



ADF&G January 2015



ADF&G
Game Management
Unit and Subunit Boundaries

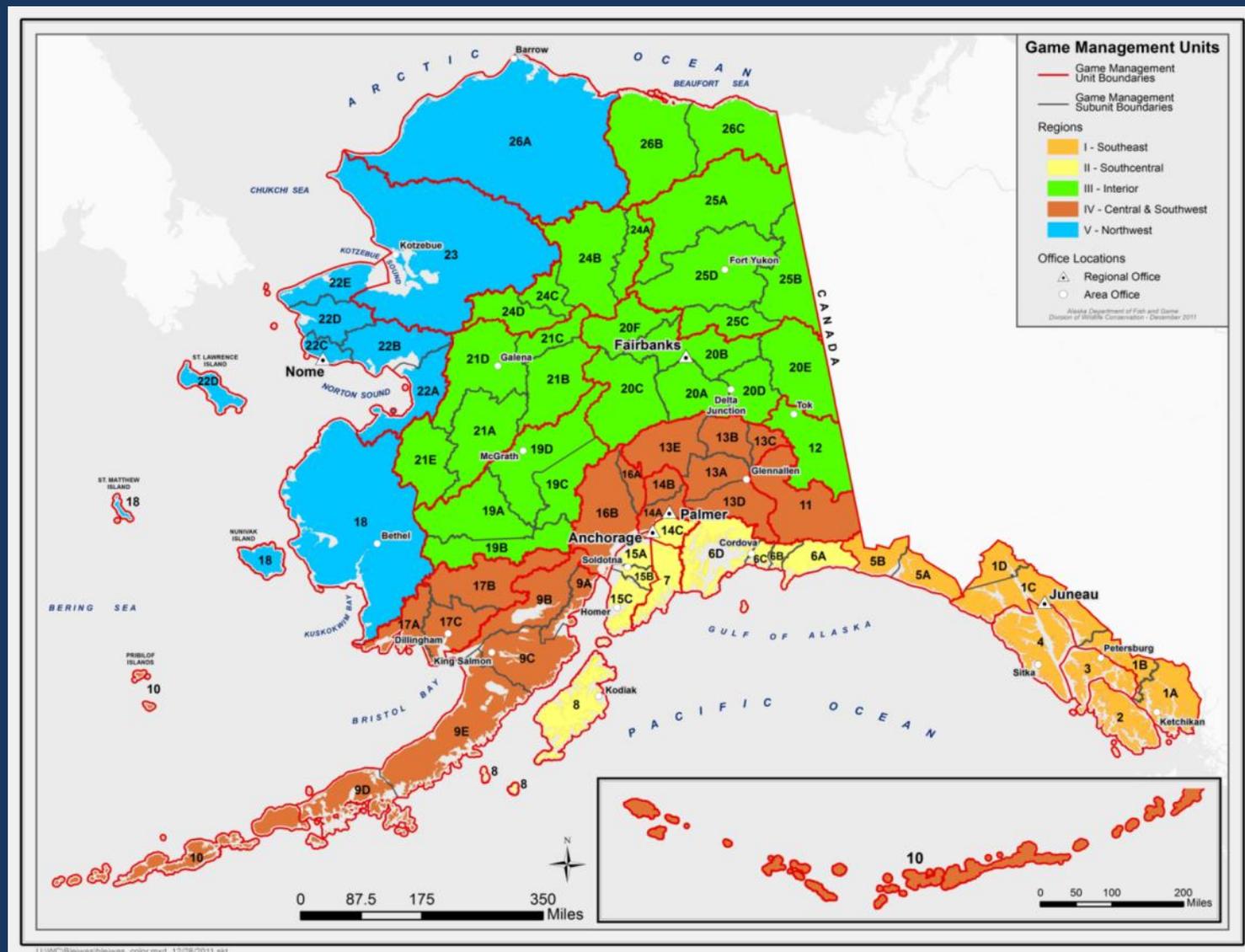
Region II
2015 Overview

Larry Van Daele, PhD
Regional Supervisor

Gino Del Frate
Management

Tom Lohuis, PhD
Research

NEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, Dargin Guyot



Region II – small size, great responsibility

Region II includes:

