

Unit 23 Planning Process

May 8-9, 2013

Background Information

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This Presentation

Western Arctic Herd:

- **Population estimates**
- **Management Plan – ‘Regulations’ & ‘Population Management’ sections**

Harvest Data:

- **Hunters by species hunted**
- **Residence of visiting hunters**
- **Timing of nonlocal hunting effort**
- **Distribution of hunters among Guide-Outfitter areas**
- **Hunters by commercial services used**

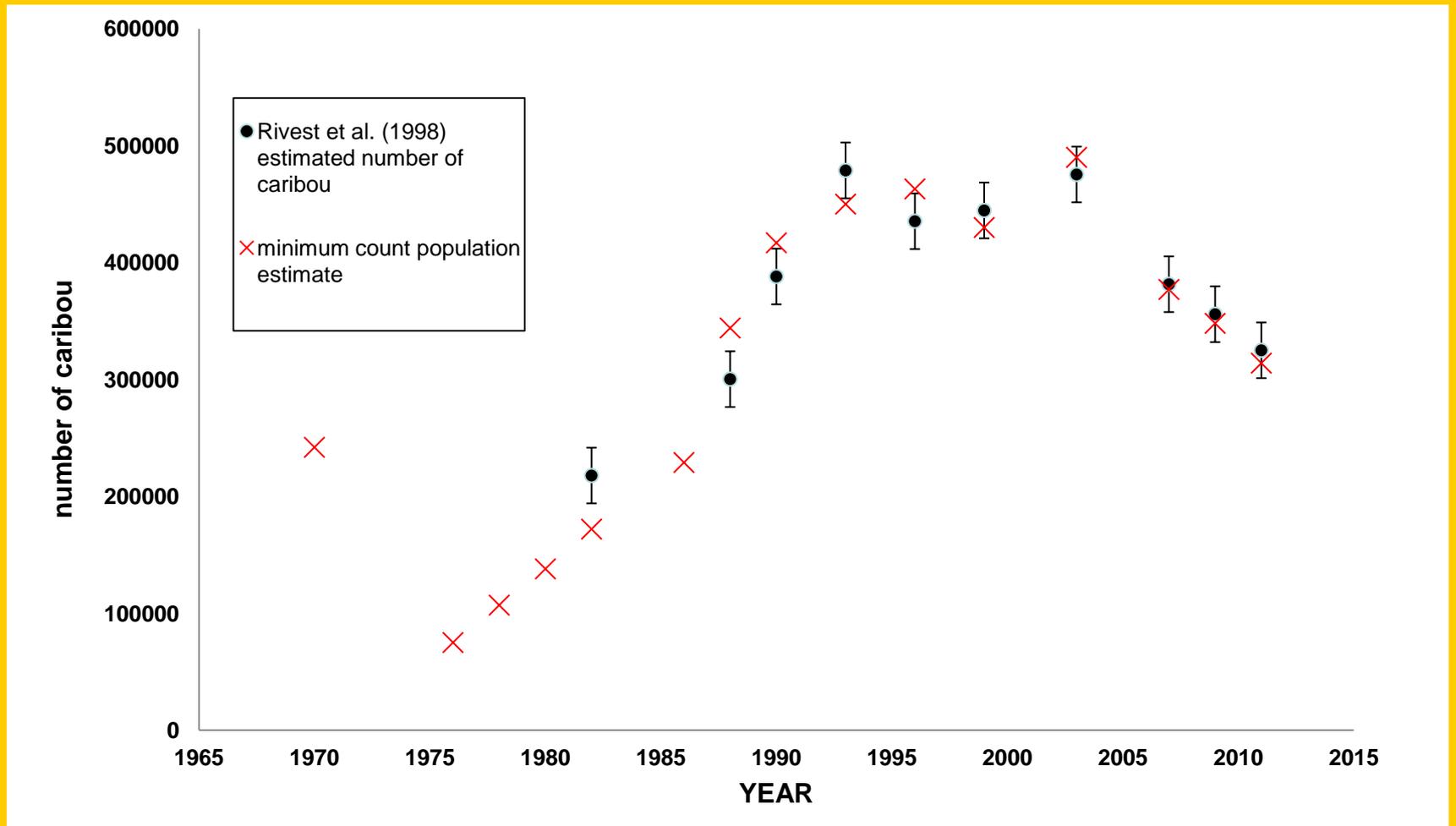
WAH Movements & Camp Locations in Fall 2012

