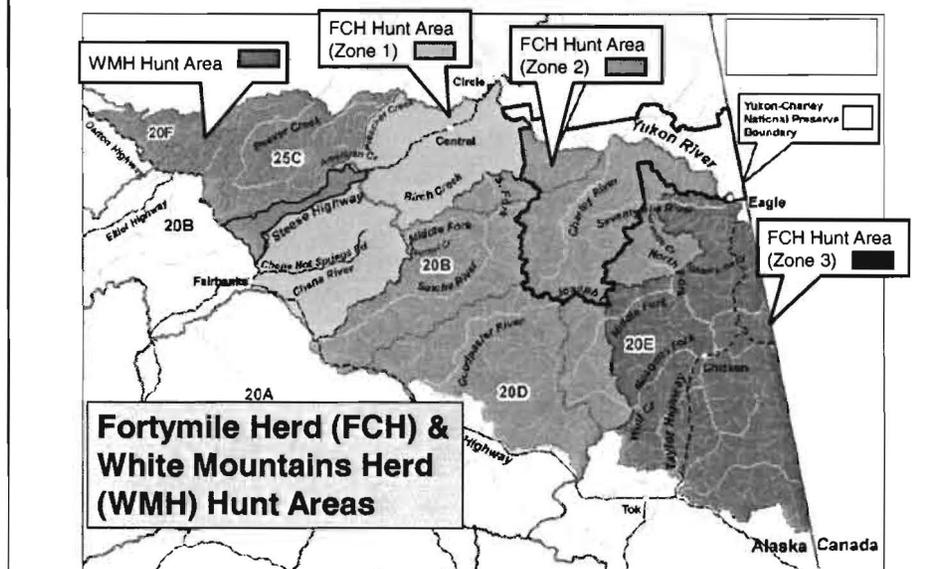
2012 - 2018 Hunt Management Challenges

- **Hunters, caribou and roads (Zones 1 & 3)**
 - **Hunter concentration + Herd road crossing =**
 - Heavy Roadside Harvest
 - Harvest Control Issues for Managers
 - Safety Issues
- **Early–August Harvest Management Issues**
 - Herd Monitoring Issues
 - Scattered bulls in early–August
 - Hunter concentrations

2012 - 2018 Hunt Management Challenges

- Hunters, caribou and roads (Zones 1 & 3)
 - Hunter concentration + Herd road crossing =
 - Heavy Roadside Harvest
 - Harvest Control Issues for Managers
 - Safety Issues
- Early–August Harvest Management Issues
 - Herd Monitoring Issues
 - Scattered bulls in early–August
 - Hunter concentrations
- Winter Harvest Management Issues
 - Caribou Concentrations along highways

2012–2018 Harvest Plan Recommendations (Regulatory Changes)



2012-2018 Recommended Regulatory Changes

- Fall Seasons and Bag
 - Opening date from **Aug 10** to **Aug 29** (Zones 1 & 3)
 - **Bulls-only** (All Zones)

2012-2018 Recommended Regulatory Changes

- Fall Seasons and Bag
 - Opening date from **Aug 10** to **Aug 29** (Zones 1 & 3)
 - **Bulls-only** (All Zones)
- Winter Season
 - Closing date from **Feb. 28** to **March 31**(All Zones)

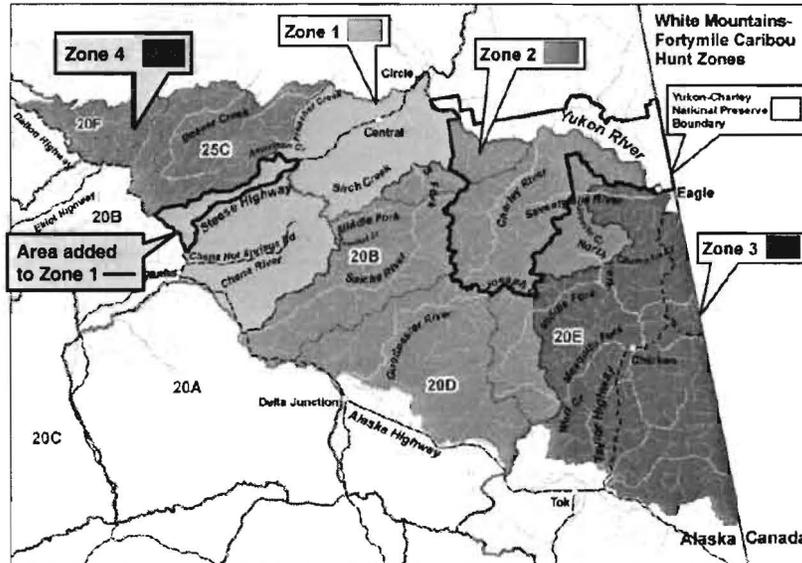
2012-2018 Recommended Regulatory Changes

- Fall Seasons and Bag
 - Opening date from **Aug 10** to **Aug 29** (Zones 1 & 3)
 - **Bulls-only** (All Zones)
- Winter Season
 - Closing date from **Feb. 28** to **March 31**(All Zones)
- Limited Registration Hunt (Winter Hunt)

2012-2018 Recommended Regulatory Changes

- Limited Registration Hunt (Winter Hunt)
 - Advertise phone in period.
 - Permits issued on a first come, first serve basis.
 - No more than 25 permits per hunt period.
 - Hunt periods ~ 1 week.
 - Success expected to be high.
 - Total Harvest not to exceed 20% of zone quota remaining at the beginning of the first hunt period.

2012-2018 Harvest Plan Recommended Changes



2012-2018 Harvest Plan Recommended Changes

- New harvest formula when the FCH reaches 70,000
- Appendix A
 - Recommendations to DNR regarding land disposal in Zone 3.