- ✦ **~ 3% of the land mass in the state (25,600 mi²)**
- ✦ **52% of the human population (375,505)**
- ✦ **primary air-hub (5.0 million passengers/year)**
- ✦ **2.25 million non-resident visitors annually**
- ✦ **>56% of the drawing hunts;
>48% of the registration hunts (2008-2012)**
- ✦ **overall, our staff respond to up to 1,000 public inquires daily (490 calls, 230 e-mails, 280 walk-in), with the Anchorage information center alone handling 50–60,000 queries annually**

Region II is coastal and most is federal land

28.0% National Forest

20.0% National Wildlife Refuge

6.7% BLM

6.3% National Park

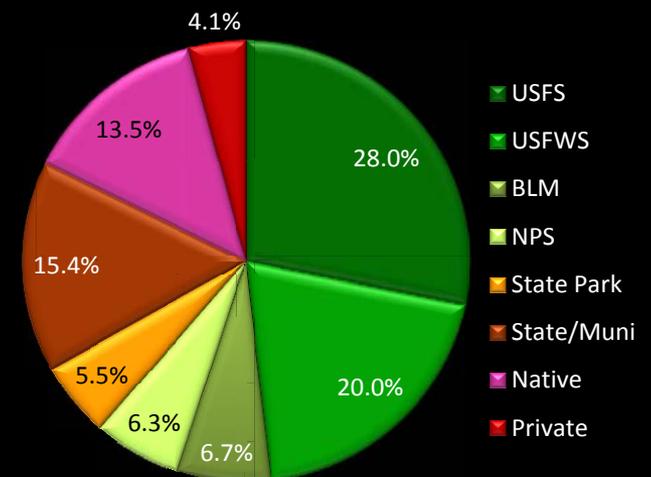
5.5% State Park

15.4% Other State/Municipal

13.5% Native Corporation

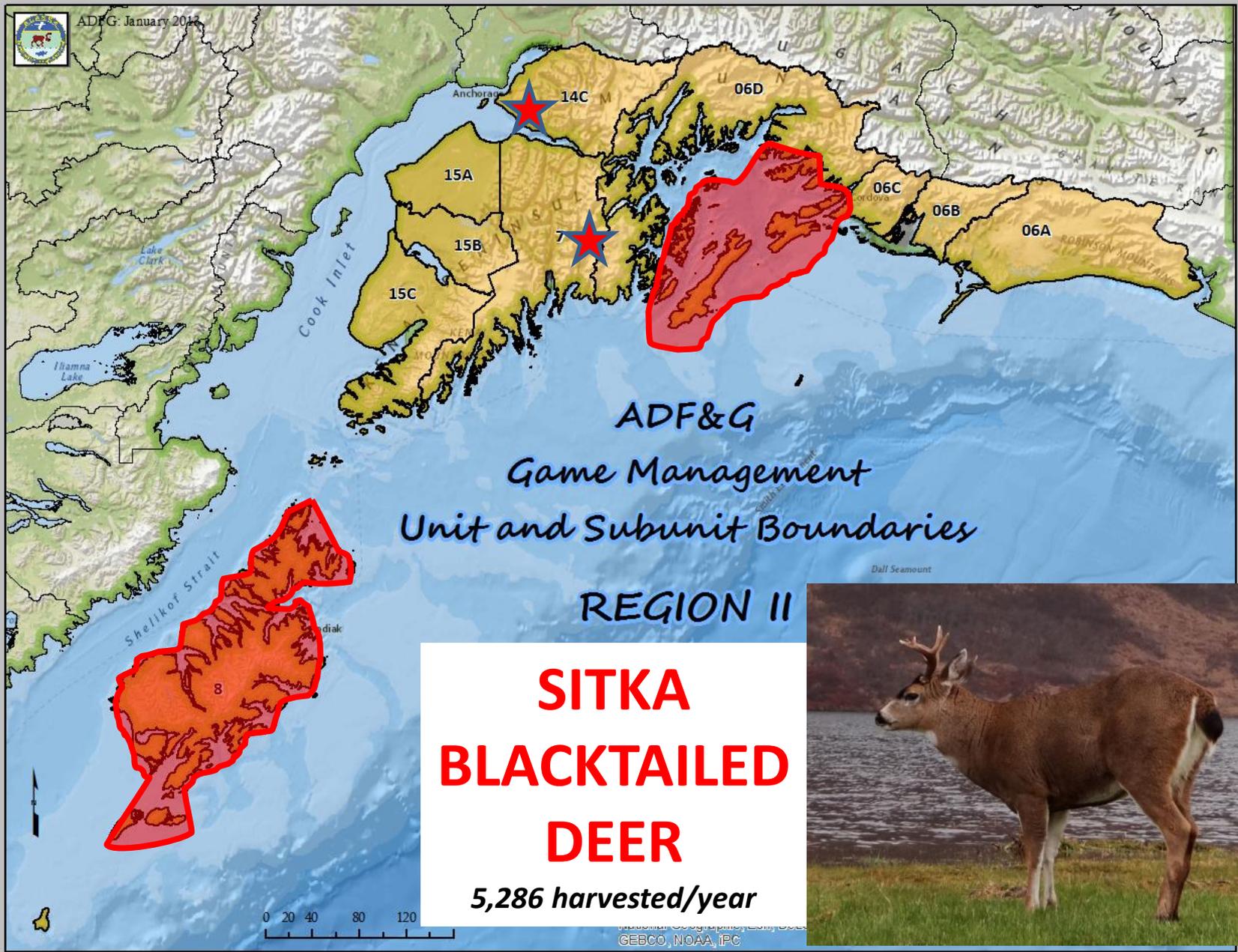
4.1% Other Private

