

Northeast Alaska Area

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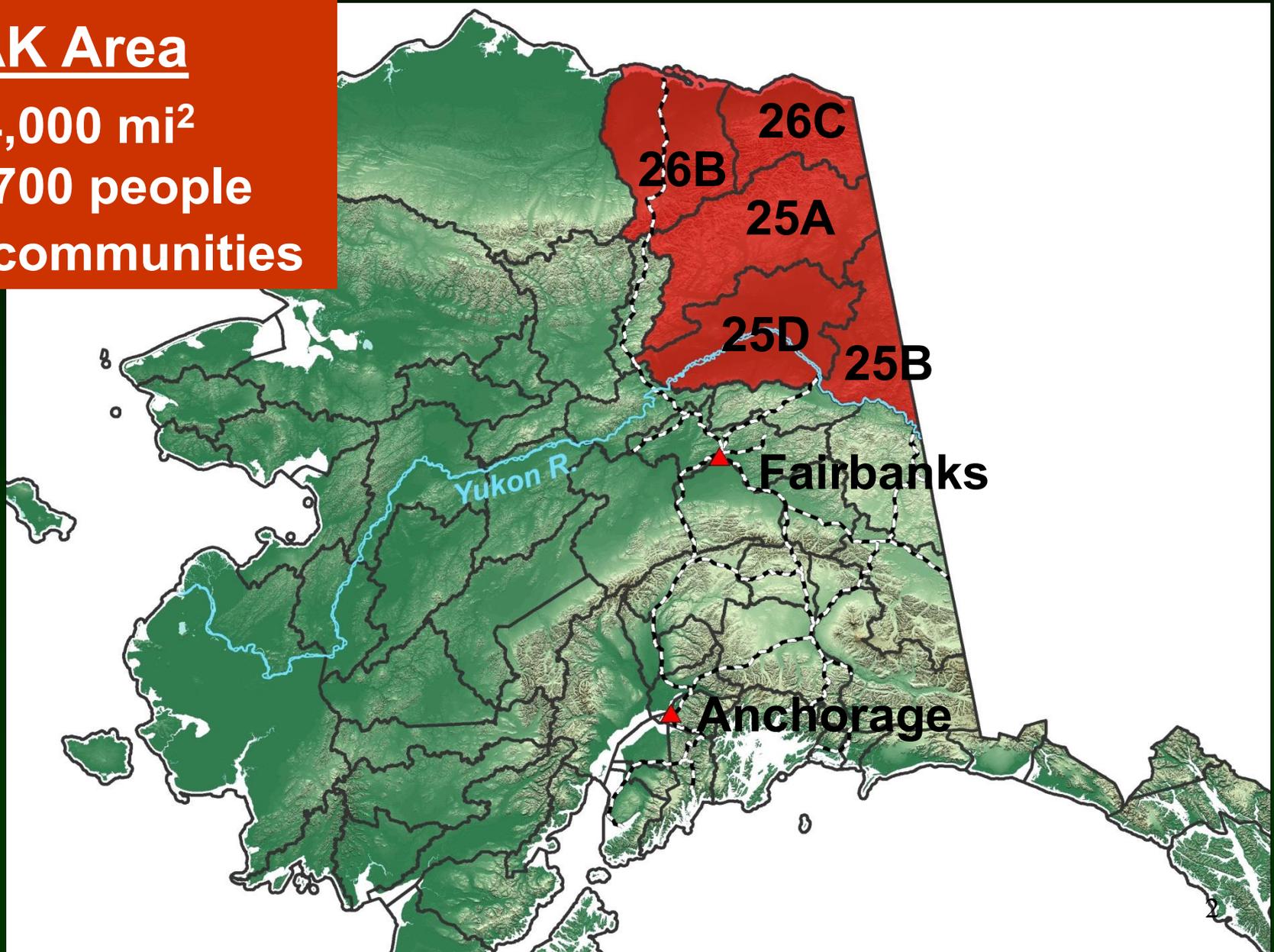
Units: 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B & 26C

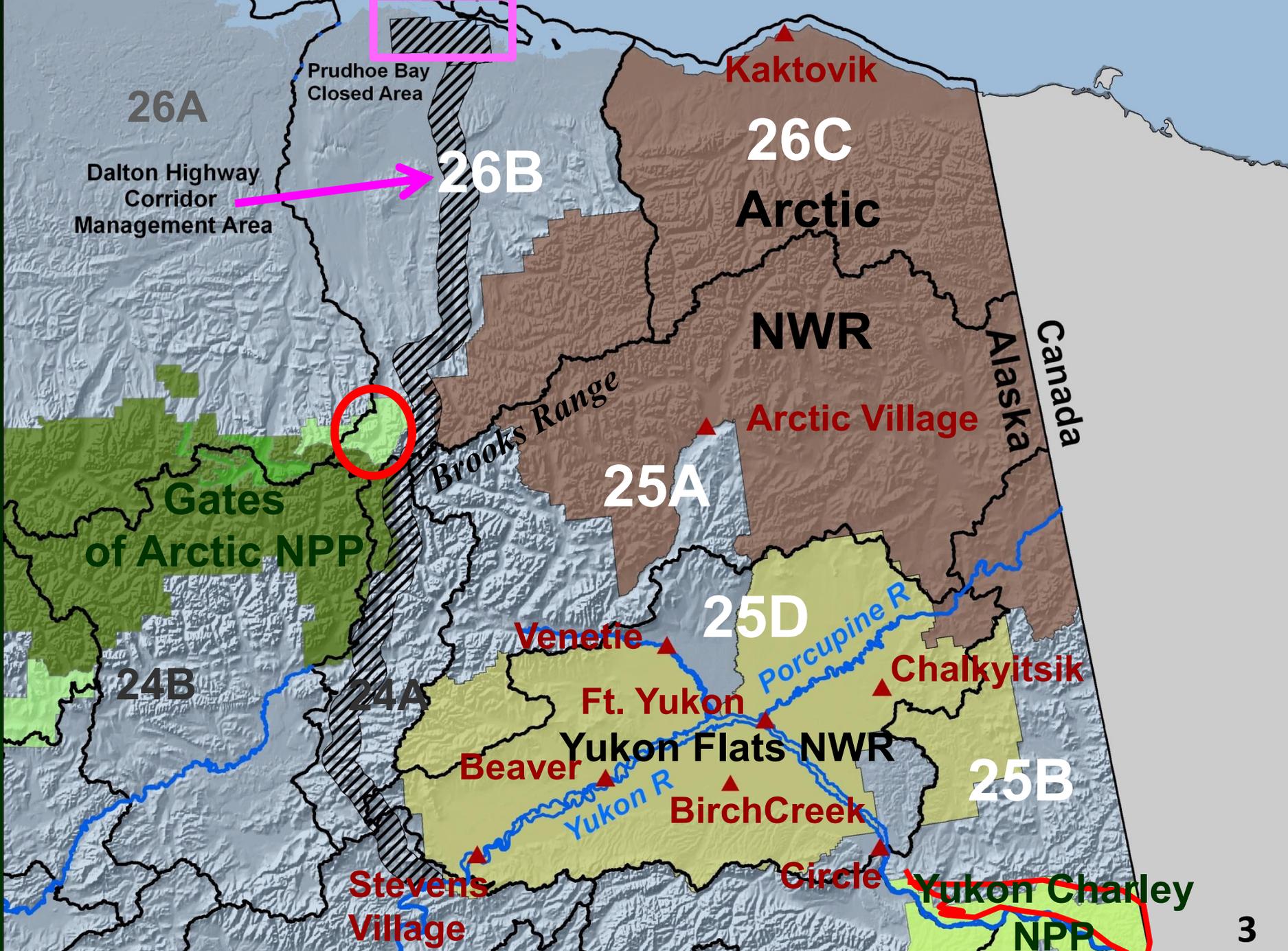
**Includes upper Yukon drainage
and central and eastern north slope
(73,800 mi²)**

Northeast Alaska Area

NEAK Area

- 74,000 mi²
- 1,700 people
- 9 communities





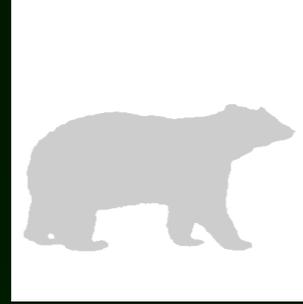
State Advisory Committees

- **Yukon Flats Advisory Committee**
- **Arctic Advisory Committee**

Federal Regional Advisory Councils

- **Eastern Interior**
- **North Slope**

BLACK BEAR



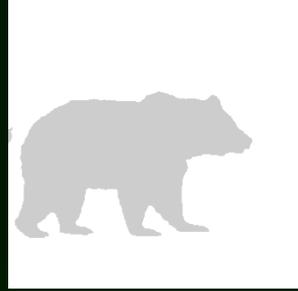
Unit 25

- Abundant & lightly harvested
- In Unit 25D—highest documented density in Interior Alaska

Management issues:

- Predation on moose calves in Unit 25D

BROWN BEAR



Unit 25A, B, & D

- Moderate density
- Low harvest in 25B & D,
- Moderate in western 25A

1 Proposal

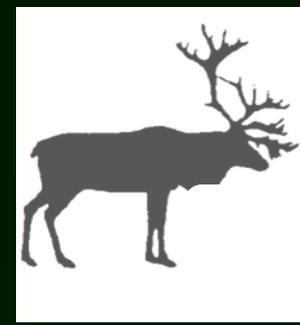
Unit 26B & 26C

- Low density
- Low to moderate harvest

Management issues:

- Predation on muskox in Unit 26B

Caribou



Central Arctic Caribou Herd

- 70,000 in 2010; Stable?
- Low harvest

2 Proposals

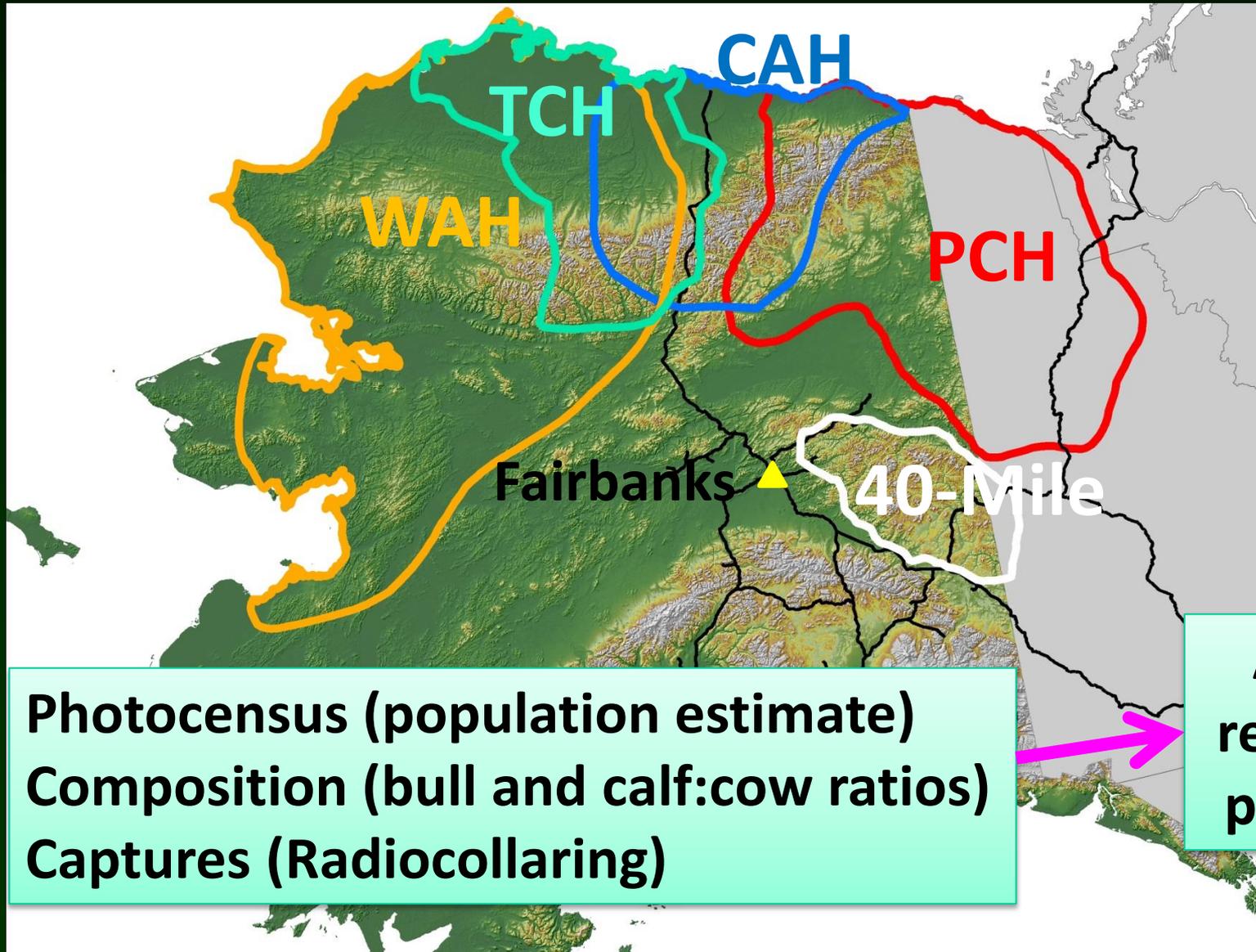
Porcupine Caribou Herd

- 200,000 \pm 30,000 in 2013; Stable or increasing
- Low harvest

Management Issues:

- Hunting conditions in DHCMA
- Effects of development
- Herd Overlap

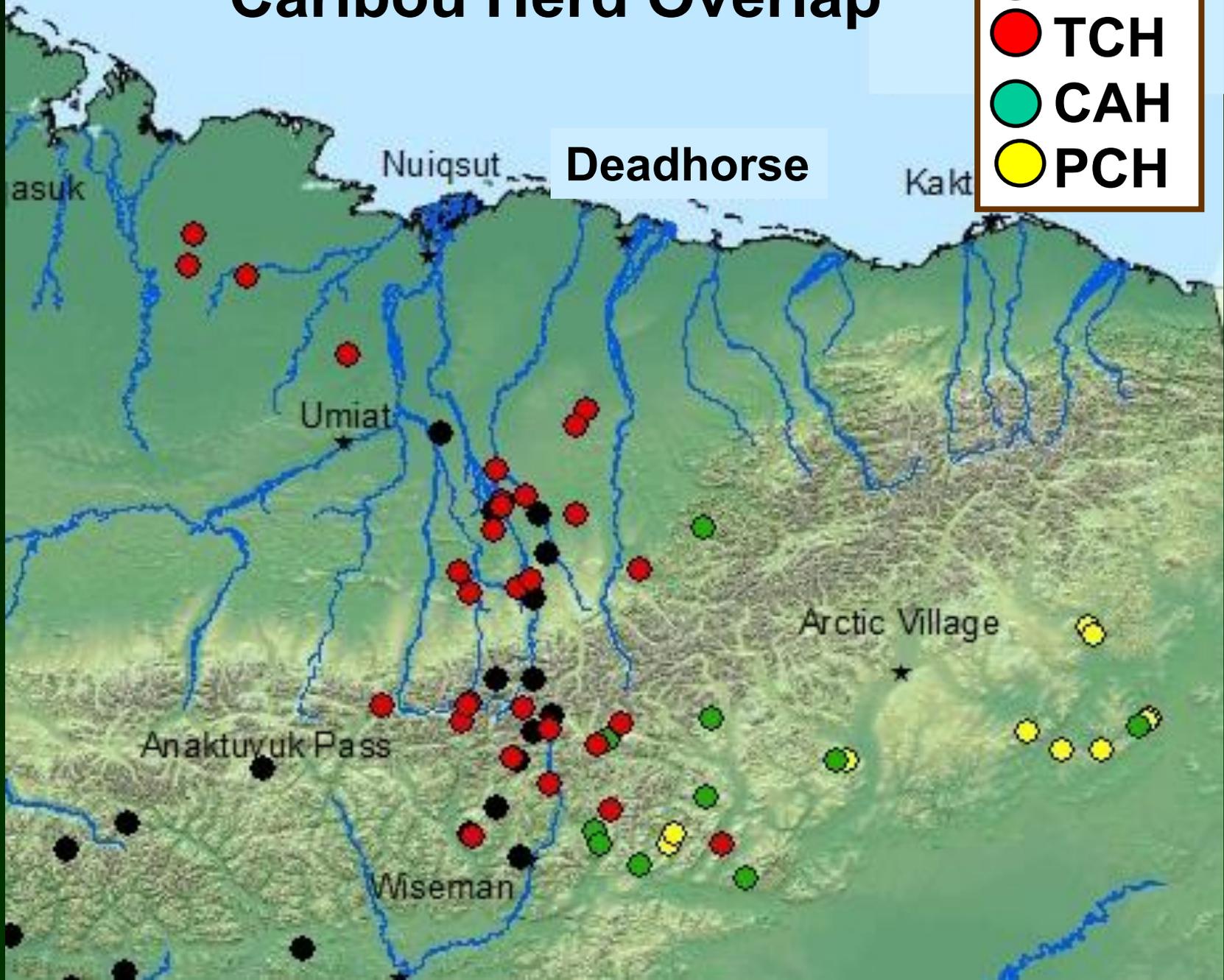
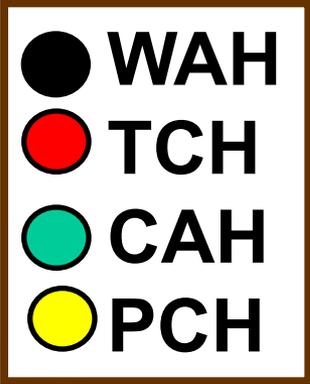
Caribou Herd Overlap



Photocensus (population estimate)
Composition (bull and calf:cow ratios)
Captures (Radiocollaring)

Affects regulatory processes

Caribou Herd Overlap



Moose



Units 25A, 25B, 25D

2 Proposals

- **Low densities**
- **Low to moderate harvest**

Management Issues:

- **Low densities in Unit 25D**
 - good habitat, bear and wolf predation
- **Potential new federal closure in eastern 25A**
 - Coleen & Sheenjok rivers



Units 26B & 26C

- Limited distribution
- Resident only season in 26B
- Season remains closed in 26C