Harvest Data

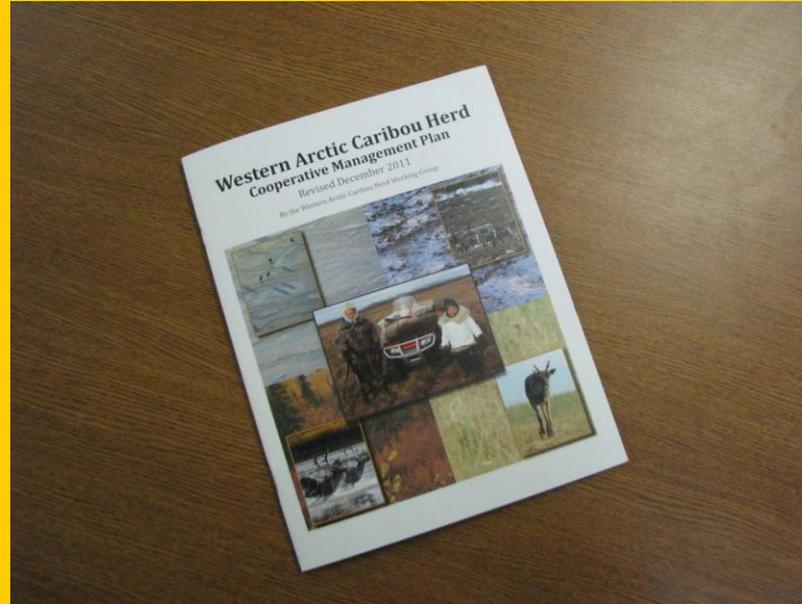
- Data from harvest ticket, registration & drawing permit systems
- Data is only for hunters who live outside Unit 23
 - Nonresidents (including alien hunters)
 - Residents of Alaska who live outside Unit 23
- 1 Record per hunter: caribou, moose, brown bear & sheep hunters combined
- Data from Fall 1998 through Fall 2012
 - August 1-October 31

Western Arctic Caribou Herd

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population Estimates



Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management Plan



WAH Working Group

- Initiated around 1995 and became functional ~2000
- Broad spectrum of users: subsistence users, recreational hunters, environmentalists, reindeer herders, guides & transporters
- Supported by ADF&G, BLM, FWS & NPS
- A number of people in this group are either currently or have been part of the WAH Working Group

The latest revision of the Plan was finalized in December 2011 – This version of the plan will be reviewed by the BOG at the January 2014 meeting

There are 7 primary elements of the plan – Two are most relevant to user conflicts in Unit 23:

- Regulations
- Population Management

Regulations Element

Strategies

- A. Support the existing regulatory process of state advisory committees & federal regional advisory councils
- B. Acknowledge and provide for local caribou hunting and use patterns as well as opportunities for other users
- C. Develop hunting regulations according to herd management strategies outlined in this plan
- D. Simplify caribou hunting regulations

Management actions

- 1. Promote consistency between state and federal regulations
- 2. Encourage efficient, effective and consistent enforcement of regulations affecting caribou hunting
- 3. Support efforts such as the Unit 23 Working Group
- 4. Reevaluate the amount of caribou reasonably necessary for subsistence uses as needed
- 5. Submit recommendations regarding hunting to the appropriate advisory committees and regional advisory councils

Population Management Element

Table 1 relates population size and trend to management actions and harvest levels

Appendix 2 provides detailed recommendations regarding:

- population monitoring by agencies
- harvest management by BOG & FSB

NOTE: This section of the plan does not attempt to establish hard and fast rules or thresholds for managing the WAH. Instead, population values and recommendations are presented only as guidelines to help the agencies and regulatory boards adjust to changes in the biological status of this herd.

