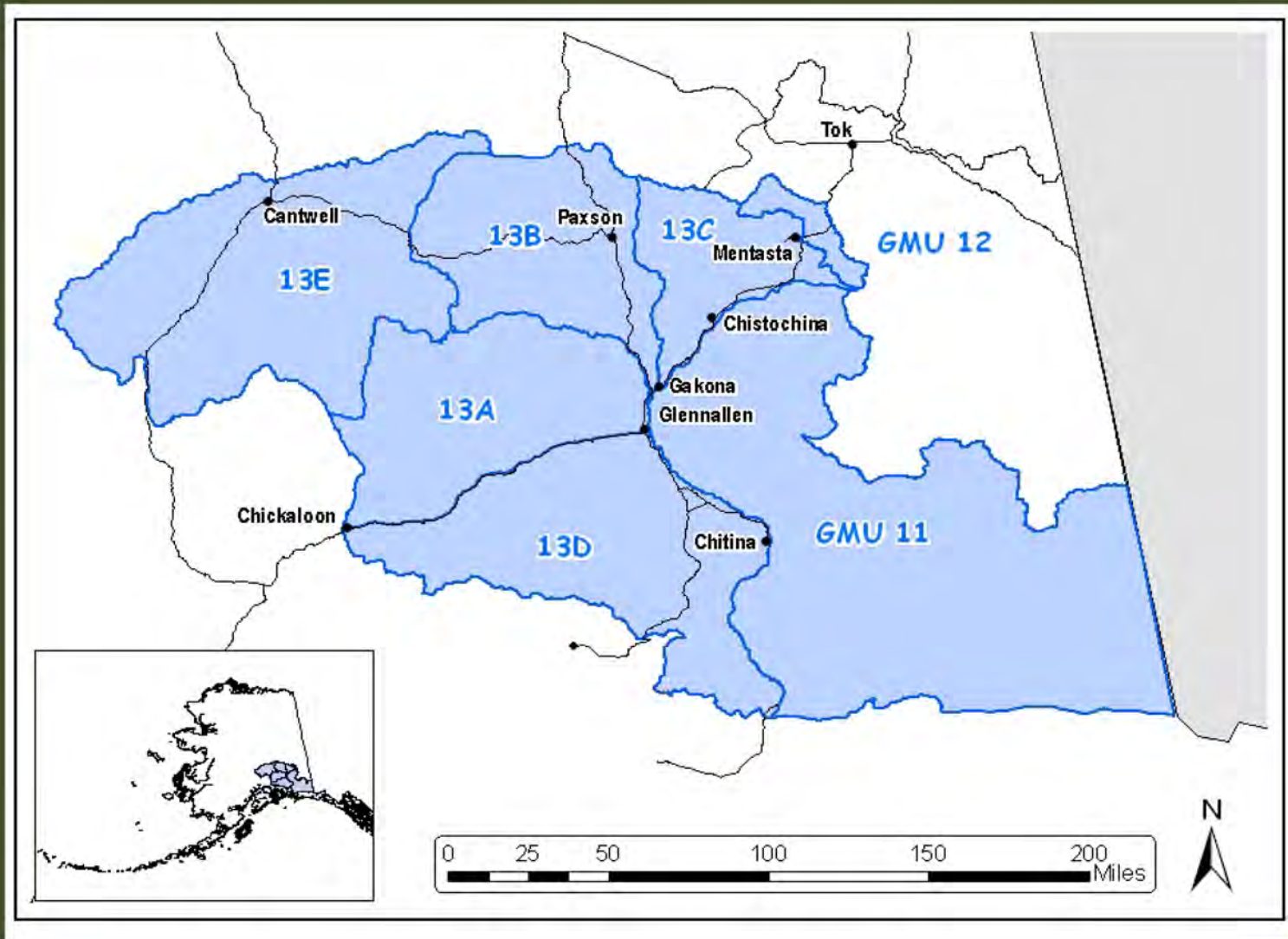


Management of Moose & Caribou in the Copper Basin Subsistence Hunt Area

*Special Board of Game Meeting on
Copper Basin Area Hunting &
Subsistence*

18-21 March 2017

Copper Basin CSH Hunt Area



Copper Basin Hunt History Highlights

Caribou

- Most hunting under Tier II from 1991-2008
- ANS was 100% surplus
- Registration hunt in 1996 and 1997 to reduce herd to objectives
 - 50,000 permits
 - 20,000 hunters