Management Issues

- Moose at northern extent of range
- Removing federal closure in a portion of 26C was not approved

Muskox

Northeast Alaska Muskox (Units 26B & C, eastern 26A)

- Substantial decline during early 2000s
- All hunts closed by 2006

Management Issue:

- Brown bear predation on muskox
- BOG authorized Muskox Recovery Plan



Dall Sheep



1 Proposal

Eastern Brooks Range:

- Population stable at reduced density
- Hunters and harvest has increased

Management Issue:

- increased hunting pressure

Wolf



- Low density population
- Low harvest

Management Issue:

- Predation on moose

Fur & Small Game



- Abundant lynx, fox, marten, mink
beaver, snowshoe hares, grouse & ptarmigan
- Harvest is low relative to populations

Proposal 74

Proposed:

- Create a resident youth-only hunt for caribou in DHCMA for 1 week during Aug. 1–25
- Eliminate nonresident hunting for caribou in DHCMA during Aug. 1–25

Department Position: Neutral

No conservation issue; Allocation issue

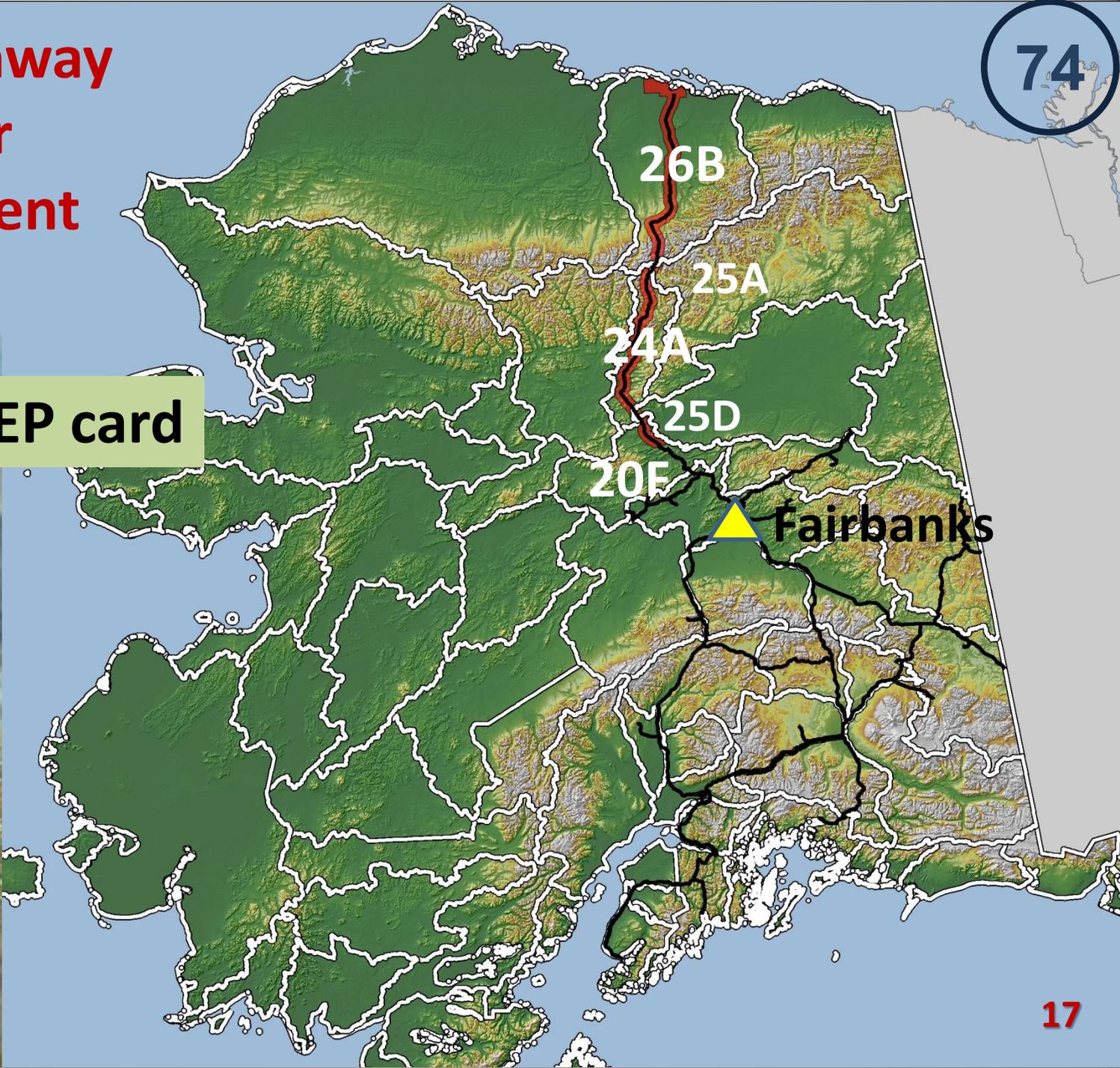
Effect:

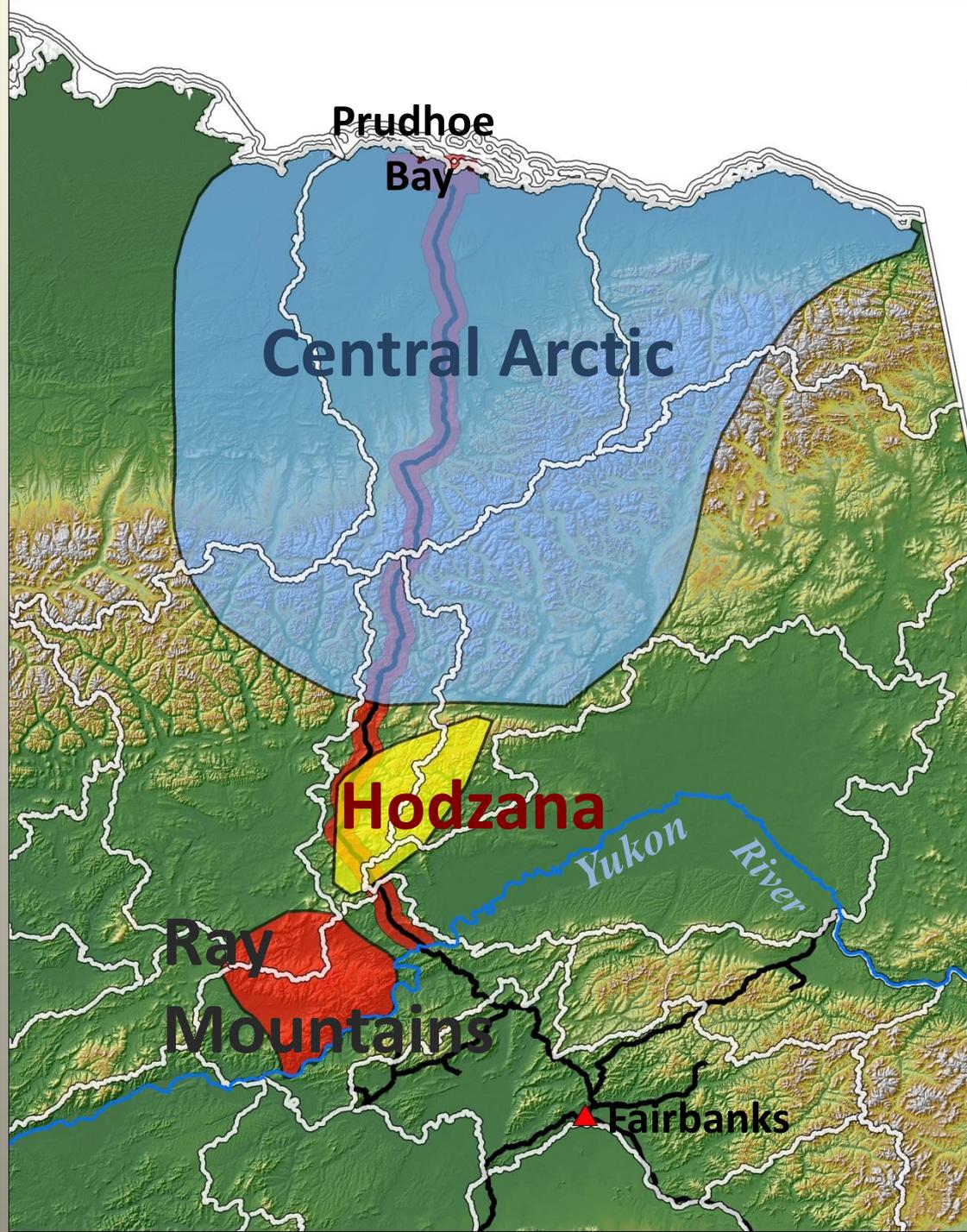
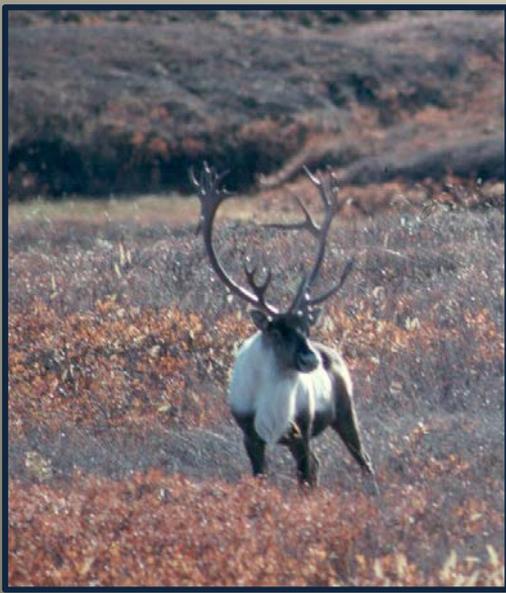
- **May result in less crowding & competition in the DHCMA for:**
 - **youth resident hunters 1 week in Aug.**
 - **all resident hunters in Aug.**
- **Restricts caribou bow hunting opportunity in the DHCMA for:**
 - **adult residents by 7 days in Aug.**
 - **nonresidents by 25 days in Aug.**