Management & Harvest Levels Relative to Population Size and Trend

Table 1

	Population Trend		
Management Level and Harvest Level	Declining Low: 6%	Stable Med: 7%	Increasing High: 8%
Liberal	Pop: 265,000+ Harvest: 18,550-24,850	Pop: 230,000+ Harvest: 16,100-21,700	Pop: 200,000+ Harvest: 16,000-21,600
Conservative	Pop: 200,000-265,000 Harvest: 14,000-18,550	Pop: 170,000-230,000 Harvest: 11,900-16,100	Pop: 150,000-200,000 Harvest: 12,000-16,000
Preservative	Pop: 130,000-200,000 Harvest: 8,000-12,000	Pop: 115,000-170,000 Harvest: 8,000-12,000	Pop: 100,000-150,000 Harvest: 8,000-12,000
Critical Keep Bull: Cow ratio ≥40 Bull: 100 Cow	Pop: <130,000 Harvest: 6,000-8,000	Pop: <115,000 Harvest: 6,000-8,000	Pop: <100,000 Harvest: 6,000-8,000

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)

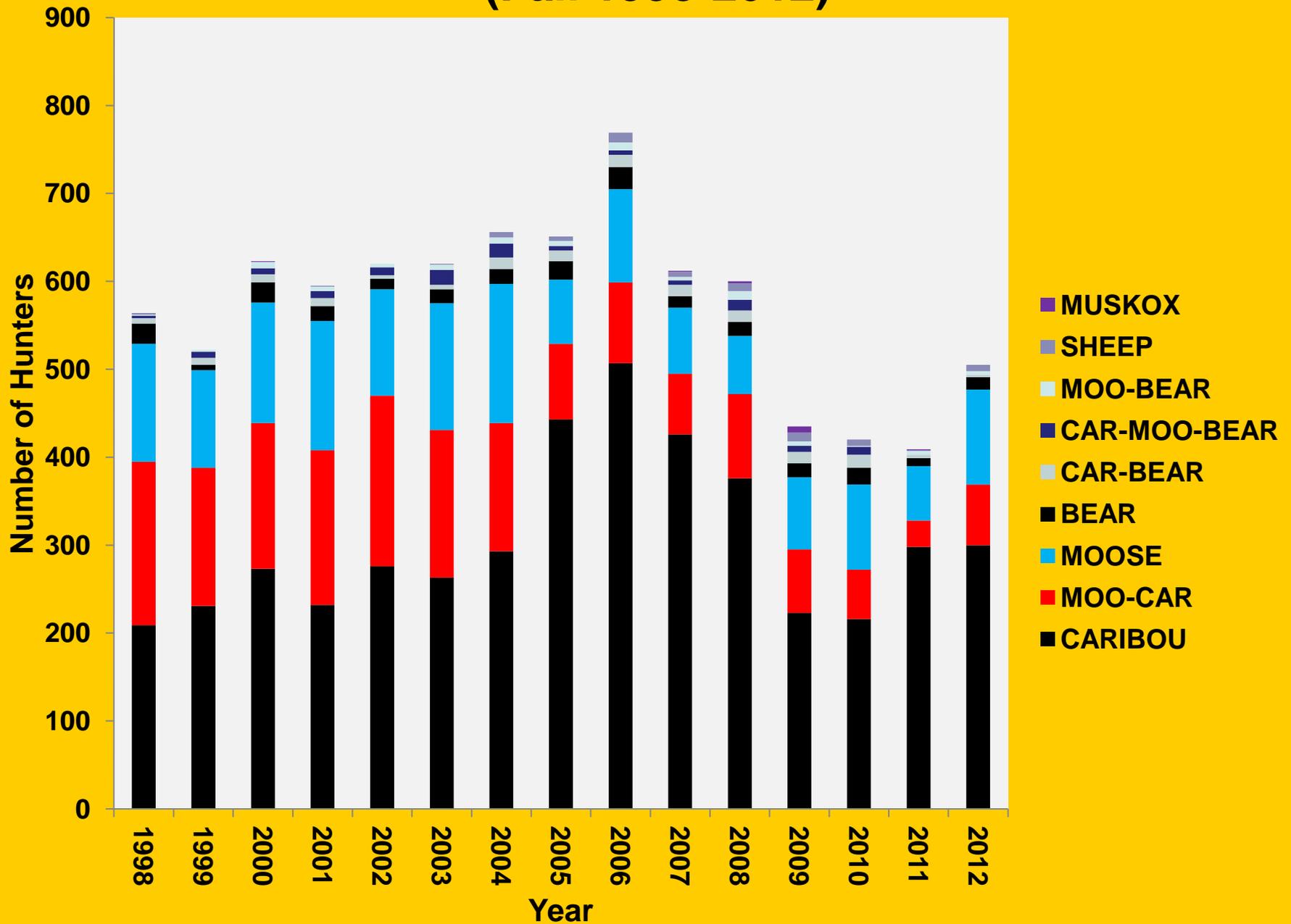
- No harvest of calves
- Limit harvest of cows by residents through permit hunts and/or village quotas
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls only if <40 bulls:100 cows
- Harvest restricted to residents only according to state and federal law – closure of some federal public lands may be necessary