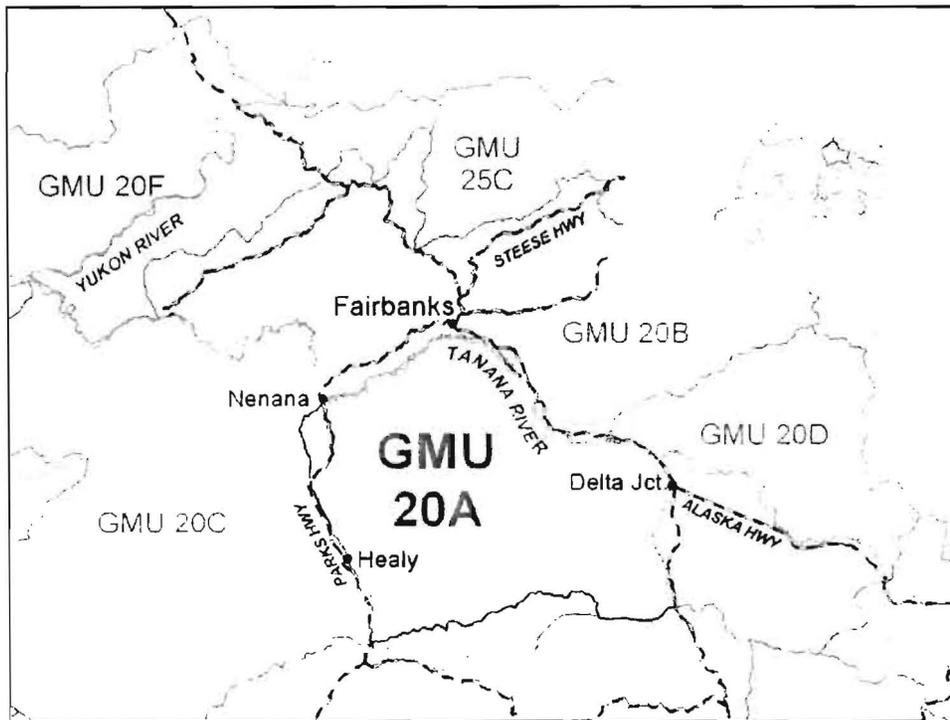


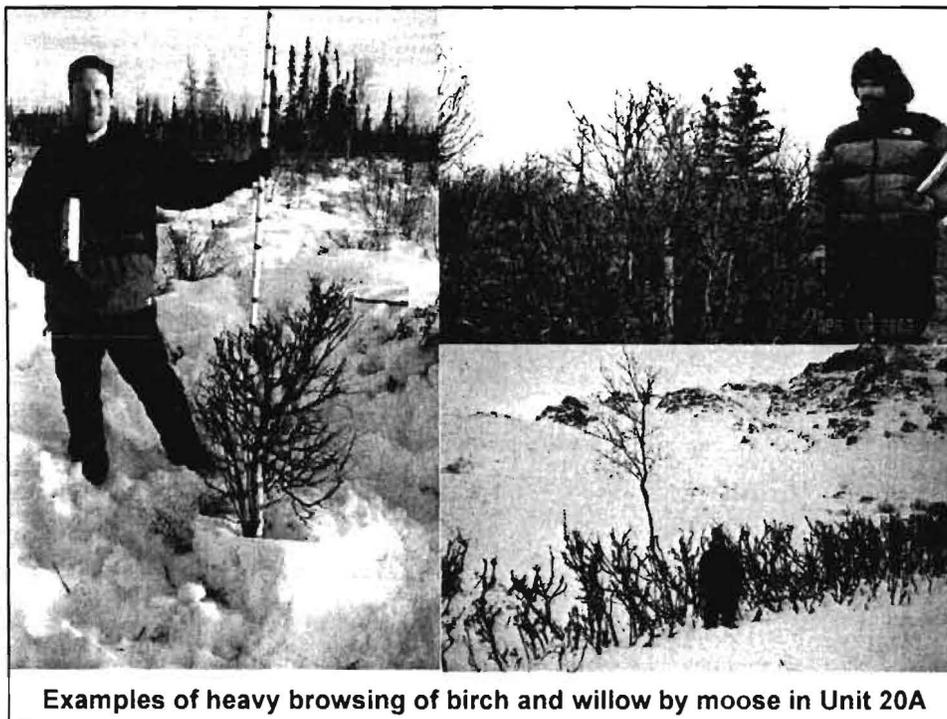
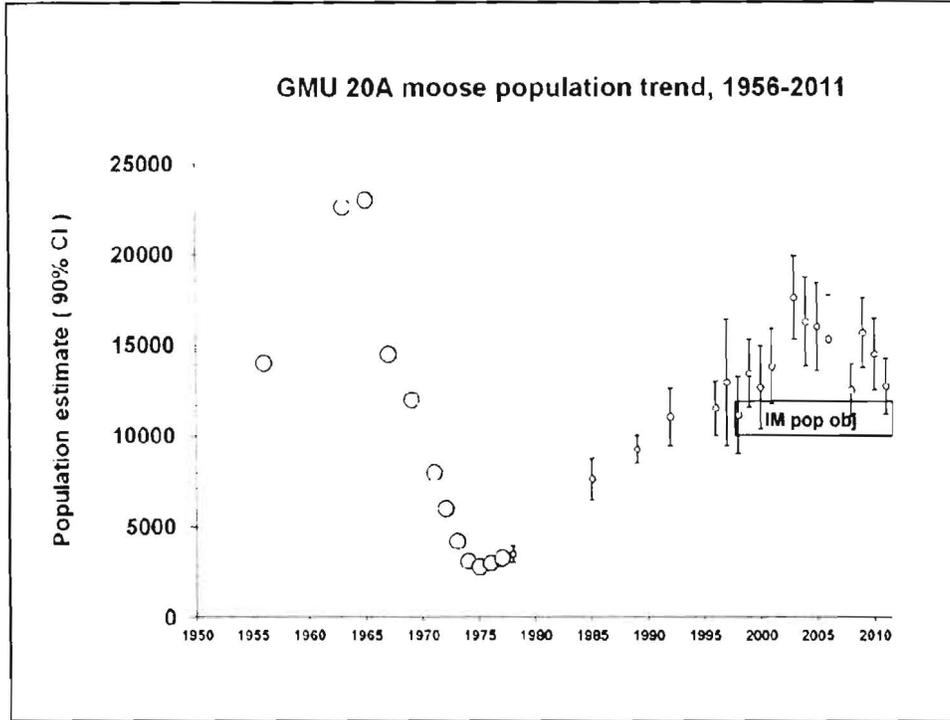
Staff Report: Antlerless moose hunts, Unit 20A

Don Young, Fairbanks Area Biologist



2007 1 15





During 1997-2005, GMU 20A moose exhibited the lowest nutritional status reported to date for wild, noninsular, North American populations