**Dalton Highway
Corridor
Management
Area**

74

Requires IBEP card





Central Arctic Herd

26A

Population size: 70,000

26B

Harvestable surplus: 3,350

Mean annual reported harvest: ~ 1000

25A

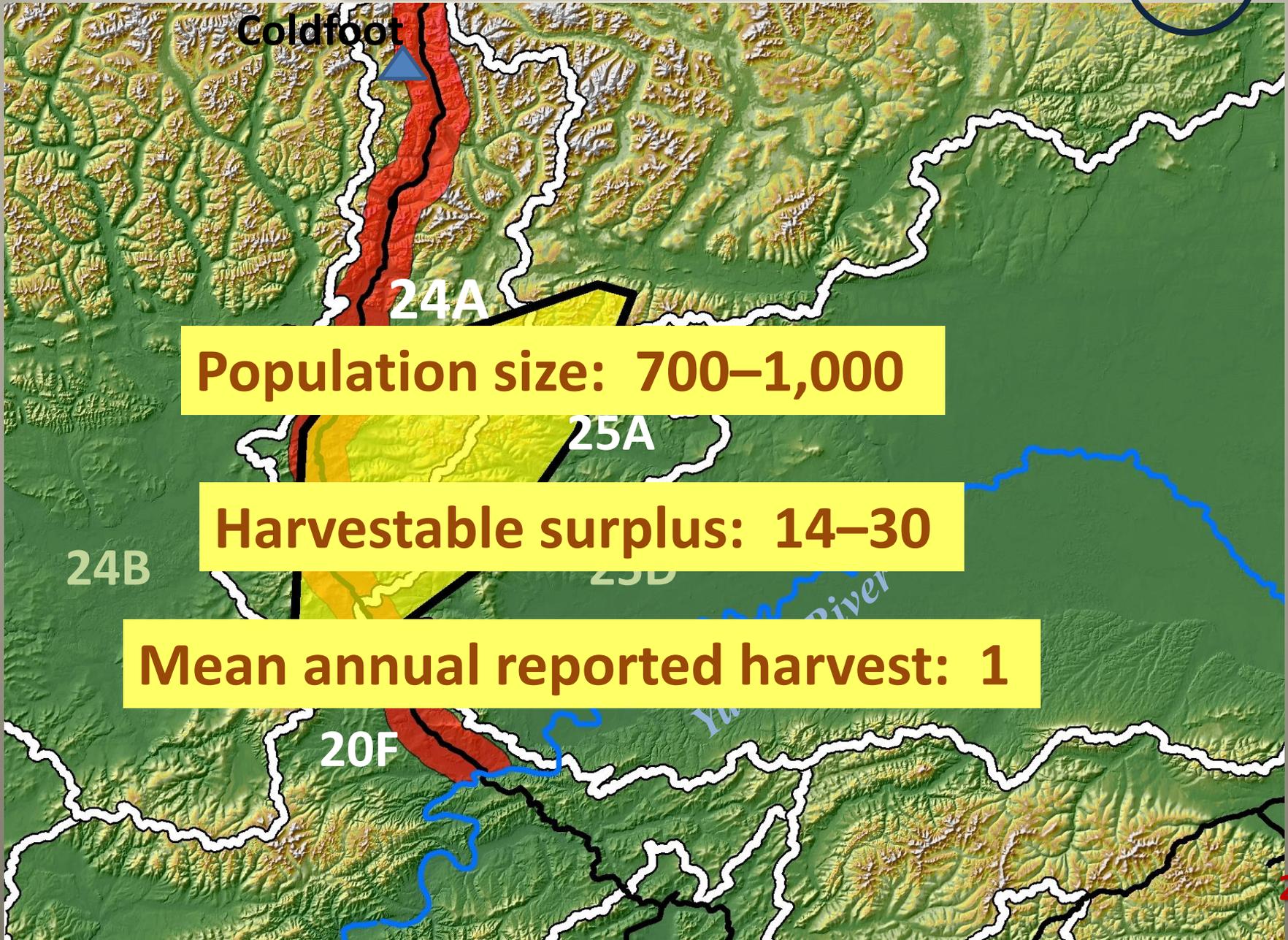
24A

25D

24B

Hodzana Hills Herd

74



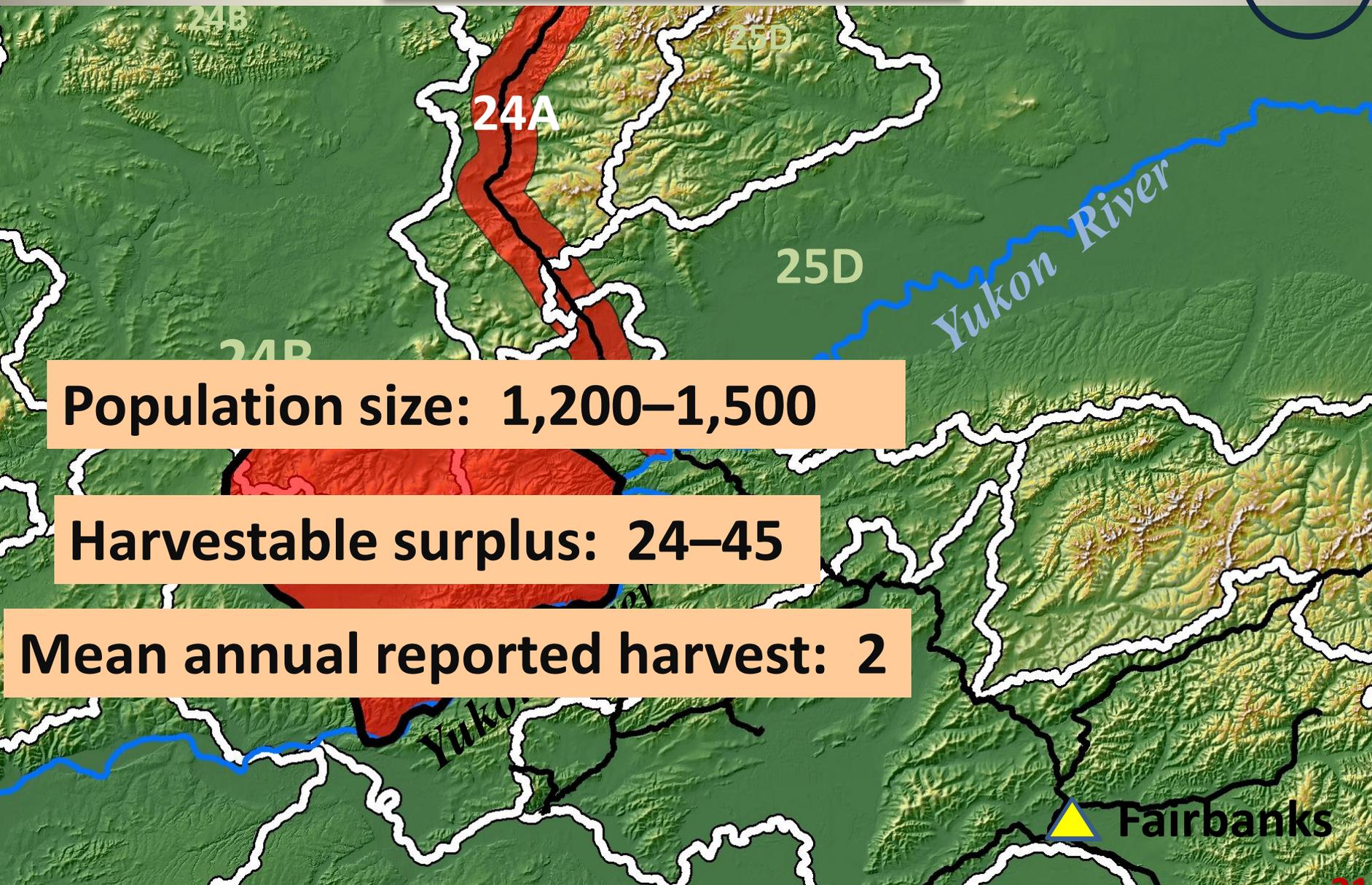
Population size: 700–1,000

Harvestable surplus: 14–30

Mean annual reported harvest: 1

Ray Mountains Herd

74



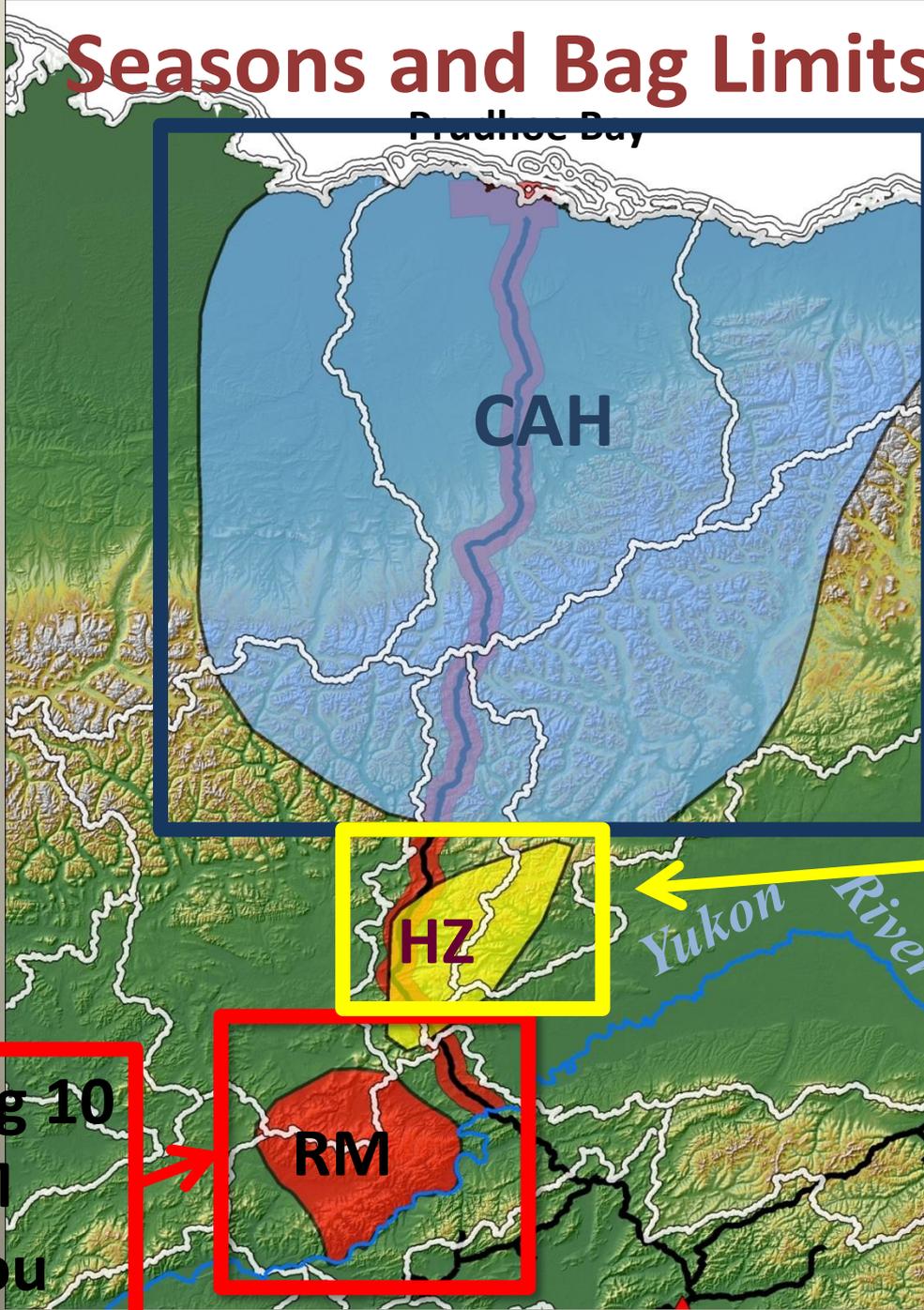
Population size: 1,200–1,500

Harvestable surplus: 24–45

Mean annual reported harvest: 2

Seasons and Bag Limits

74



Open
Year round
for CAH & HZ
multiple bag limit

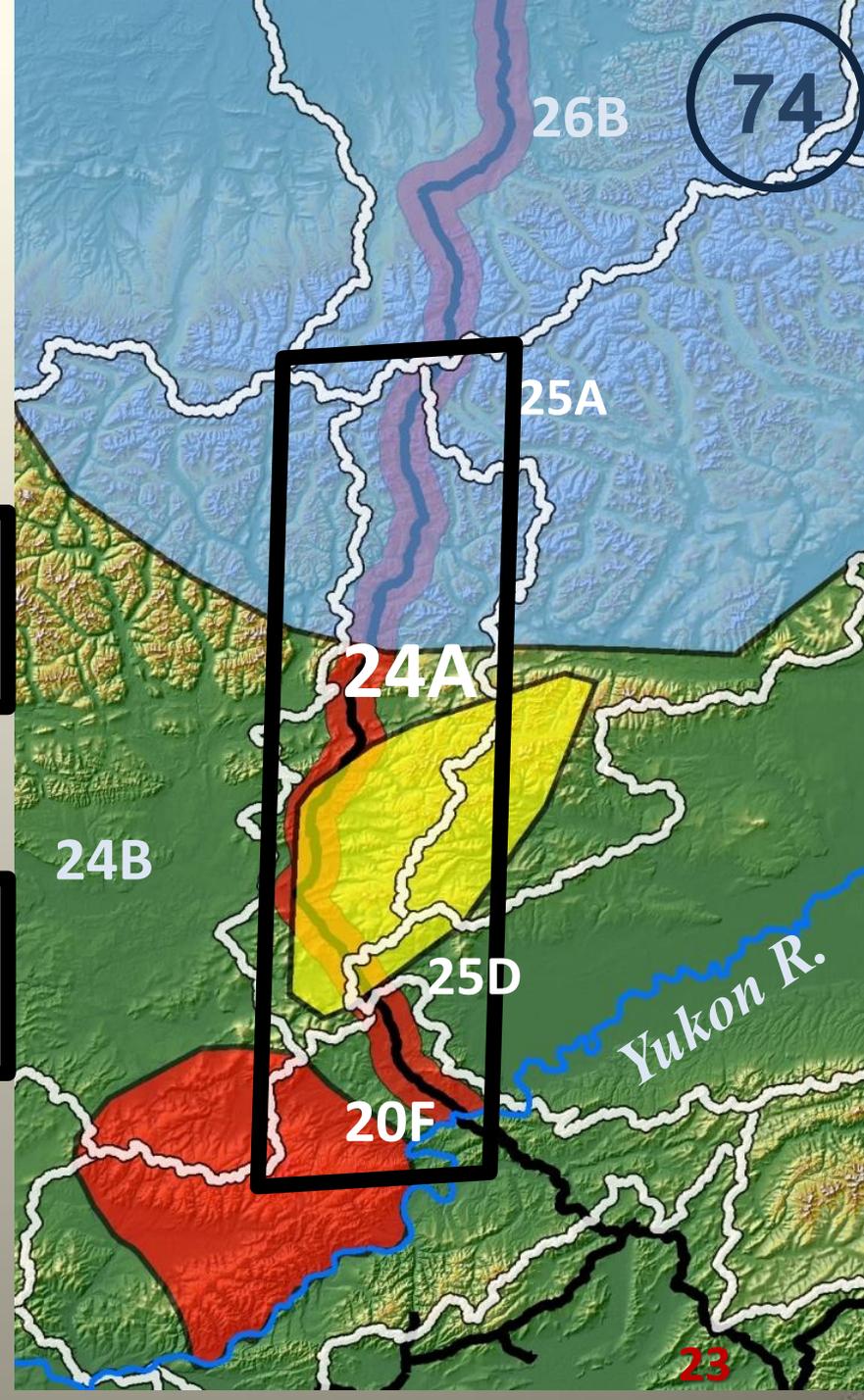
Opens Aug 10
for RM
1 caribou

Caribou Harvest in DHCMA in August

South of Brooks Range
RY 2008—2012

Mean harvest
= 1 caribou/year in August

Probably ≤ 25 caribou hunters
per year in August



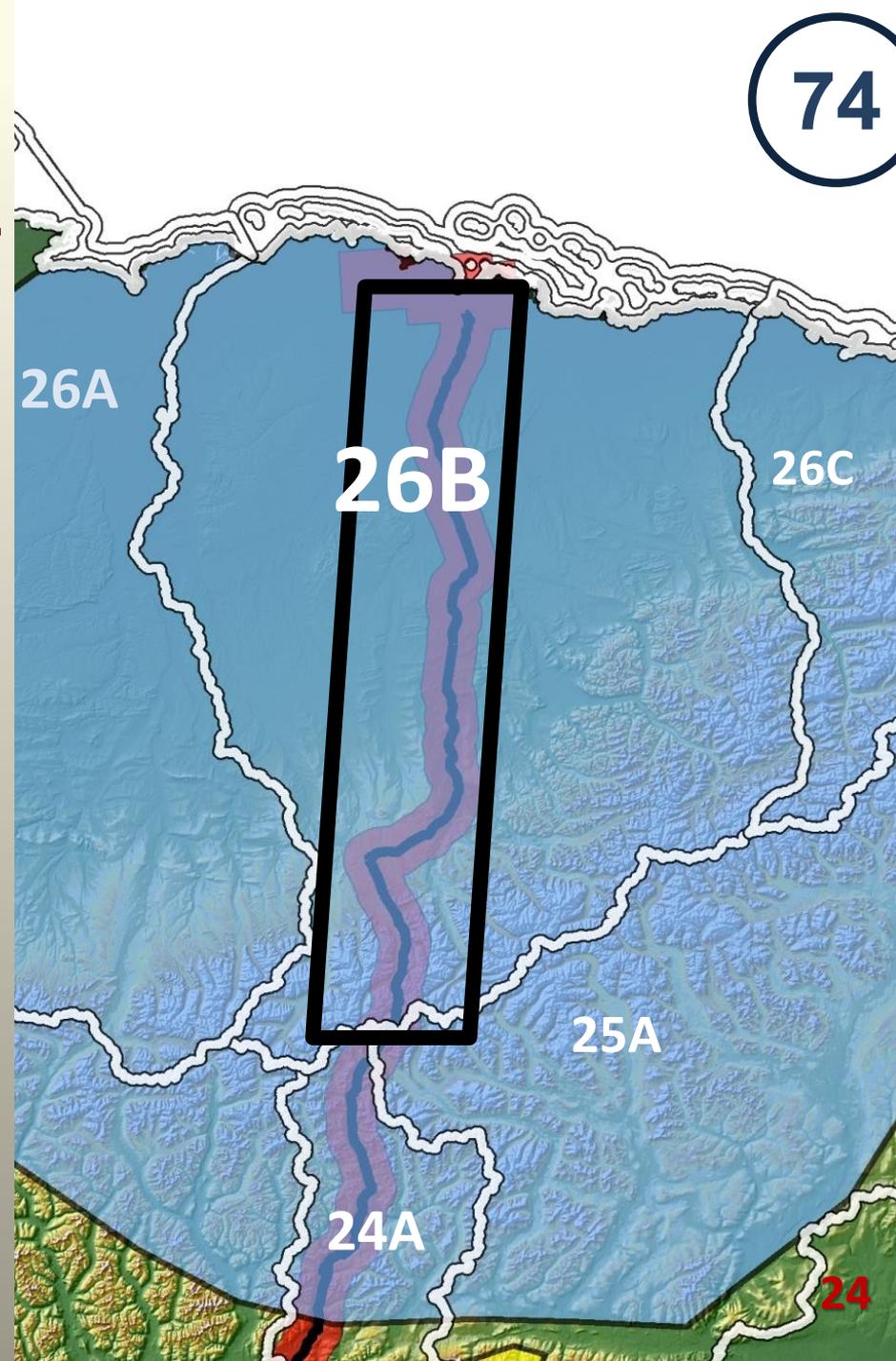
Caribou Harvest in DHCMA in August

North of Brooks Range
RY 2008—2012

Mean harvest = 128
caribou/year in August

➤ 103 by residents

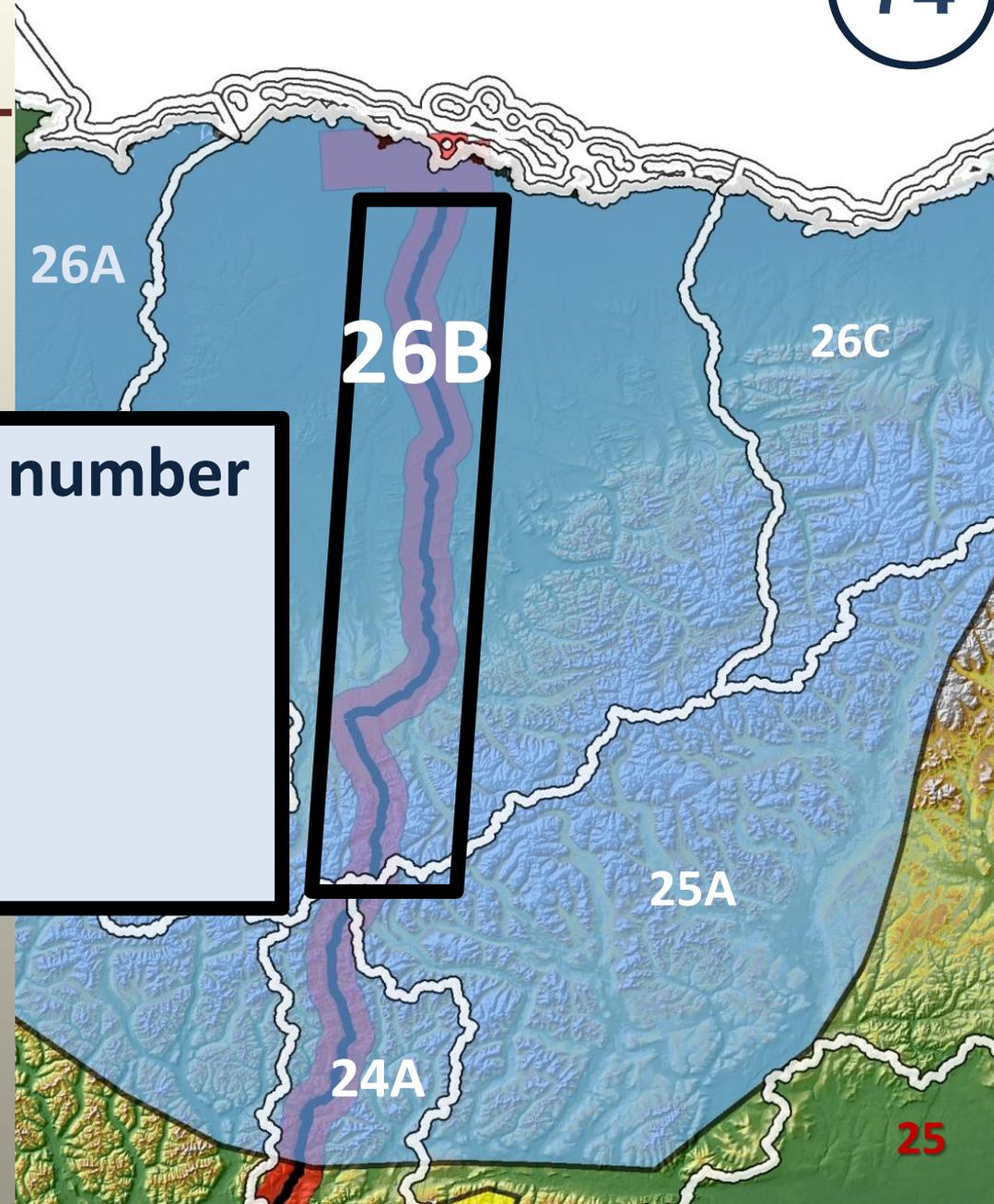
➤ 25 by nonresidents



Caribou Hunters in DHCMA in August

74

North of Brooks Range
RY 2008—2012



Rough estimate of mean number
bow hunters in August

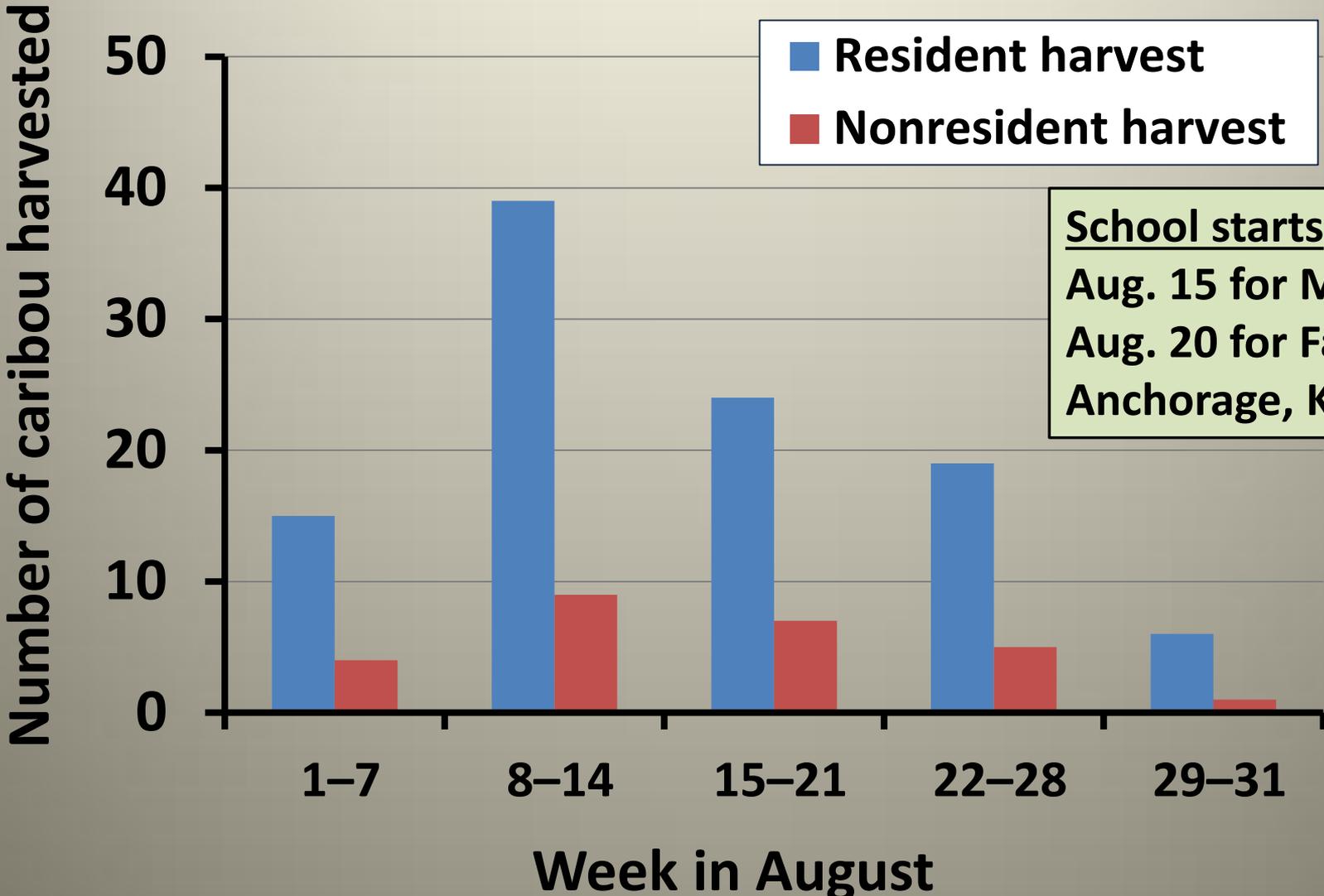
- ~ 510 caribou hunters
 - 410 residents
 - 100 nonresidents