Moose

- Tier II from 1995-2008
- General season with antler restrictions
- Both Species: Federal seasons

Current Hunt Structure

- Developed between 2006 and 2013

Current Opportunities

Caribou

- Tier I Registration
- Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH)
- Draw

Moose

- General (SF/50"/4 brow tines)
- Community Subsistence Harvest
 - SF/50"/4 Brow tines on at least one side
 - 100 "any bulls"
- Resident Draw ("any bull"; 5 permits)
- Resident Draw (antlerless; 10 permits)
- Non-resident Draw (50"/4 brow tines; 115 permits)

Copper Basin CSH Hunt

- CSH hunt area (5AAC 92.072 & 5AAC 92.074)
- Custom of community-based harvest and sharing
- Other characteristics of C&T practices in the hunt area
- Community or group coordinator (CSH permittee)
- 25 or more members
- Two-year commitment
- Salvage requirements

Copper Basin CSH Hunt

- **Copper Basin caribou: 1 per household**
 - May not hold any other state caribou harvest ticket or permit
 - May not hunt moose outside of the Copper Basin CSH hunt area
- **Copper Basin moose: 1 SF/50/4 BT per person & up to 100 “any bulls”**
 - 1 “any bull” per every 3 households
 - May not apply for any state moose or caribou permits outside of the CSH hunt area
 - May not hold general season harvest tickets
- **Season opens Sept. 20, designated hunter, no trophy destruction**

Increased CSH Participation Caribou

Regulatory Year	Groups	Households	Participants
2009	1	477	N/A
2010	-	-	-
2011	6	322	636
2012	17	402	824
2013	28	687	1,424
2014	25	569	1,121
2015	26	659	1,359
2016	45	1,011	2,272

Unit 13 Caribou Hunting Permits

Year	RC566		<u>CC001</u>		<u>DC480-483</u> <u>or DC485</u>		Harvest Quota	Total State Permits	Reported Harvest ^a
	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest			
2009	500	277	479	127	-	-	1,000	979	797
2010 ^b	1,151	615	-	-	-	-	2,300	4,755	2,439
2011	3,148	1,626	323	87	1,127	319	2,400	4,598	2,515
2012	5,045	2,542	403	150	3,001	1,023	5,500	8,449	4,430
2013 ^c	6,880	1,573	689	114	5,000	609	2,500	12,567	2,645
2014	5,595	2,268	569	144	1,000	299	3,000	7,164	2,993
2015	7,232	2,909	659	191	1,001	296	3,000	8,895	4,134
2016 ^d	8,470	2,934	1,006	290	5,000	1,631	-	14,476	5,277

^a Reported harvest includes caribou taken under state and federal hunts.

^b The CSH caribou hunt was not offered during RY2010 - 3,604 Tier II permits were issued for a winter hunt (TC566).

^c State hunts were closed by Emergency Order on October 15.

^d Harvest is ongoing.

