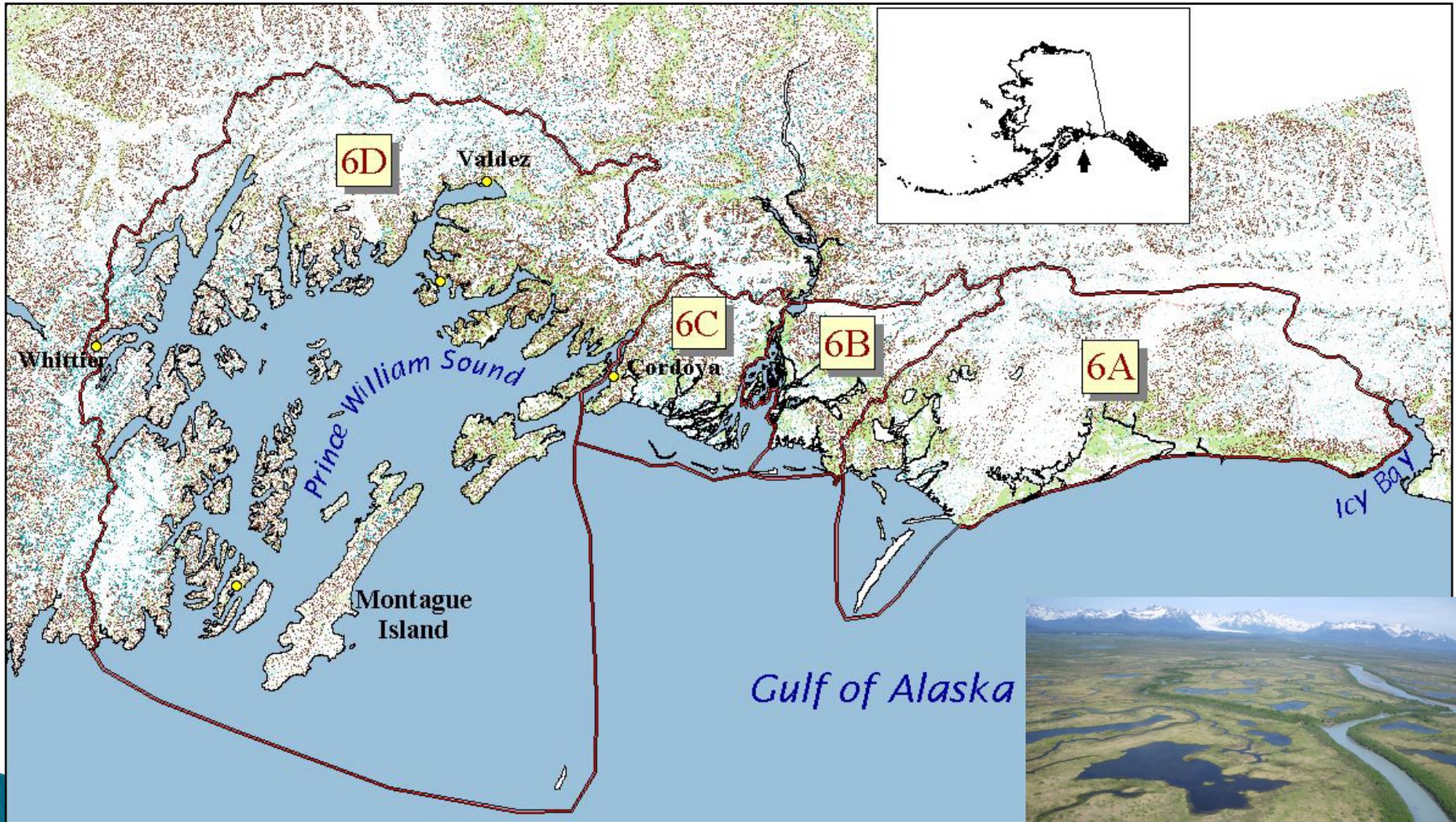


# Game Management Unit 6

- ▶ Area Office: Cordova
- ▶ Dave Crowley, Area Biologist for 2 more weeks
- ▶ Charlotte Westing, next Area Biologist
- ▶ Sandy Nehl, F&W Program Technician, 16 years in Cordova
  
- ▶ Area: 10,133 square miles along North Gulf Coast
- ▶ Unit 6 Population: 6,400
- ▶ Valdez, Whittier, Cordova
- ▶ Native Village of Eyak, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek
  
- ▶ Most hunters come from Anchorage, MSV and Fairbanks.