Youth Caribou Hunting & Harvest in DHCMA in Unit 26B, RY08–12

Mean harvest
= 1 caribou/year in August

Mean number hunters by bow & rifle
= 14 caribou hunters/year all year

26B Caribou Harvest in DHCMA in August by week



School starts:
Aug. 15 for MatSu
Aug. 20 for Fairbanks,
Anchorage, Kenai

Summary of crowding issue for hunting caribou in DHCMA in August

- Limited camping areas along Dalton Hwy
- Caribou are not evenly distributed
 - If caribou are crossing at only 1 or 2 spots; hunters congregate in these spots
- Visibility is good on tundra--no trees
 - everyone sees same caribou
 - everyone sees each other
- Crowding mostly near the road

Summary of Unit 26B Caribou Harvest in DHCMA for Nonresidents in August

RY 2008—2012

- 25 caribou/year (23 during Aug. 1–25)
- 56% of nonresident harvest in DHCMA occurs during Aug. 1–25
- Estimated number of nonresidents hunters in DHCMA in August was 100

Proposal 74 Conclusion

Proposed:

- Create a resident youth-only hunt for caribou in DHCMA for 1 week during Aug. 1–25
- Eliminate nonresident hunting for caribou in DHCMA during Aug. 1–25

Department Comments: Neutral

No conservation issue; Allocation issue

If adopted, BOG may consider adopting hunt conditions consistent with other youth hunts

Proposal 75

Proposed:

In DHCMA, north of the Kanuti River,

- create a resident youth-only hunt (≤ 17 yrs old) for caribou for during Aug. 13–16
- eliminate nonresident hunting during Aug. 13–20 and maybe Sept. 1–7 also
- suggests the board to consider youth-only and resident-only hunts for moose and sheep within the DHCMA.

Proposal 75 cont'd

Department Position: **Neutral**

No conservation issue; Allocation issue

Effect:

- **Could create more resident youth-hunts**
- **May result in less crowding and competition in the DHCMA for caribou hunters for:**
 - **youth resident hunters for 4 days in Aug.**
 - **all resident hunters for 4 days in Aug. & possibly 7 days in Sept**
- **Restricts caribou bow hunting opportunity in the DHCMA for:**
 - **adult residents by 4 days in Aug.**
 - **nonresidents by 8 days in Aug. & possibly 7 days in Sept. (total 15 days)**

Effect cont'd

- **Restricts moose & sheep bow hunting opportunity in DHCMA for:**
 - **adult resident hunters**
 - **nonresident hunters**

If board creates youth-only hunts and eliminates nonresident hunting for a portion of the season

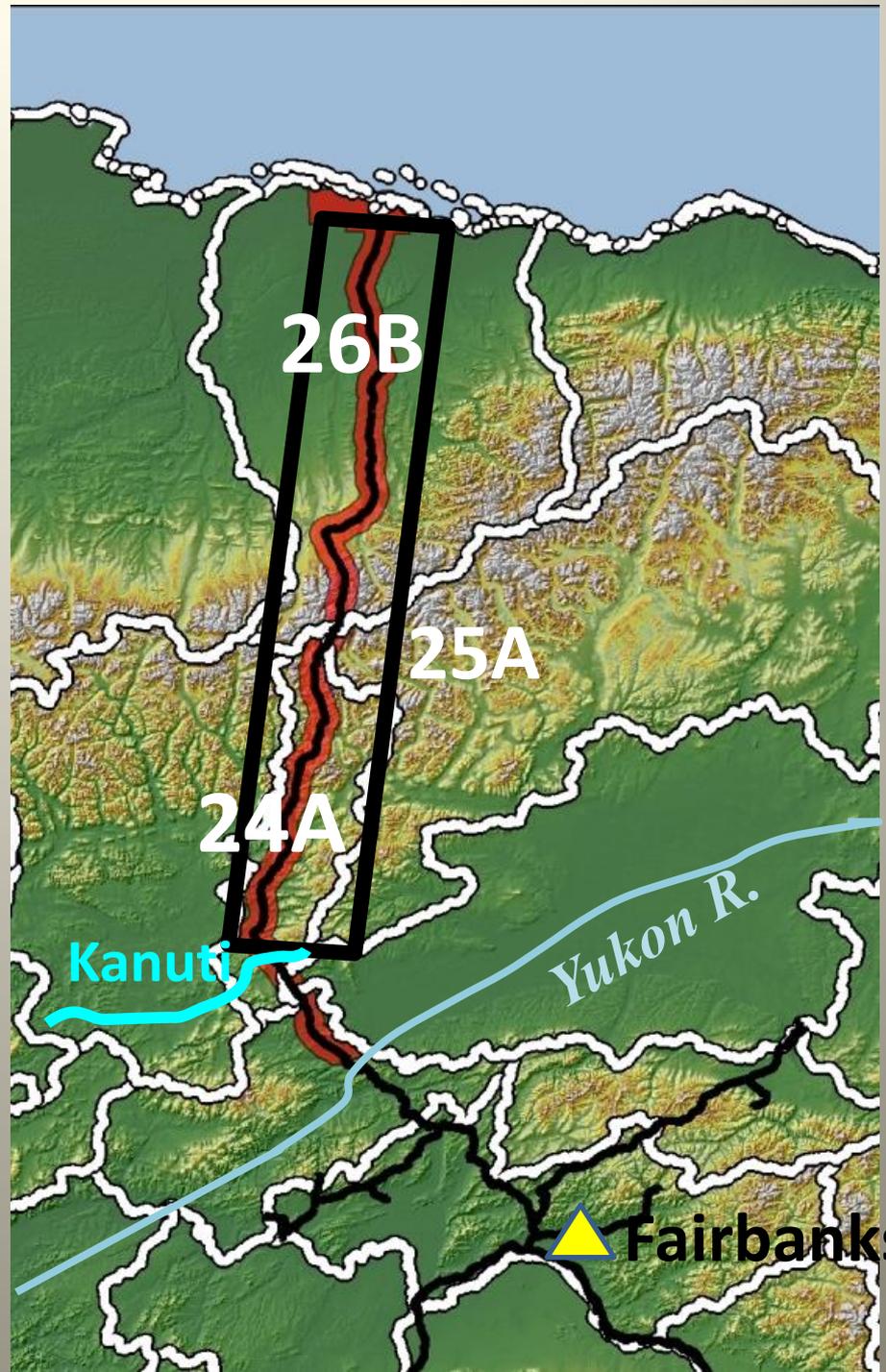
Proposal 75

Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

North of
Kanuti River

Requires IBEP card

75



DHCMA, north of Kanuti for Caribou

75

Central Arctic Herd

26B

**Same population & harvest data
that was presented for Proposal 74**

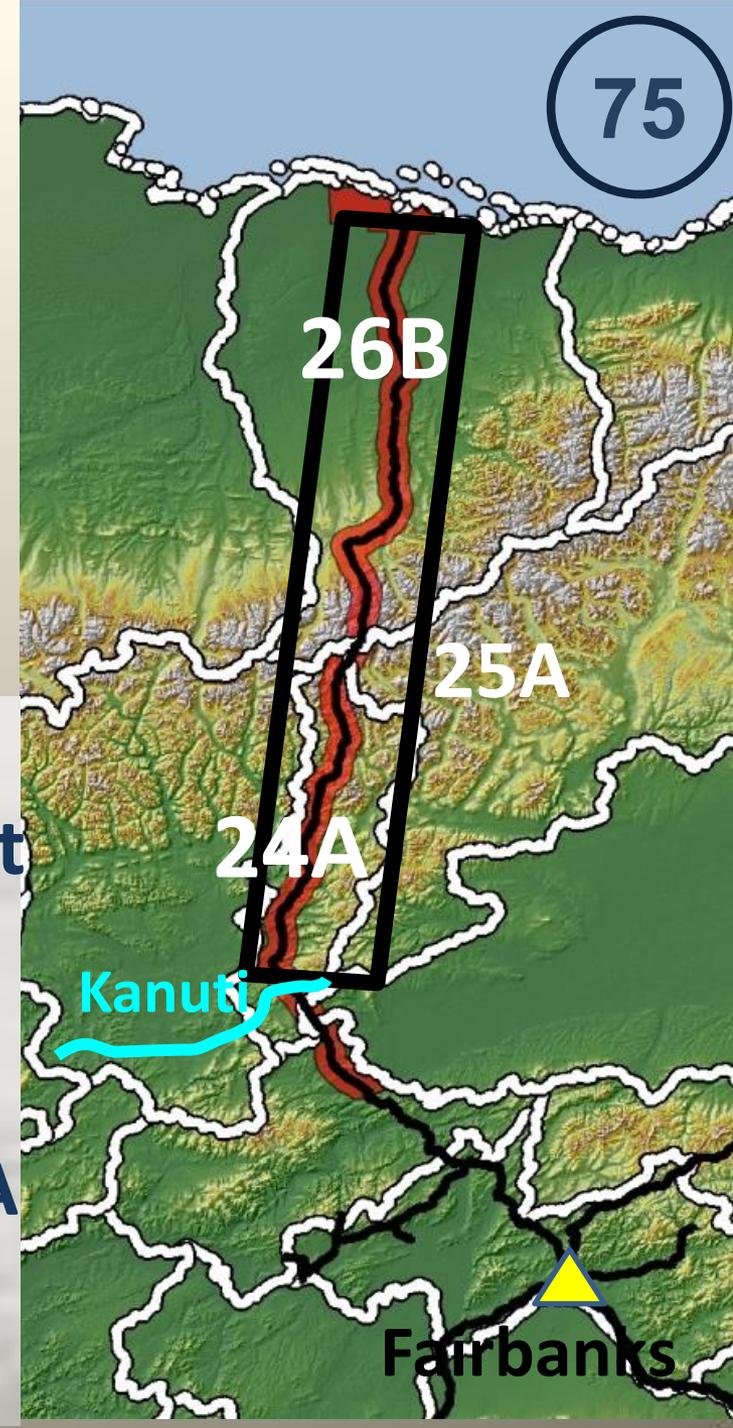
24A

Hodzana Hills Herd

Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

North of Kanuti
For MOOSE

- All fall hunts by drawing permit
- Moose densities very low
- Success rates are low in DHCMA

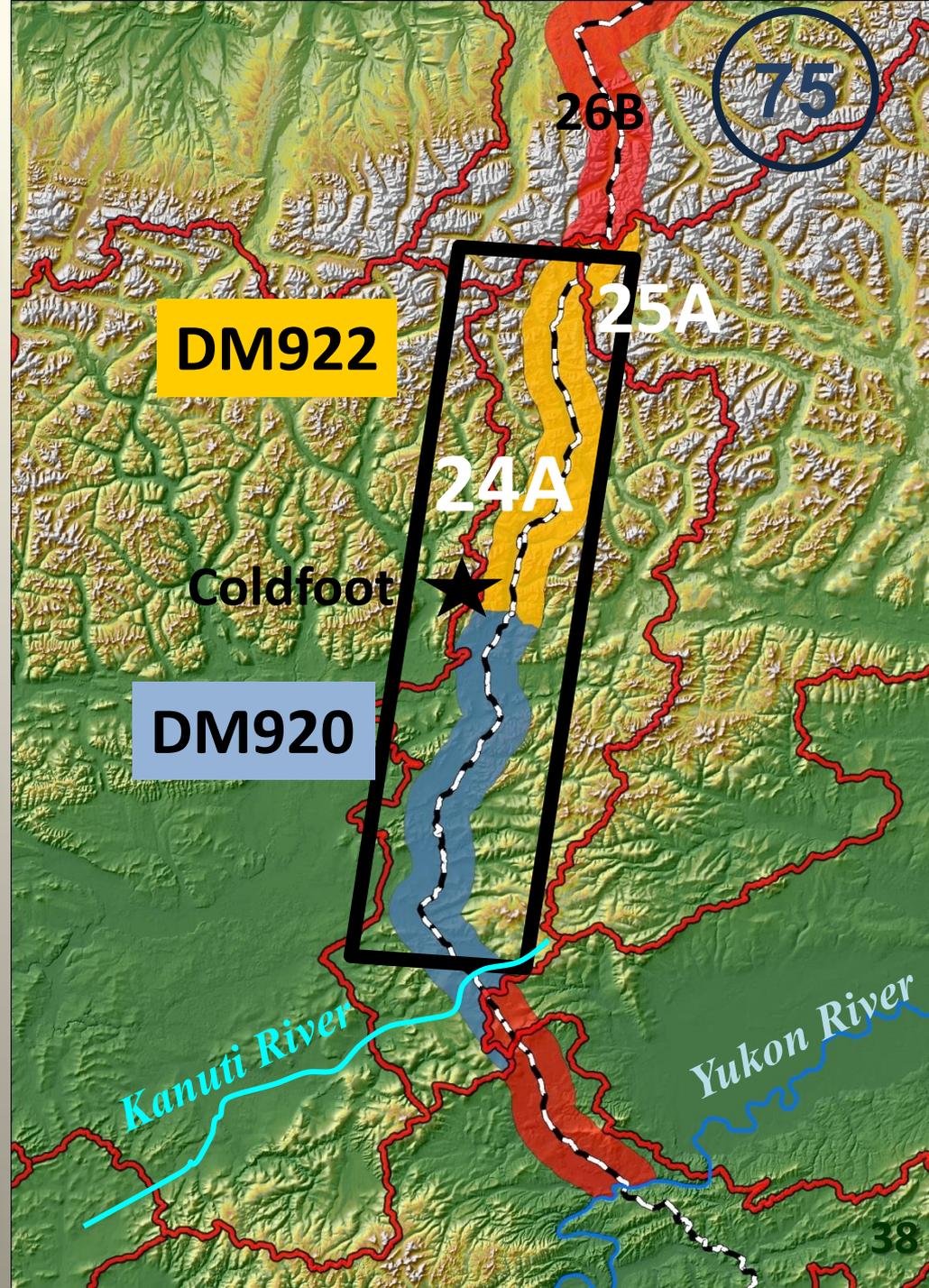


Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

South of Brooks Range
For MOOSE
Unit 24A/25A



- 2 Drawing hunts
in DHCMA
(DM920 & DM922)





DM920 and DM922 Permit Hunt Summary

RY2009—2013 means

Resid: Sept 1—25

Nonresid: Sept 5—25

DM920, south of Slate Ck;

Permits Issued	Number hunters	Number killed
20 (18 Resid, 2 NR)	14	2

DM922, north of Slate Ck

Permits Issued	Number hunters	Number killed
50 (46 Resid, 4 NR)	31	3

(DM922: 1 youth hunted; 0 killed)

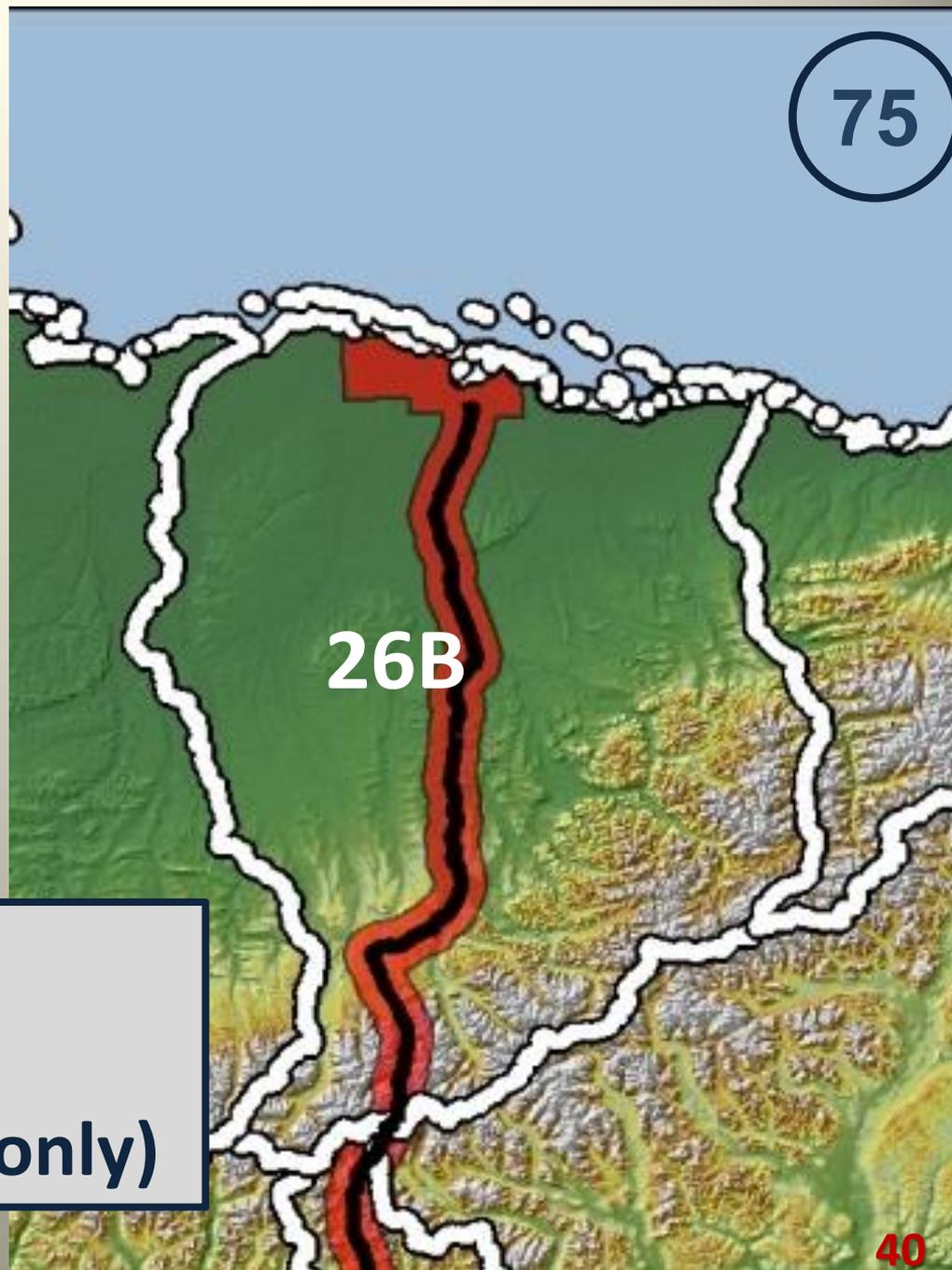
Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