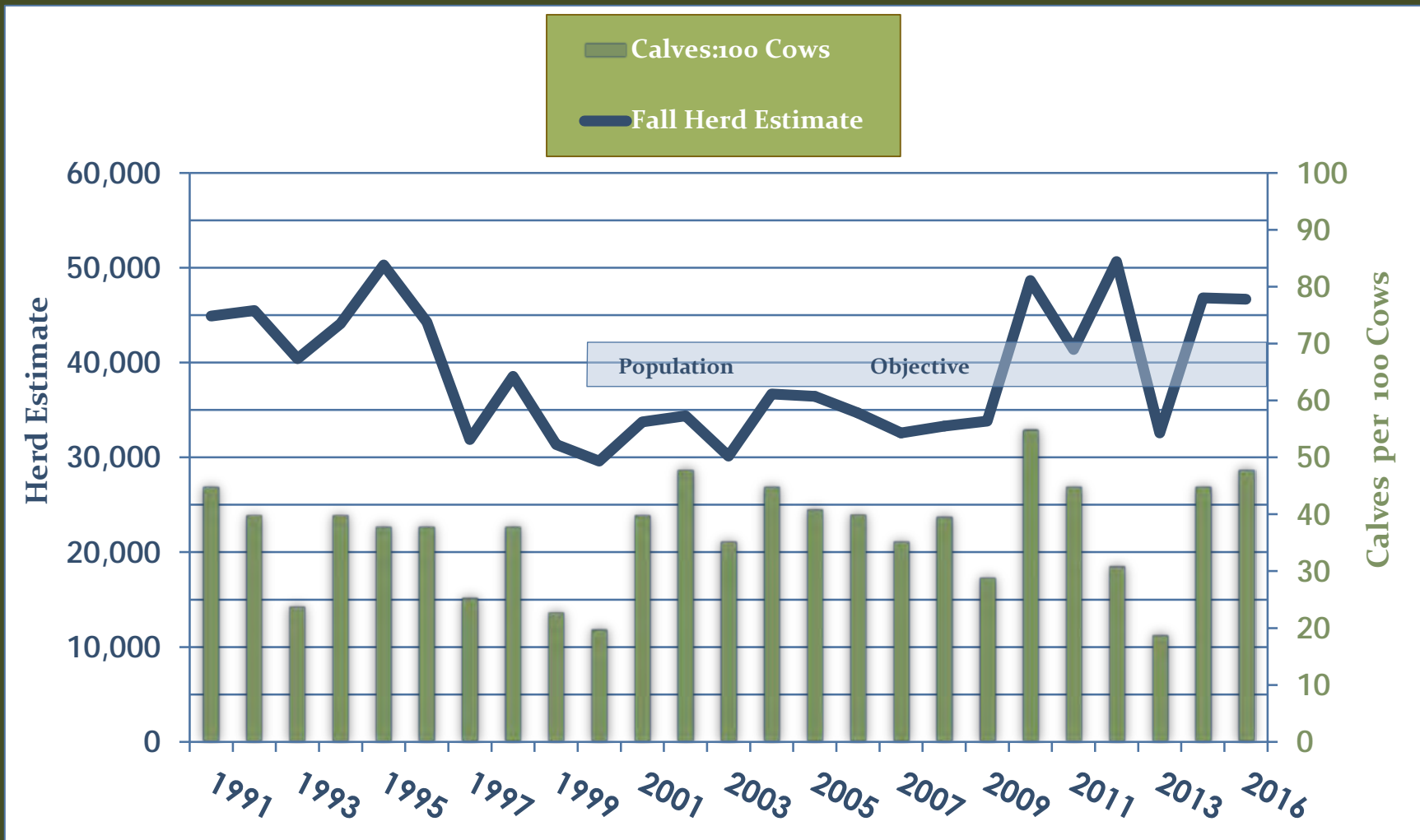
Increased CSH Participation

Moose

Regulatory Year	Groups	Households	Participants
2009	1	246	378
2010	-	-	-
2011	9	407	753
2012	19	459	961
2013	45	955	2,066
2014	43	893	1,771
2015	43	1,039	1,984
2016	73	1,527	3,023