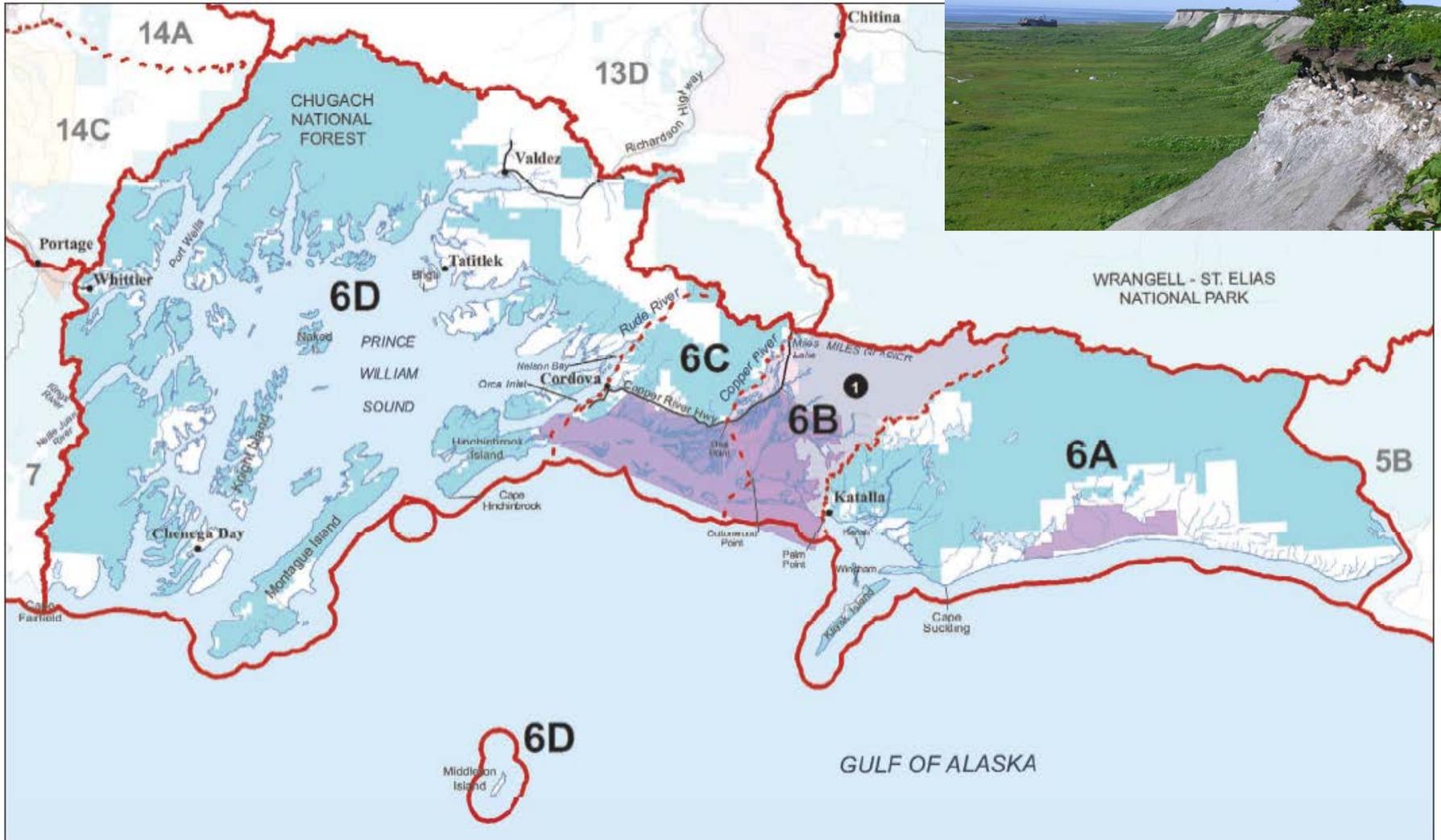
# GMU 6: Ice, Rock and Rain Forest



Copper River Delta

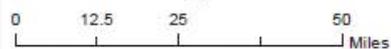
# Unit 6 Land Status

Middleton Island, Unit 6D



## Unit 6 Cordova-Valdez

Region 2



### Game Management Units / Special Management Areas

- |  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Closed Areas   | National Parks                           | Military Boundary                    |
| Controlled Use Areas                                 | National Preserves & Other Federal Lands | Military Closure                     |
| Management Areas                                     | Unit Boundary                            | Tangle Lakes Archaeological District |
| State Refuges, Sanctuaries, & Critical Habitat Areas | Subunit Boundary                         | Roads                                |