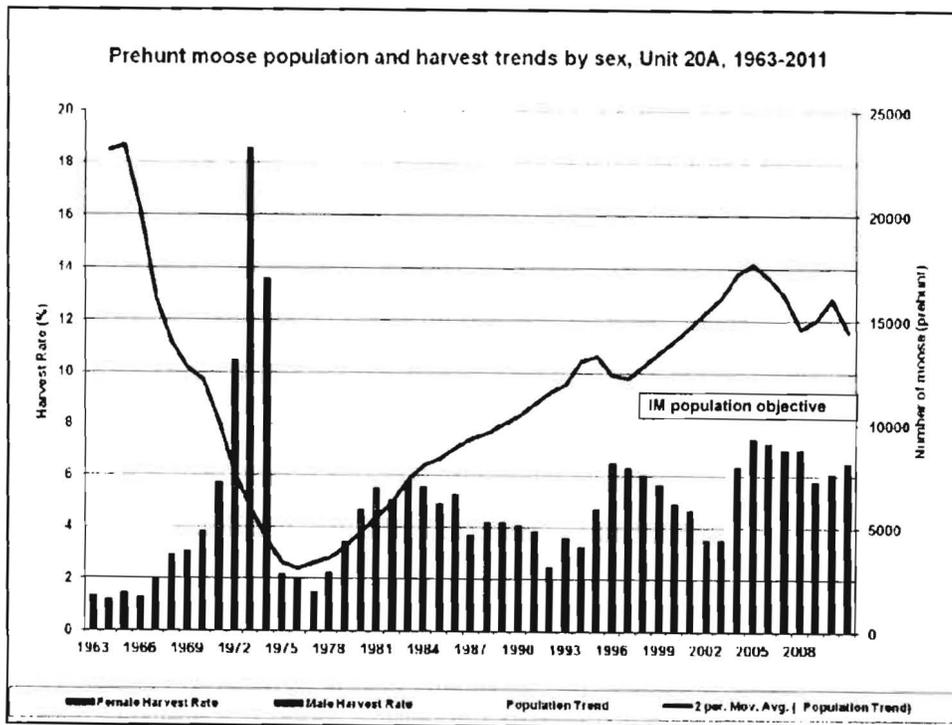
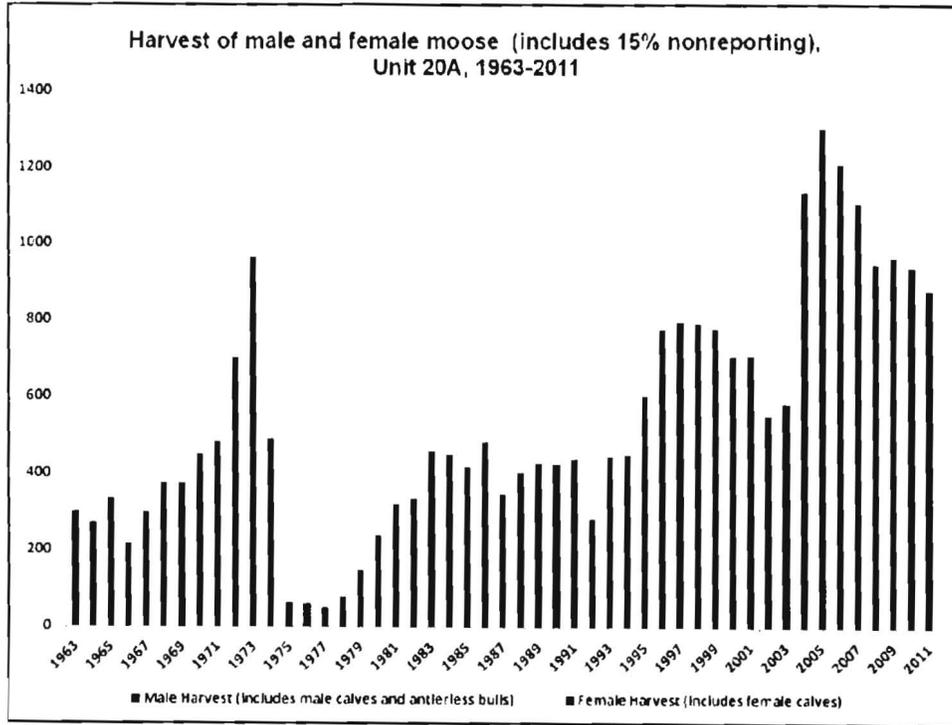
- Delayed reproduction until \geq 36 months
- Lowest parturition rate among 36-month-old moose (29%)
- Lowest average multi-year twinning rates (7%)
- Delayed twinning until \geq 60 months
- Lowest female, short-yearling weights (155 kg)
- Highest browse biomass removal rates (42%)



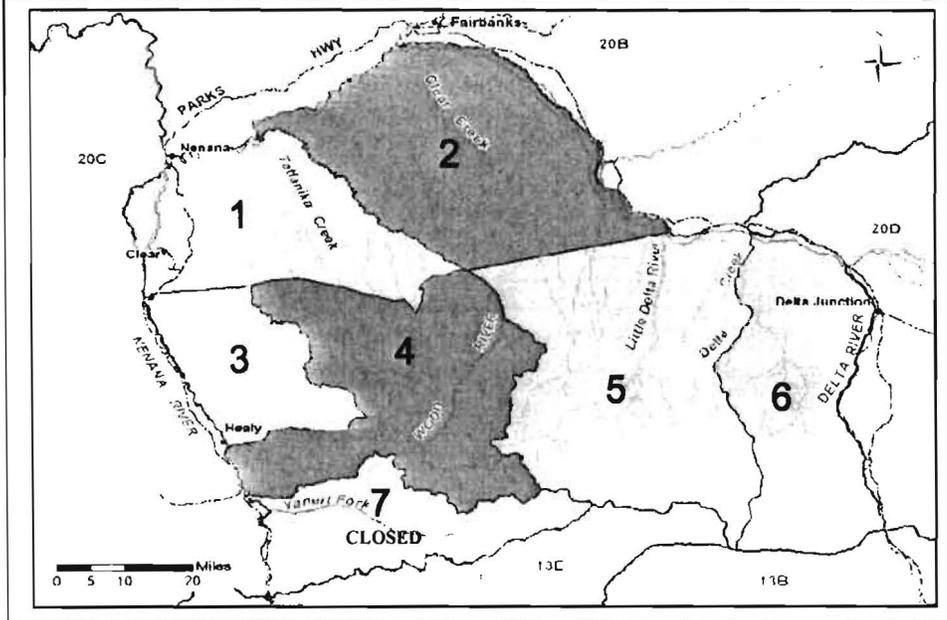
BOERTJE, R.D., K. A. KELLIE, C. T. SEATON, M. A. KEECH, D. D. YOUNG, B. W. DALE, L. G. ADAMS, and A. R. ADERMAN. 2007. Ranking Alaska moose nutrition: signals to begin liberal antlerless harvests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71: 1494-1506.