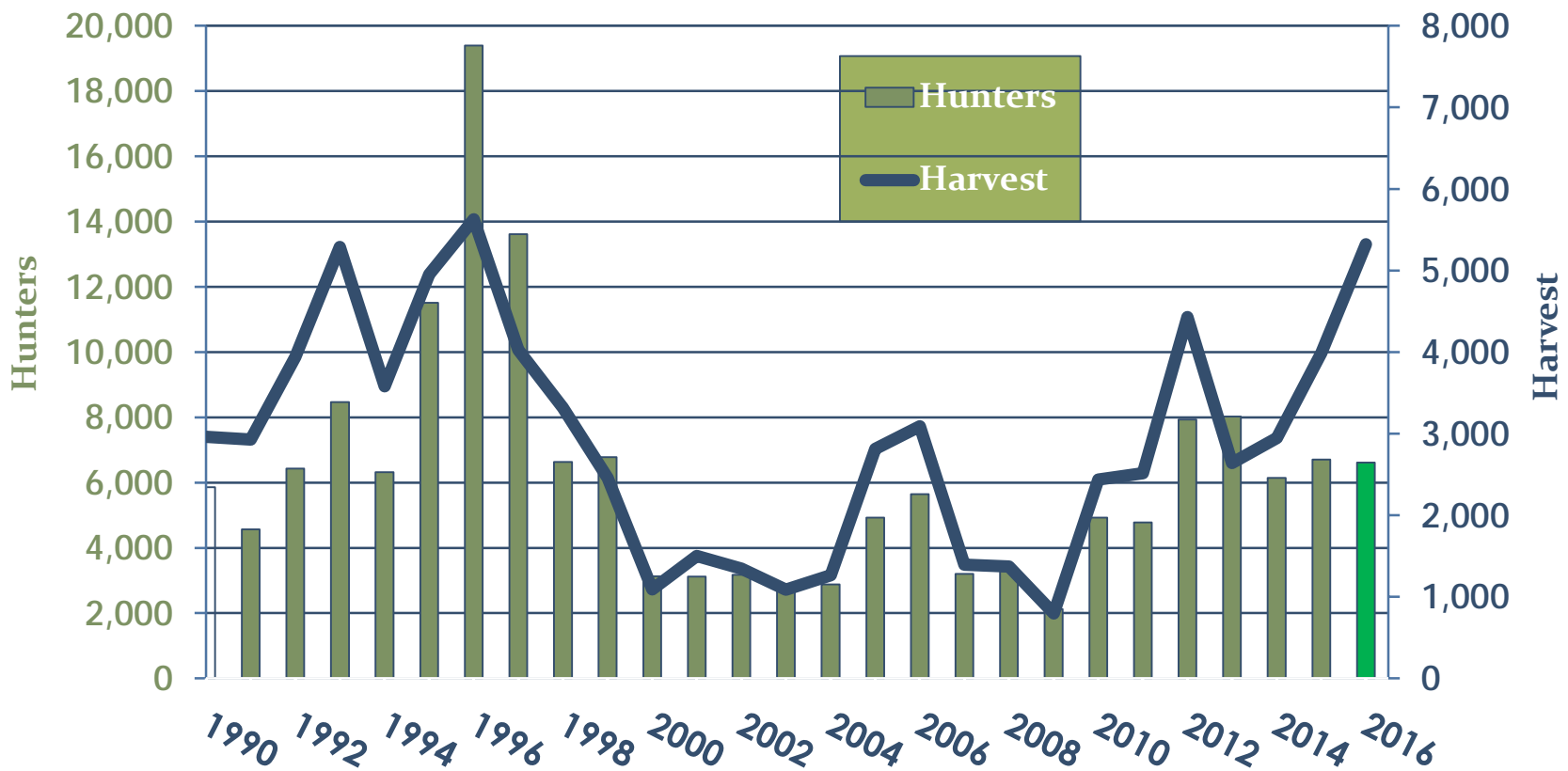
Nelchina Caribou Herd

Population Status



Nelchina Caribou Herd

Hunters & Harvest



Nelchina Caribou Herd

2016 Preliminary Harvest

	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Draw	4,999	1,693
Tier I	8,470	2,980
Federal	3,070	446
CSH	1,006	294
Total:		5,413
	(3,169 bulls, 2,242 cows)	

Amount Necessary For Subsistence 600-1,000

Emergency Order

Extension of fall season

September 30

Nelchina Caribou Herd

Management Outlook

- Above population objective (35,000-40,000)
- 49,950 caribou (July 2016)
- Increased permit numbers (14,475 in 2016)
- 2016 harvest highest since 1996
- Harvest quotas and permits issued will continue to be adjusted based on the best available data