| Other State Lands                                    | City Boundary                            | Railroads                            |
|  |  | Trails                               |

# Black Bears

## ▶ Status

- Black bears are hunted as a primary game species, rather than incidental to other game.
- Second most sought after game species in Unit 6 (after Sitka black-tailed deer).
- Population increased during 1990's, now stable or possibly declining in Unit 6D.
- No population estimate but...
- Unit 6D, Assume a population of 3,000 – 3,700 bears, then harvest rate is 12–15%, probably sustainable.
- Density = 480 – 600 bears per 1000 sq km.

# Black Bears

## ▶ Management

- Conservative: 1 bear per year, Sep – Jun.
- Harvest statistics from sealing and harvest reports
- Tooth sample to determine age structure of harvest in 6D

## ▶ Harvest

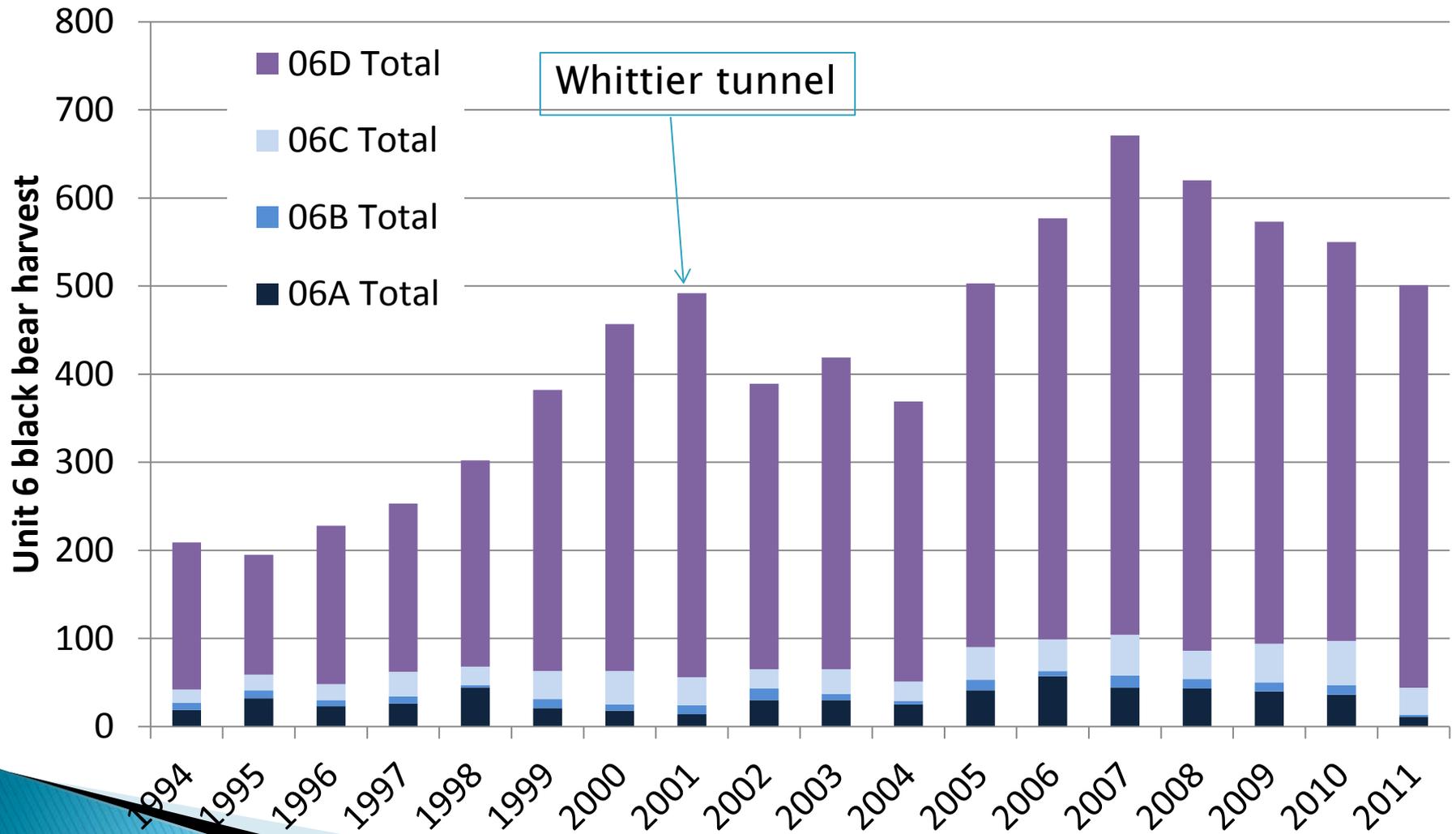
- 500–600, mostly Unit 6D.