Western Tanana Flats prescribed burn plan area (286,000 acres), Unit 20A, 1995-2011

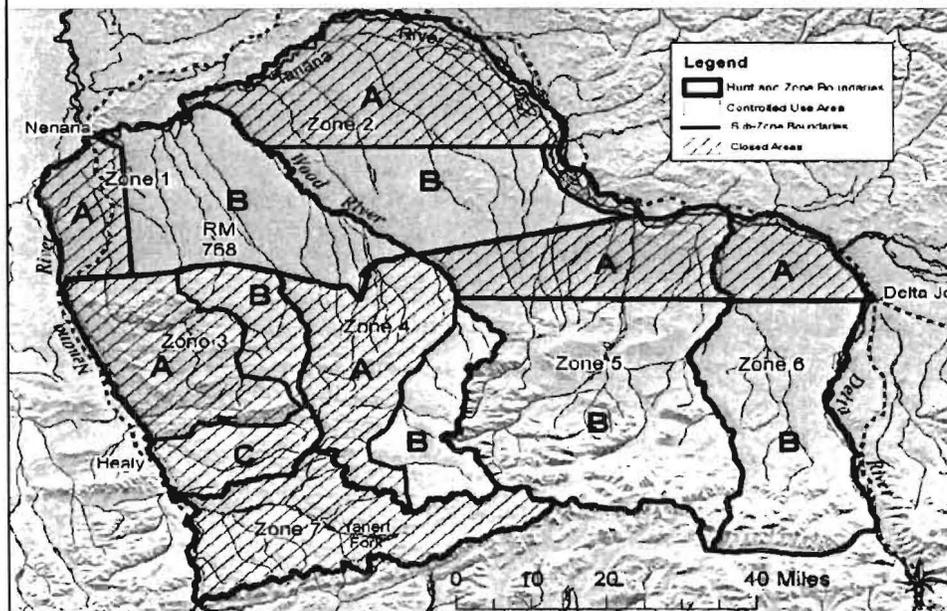


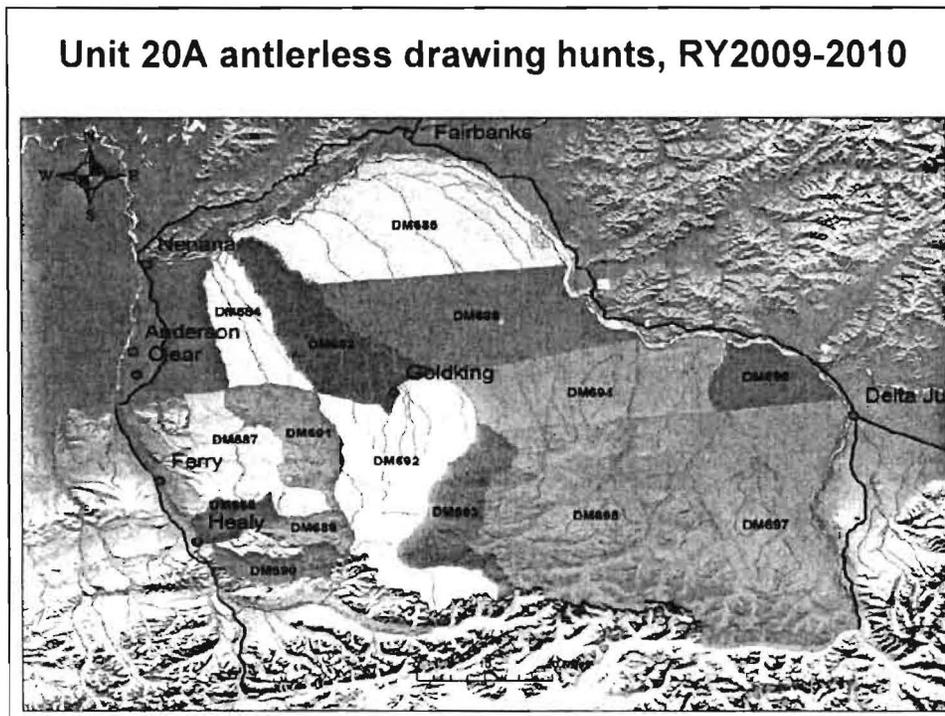
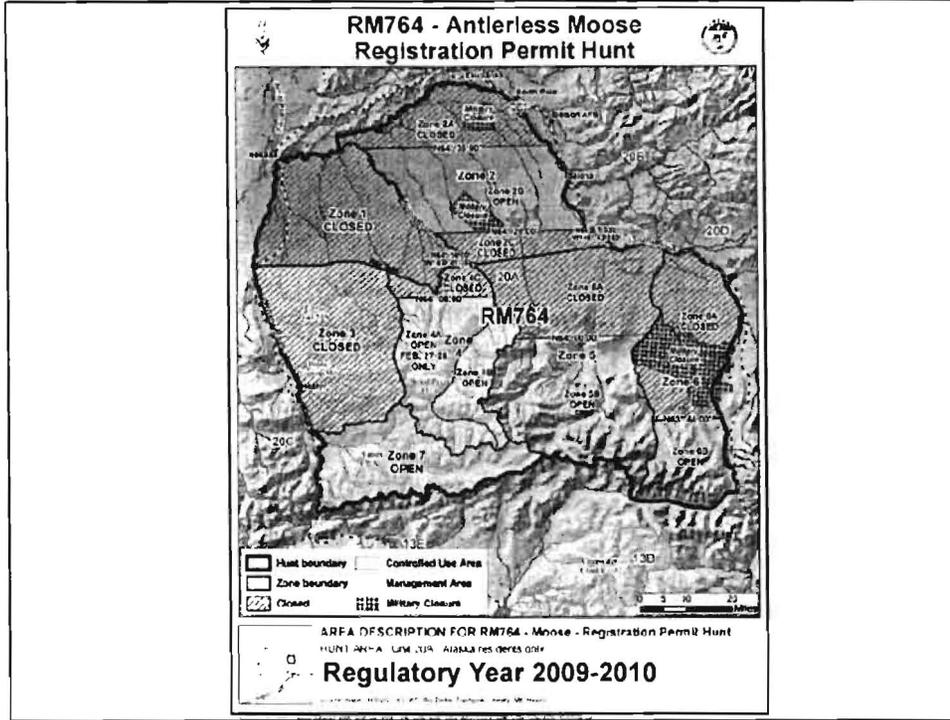