Nelchina Caribou Herd

2016 Management Actions

2016 Harvest Quota

- Harvest quota was originally set at 4,000 caribou based on a preliminary estimate of herd size (2,000 bulls & 2,000 cows)
- Quota removed because final estimate was well above objectives

Emergency Order

- Extended fall hunting season to Sept. 30

Federal Subsistence Winter Season

- Opened 6 days early (Oct. 15)

Nelchina Caribou Herd

2017 Emergency Regulations

- Substantial numbers of Nelchina caribou wintered within Unit 13 and were available for harvest
- BOG approved emergency regulations to increase the bag limit for Tier I (RC566) and CSH (CC001) from one to two caribou per household
- The BOG also adopted a registration hunt option

Unit 13 Moose

Population Objectives & Current Estimates

Subunit	Population	Harvest	Bull-to-cow
13A	3,500-4,200	210-420	25 : 100
2015	3,568	335	25 : 100
13B	5,300-6,300	310-620	25 : 100
2015	4,762 (\pm 530)	243	28 : 100
13C	2,000-3,000	155-350	25 : 100
2015	2,184	115	30 : 100
13D*	1,200-1,900	75-190	No obj.
2015	948	78	58 : 100
13E	5,000-6,000	300-600	25 : 100
2015	5,085	192	30 : 100

*13D is outside of wolf predation control area

Unit 13 Bull Ratios

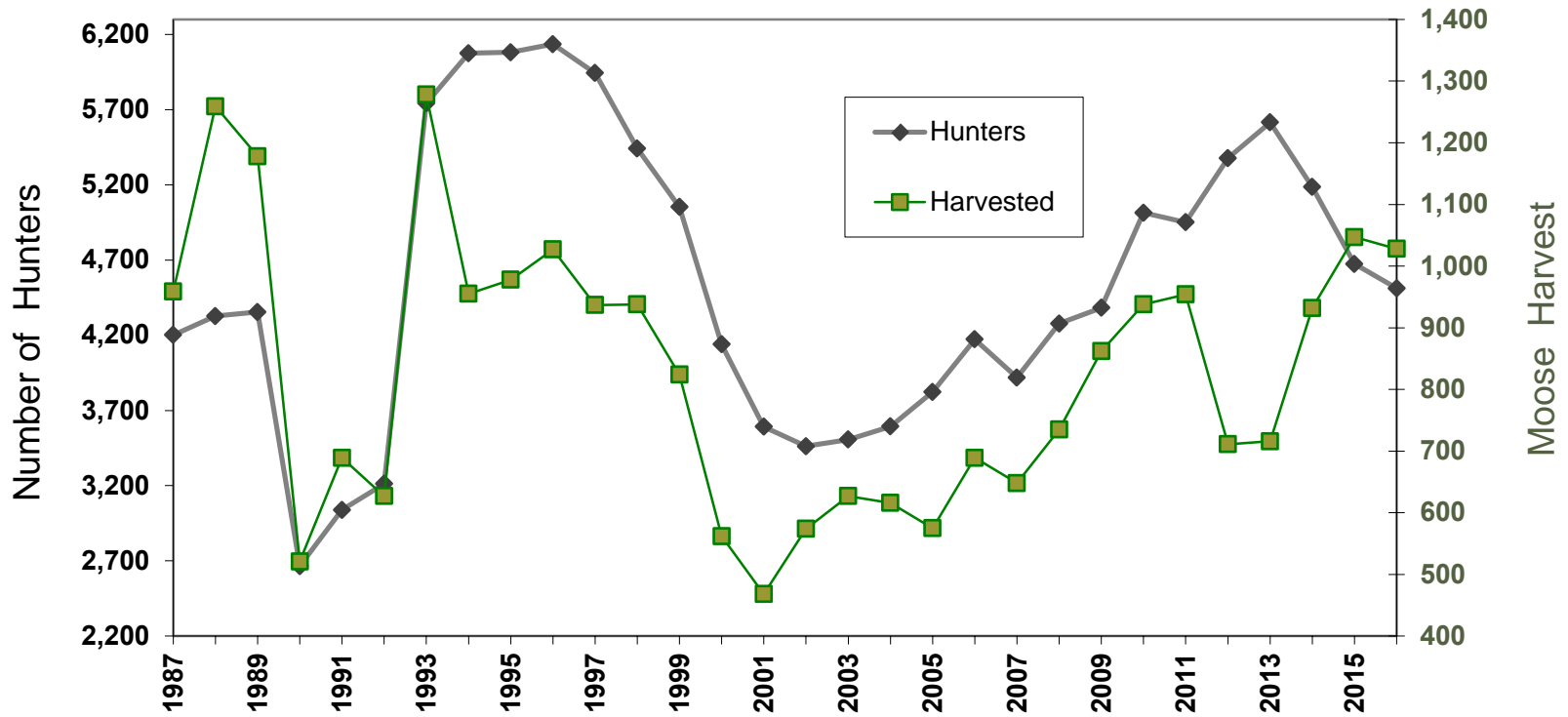
Unitwide Objective: 25 bulls-to-100 cows