North of Brooks Range



For MOOSE
In Unit 26B

- 1 Drawing hunt
in all Unit 26B in fall
(DM996 is residents only)





DM996 Permit Hunt Summary

75

RY2009—2013 means

DM996, all of Unit 26B

Permits Issued	Number hunters	Number killed
17 (all residents)	11	6

- 2 of 28 total moose killed were in DHCMA
- Total of 7 youths hunted, 3 killed, outside DHCMA



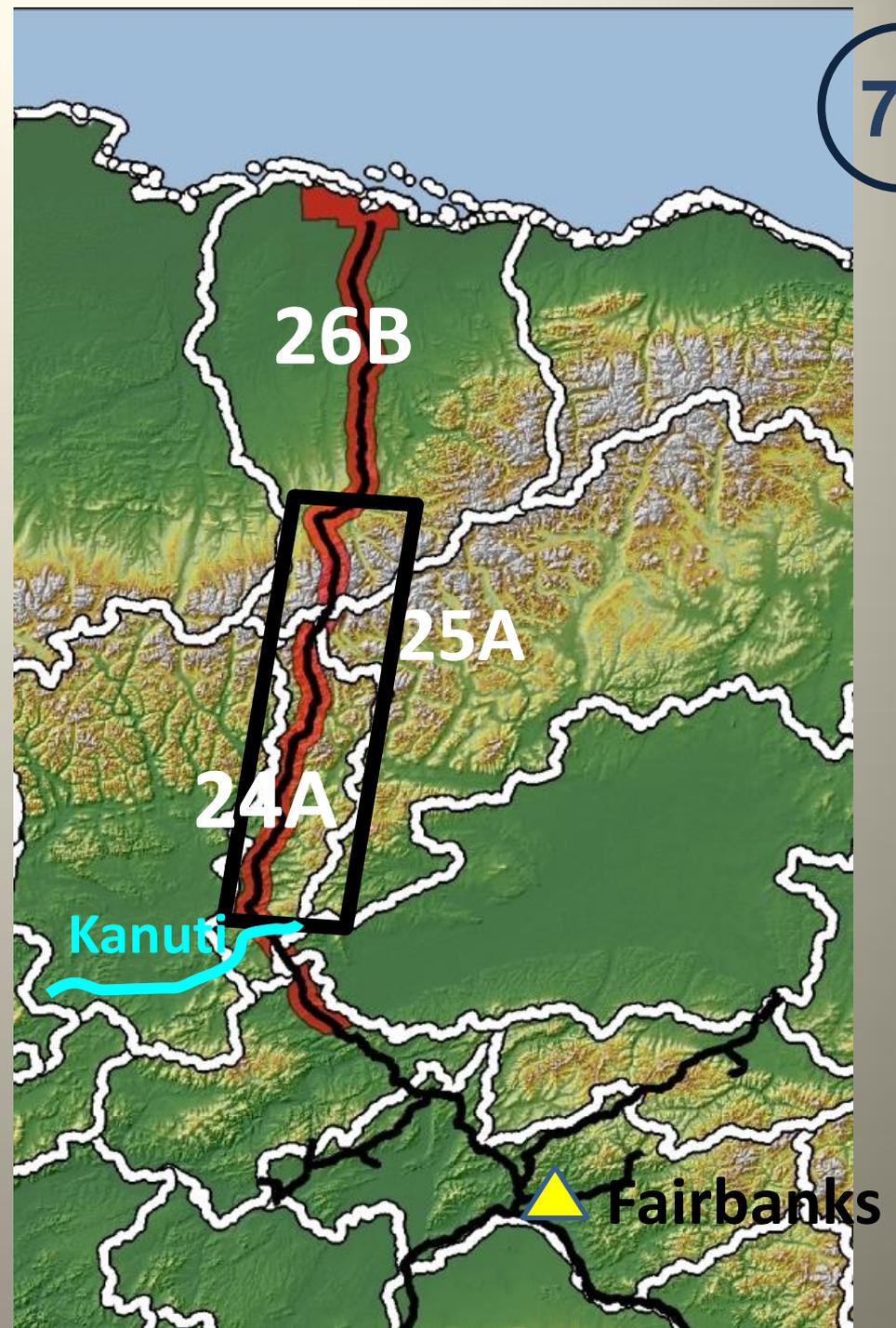
DM920, DM922, DM996 Summary

75

- All moose hunting is by drawing permit in fall
- Low moose densities
- Success rates are very low
- Few or no nonresidents participate; Season opens 5 days later
- Number of youth bow hunters for moose is low
 - Need to be able to draw 50lbs peak draw weight

Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

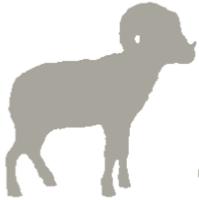
North of
Kanuti River
For SHEEP



Sheep Harvest in DHCMA

75

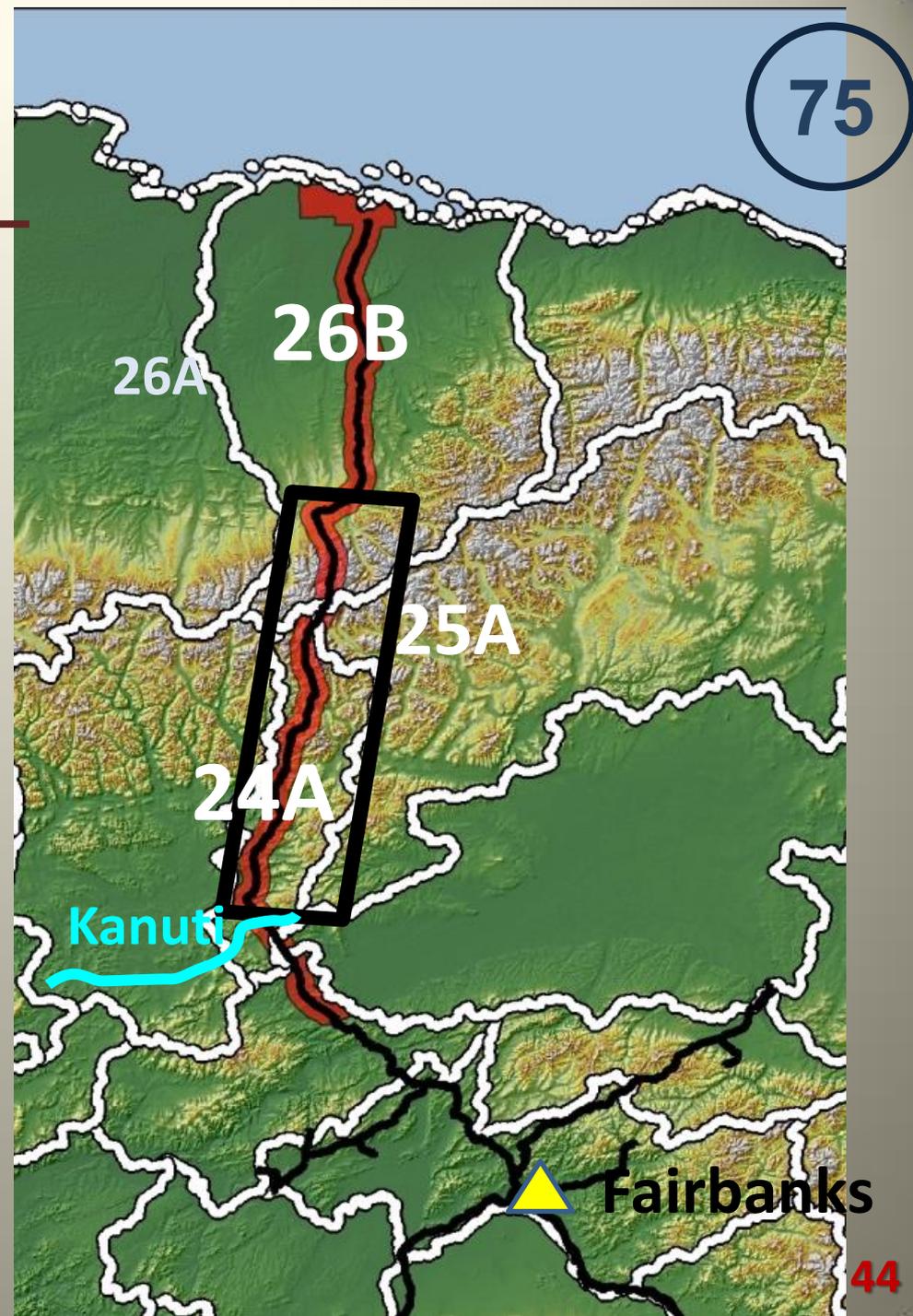
RY 2008—2012



Mean harvest
= 4 sheep/year

➤ 3 by residents

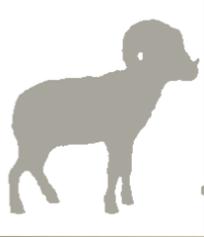
➤ 1 by nonresidents



Youth Sheep Hunting & Harvest in DHCMA RY2008–2012



**Mean harvest
= < 1 sheep/year**



Sheep hunting & harvest in & along DHCMA summary

75

- Sheep harvest within DHCMA is very low
- Number of nonresidents hunting is low
- Number of youth bow hunters for sheep is low

Proposal 75 Conclusion

Proposed:

In DHCMA, north of the Kanuti River,

- create a resident youth-only hunt (≤ 17 yrs old) for caribou for during Aug. 13–20
- eliminate nonresident hunting during Aug. 13–20 and maybe also Sept. 1–7
- requests the board to consider youth-only and resident-only hunts for moose and sheep within the DHCMA. No specifics.

Proposal 75 Conclusion cont'd

Department comments: **Neutral**

No conservation issue; Allocative issue

- **If adopted, board may consider adopting hunt conditions consistent with other youth hunts**

Proposal 76

Proposed:

- Allow sidelock muzzleloading rifles to be used within the DHCMA, except no shooting within 500 yards of pipeline

Department Position: Neutral

Effect:

- **No effect**
- **Requires legislative change in AK statutes to allow use of firearms in the DHCMA (AS 16.05.789)**
 - **Muzzleloaders are considered firearms under Alaska law (AS 11.81.900(b)(26))**

Department comments: **Neutral**

- **Board may wish to TAKE NO ACTION because adopting this proposal would have no effect**

Proposal 77

Proposed:

- Add additional language in Unit 26B/26C boundary description to clarify the boundary along the Canning R.

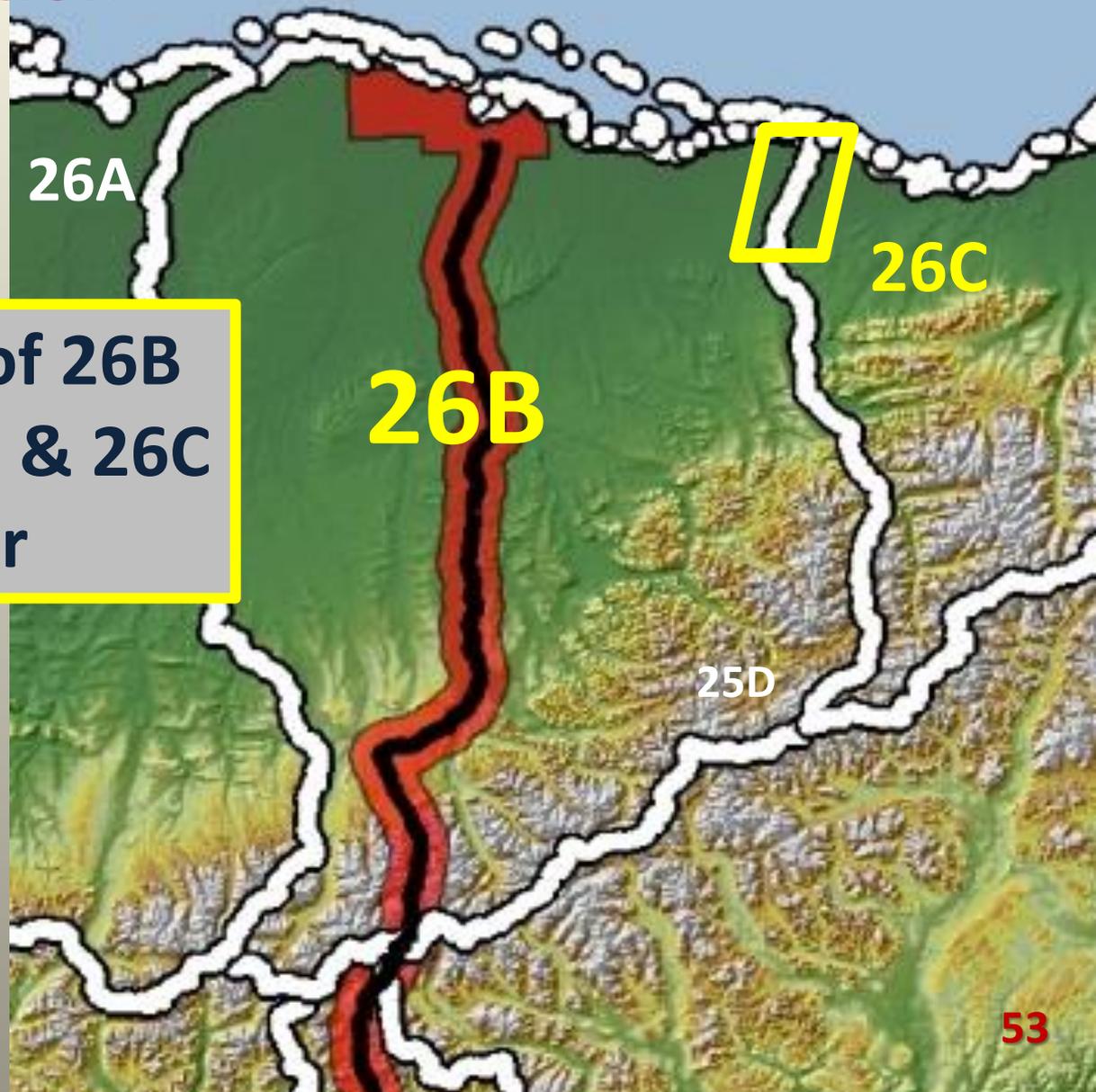
Department Position: Support

Effect:

- Clarify the subunit boundary between units 26B & 26C

Unit 26B

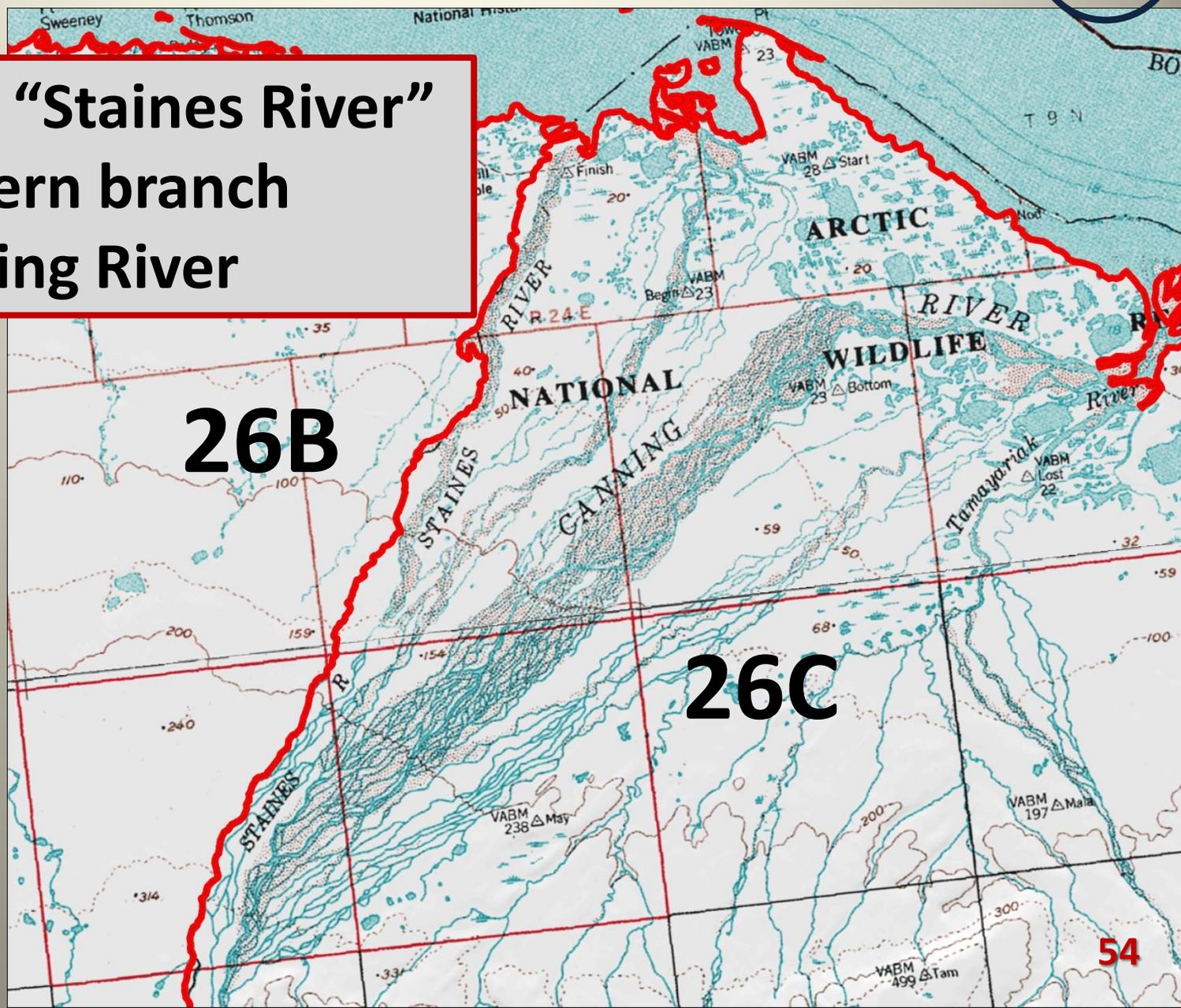
Boundary Clarification



Eastern boundary of 26B
between Units 26B & 26C
along Canning River

Unit 26B Boundary Clarification

Identify the “Staines River” as the western branch of the Canning River



Unit 26B Boundary Clarification Conclusion

Proposed:

5AAC 92.450 (26)(B) Unit 26B consists of the portion of Unit 26 east of Unit 26(A), and west of a line following the west banks of the Staines River branch of the Canning River, the Canning River and [WEST OF THE WEST BANK OF] the Marsh Fork of the Canning River.