## ▶ Issues

- Persistently high harvest in Unit 6D.
- Valdez Bear Committee
- Proposal 130, reduce bag limit for sows in 6D.



# Black Bear Harvest



# Brown Bears

## ▶ Status

- Extrapolated estimate: 800 – 1,300 bears, productive and probably stable

## ▶ Management

- Harvest statistics from sealing certificates
- Units 6A–C: Sep. 1 – June 10, 1 bear / year
- Unit 6D: Oct 15–May 25, 1 bear every 4 years
- Montague Is. registration hunt
- Track/den surveys, Montague and Hinchinbrook Is.

## ▶ Harvest

- 60–75 annually

# Brown Bears

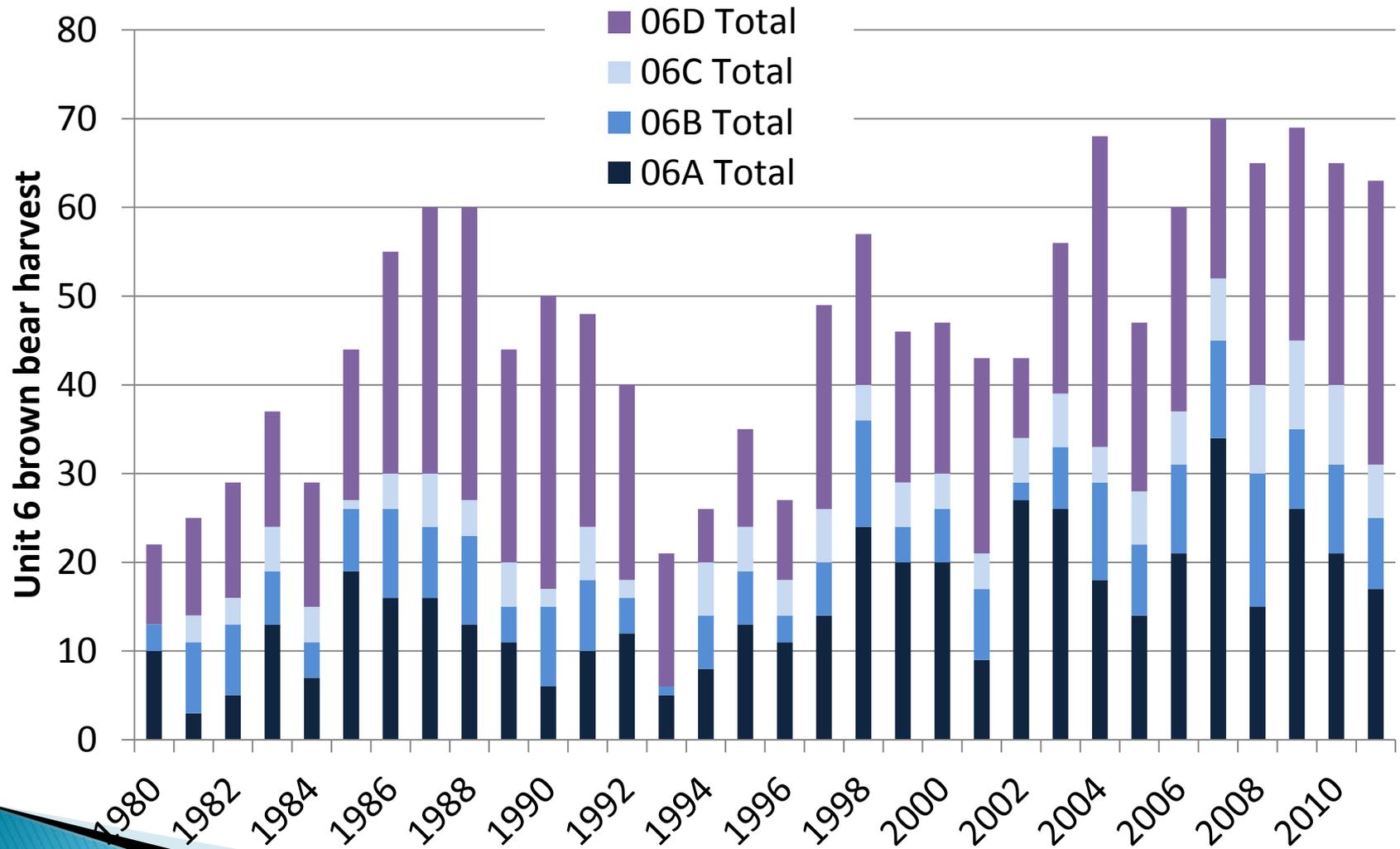
## ▶ Issues

- Moose predation in Units 6A and 6B
- Dusky goose nest predation Unit 6B and 6C
- But probably only until the fish show up



Photo: Steve Moffitt, ADFG

# Unit 6 Brown Bear Harvest



# Sitka Black-tailed Deer

## ▶ Status

- Most important game species in Unit 6
  - Number of hunters and harvest
- Population and harvest are currently very low (severe winter)
- IM objective 24,000 – 28,000 sustaining an annual harvest of 2,200 – 3,000 deer.