61% Federal





ADF&G, January 2018



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

**SITKA
 BLACKTAILED
 DEER**

5,286 harvested/year





ADF&G, January 2014



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

**BLACK
 BEAR**
1,000 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC



ADF&G, January 2014



MOOSE
350 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC



ADF&G, January 2014



© Phillip Teichsich



ADF&G, January 2014



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

**BROWN
 BEAR**

284 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC



ADF&G, January 2014



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

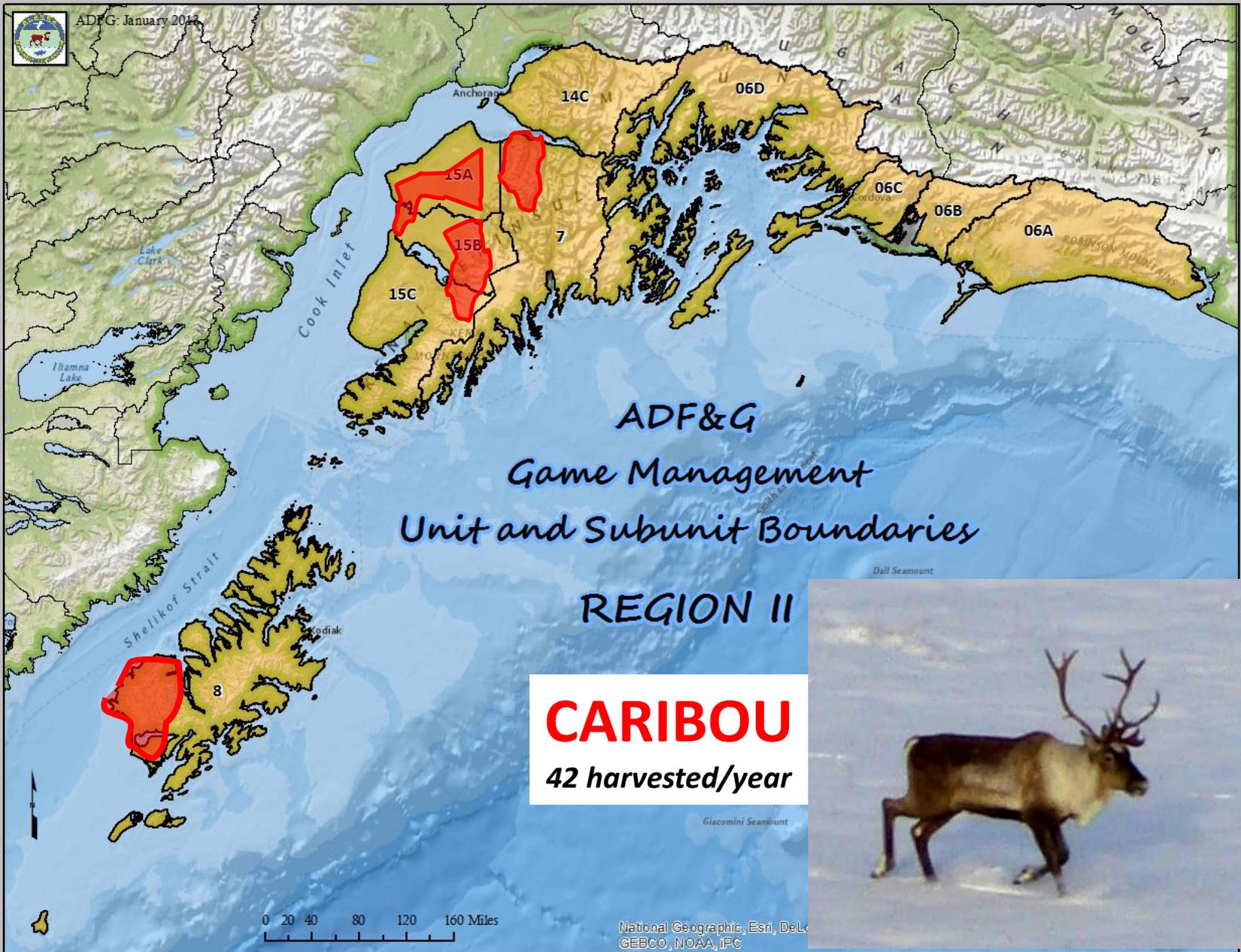
ELK
 43 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC



ADF&G January 2014



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

CARIBOU
 42 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC



ADF&G, January 2014



ADF&G
 Game Management
 Unit and Subunit Boundaries

REGION II

SHEEP
 22 harvested/year



National Geographic, Esri, De
 GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

We have 36 permanent staff in 6 offices



Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Game Division, 1960



06/24/2011

Cordova Area Office
Charlotte Westing , AB

GMU 6
REGION II



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

We have 36 permanent staff in 6 offices:

★ Cordova Area Office *(1 Admin, 1 Management)*

Unit 6 concerns and proposals:

- **concerns about black bear population and harvest in western PWS (EO and new registration hunt established at February 2015 BOG meeting)**
- **antlerless moose reauthorizations (1 proposal)**
- **restrict harvest of female goats (1 proposal)**



Date: 3/29/2012

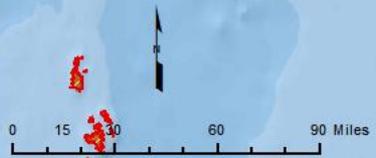
Kodiak Area Office
Nate Svoboda, AB

Portlock Bank

Shelikof Strait

08

GMU 8
REGION II



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCWC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

We have 36 permanent staff in 6 offices:

✦ **Cordova Area Office** *(1 Admin, 1 Management)*

✦ **Kodiak Area Office**
(1 Admin, 2 Management, 1 Regional Supervisor)

Unit 8 concerns and proposals :

- **cooperative research on bear and elk habitat on Afognak with Native land managers**
- **public concerns about USFWS plans to eradicate foxes and cattle from Chirikof Island**
- **Supreme Court decision on feral bison**
- **reduction of nonresident deer bag limit (1 proposal)**
- **change bag limit restriction on brown bear (1 proposal)**
- **modify furbearer regulations (4 proposals)**



Date: 3/26/2023

Skwentna

Anchorage Area & Regional Office

Jessy Coltrane, AB
Dave Battle, AAB

Wasilla

TRANUSKA VALLEY

Anchorage

14C

A C

Kenai

Soldotna

GMU 14C



We have 36 permanent staff in 6 offices:

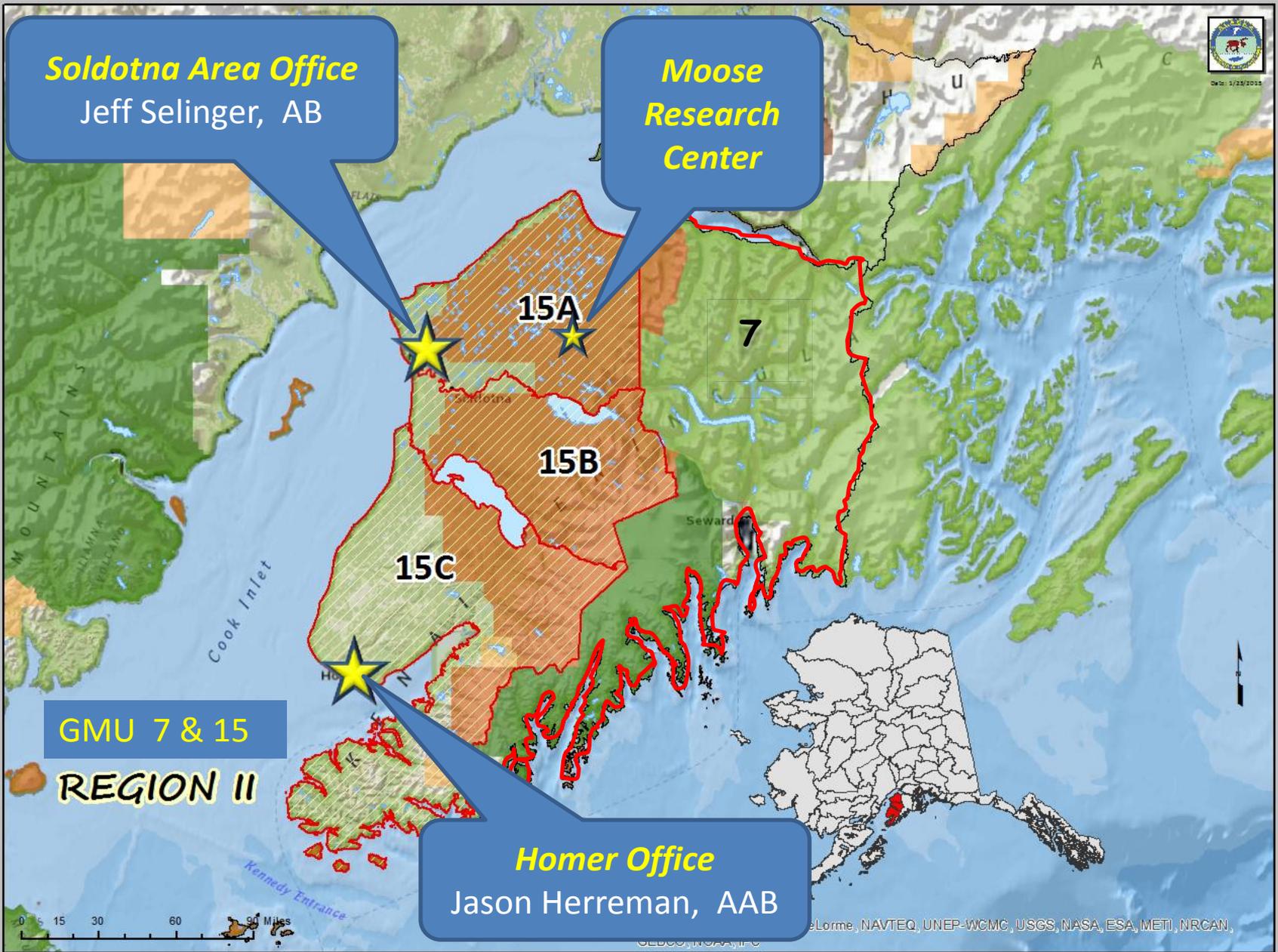
- ✦ **Cordova Area Office** *(1 Admin, 1 Management)*
- ✦ **Kodiak Area Office**
(1 Admin, 2 Management, 1 Regional Supervisor)
- ✦ **Anchorage Regional and Area Office**
(3 Administration; 6 Research; 5 Management; and 4 in Information Center)

Unit 14C concerns and proposals:

- **nonresident goat hunt that chronically exceeds quota will probably have to be closed by EO this summer**
- **antlerless moose reauthorizations** (2 proposals)
- **new antlerless moose authorization** (1 proposal)
- **sheep residency and bag restrictions** (3 proposals)
- **goat residency restrictions** (1 proposal)
- **establish black bear hunt in JBER** (1 proposal)



Date: 1/23/2015



Soldotna Area Office
Jeff Selinger, AB

Moose Research Center

GMU 7 & 15
REGION II

Homer Office
Jason Herreman, AAB

©Lorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, SEDAC, NGA, etc.