Year	13A	13B	13C	13D	13E
2012	26	34	30	67	39
2013	21	39	44	89	30
2014	28	35	37	69	33
2015	25	37	30	58	30
2016	20	34	34	89	39

Unit 13 Moose

Trends in Harvest & Hunters

Unit 13 MOOSE HUNTERS & REPORTED HARVEST
State and Federal Hunts



Unit 13 Reported Hunters

Reg. Year	CSH		General Season		All Other State		Total State
	Moose Hunters	%	Moose Hunters	%	Hunters Combined	%	
2009	291	8%	3,371	89%	144	4%	3,808
2010	-	0%	4,172	94%	258	6%	4,430
2011	310	7%	3,805	89%	153	4%	4,269
2012	358	7%	4,464	90%	122	2%	4,944
2013	841	16%	4,134	80%	188	4%	5,164
2014	603	13%	3,951	83%	214	4%	4,768
2015	621	12%	4,288	86%	67	1%	4,976
2016	901	19%	3,763	80%	57	1%	4,721

Unit 13 Moose Harvest by Hunt

2009-2016



■ Federal Harvest
 ■ GM000
 ■ CM300 antler legal
 ■ CM300 any bulls
 ■ DM3XX

Unit 13 Moose

Ry2015 Reported Harvest

	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Success</u>
General Season	3,303	759	23%
Draw	69	30	43%
CSH	621	171	28%
Federal	699	85	12%
Total Reported Harvest:		1,045	

Amount Necessary For Subsistence 300-600

Unit 13 Moose

Ry2016 Reported Harvest

	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Success</u>
General Season	3,669	709	19%
Draw	57	30	53%
CSH	936	201	21%
Federal	681	100	15%
2016 Preliminary Harvest:		1,040	

Amount Necessary For Subsistence 300-600

Unit 11, 13, and a portion of 12 RY2016 CSH Moose Harvest

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>“Any Bull”</u>	<u>SF/50</u>	<u>EO Date</u>
11	2	1	0	
13A	10	9	34	
13B	30	31	24	Sept. 2
13C	18	20	4	
13D	14	15	6	Sept. 2
13E	26	38	19	Aug. 24
Total “Any Bull” Harvest:		114		
Total Harvest:		201		

CSH hunters can continue hunting SF/50/ 4BT bulls after Emergency Order

Unit 13 Moose Management Outlook

- Near or above population objectives in most subunits
- Above bull objectives (25:100) in all subunits but 13A (20:100)
- Combined annual harvest >1,000 bulls last 2 years
- Harvest quotas and permits issued will continue to be adjusted based on the best available data

R_Y2016 Hunt Summary

CARIBOU

- Harvest has exceeded 5,000 — the most since 1996
- Fall season was extended from September 20 to September 30 to maximize harvest.
- Emergency regulation change to double bag limit

MOOSE

CSH:

- Any-bull opportunity until the end of moose season

Harvest Ticket:

SF/50/4BT until throughout the season

- Complaints of “not enough moose”
 - Harvest has increased since 2013
- Some hunters point to CSH hunt as the problem
- Common Complaint – Too many hunters