## ▶ Management

- Spring pellet group survey
- Hunter harvest report

## ▶ Issues

- None

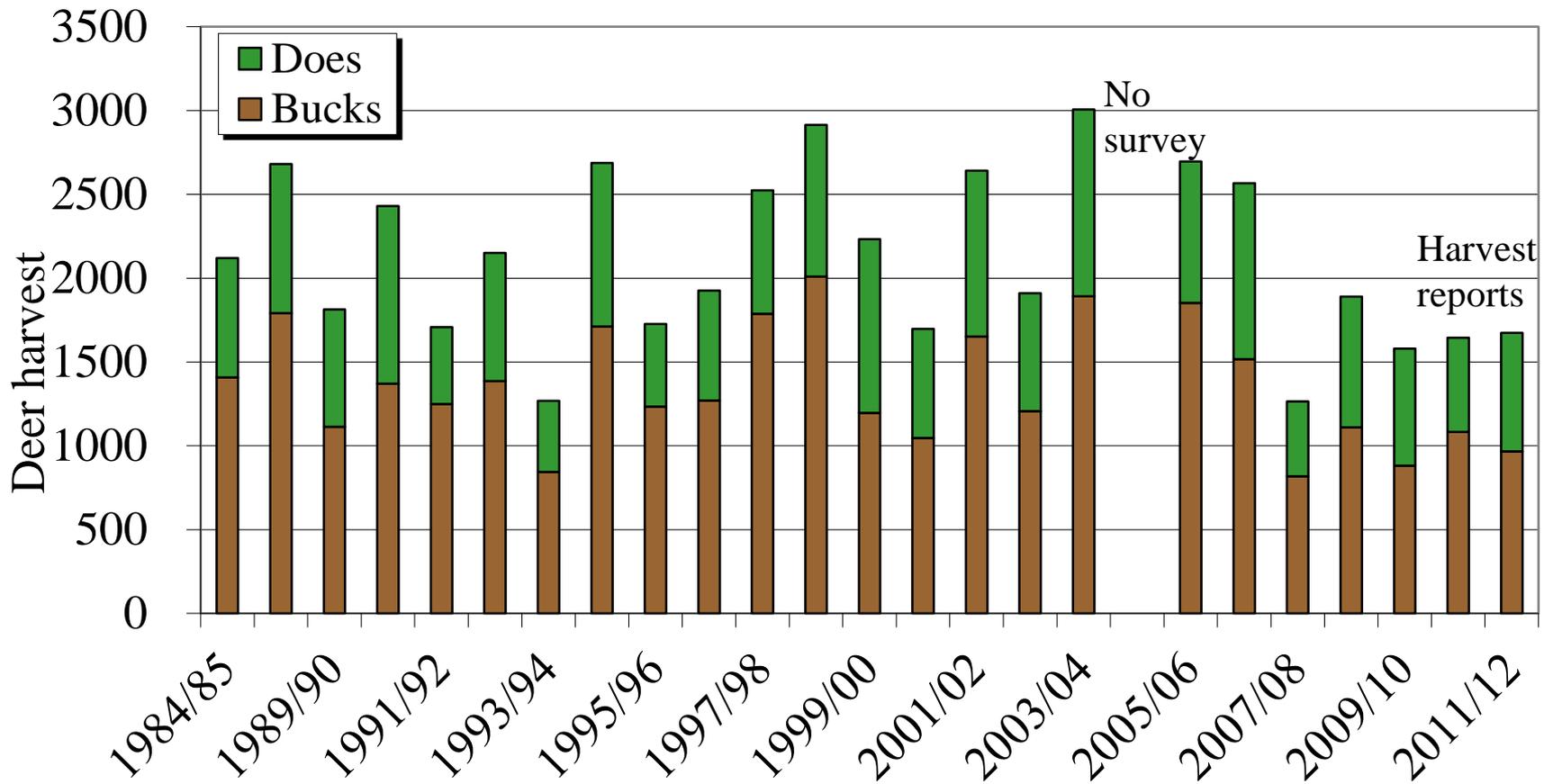


Photo by Milo Burcham



Black-tailed deer on Hawkins Island, April 2012,  
feeding on beach at high tide line.

# Deer Harvest, Prince William Sound



# Mountain Goats



## ▶ Status

- 4,000 goats, winter decline
- 18 registration hunts
- 65 – 85 goats harvested annually, 20% nannies

