

Proposal 202: Western Arctic Herd & Teshekpuk Herd

PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 85.025 (a) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. *and* 5 AAC 92.085 (8) (D) Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Alaska Board of Game

Proposal 202 covers all of northwestern Alaska

- This proposal would modify caribou hunting regulations differently in each of 5 subareas within WAH range:
- Jim Dau will cover that portion of the proposal that deals with the WAH (Areas A, B & C on the following map)
- Lincoln Parrett will cover that portion of the proposal that deals with the TCH (Areas D & E)

Western Arctic Herd: Proposal 202

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? For WAH range:

1. Change the nonresident bag limit to 1 bull/year throughout the range of the WAH
2. Prohibit the harvest of cows by nonresident hunters
3. Reduce the nonresident caribou season to 1 Aug. – 30 Sept. (in some areas a nonresident season may be announced within this period)
4. Prohibit the harvest of calves by all hunters
5. Eliminate the SDA caribou hunt in Unit 22

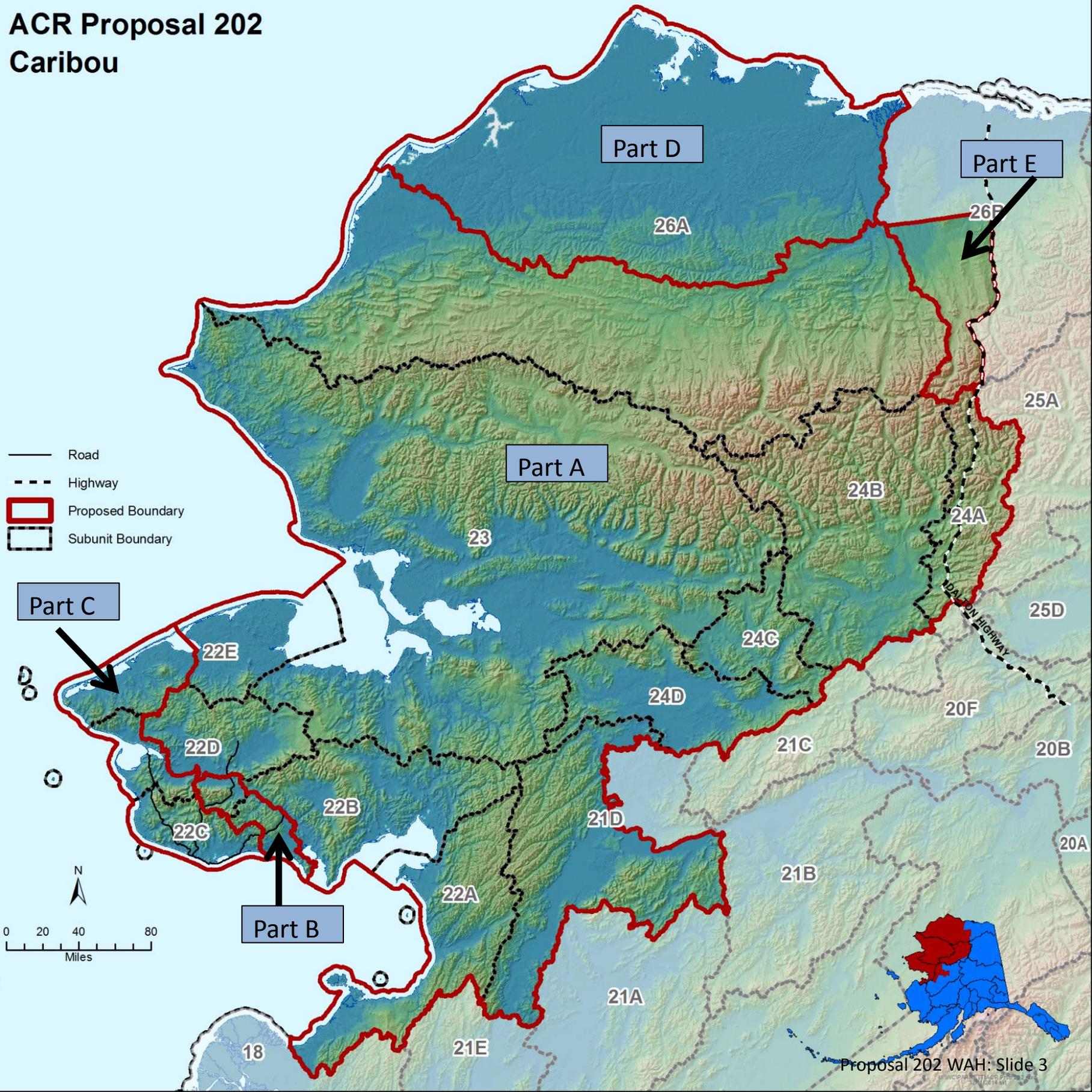
(These changes are numbered as above and highlighted yellow on the following slides.)

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS AND PROPOSED CHANGES?

New language is bold and underlined text: e g. **calves may not be taken**

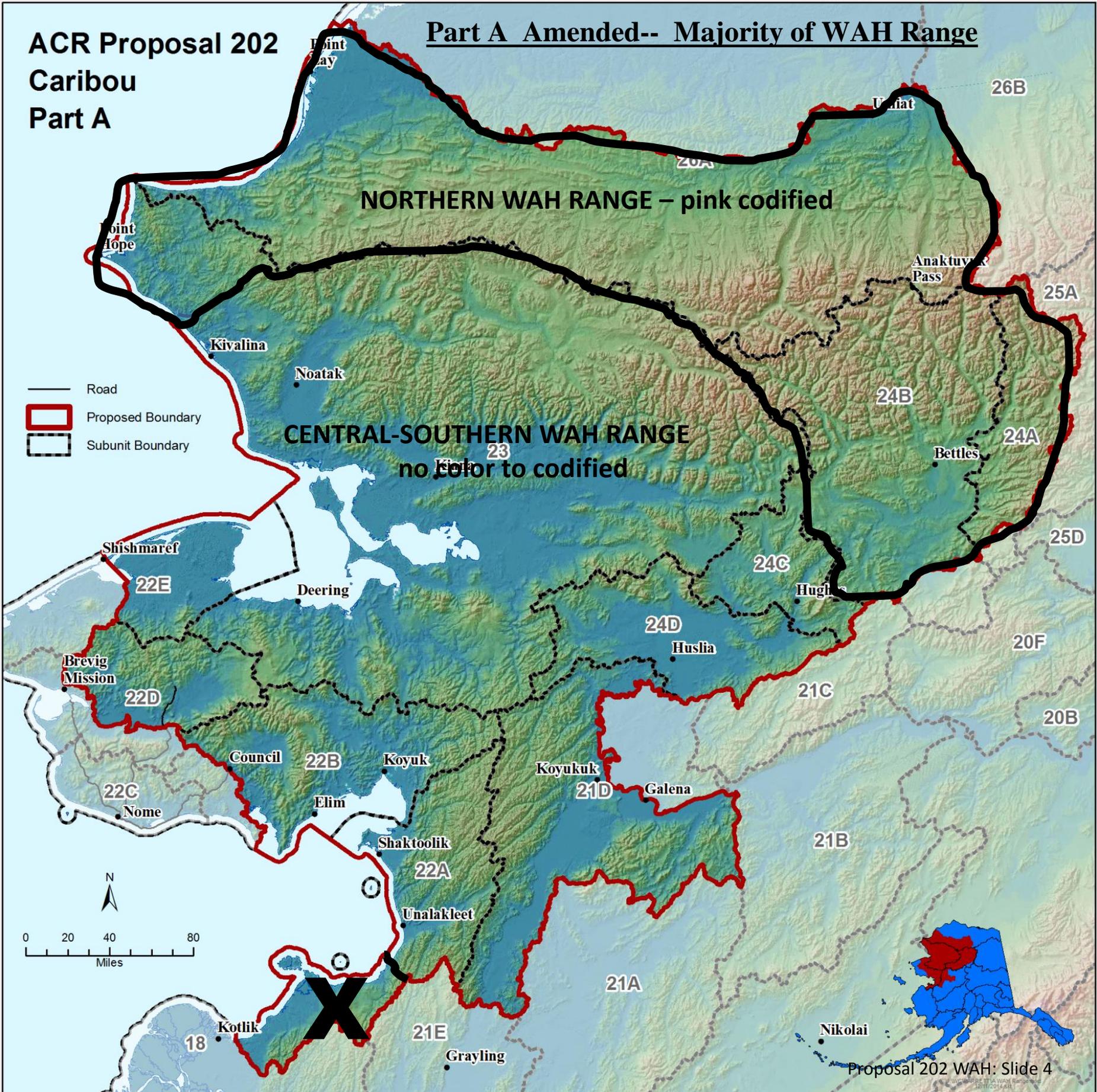
Deleted language is bracketed and upper case: e g. [JULY 1–JUNE 30]