Department Position: Support

Proposal 78

What Would the Proposal Do?:

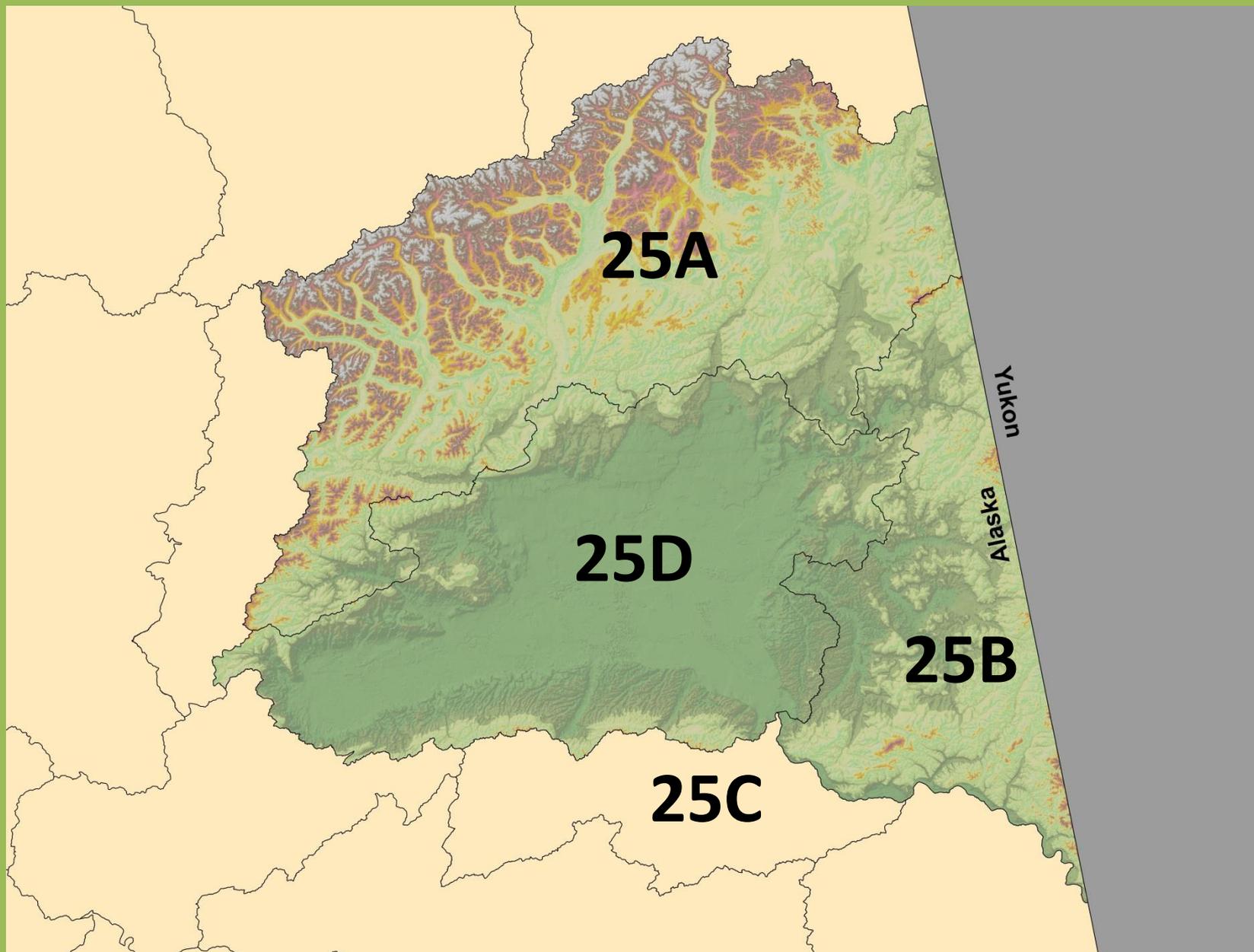
Change the bag limit for moose in Unit 25 for nonresidents from one bull with 50-inch antlers **or antlers with 4 or more brow tines** on at least one side to one bull with 50-inch antlers **or antlers with 3 or more brow times** on at least one side.

Department Position:

Neutral with respect to the allocation of moose between residents and nonresidents.

Oppose any change that would result in increased moose harvest in Unit 25D.

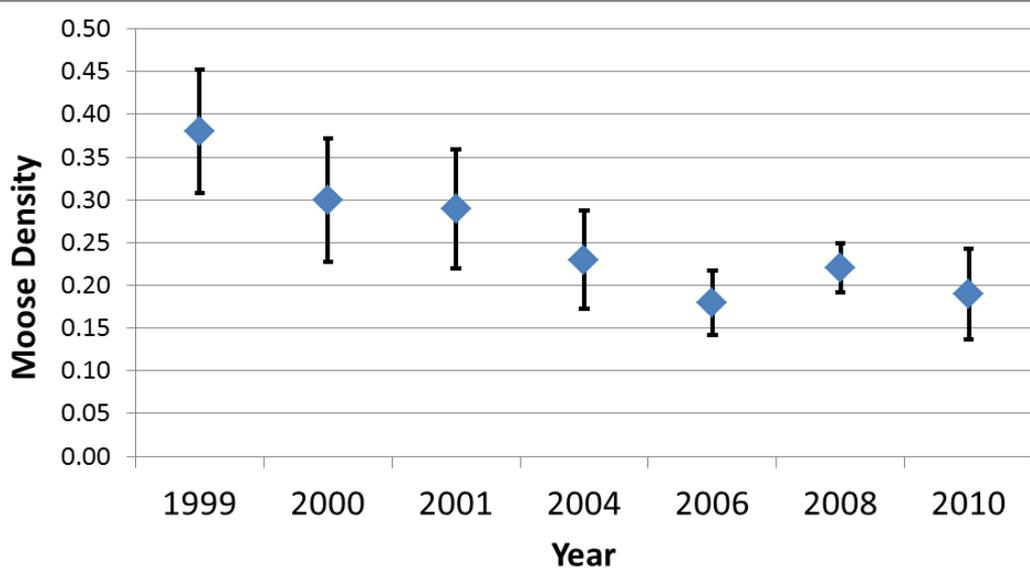
Proposal 78



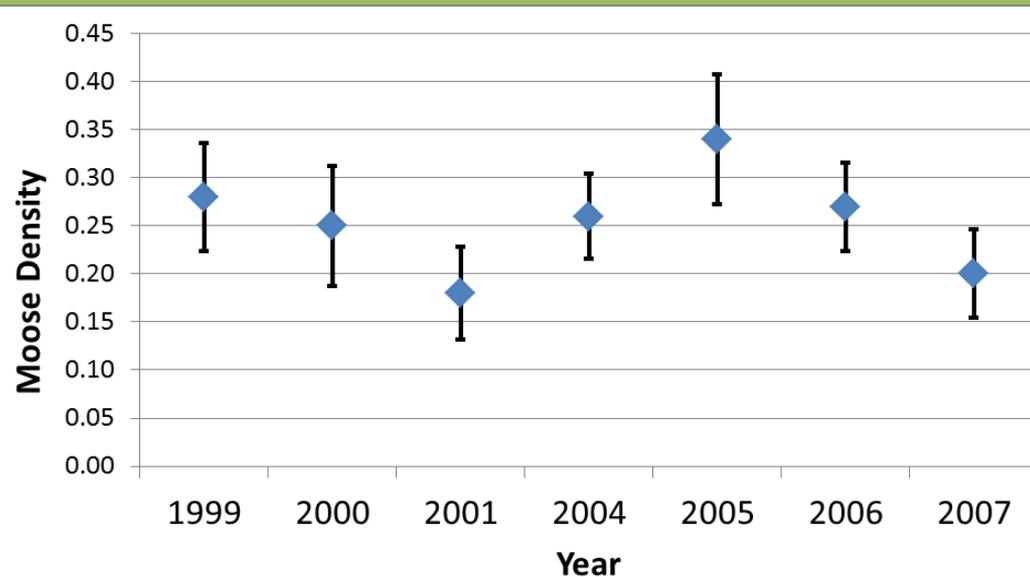
Proposal 78

OPEN TO	UNIT/AREA	BAG LIMIT AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	PERMIT #/ HUNT #*	OPEN SEASON
R	25A Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	One bull <i>by bow and arrow only by permit</i>	DM920	Sept 1-Sept 25
N		One bull <i>with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only by permit</i>	DM920	Sept 5-Sept 25
R	25A remainder	One bull	HT	Sept 5-Sept 25
N		One bull <i>with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side</i>	HT	Sept 5-Sept 25
R	25B within the Porcupine River drainage upstream from, but excluding the Coleen River drainage	One bull	HT	Sept 10-Sept 25
N		One bull <i>with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side</i>	HT	Sept 10-Sept 25
R	25B remainder	One bull	HT	Sept 5-Sept 25
R		One bull	HT	Dec 1-Dec 15
R		One bull <i>by permit</i>	CM001	Sept 5-Sept 25
R		One bull <i>by permit</i>	CM001	Dec 1-Dec 15
N		One bull <i>with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side</i>	HT	Sept 5-Sept 25
R	25C	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
N		One bull	HT	Sept 5-Sept 15
R	25D West	One bull <i>by permit</i>	TM940	Aug 25-Feb 28
R	25D Remainder (East)	One bull	HT	Sept 10-Sept 20
R		One bull	HT	Feb 18-Feb 28
R		One bull <i>by permit</i>	CM001	Sept 10-Sept 20
R		One bull <i>by permit</i>	CM001	Feb 18-Feb 28
N		One bull <i>with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side</i>	HT	Sept 10-Sept 20

Proposal 78

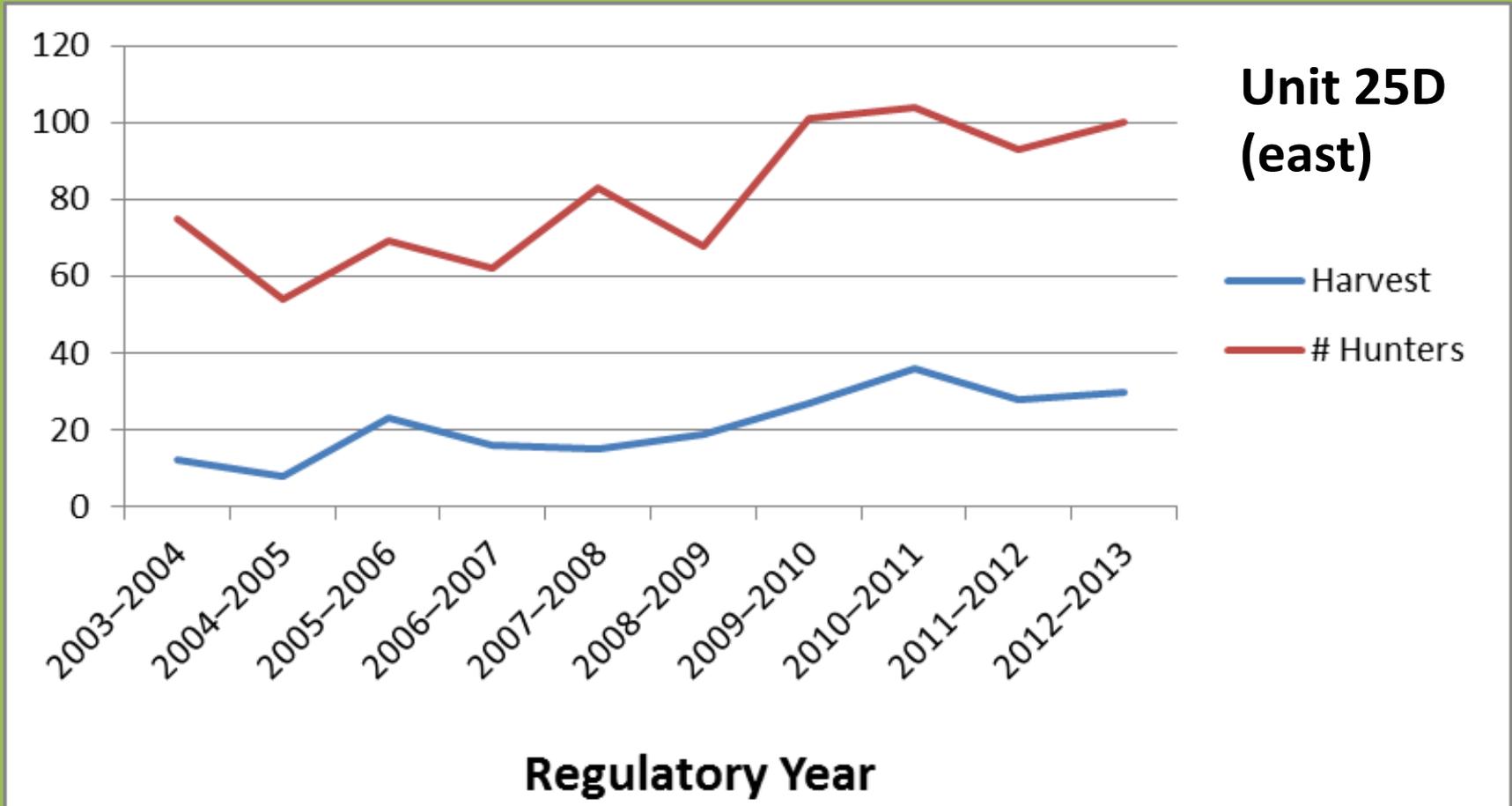


Unit 25D west
(Federal and Tier II,
no nonresident season)



Unit 25D east
(General Season)

Proposal 78



- # of hunters and harvest slightly increasing
- average hunter composition: 89% resident, 11% nonresident
- average harvest: 91% resident, 9% nonresident

Proposal 78

Unit 25D east:

Population size: 1600-2700 moose

Harvestable Surplus: 80-135 bulls

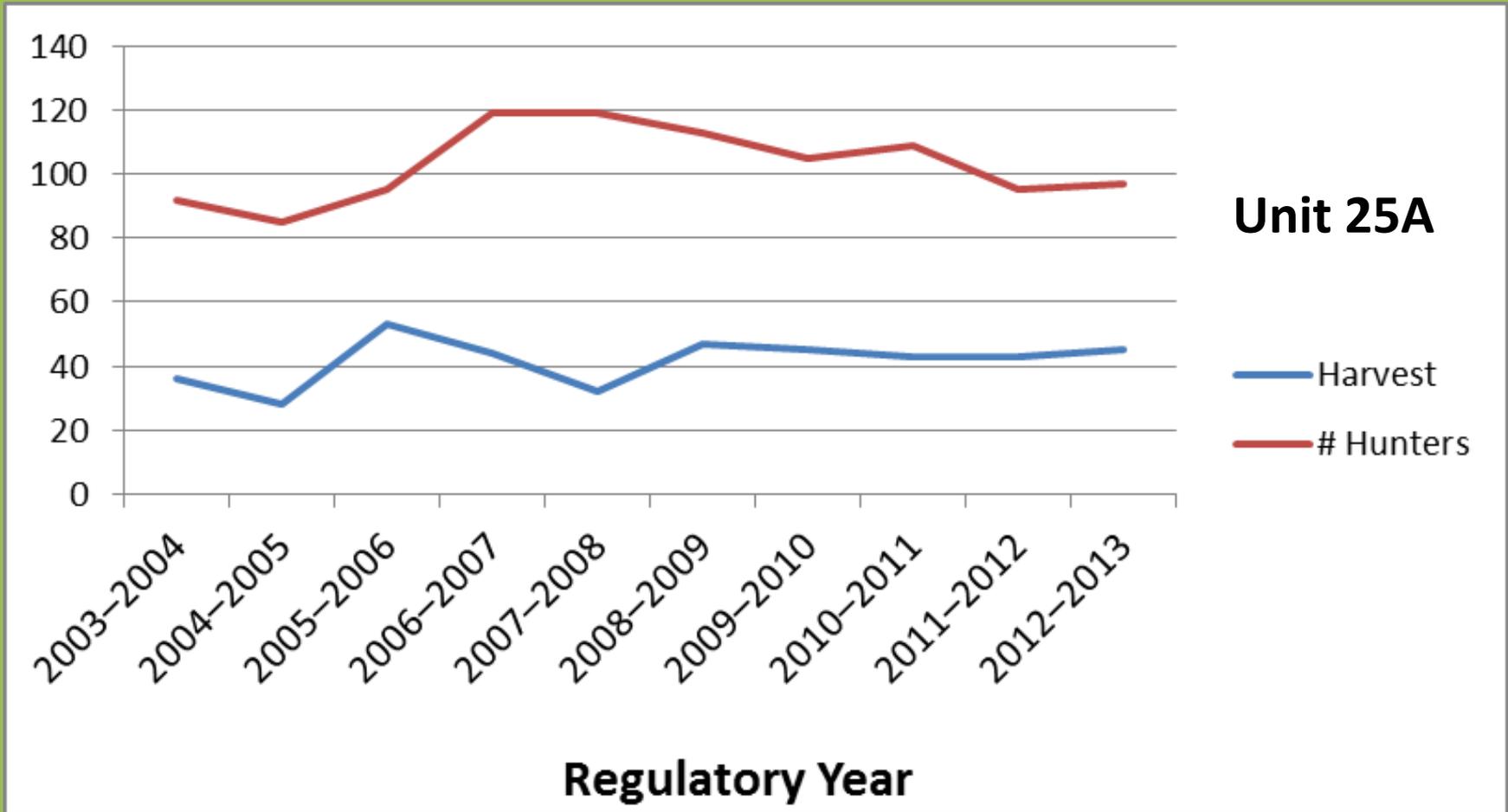
Reported Harvest: 20-40 bulls

Household Surveys:100 moose

(some of this harvest occurs outside 25D east)