We have 36 permanent staff in 6 offices:

- ✦ **Cordova Area Office** *(1 Admin, 1 Management)*
- ✦ **Kodiak Area Office**
(1 Admin, 2 Management, 1 Regional Supervisor)
- ✦ **Anchorage Regional and Area Office**
(3 Administration; 6 Research; 5 Management; and 4 in Information Center)
- ✦ **Kenai Area Office** *(1 Admin, 1 Research, 3 Management)*
- ✦ **Homer Area Office** *(1 Admin, 2 Research, 1 Management)*
- ✦ **Moose Research Center** *(3 Research)*

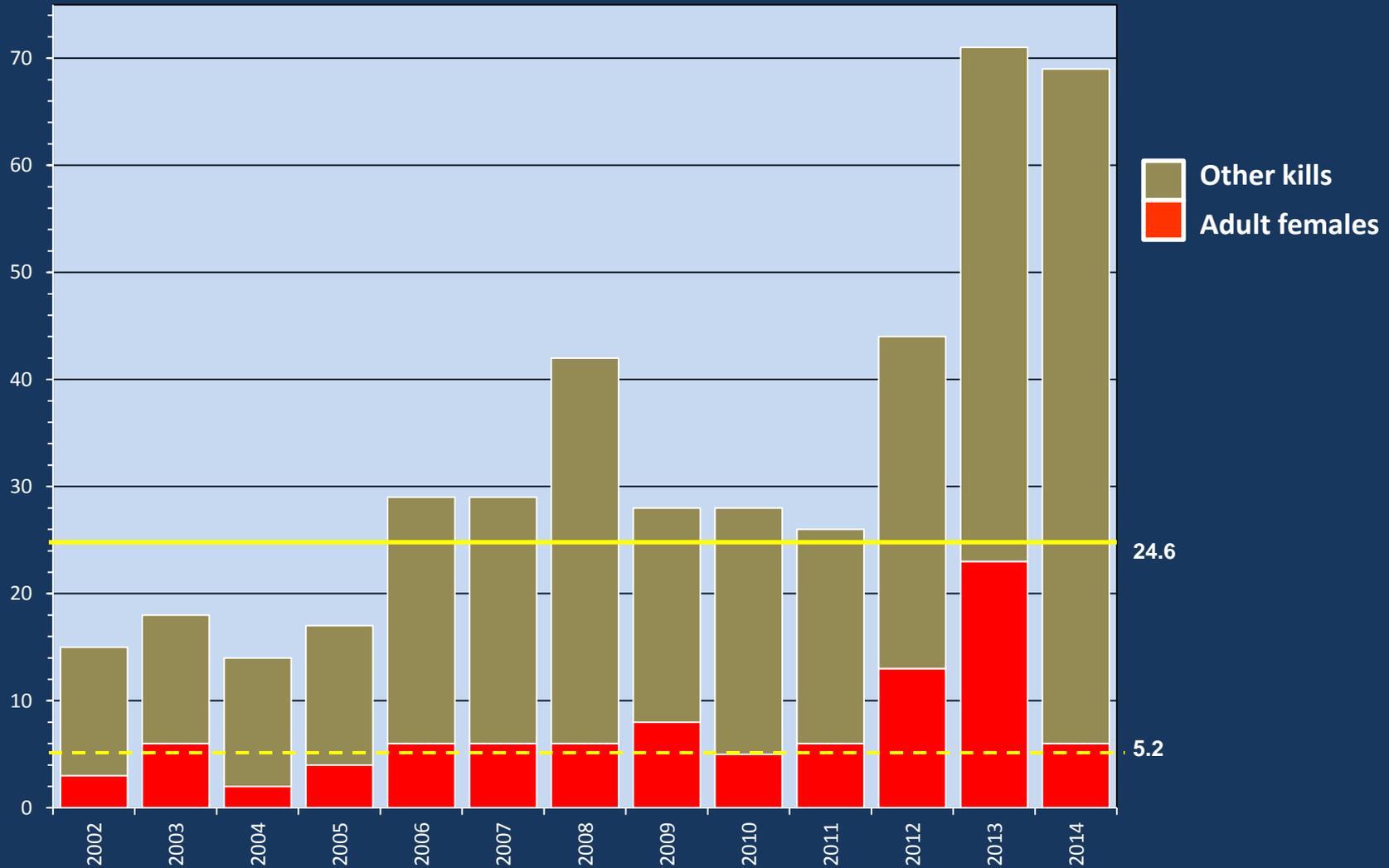
Units 7 & 15 concerns:

- **2014 Funny River fire in Unit 15B – moose research**
- **continuing moose research in Units 15A and 15C**
- **wolf control efforts in Unit 15A**
- **brown bear hunting closure on Kenai NWR**