ACR Proposal 202 Caribou



**ACR Proposal 202
Caribou
Part A**

Part A Amended-- Majority of WAH Range



PROPOSAL 202 MAP A AMENDED - NORTHERN WAH RANGE

Units: 23 Northwest, 24A Remainder, 24B Remainder, 26A Southern portion

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>5 caribou per day, as follows:</u>		
<u>Up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;</u>	<u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u> <u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u>	
<u>Up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken</u>	<u>Jul. 15 – Apr. 30</u>	
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]	[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</u>		<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u>
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]		[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

PROPOSAL 202 MAP A AMENDED - CENTRAL-SOUTHERN WAH RANGE

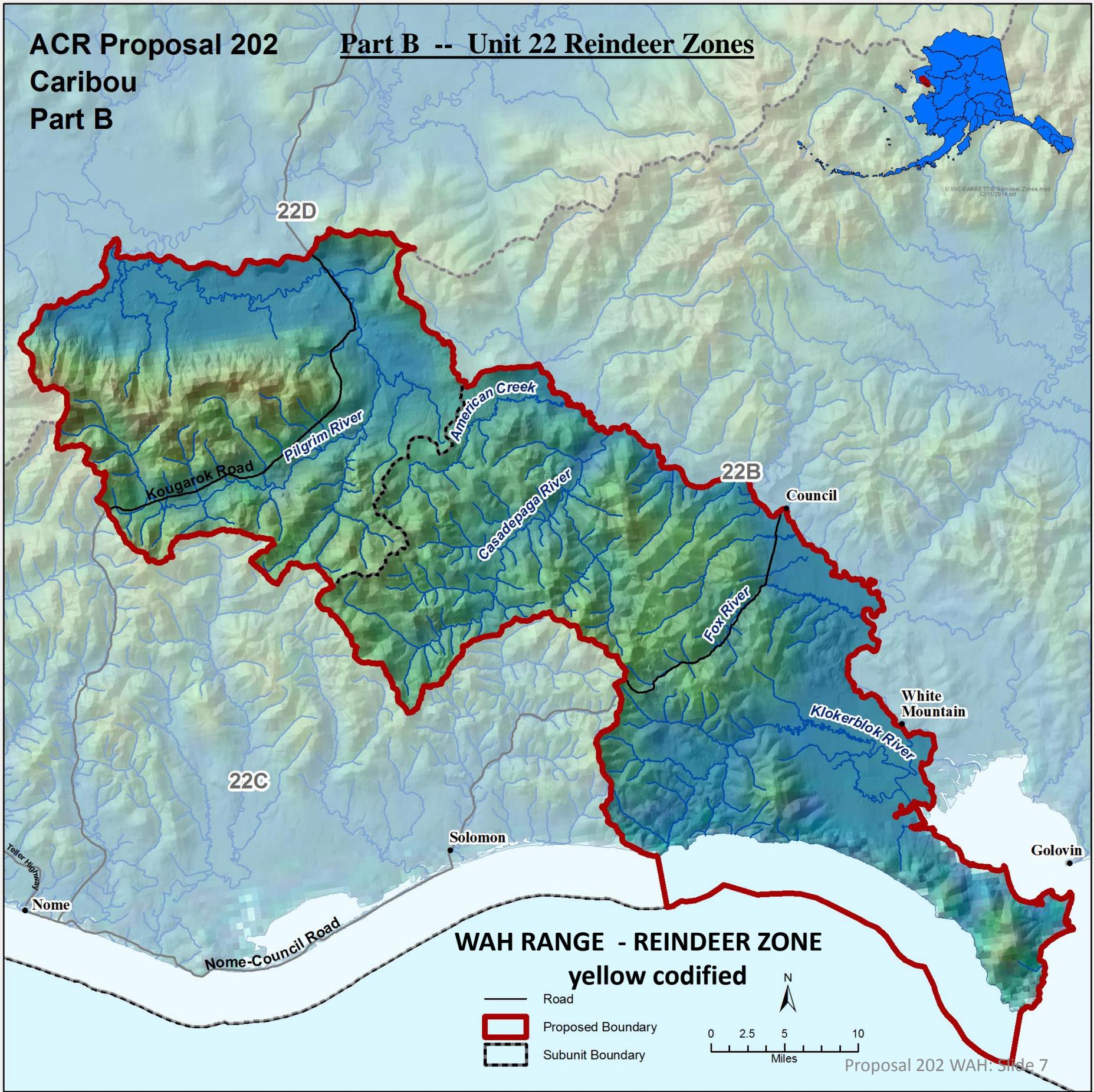
Units: 21D Remainder, 22A North, 22B Remainder, 22D Kuzitrin, 22E East,
23 Remainder, 24C, 24D

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>5 caribou per day, as follows:</u>		
<u>Up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;</u>	<u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u> <u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u>	
<u>Up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</u>	
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]	[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</u>		<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u>
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]		[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

ACR Proposal 202

Part B -- Unit 22 Reindeer Zones

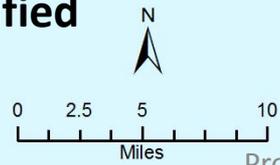
Caribou Part B



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WAH RANGE - REINDEER ZONE yellow codified

- Road
- ▭ Proposed Boundary
- - - Subunit Boundary



PROPOSAL 202 MAP C, AMENDED – REINDEER ZONE (SHORT PUBLISHED SEASON)

Units: 22B West, 22D Pilgrim River drainage

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
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RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

**Up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken**

Oct. 1 – Oct. 14
Feb. 1 – Apr. 30

**Up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken**

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

**5 caribou per day; however,
calves may not be taken;
during the period May 1 –
Sept. 30, a season may be
announced by emergency order;
however, cow caribou may not be
taken April 1 – Aug. 31**