Department opposes any change that would result in an increase in harvest in Unit 25D

Proposal 78



- # of hunters and harvest relatively stable
- average hunter composition: 54% resident, 46% nonresident
- average harvest: 48% resident, 52% nonresident

Proposal 78

Unit 25A:

Population size: unknown

Harvestable surplus: unknown

Current harvest: 40 bulls, appears sustainable

Unit size: 21,300 mi²

Area of moose “habitat” (<3,500’): 16,200 mi²

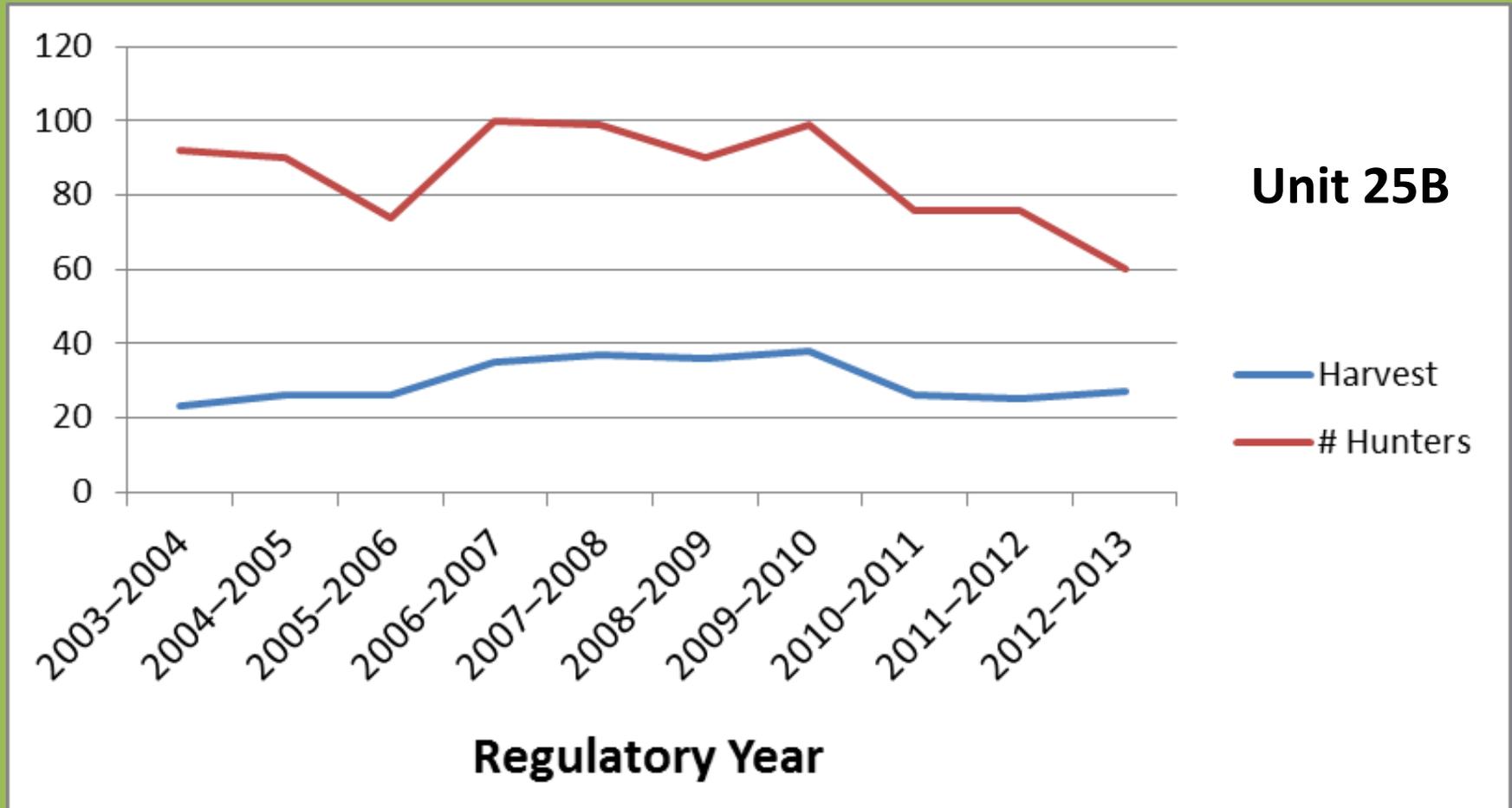
Densities observed in

“similar habitat” (Unit 23): 0.03 – 0.20 moose/mi²

Potential population size: 1,600 (0.1 moose/mi²)

Theoretical Harvestable Surplus: 80 bulls (5%)

Proposal 78



- # of hunters and harvest relatively stable
- average hunter composition: 84% resident, 16% nonresident
- average harvest: 87% resident, 13% nonresident

Proposal 78

Unit 25B:

Population size: unknown

Harvestable surplus: unknown

Current harvest: 20-40 bulls, appears sustainable

Unit size: 9,298 mi²

Densities observed in

“similar habitat” (Unit 25D): 0.20 moose/mi²

Potential population size: 1,800 (0.2 moose/mi²)

Theoretical Harvestable Surplus: 90 bulls (5%)

Proposal 78

What Would the Proposal Do?:

Change the bag limit for moose in Unit 25 for nonresidents from one bull with 50-inch antlers **or antlers with 4 or more brow tines** on at least one side to one bull with 50-inch antlers **or antlers with 3 or more brow times** on at least one side.

Department Position:

Neutral with respect to the allocation of moose between residents and nonresidents.

Oppose any change that would result in increased moose harvest in Unit 25D.

YF AC: Oppose

Proposal 79

What Would the Proposal Do?:

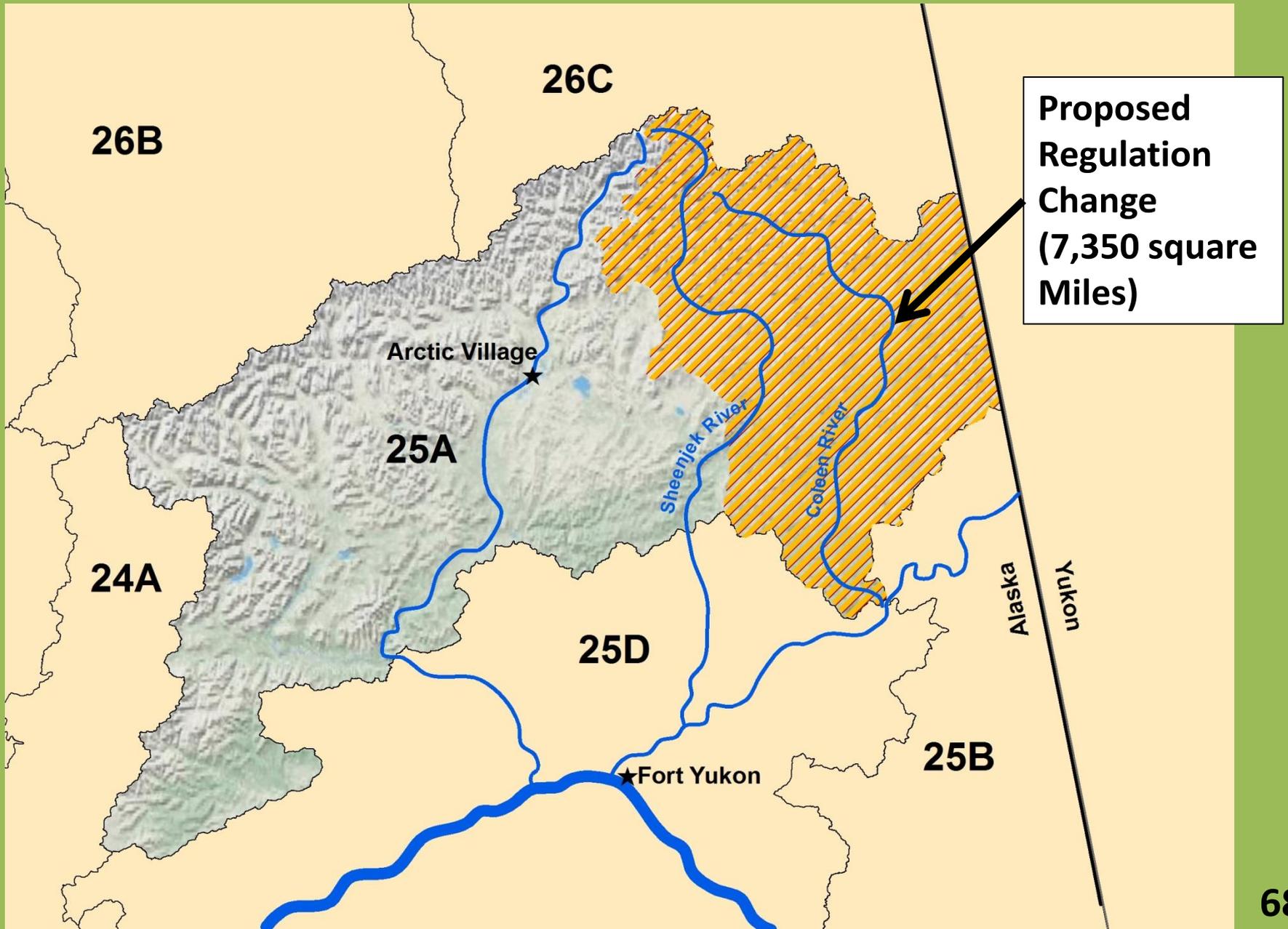
Create a new hunt area in Unit 25A consisting of the Coleen, Old Crow, and Sheenjok River drainages upstream of but not including the Kones River. Bag limit for moose for resident hunters would change from **any bull** to **50-inch/4 brow tines**. Nonguided nonresidents changed from **general season** to **drawing permit**, guided nonresidents **no change**

Department Position:

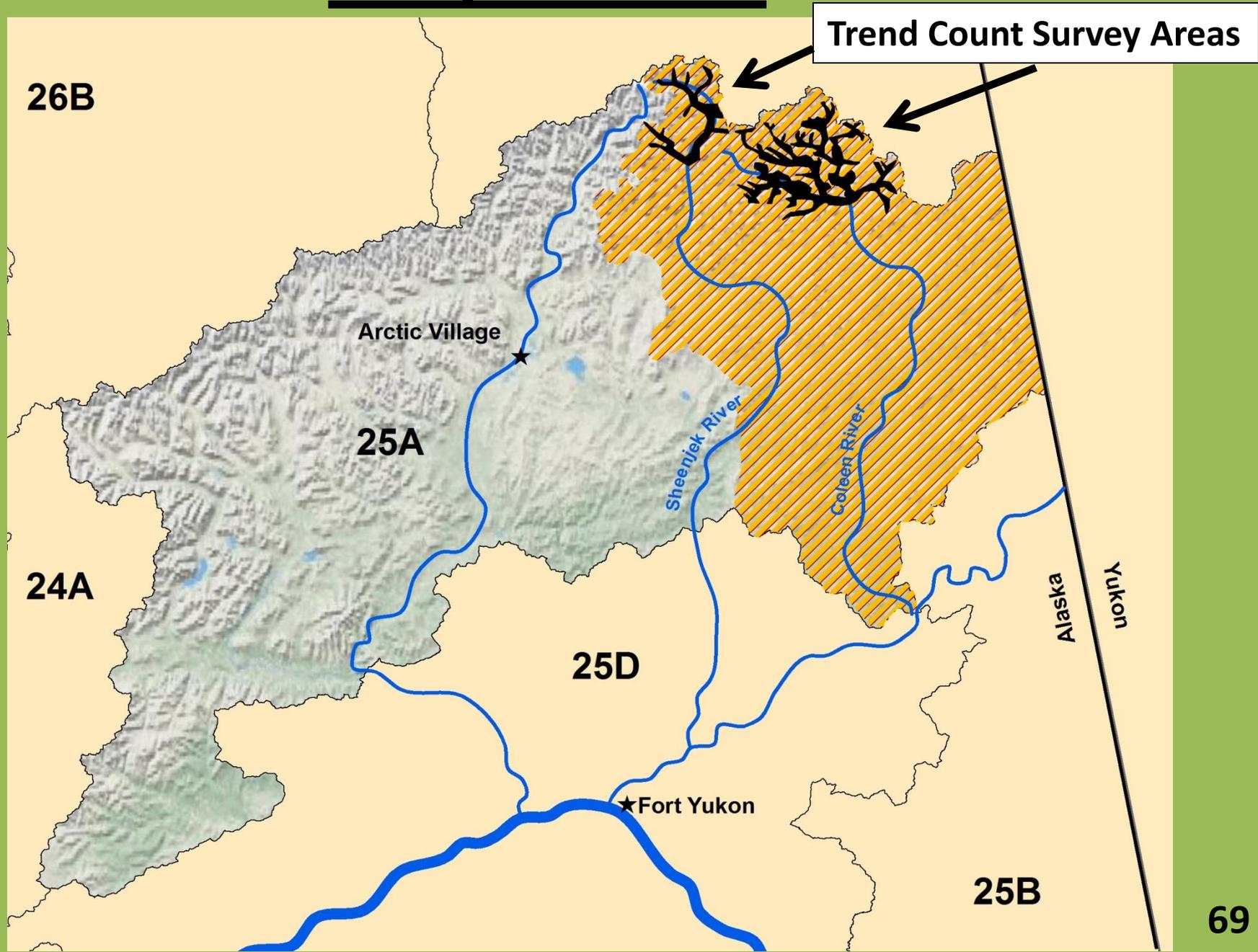
Oppose the portion of this proposal that would reduce harvest