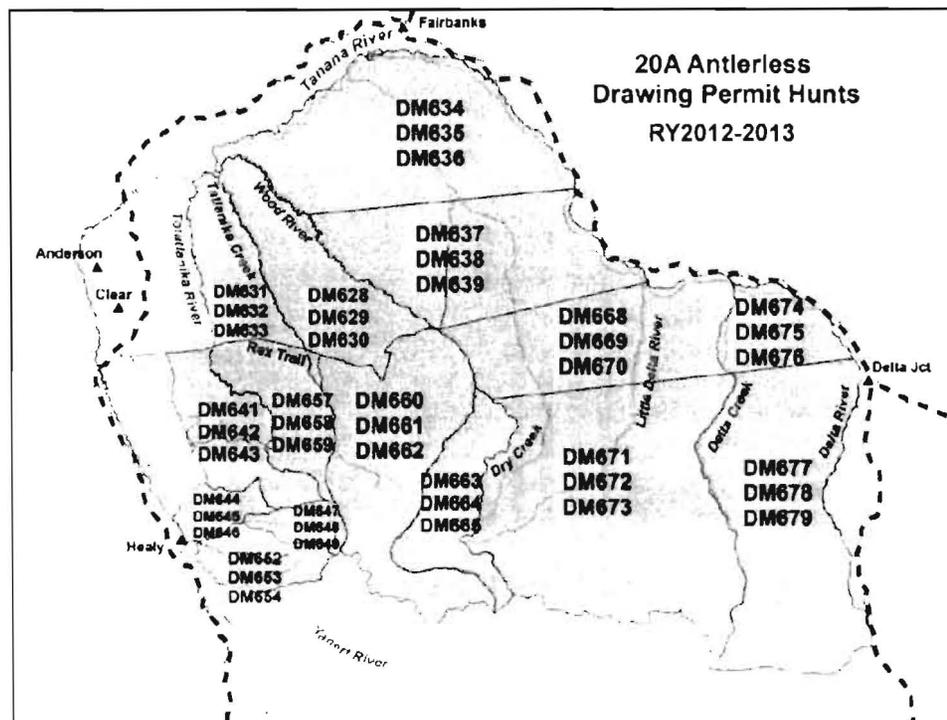
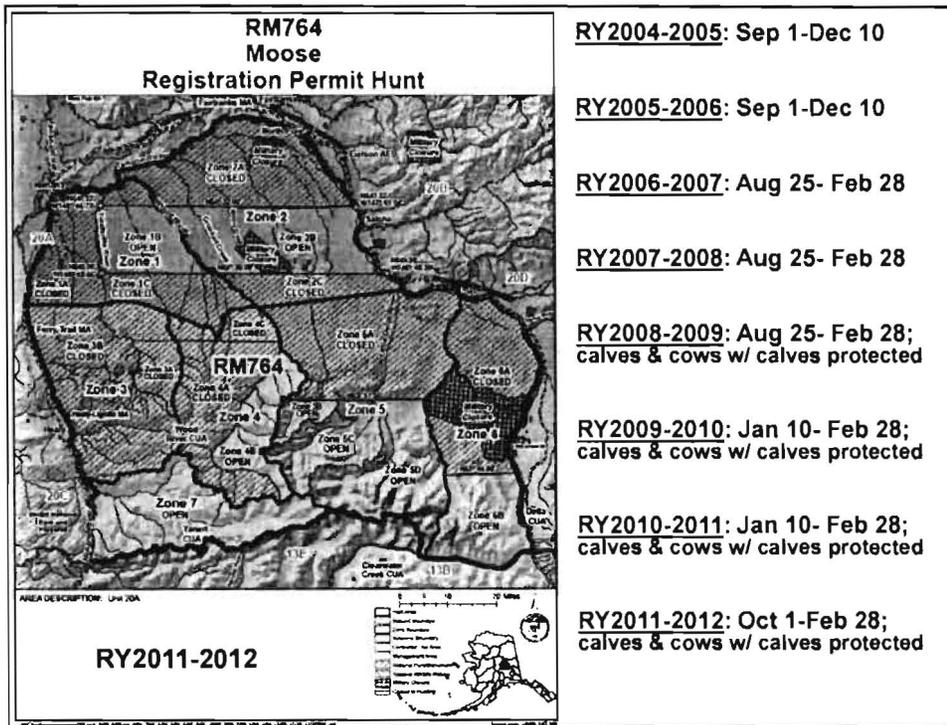
**Unit 20A antlerless moose hunt RM764, RY2004-2005
(Sep. 1 – Dec. 10)**

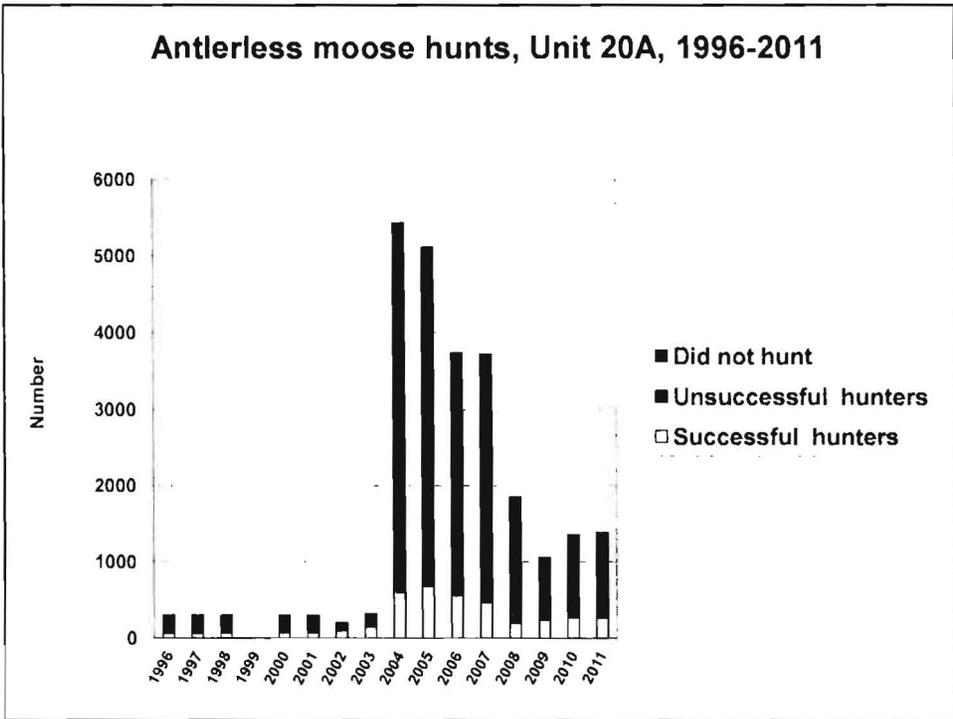
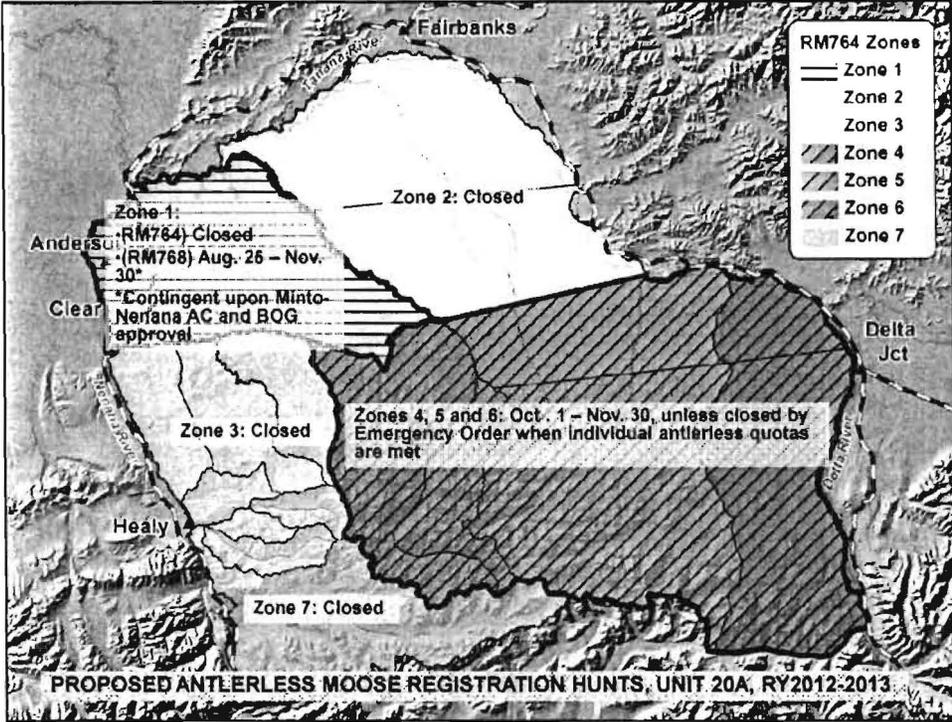