**(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)**

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; AND]
[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; DURING
THE PERIOD MAY 1 – SEPT. 30,
A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY
EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER,
COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE
TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

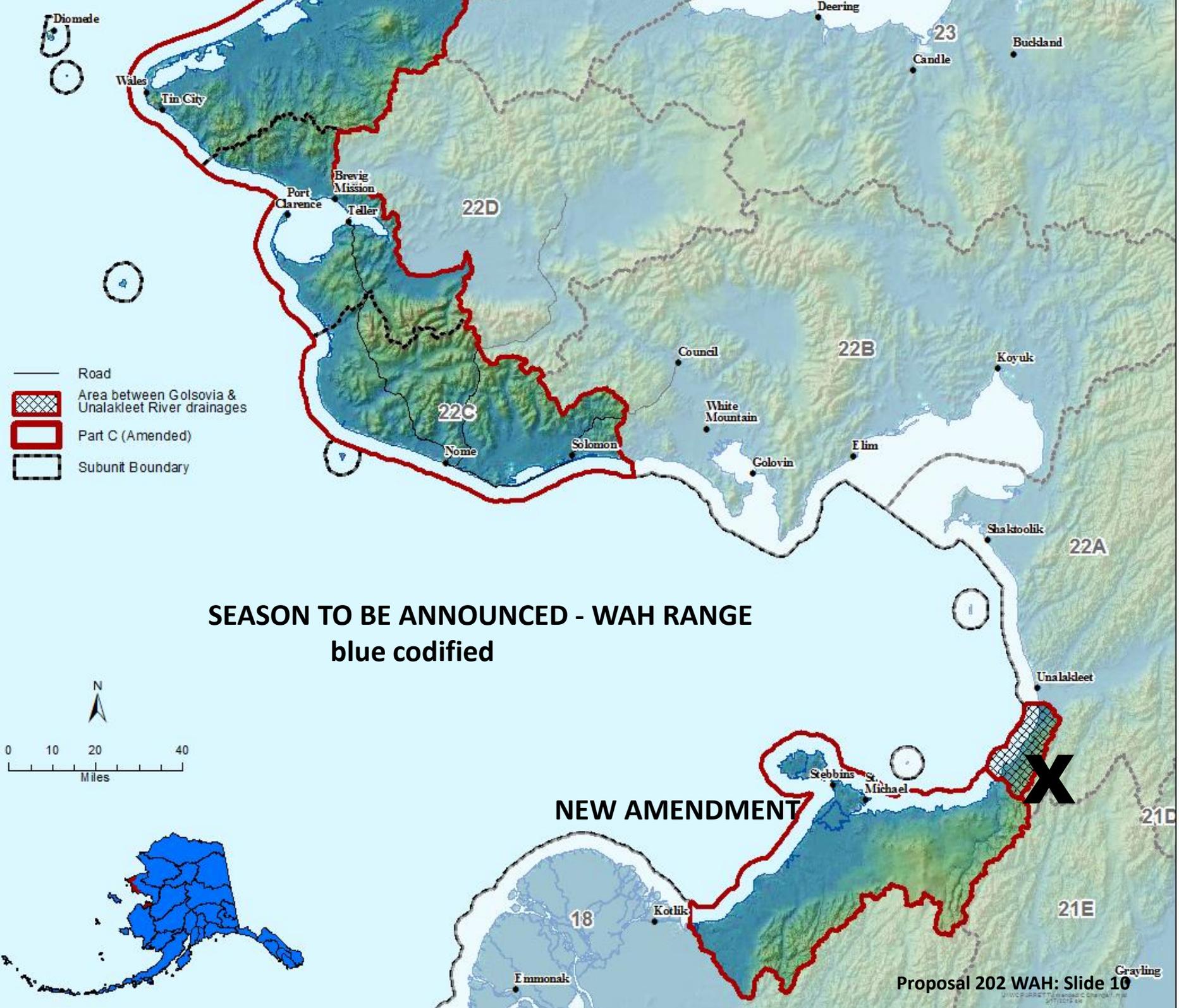
[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]
[(SEASON TO BE
ANNOUNCED BY
EMERGENCY ORDER)]

PROPOSAL 202 MAP C, AMENDED – REINDEER ZONE (SHORT PUBLISHED SEASON)

Units: 22B West, 22D Pilgrim River drainage

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [5 CARIBOU; OR]		[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]
<u>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</u> [5 CARIBOU]; during the period <u>Aug. 1</u> [MAY 1] – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order [; HOWEVER COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]		(Season to be announced by emergency order)

ACR Proposal 202 Caribou Part C (Amended)



PROPOSAL 202 MAP C, AMENDED – SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED

Remainder of Unit 22 (22A South, 22B West, 22D West, 22E West)

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>5 caribou per day; however,</u> <u>calves may not be taken;</u> <u>cow caribou may not be</u> <u>taken Apr. 1 – Aug. 31;</u> <u>bull caribou may not be</u> <u>taken Oct. 15 – Jan. 31</u>	<u>(Season to be</u> <u>announced by</u> <u>emergency order)</u>	
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]	[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]	
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bull; however, calves may</u> <u>not be taken; during the</u> <u>period Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u> <u>a season may be announced</u> <u>by emergency order</u>		<u>(Season to be</u> <u>announced by</u> <u>emergency order)</u>
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]		[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; however, this paragraph does not apply to

[(D) TAKING CARIBOU FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 15, IN UNIT 22 IF THE HUNTER IS AT LEAST 300 FEET FROM THE AIRPLANE AT THE TIME OF TAKING;]

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

These actions will begin the transition from 30+ years of essentially unlimited harvests to incrementally more restrictive regulations as the WAH declines.

Department Recommendation: **Support with amendments**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Unit 23	Kotzebue Sound AC	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 23	Upper Kobuk AC	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 23	Lower Kobuk AC	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 23	N. Seward Peninsula AC	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 23	Noatak/Kivalina AC.....	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 24	Koyukuk AC	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 22	N. Norton Sound AC.....	<u>Support</u>
Unit 22	S. Norton Sound AC.....	<u>Support, amend WAH (“to be announced” season south of Unalakleet River)</u>
Unit 26A	North Slope.....	<u>Support, amend WAH</u>
Unit 21	Middle Yukon AC.....	<u>Did not meet</u>
Unit 21	Ruby AC.....	<u>Did not meet</u>

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

WAH Working Group.....**Support, amend WAH**
W. Interior RAC.....**Support, amend WAH**
NW Arctic RAC..... **Support, amend WAH**
Seward Peninsula RAC.....**Oppose**

During the last 12 mos. Region V staff conducted meetings in 18 communities within WAH range and also met with the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Committee, Red Dog Subsistence Resource Committee, and NW Arctic Borough Planning Commission:

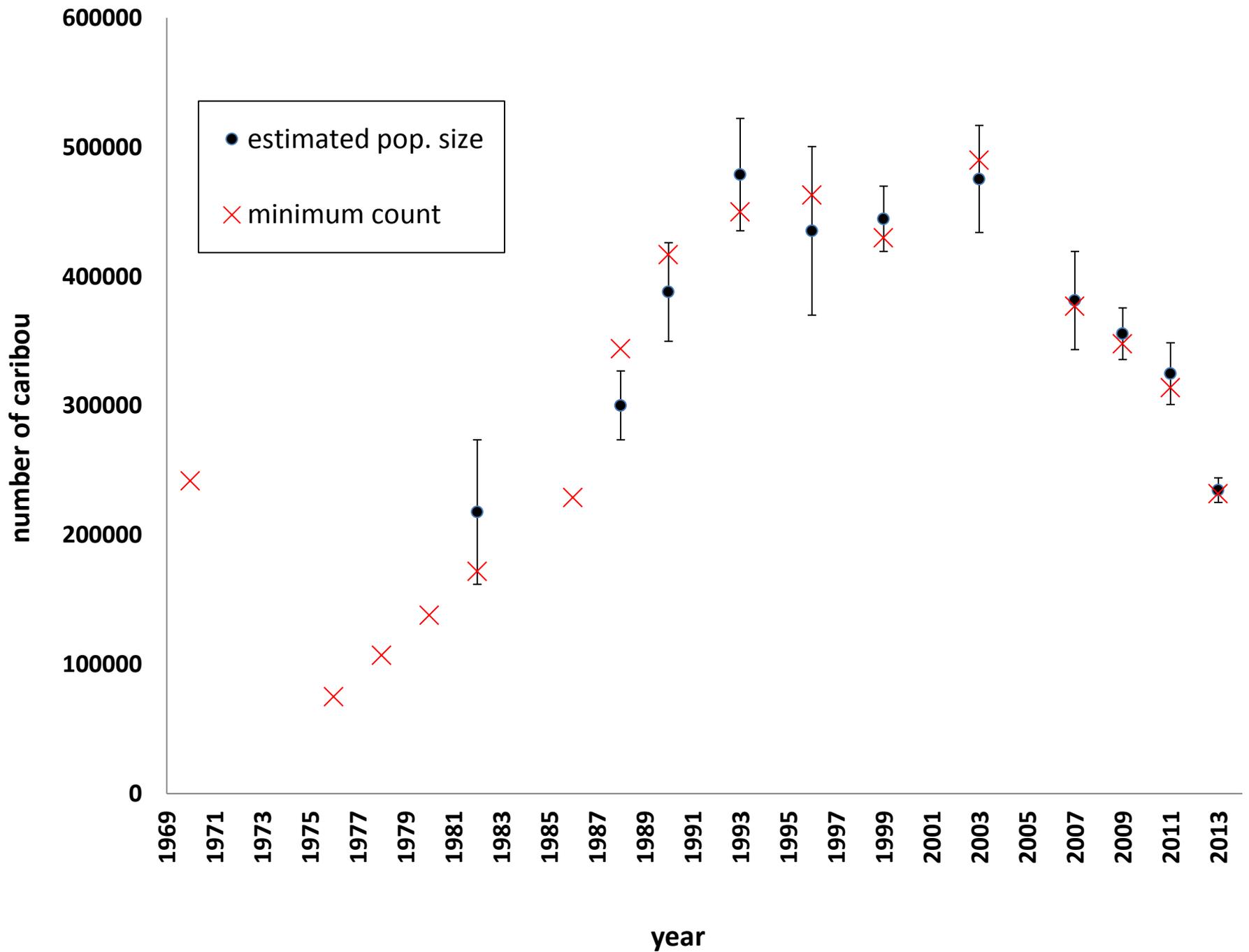
- Most (all?) of these groups supported reducing caribou harvests now
- Most (all?) of these groups strongly noted the need for predator control

WAH Population Information

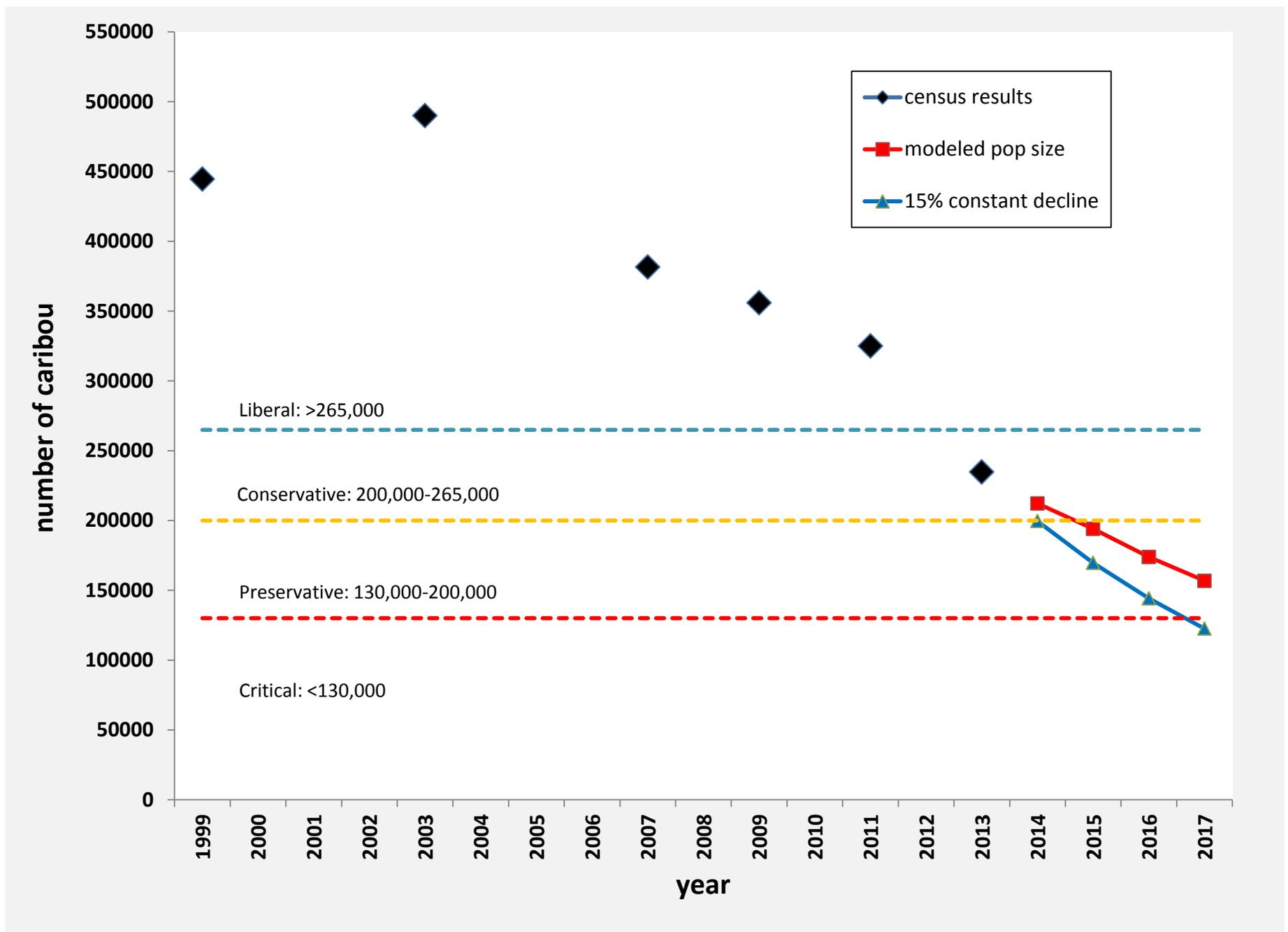
This presentation:

- Census results & population projections
- Bull:cow ratios
- Importance of harvests & predation
- Harvestable surplus relative to:
 - IM and ANS levels
 - Harvests
- Harvests relative to WAH population size
- Summary of recommended amendments to Proposal 202 by ACs and other organizations
- Land status map of WAH range

WAH Census Results



Census Results & Population Projections



Note: Population projections are based on many assumptions that are not all going to be met – I've included them only to show that this herd will probably continue to decline in the near future

Appendix 2: Management Recommendations

Liberal Management (green)

- Reduce nonresident bull harvest only to maintain 40 bulls:100 cows
- No restriction of resident bull harvest unless <40 bulls:100 cows

Conservative Management (orange)

- No harvest of calves
- No nonresident cow harvest
- Restrict nonresident bull harvest
- Encourage voluntary reduction in resident cow harvest
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls only if <40 bulls:100 cows

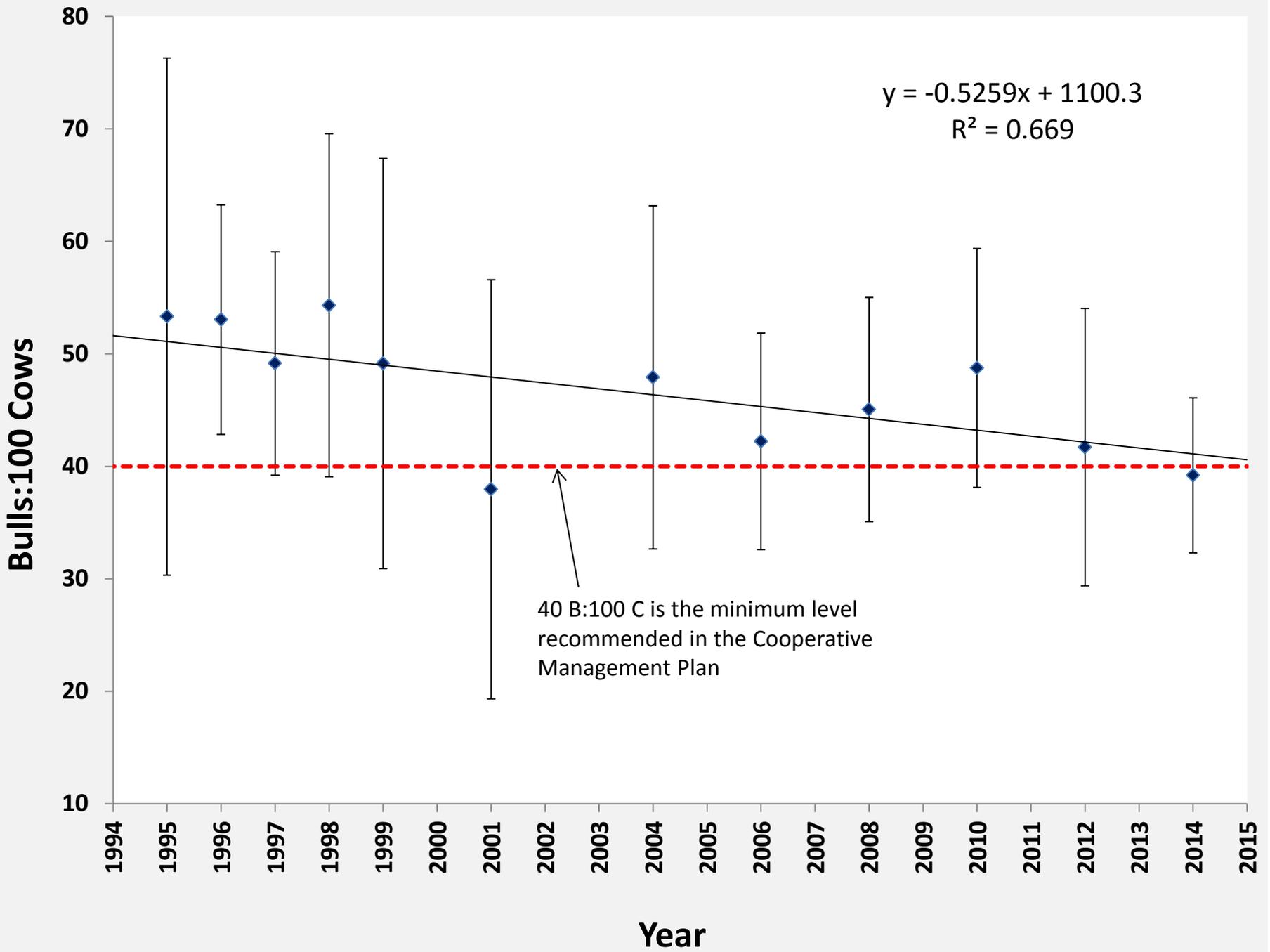
Preservative Management (yellow)

- No harvest of calves
- Limit harvest of cows by residents through permit hunts and/or village quotas
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls only if <40 bulls:100 cows
- Harvest restricted to residents only according to State and federal law – closure of some federal public lands may be necessary

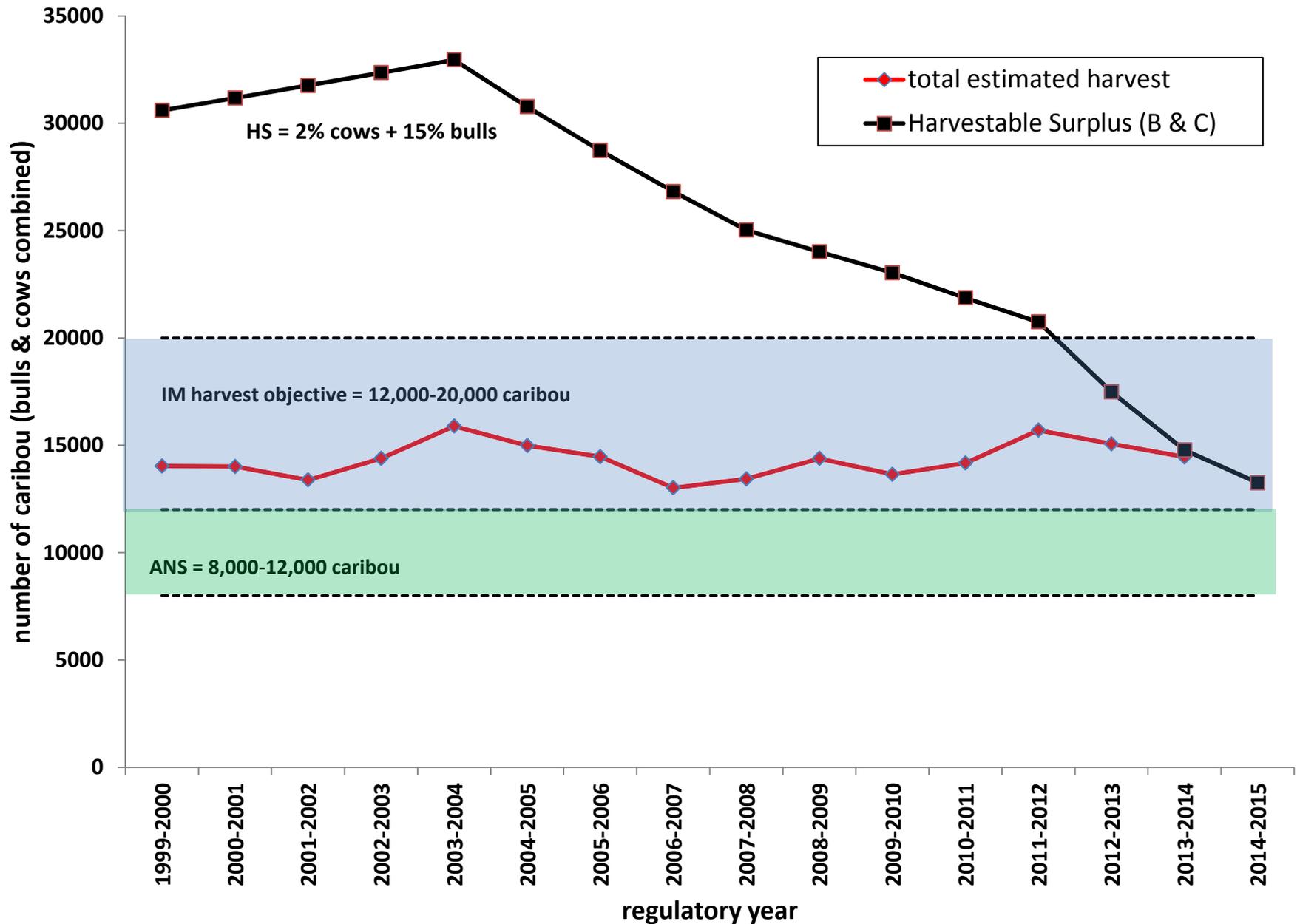
Critical Management (red)