Neutral with respect to allocation of moose between residents and nonresidents

Proposal 79

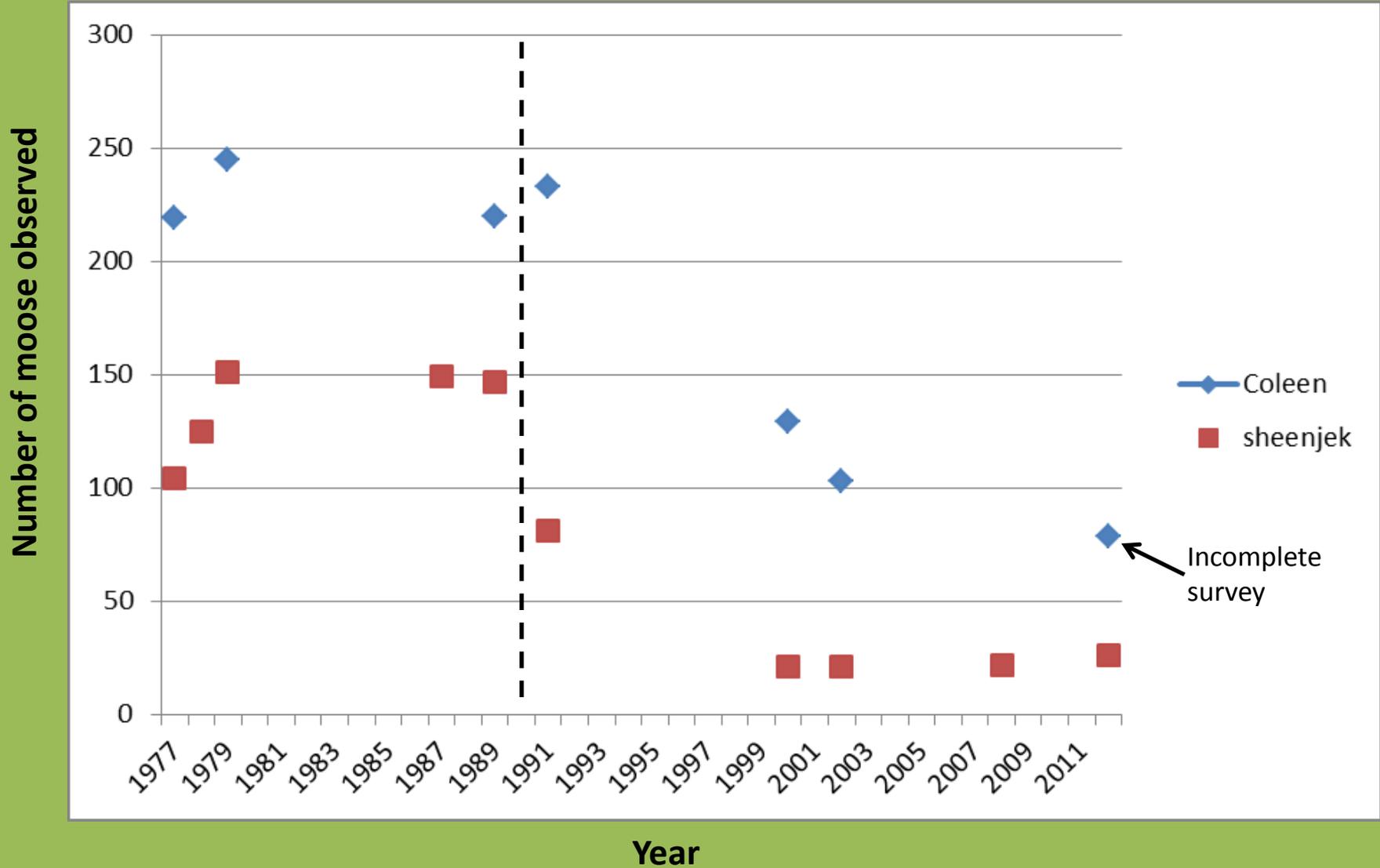


Proposal 79



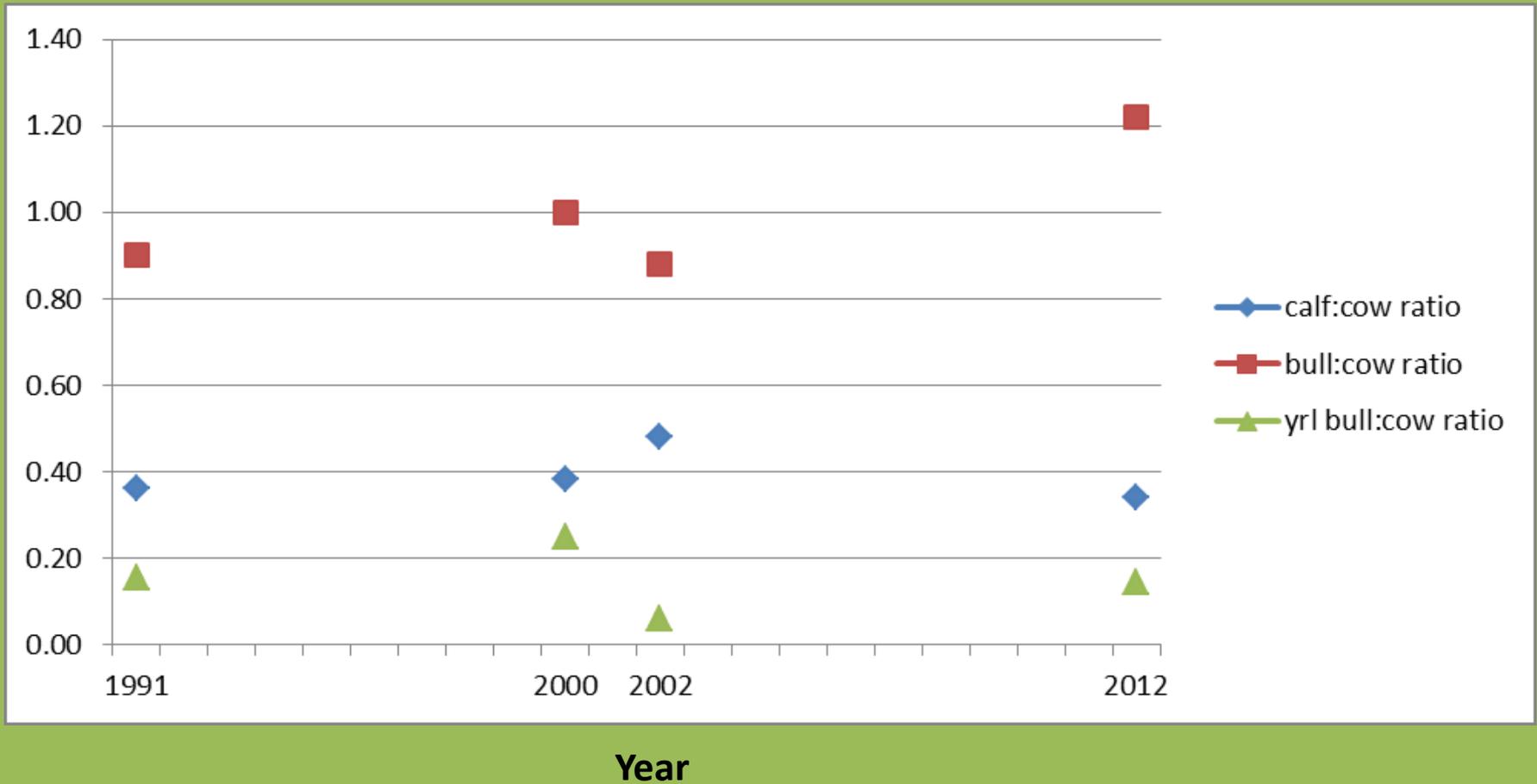
Proposal 79

Upper Coleen and Upper Sheenjek Trend Count Survey Data, 1977-2011
(moose observed)



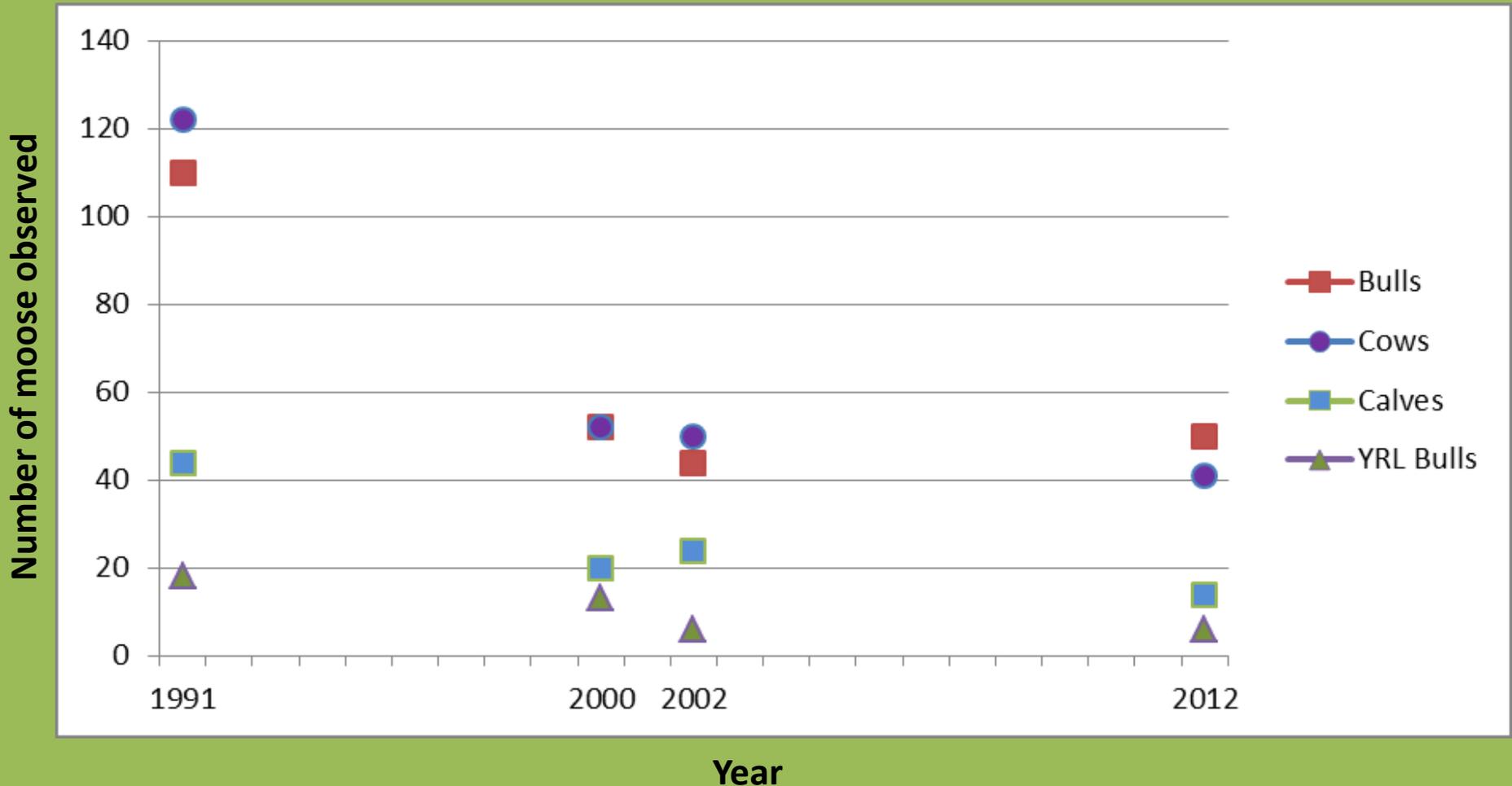
Proposal 79

Upper Coleen and Upper Sheenjek Trend Count Survey Data, 1977-2011 (Demographics)

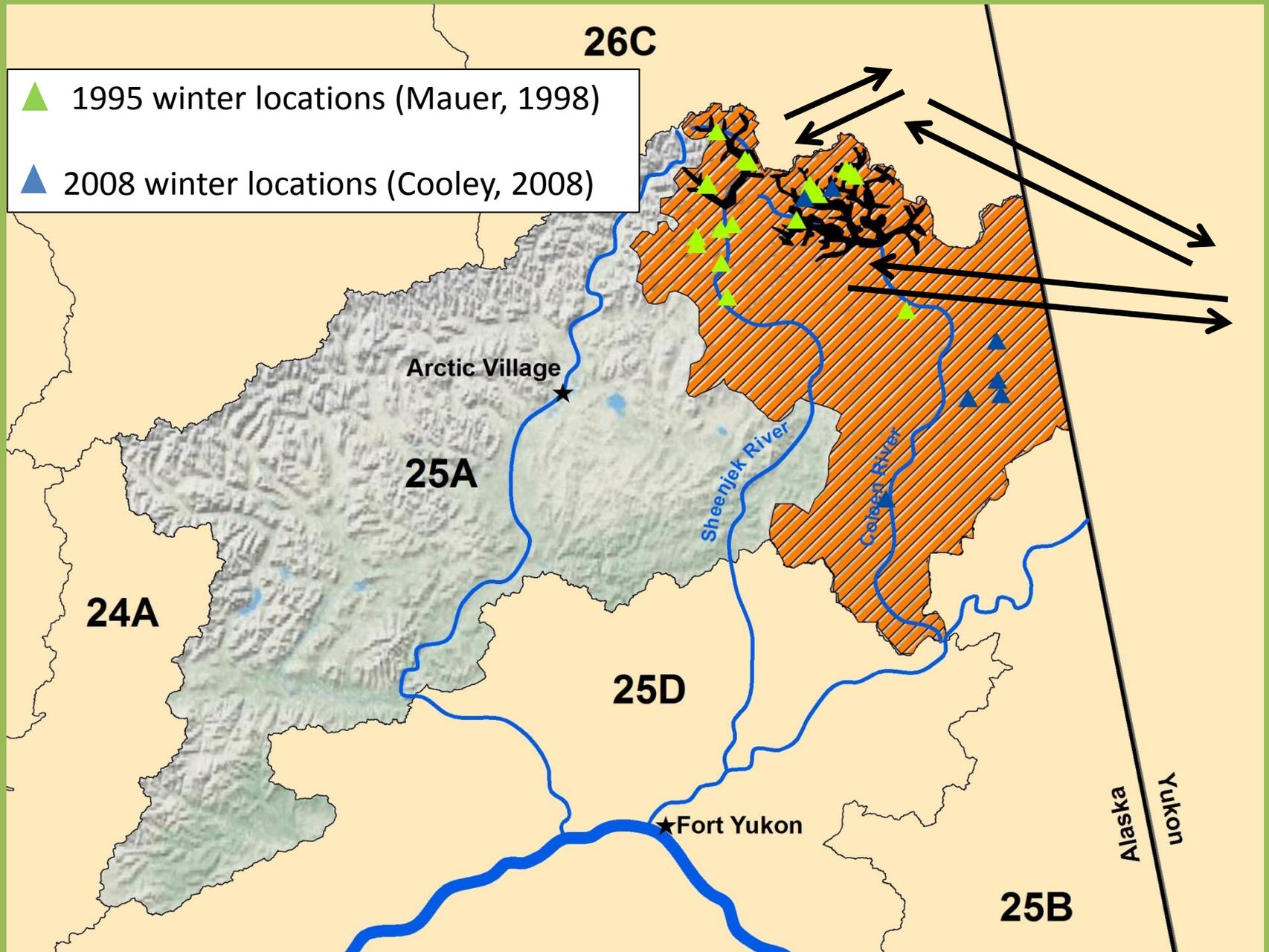


Proposal 79

Upper Coleen and Upper Sheenjek Trend Count Survey Data, 1977-2011

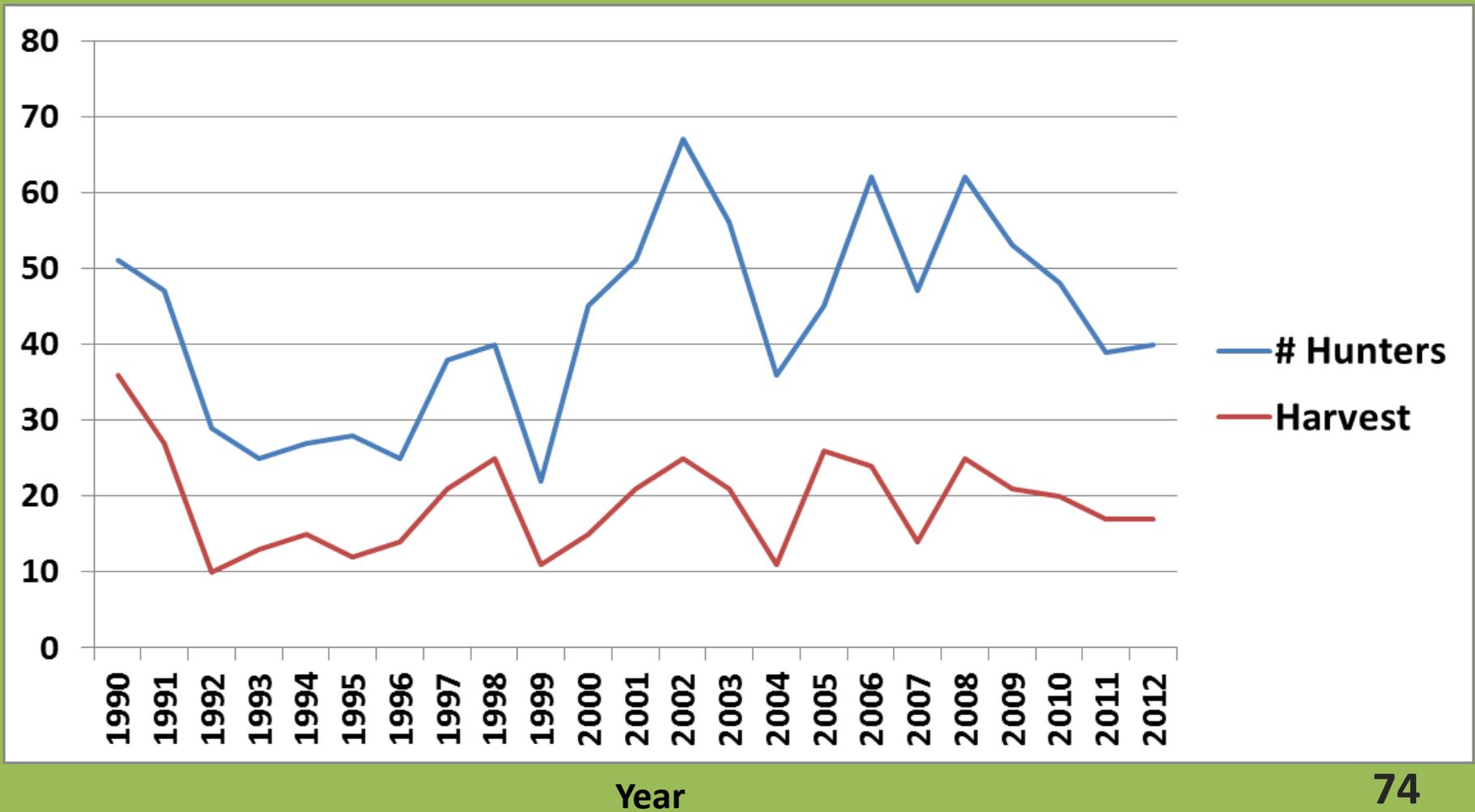


Proposal 79



Proposal 79

Number of Hunters and Harvest in the Coleen, Old Crow, and Sheenjek (upstream and excluding the Kones), 1990-2012



Proposal 79

Eastern Unit 25A (proposal area):

Population size: unknown

Harvestable surplus: unknown

Current harvest: 19 bulls (10-25), appears sustainable

Unit size: 7,350 mi²

Area of moose “habitat” (<3,500’): 6,300 mi²

Densities observed in

“similar habitat” (Unit 23): 0.03 – 0.20 moose/mi²

Potential population size: 630 (0.1 moose/mi²)

Theoretical Harvestable Surplus: 32 bulls (5%)

Proposal 79

Effects of the Proposal:

- no conservation concerns with current regulations
- decrease in resident opportunity
- reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses?
- possible shift in hunter distribution to adjacent units with an any-bull regulation
(western Unit 25A, eastern Unit 25D, Unit 25B)

Proposal 79

What Would the Proposal Do?:

Create a new hunt area in Unit 25A consisting of the Coleen, Old Crow, and Sheenjok River drainages upstream of but not including the Koness River. Bag limit for moose for resident hunters would change from **any bull** to **50-inch/4 brow tines**. Nonguided nonresidents changed from **general season** to **drawing permit**, guided nonresidents **no change**

Department Position:

Oppose the portion of this proposal that would reduce harvest

Neutral with respect to allocation of moose between residents and nonresidents

YF AC: Support

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What Would the Proposal Do?:

Allow the harvest of brown bears over registered bait stations in Unit 25D

Department Position: Neutral

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25D brown bear population and harvestable surplus

- No surveys to estimate brown bear abundance in Unit 25D
- Extrapolated densities result in a population size of ≈ 390 brown bears or a density of $\approx 2.2/100\text{mi}^2$
- 8% harvest rate = harvestable surplus 31 bears annually

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25D brown bear harvest

- **10-year reported harvest (sealing):**
ranged 1-6 bears annually, mean = 3 annually
81% male
- **CATG/ADFG household surveys (RY08 & RY09):**
ranged 2-16 bears annually, mean = 9 annually
sex composition unknown
- **Total harvest:** 3-22 bears annually, mean = 12

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Effect of proposed regulation

- **10-year black bear registered bait stations:**
ranged 8-32 stations annually, mean = 23 annually
77% by residents, 23% by nonresidents
- **Examples from other units with brown bear baiting (RY12):**

<u>Unit:</u>	<u>Harvest:</u>
Unit 12:	3
Unit 20C:	5
Unit 20E:	2
Unit 21D:	0

Proposal 80

What Would the Proposal Do?:

Allow the harvest of brown bears over registered bait stations in Unit 25D

Department Position: Neutral

YF AC: Support