**Unit 20A antlerless moose hunts RM764 and RM768,
RY2008-2009**

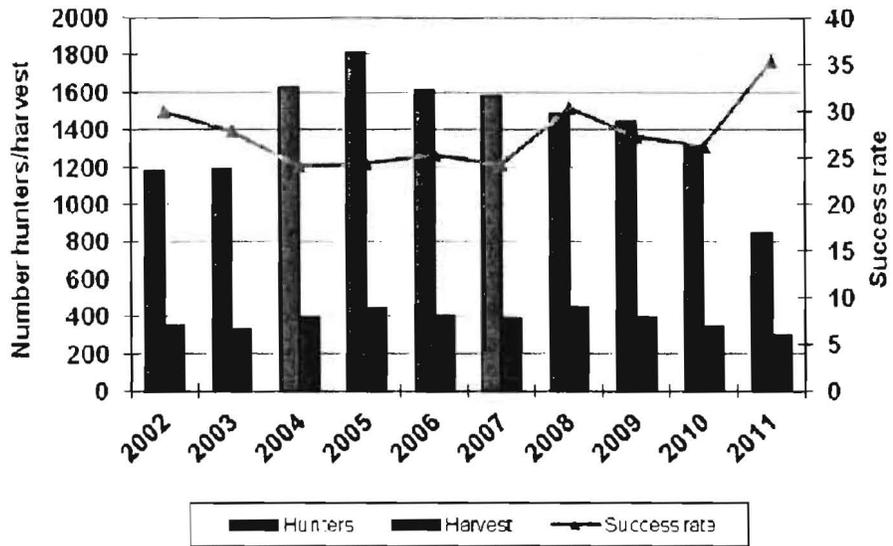




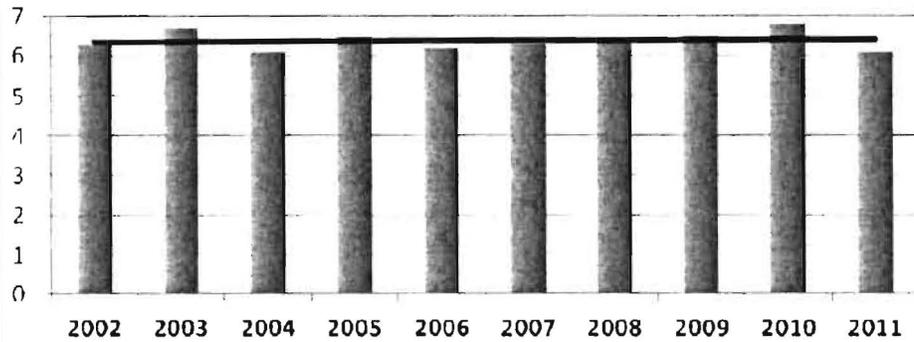




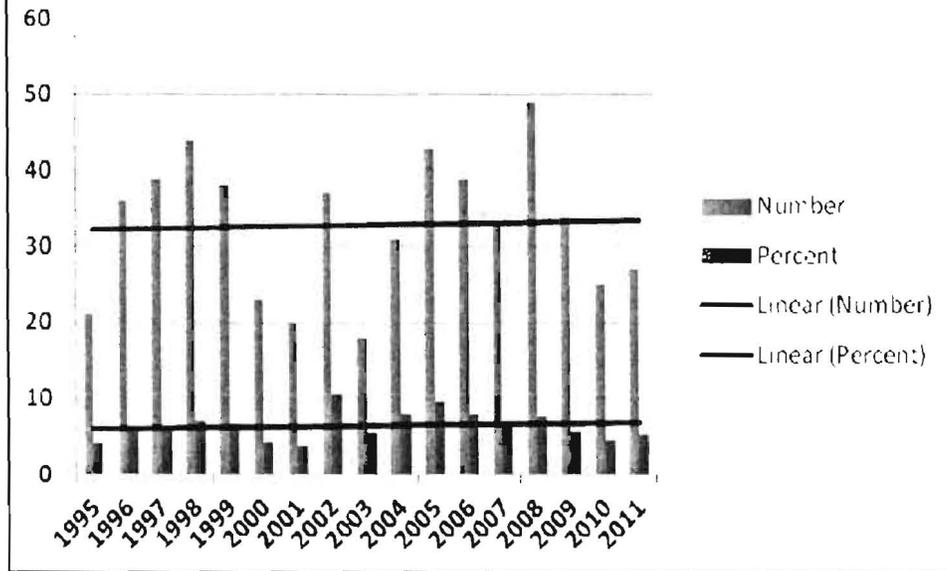
General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2011