Recent brown bear management actions on the Kenai

- Board direction in 2013 to reduce population and stabilize at a lower level
- No limit to bears killed by human causes 2013
 - seasons liberalized
 - baiting authorized (starting in spring 2014; not allowed on Refuge)
 - RB300 - Sept. 1 – May 31; one bear/yr; permits at ADF&G or on-line
- Annual cap of 70 bears killed by human causes starting in 2014
 - ADF&G intent to allow ≤ 17 adult females killed by humans
 - Emergency Order closes season on Oct. 20, 2014
- Reported human caused mortalities: 2012 = 44; 2013 = 71 and 2014 = 69
 - estimated population decline of about 80 bears (13%) during that time
- Kenai NWR Temporary Closure of bear hunt Sept. 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015
 - brown bear baiting closed year round on Refuge

Brown Bear Harvest on the Kenai



The average kill by humans was 24.6 bears/year, including 5.2 adult females/year during the 10 years prior to 2012 (2002-2011)

Management Actions

- Manage for a stable population near the current level
 - sustainable hunter and non-consumptive opportunities
 - minimize adverse bear-human interactions
 - focus harvest on bears that routinely come near people
- Along with this harvest strategy, we are committed to:
 - expand efforts to minimize unnatural bear attractants (human and domestic animal food and garbage)
 - increase bear safety education
 - teach hunters how to increase chances of taking males
- Focus research efforts on gathering demographic data and exploring better ways of evaluating population trend



Management Actions

- For CY 2015 we anticipate a total harvest of 40 bears killed by humans, including no more than 8 adult females
- We will re-evaluate harvest annually as more harvest and demographic data become available
- We hope to increase hunter opportunity within the next few years

Harvest calculation

Estimates are from spreadsheet calculations using existing population, demographic and human-caused mortality data and making the following assumptions:

- Starting population level (2012) is the Kenai NWR/USFS 2010 estimate plus a 3% population increase for 3 years. This results in a 2015 estimate of 629 total bears
- We used cub production and survival information from bears radio-collared on the Kenai and we assume they stay the same each year
- No change in the unreported kill
- No natural mortality or reproductive senescence
- Females start reproducing at age 6 and have a litter every 3 years

Spreadsheet excerpt*

<u>year</u>	<u>start</u>	<u>new adults</u>	<u>total mortality</u>	<u>adf mort</u>
2012	629.00	16.86	44	13
2013	618.71	17.26	71	23
2014	582.23	16.67	69	6
2015	546.56	17.76	40	8
2016	542.08	18.77	40	8
2017	539.61	19.88	40	8
2018	539.36	21.10	40	8
2019	541.57	22.45	40	8
2020	546.47	23.94	50	10
2021	544.35	25.38	50	10
2022	545.10	26.96	50	10
2023	549.03	28.71	55	12
2024	551.45	30.43		

* Portions of the spreadsheet are omitted from this slide for clarity

Conclusion

To maintain the current population level for the next 5 years, the model suggests a maximum total human-caused mortality of 40 bears, including 8 adult females. This level of human-caused mortality translates to 7.3% of the population annually of which 40% are females (about half of those are adults).

These estimates are optimistic because of the assumptions noted earlier. Other modeling tools that are more complex and include data for those assumptions all result in more conservative human-caused mortality estimates.

Mortality rates higher than this will likely continue the population decline. Since harvestable surplus is a proportion of the population, lower numbers will mean reduced hunter opportunity.

Units 7 & 15 proposals:

- **moose season and bag limit** (13 proposals)
- **brown bear season and salvage** (5 proposals)
- **sheep season (archery only)** (1 proposal)
- **trapping seasons and bag limits** (5 proposals)
- **ptarmigan seasons and bag limits** (2 proposals)
- **prohibit taking big game from boats** (1 proposal)
- **create Kachemak Bay management area** (1 proposal)

Our FY15 budget is \$5.2 million:

★ 64% is for personnel

(includes 4 administrative positions that are shared with other divisions)

17% for facilities/administrative costs

19% for research, management and education

★ \$4.2 million (81%) from Federal Aid

★ \$0.6 million (11%) from General Fund

★ \$0.4 million (8%) from Special Appropriations

★ Anticipate a lower budget for FY16

Active Region II research projects:

- ✦ **Chugach sheep (*Lohuis*)**
- ✦ **Otter & wolverine population assessment (*Golden*)**
- ✦ **Brown bear demographics on the Kenai Peninsula (*Farley*)**
- ✦ **Brown bear survey techniques (*Becker*)**
- ✦ **Moose browse analysis (*Crouse*)**
- ✦ **Kenai moose survival and productivity (*McDonough*)**