- No harvest of calves
- Highly restrict resident cow harvest through permit hunts and/or village quotas
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls to maintain 40 bulls:100 cows
- Harvest restricted to residents only according to State and federal law – closure of some federal public lands may be necessary

Fall Bull: Cow Ratios

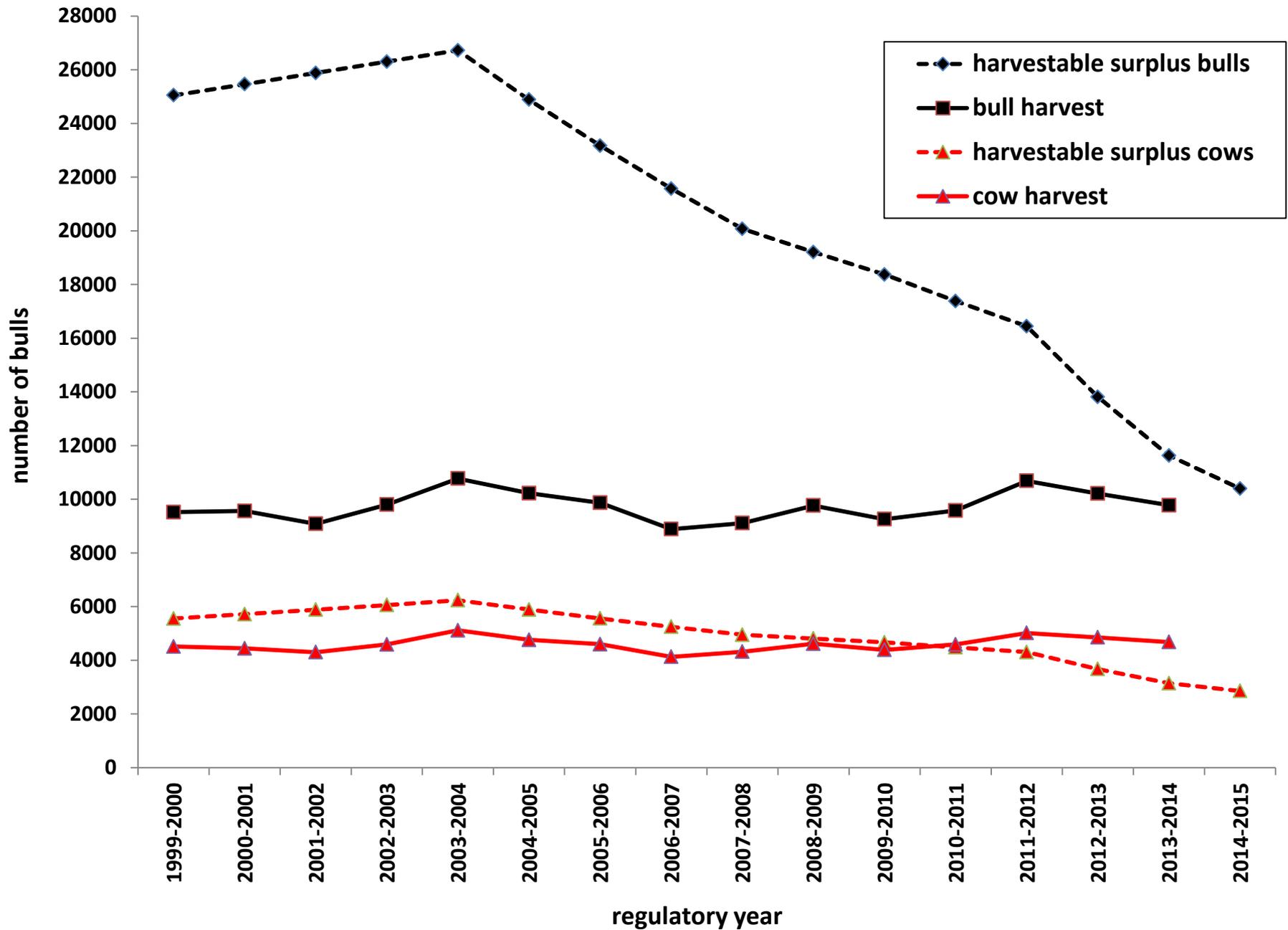


Total Harvestable Surplus (Bulls & Cows Combined) Relative to Annual Harvest Levels, IM and ANS



- Intensive Management (IM): When the harvestable surplus goes below 12,000 caribou, or the WAH population goes below 200,000 caribou, the State must consider IM
- Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS): When the harvestable surplus goes below 8,000 caribou the State must exclude non subsistence uses
 - Usually Tier II for residents
 - Season closure for nonresidents