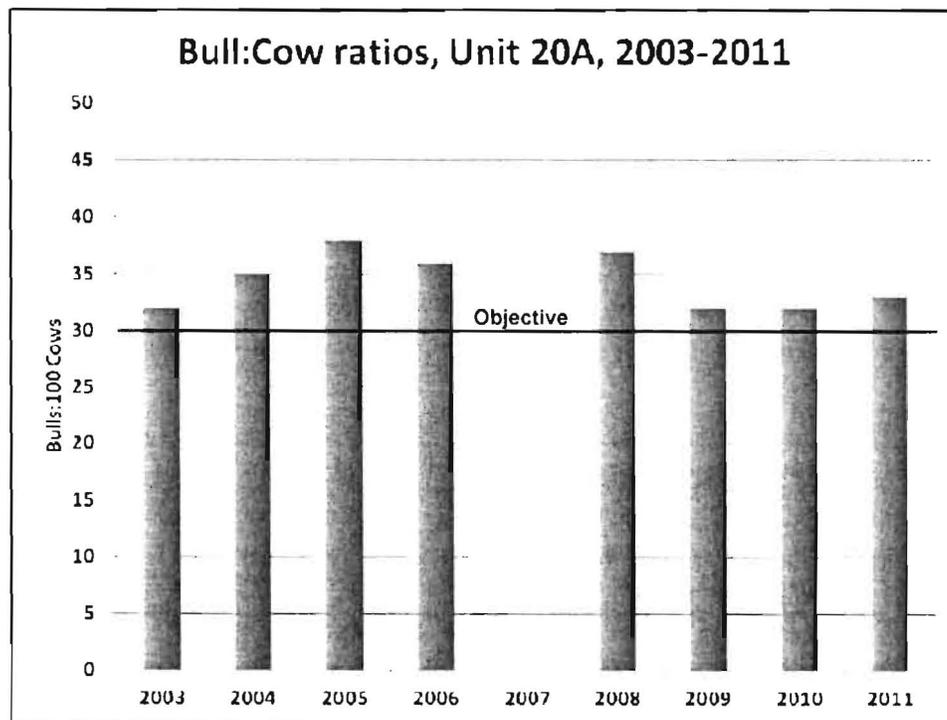
Days hunted (mean) for successful hunters, general moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2011

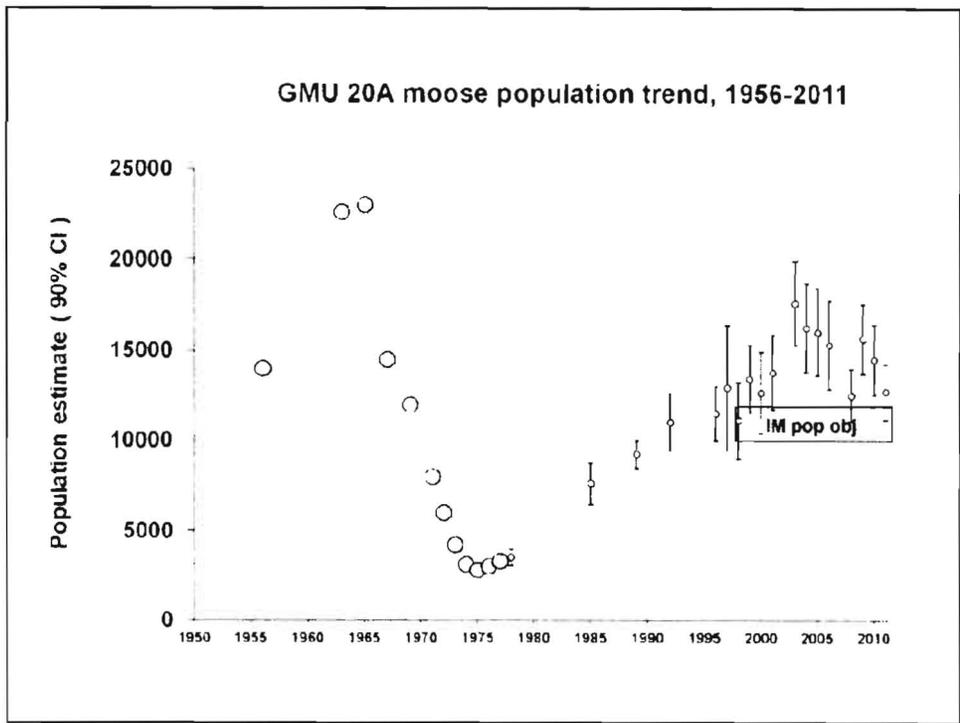
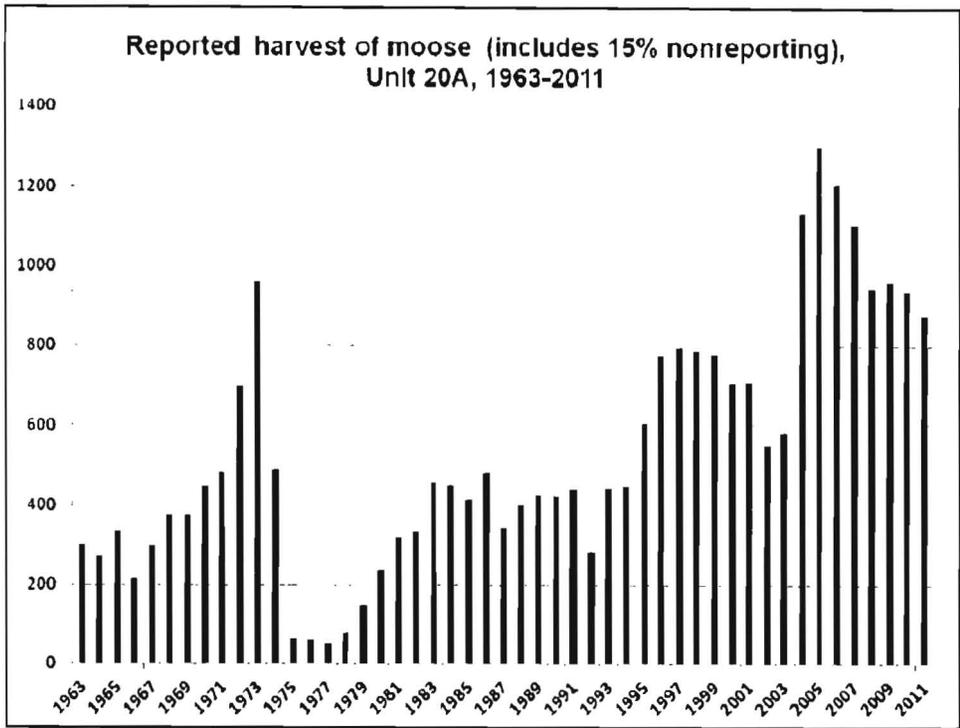