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

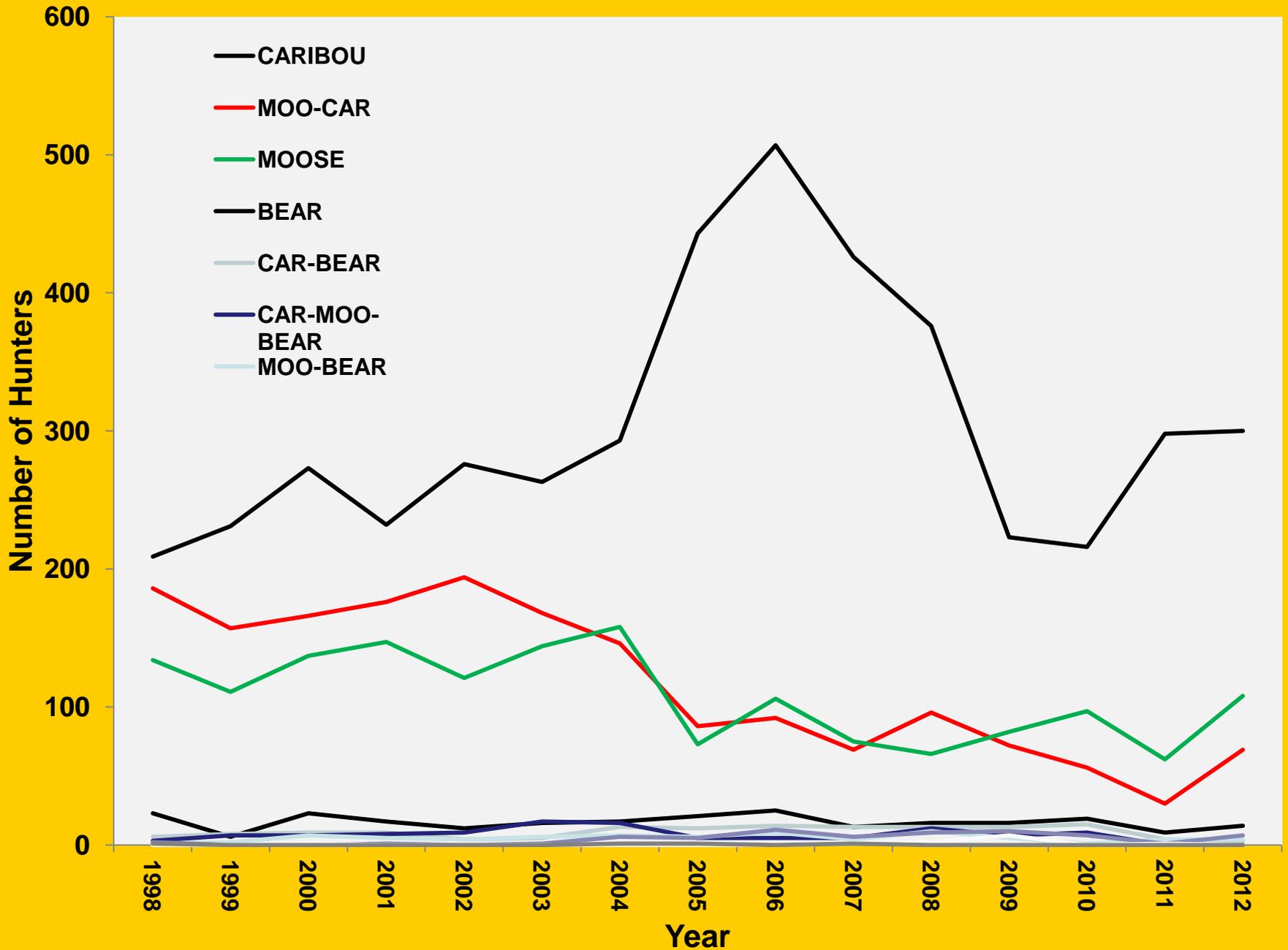
Unit 23 Harvest Data

Numbers of Nonlocal Hunters by Species & Year (Fall 1998-2012)