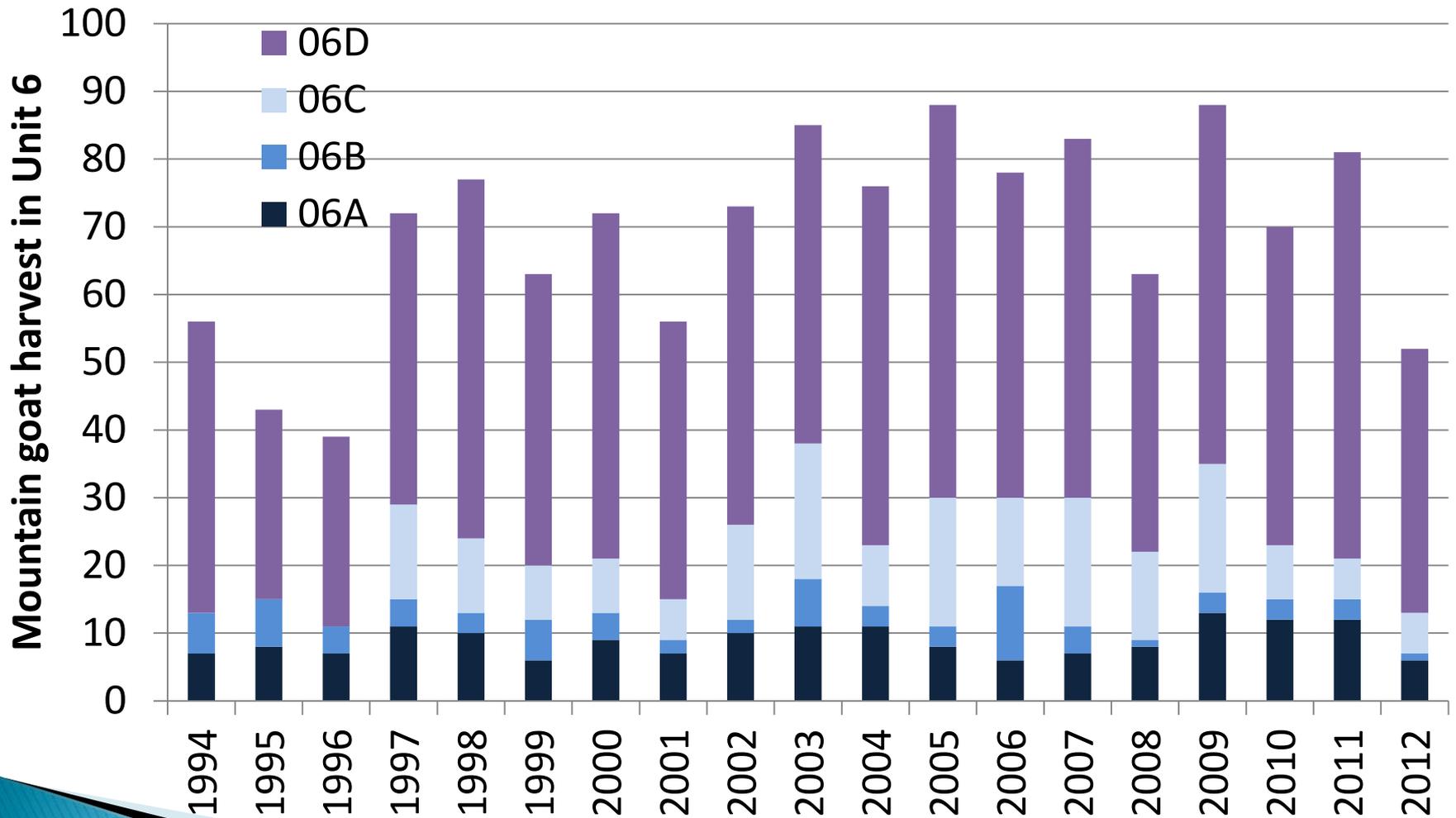
## ▶ Management

- Aerial surveys to estimate population
- Establish Maximum Allowable Harvest for each hunt:  
2.5 – 5% of pop.,
- nannies count as 2 in harvest.
- Monitor harvest, close by Emergency Order
- Nannies with kids prohibited

## ▶ Issues

- Helicopter accessed skiing

# Mountain Goat Harvest



# Moose

## ▶ Status

- Current pop. estimate: 1,200–**stable**
- Wintered well on top of snowpack
- Harvest: ~ 100

## ▶ Management

- Aerial census, population estimation
- 5 drawing hunts, 4 registration, subsistence drawing permit, general season

## ▶ Issues

- Wolf and bear predation, Units 6A and 6B
- 3 Proposals: antlerless reauthorizations



# Furbearers

## ► Status



	Abundance	Trend	2011 harvest
Beaver	Abundant	Stable	22
Otter	Common	Stable	91
Marten	Common	Decrease	145
Wolverine	Common	Increase	17
Wolf	60-65, 11 packs	Stable	0
Lynx	Scarce	Increase	7
Coyote	Abundant	Stable	NA

# Furbearers

## ▶ Management

- Harvest statistics from sealing of 6 species
- Trapper Questionnaire
- Density indices from moose surveys (wolf and coyote)
- Observations of staff and others (wolf packs)

## ▶ Issues

- Trappers and dog owners

# Dusky Canada Geese

## ▶ Status

- Increased from a low of 6,700 in 2009 to 13,660 in 2012.
- Harvest restrictions can be eased after 3-year running average of 12,000 or more for 3 years.
  - 2012 running average was 11,600.

## ▶ Dusky Goose Management Plan

- ADF&G, USFWS, USFWS, Pacific Flyway Council
- Nest islands, liberalized harvest of predators.
- Hunter harvest restrictions.
- Banding, collaring, telemetry.



# Dusky Canada Geese

## ► Issues

- Predation of nests and goslings on the breeding grounds.
- Crop depredation by geese on wintering grounds.



# Hook Point, Hinchinbrook Island, Alaska