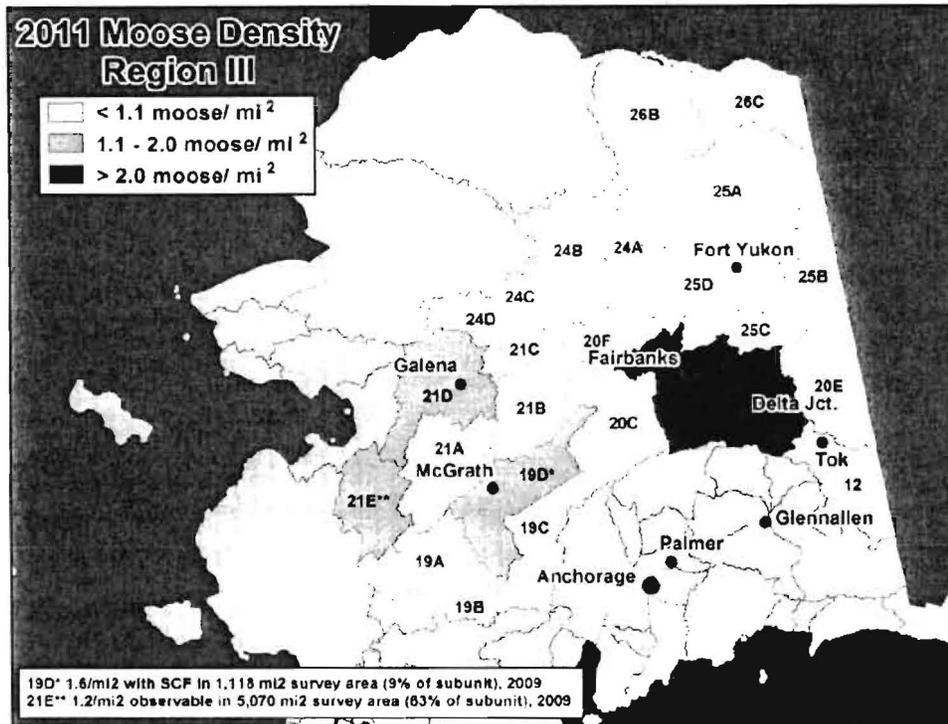
Reported harvest of bull moose with $\geq 60''$ antler spread, Unit 20A, 1995-2011



Bull:Cow ratios, Unit 20A, 2003-2011



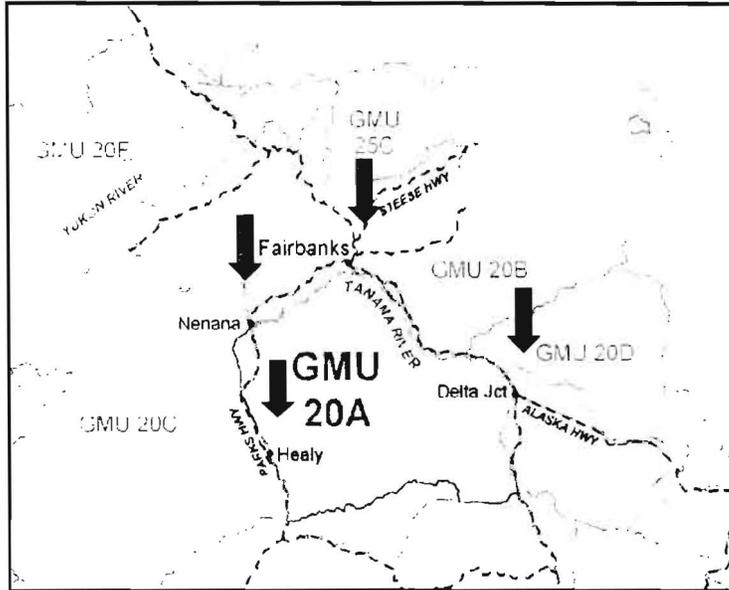




Issues Identified Joint AC Meeting Feb 2012

- Mistakes of the 1970s
- Question ADF&G data (moose numbers, habitat)
- Not seeing as many moose
- Not seeing as many big bulls
- Predator loads
- Take of antlerless bulls and pregnant cows
- Trapping conflicts
- Too many hunters/hunter crowding
- Access/localized overharvest (e.g., Rex Trail)
- Property/trespass/garbage/other
- Large number of draw hunt permits issued
- Proxy hunting

Affected Fish and Game Advisory committees, antlerless moose hunt reauthorizations, GMU 20A



DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA RESOLUTION NUMBER 12-02

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE REVIEW AND REPEAL WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT MANDATES DIRECTED AT THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
AND CENTERED UPON WILDLIFE UNIT 20A

WHEREAS, areas of the Denali Borough in Unit 20A, which have historically sustained thriving populations of moose, are now without moose and moose hunters have concentrated many remaining moose populations in smaller, accessible areas; and

WHEREAS, moose in the Denali Borough have received greatly increased pressures from these hunts, resulting in decreased availability and reduction of many of these moose; and

WHEREAS, increased hunter pressure has resulted in a substantial negative environmental impact both from ATV damage to pristine wilderness ecosystems and large amounts of moose and fish and

WHEREAS, both moose and fish and wildlife management mandates have resulted in decreased moose and fish and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, general moose hunting opportunities have decreased for residents of the Denali Borough, causing the quality of life for residents of the Denali Borough to be adversely affected by the concentration of these moose; and

WHEREAS, overall health and viability of moose populations, and populations of other species which are in jeopardy due to moose, are now in question due to hunts conducted specifically to meet mandates of wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, citizens and concerns of both private individuals and the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and resolutions of the Denali Borough Assembly, have gone largely unaddressed by both managing officials of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game and

WHEREAS, these issues have resulted in divisions between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the various Interior Fish and Game Advisory Committees, bodies of local government, and private citizens groups and individuals, creating a lack of trust and inability to work together; and

WHEREAS, the interdependence of each of the above issues is found in the flawed concepts of intense management of moose for food production mandated by the Alaska Legislature, and the solution to these issues lies in the discontinuation of these same practices

Intensive Management Issues

- Negative attitudes toward antlerless hunts
- Balancing bull:cow ratios
- IM mandates and advisory committee antlerless moose hunt authority
- Access
- Spatial and temporal distribution of the harvest
- Trespass, parking and roadside camping, garbage and human waste, access and hunter crowding

YOUNG, D. D., JR., R. D. BOERTJE, C. T. SEATON, and K. A. KELLIE. 2006. Intensive management of moose at high density: impediments, achievements, and recommendations. *Alces* 42: 41–48.