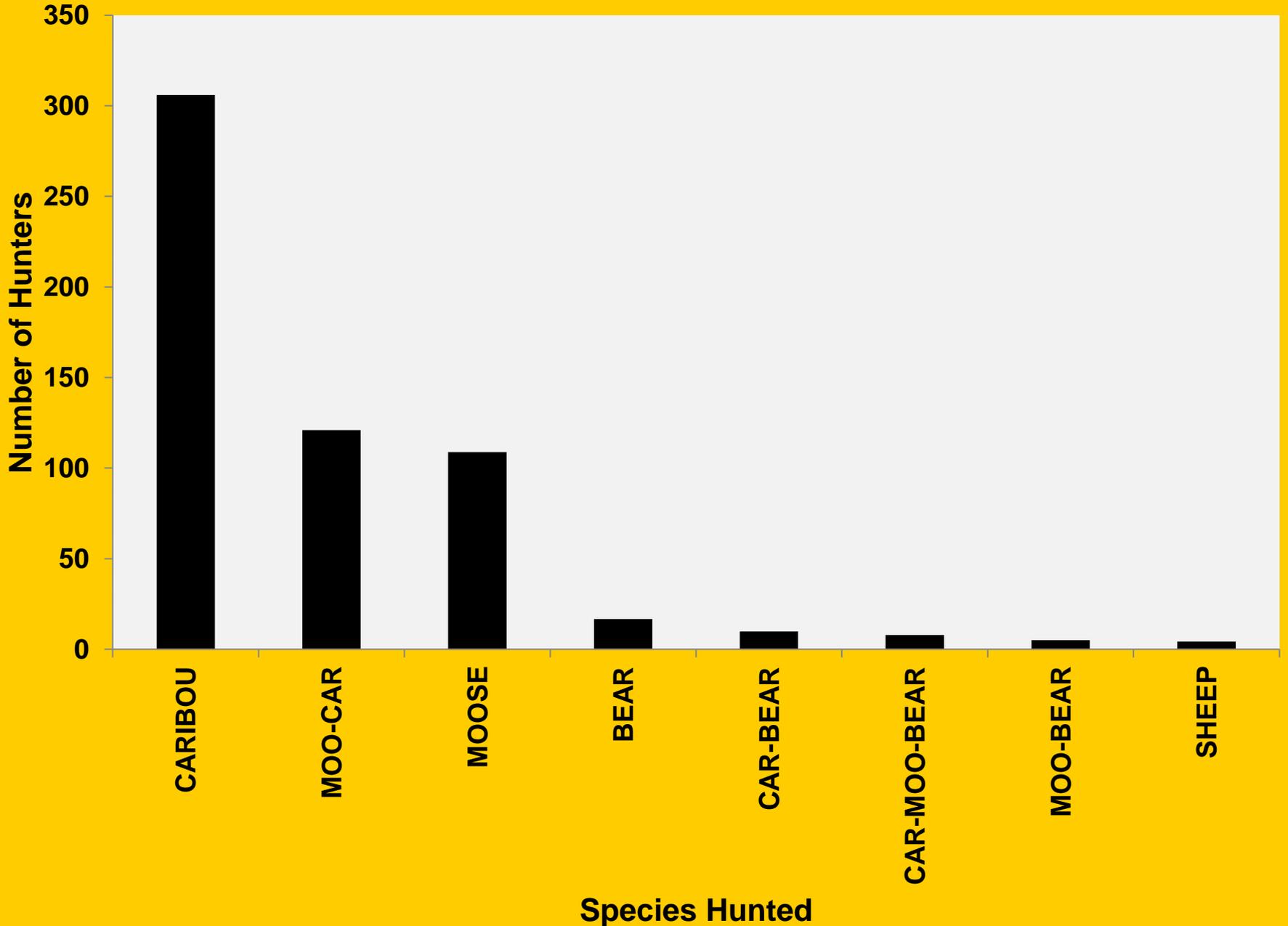
Categories are mutually exclusive; each hunter counted only once even if hunted >1 species