New Region II research projects:

- ✦ **PWS black bear movements and harvest (*Carnahan*)**
- ✦ **PWS deer demographics (*Carnahan*)**
- ✦ **Afognak bear and elk habitat management (*Svoboda*)**
- ✦ **Impacts of Funny River fire on moose (*McDonough*)**
- ✦ **Moose thermoregulation (*Thompson*)**

Wildlife Education

Timely, Applicable and Available

- Complements ADF&G management and research
- School-based
- General outreach and information
- Professional development and support for teachers
- Outdoor skills
- Wildlife Safety



Outdoor Skills

Connecting Children and Families With Nature



ADF&G is working with partnering agencies and organizations across the state to generate and strengthen people's connection with the natural environment.

www.getoutdoorsalaska.org

Public Information



Information Officer Ken Marsh

- Coordinates public affairs for the Regions II & IV
- Serves as a primary spokesman for division issues
- Reports Board of Game meeting results to public & staff
- Seeks proactive opportunities for communication & outreach

Special Areas

- **Potter Marsh / Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge**
 - About 130,000 visits annually
 - Used by school groups, summer camps, other educational groups
- **Tugidak Island Critical Habitat Area**
 - Marine mammal surveys and marine debris clean-up
- **Homer Airport Critical Habitat Area**
 - Wildlife viewing deck, trail and platform construction and improvement
- **Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area**
 - Airport interpretive display with US Forest Service
- **Anchor River Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area**
- **Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area**
- **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area**
- **Clam Gulch Critical Habitat Area**

Hunter Information & Training Program

Region II

2014 HIT Classes



Discipline	Classes	Enrollment
Bowhunter	40	649
Hunter Ed	101	1,527
Muzzleloader	16	132
Totals	157	2,308



Volunteer Hours

Discipline	Prep	Classroom	Field Course	Live Fire	Total Hours
Bowhunter	179	255	56	223	712
Hunter Ed	622	847	405	530	2,404
Muzzleloader	71	94	8	99	271
Totals	871	1,195	469	852	3,387

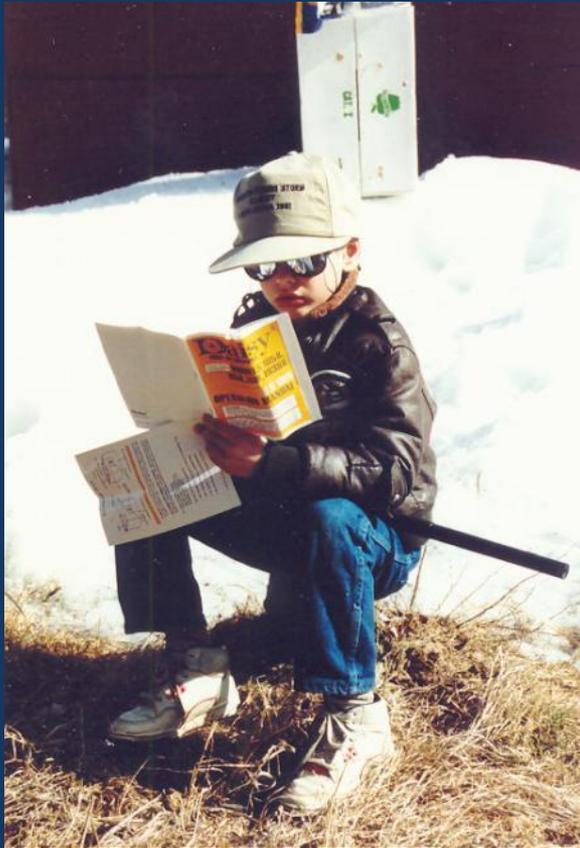
Rabbit Creek Shooting Park

Opportunities at Rabbit Creek Shooting Park

- Archery (Static and 3-D walkthrough)
- Handgun Range
- Center-fire Range (100 yards)
- .22 Rim-fire Range
- 2 Instructional Ranges
- 2 Five Stand, Sporting Clays Fields
- Hunter Ed Field & Bowhunter Testing Courses

Youth Opportunities

Region II



- Outdoor Youth Days
- Birchwood Youth Days
- Potter Marsh Discovery Days
- ADF&G Kids Days
- National Archery in the Schools
- “Bear Aware” and moose safety
- Youth-only hunts on Kodiak (deer) and on the Kenai (small game)