Harvestable Surplus of Bulls & Cows Relative to Annual Harvest Levels

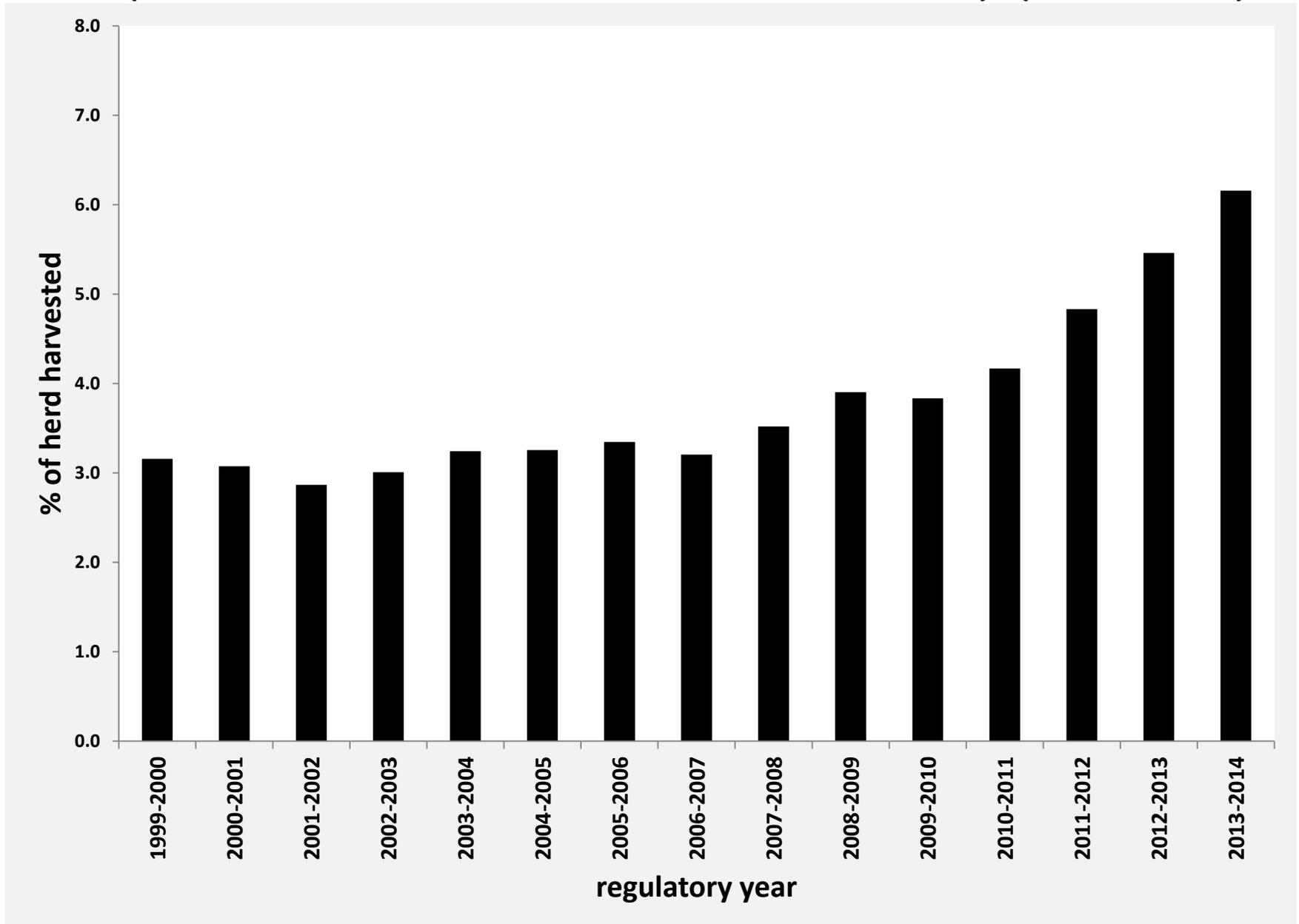


- Local harvest: 67% bulls & 33% cows (Subsistence Div. data)
- Nonlocal harvest: 90% bulls & 10% cows (harvest ticket data)

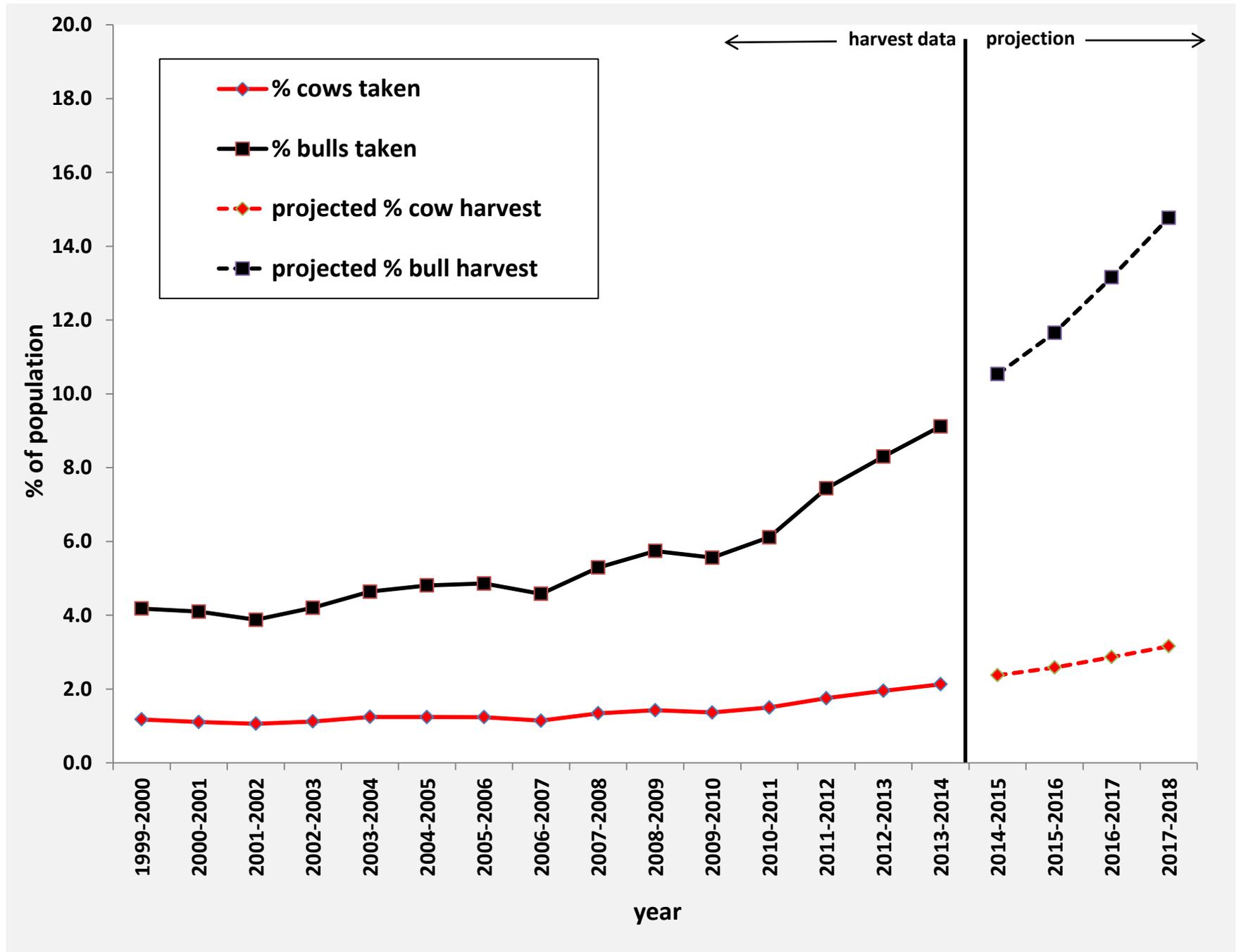
Total Annual Harvest as a Percentage of WAH Population