Annual Numbers of Nonlocal Hunters by Species & Year

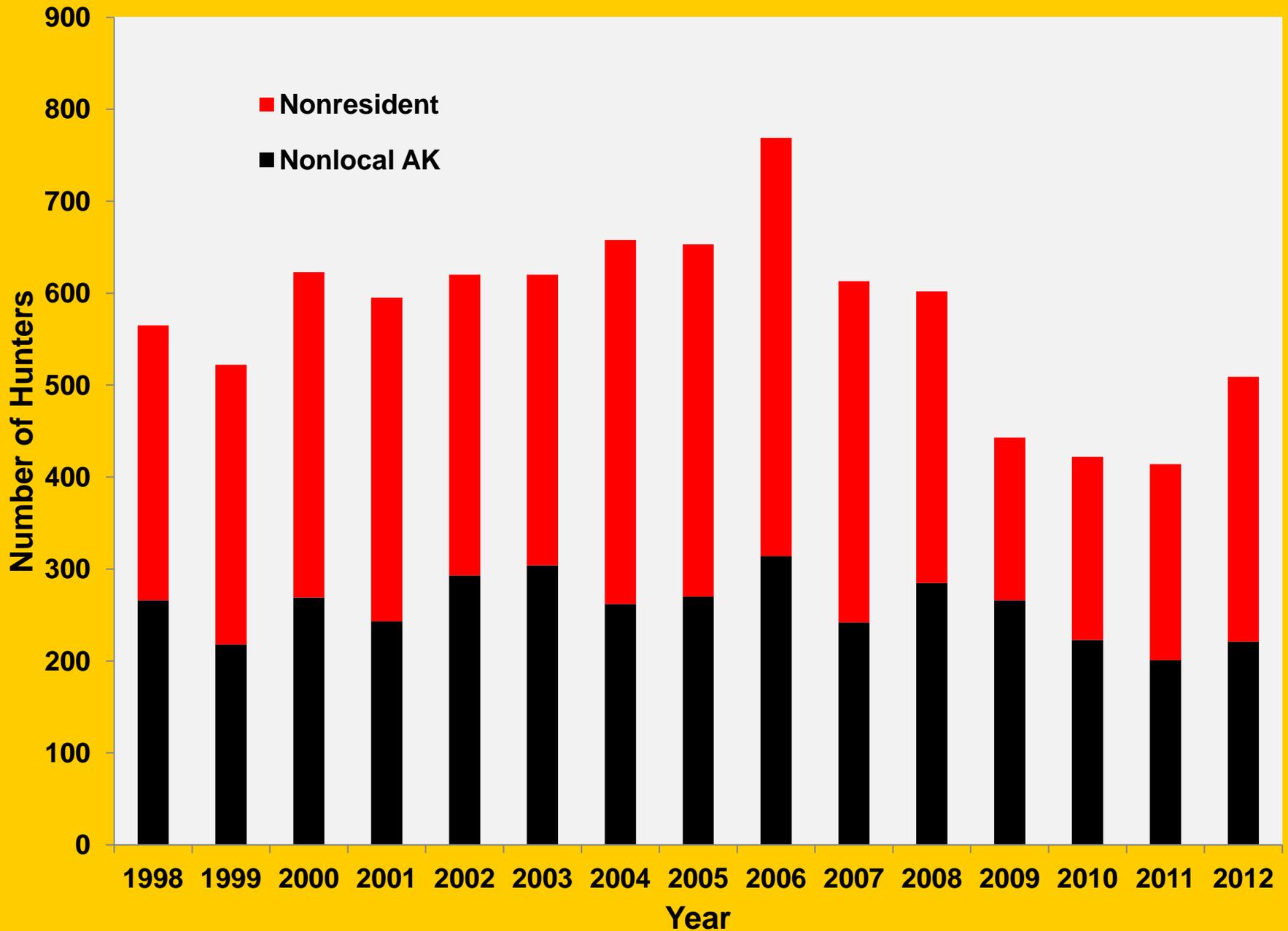


Average Annual Number of Nonlocal Hunters by Species