Average = 3.4%

= 5.5%

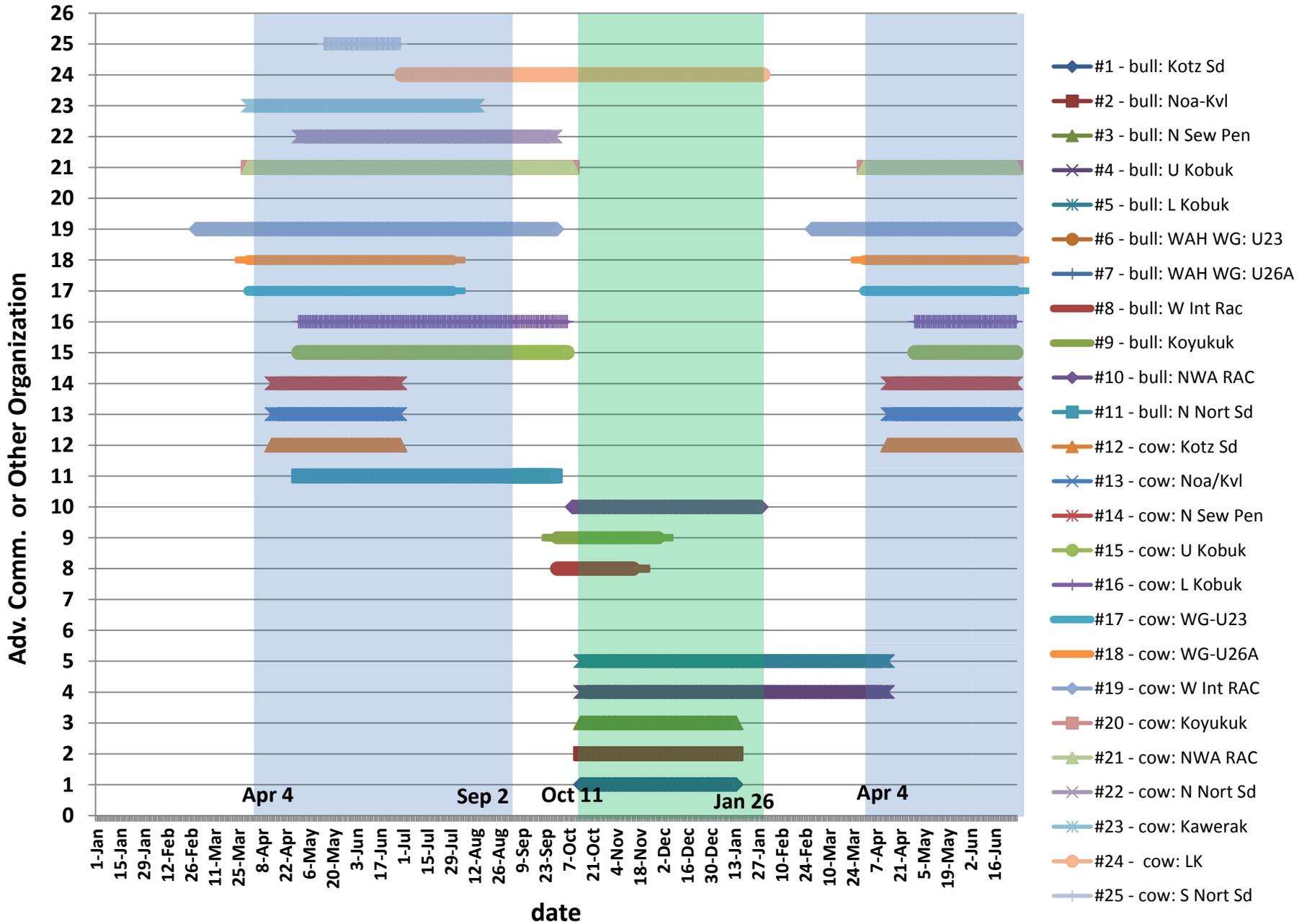


Proportions of Bulls & Cows Harvested

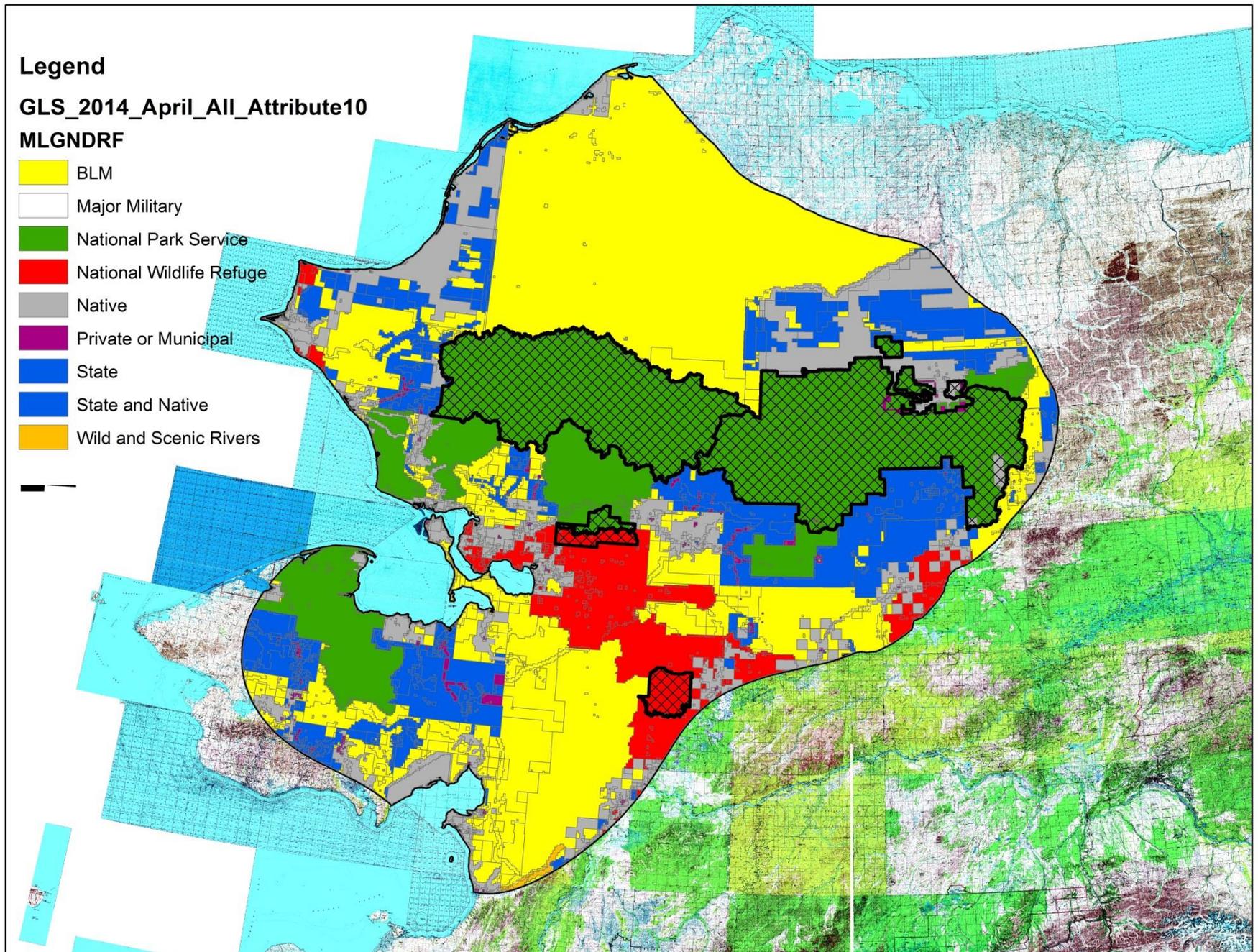


Summary of recommended amendments to Proposal 202 by AC's and other organizations

= average cow closure dates
 = average bull closure dates
 = bulls & cows open



Land Status Within 95% Kernel WAH Range



End of WAH Information