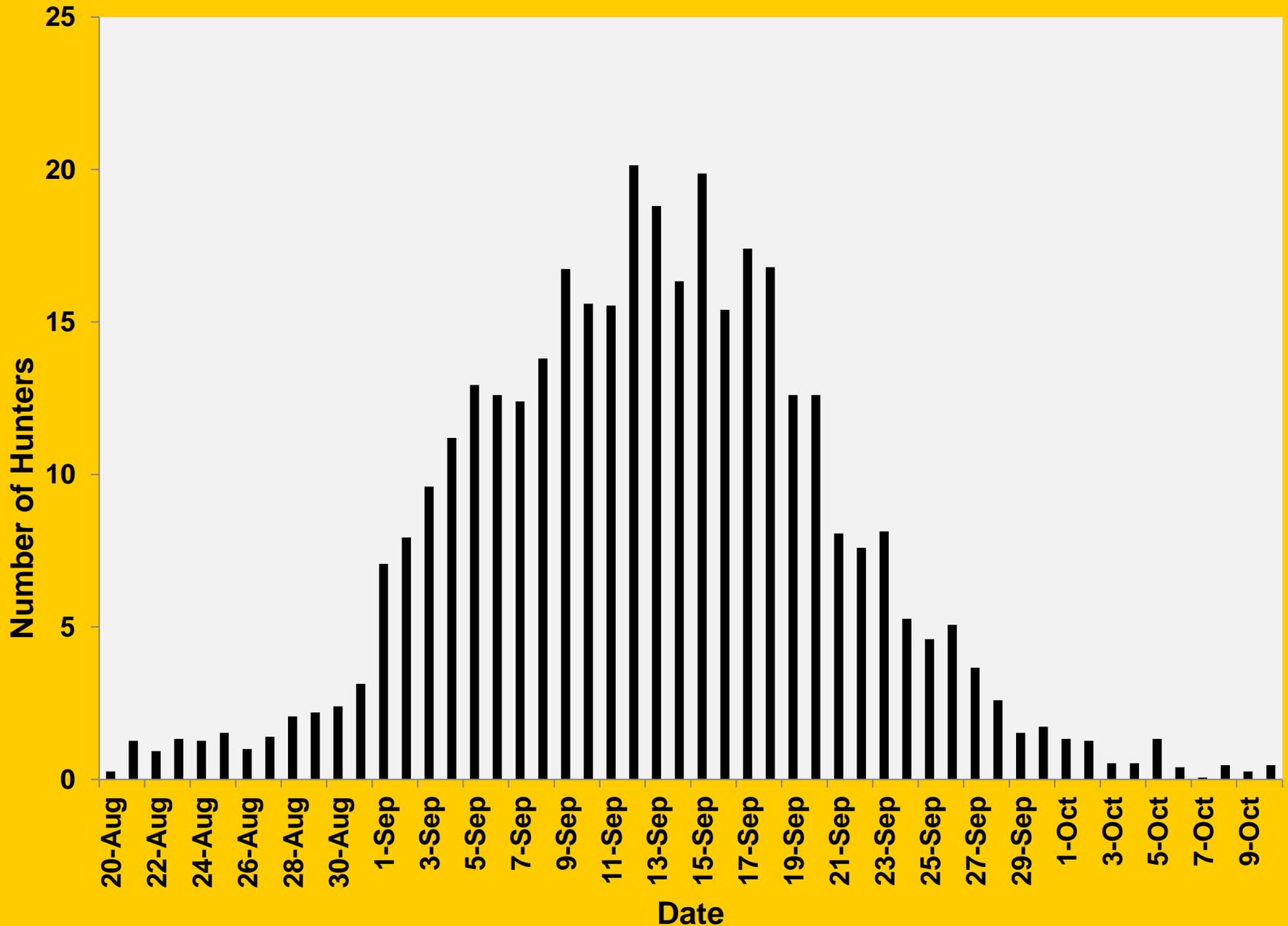
(Fall 1998 thru 2012 combined)



Numbers of Nonresident & Nonlocal Alaskan Resident Hunters



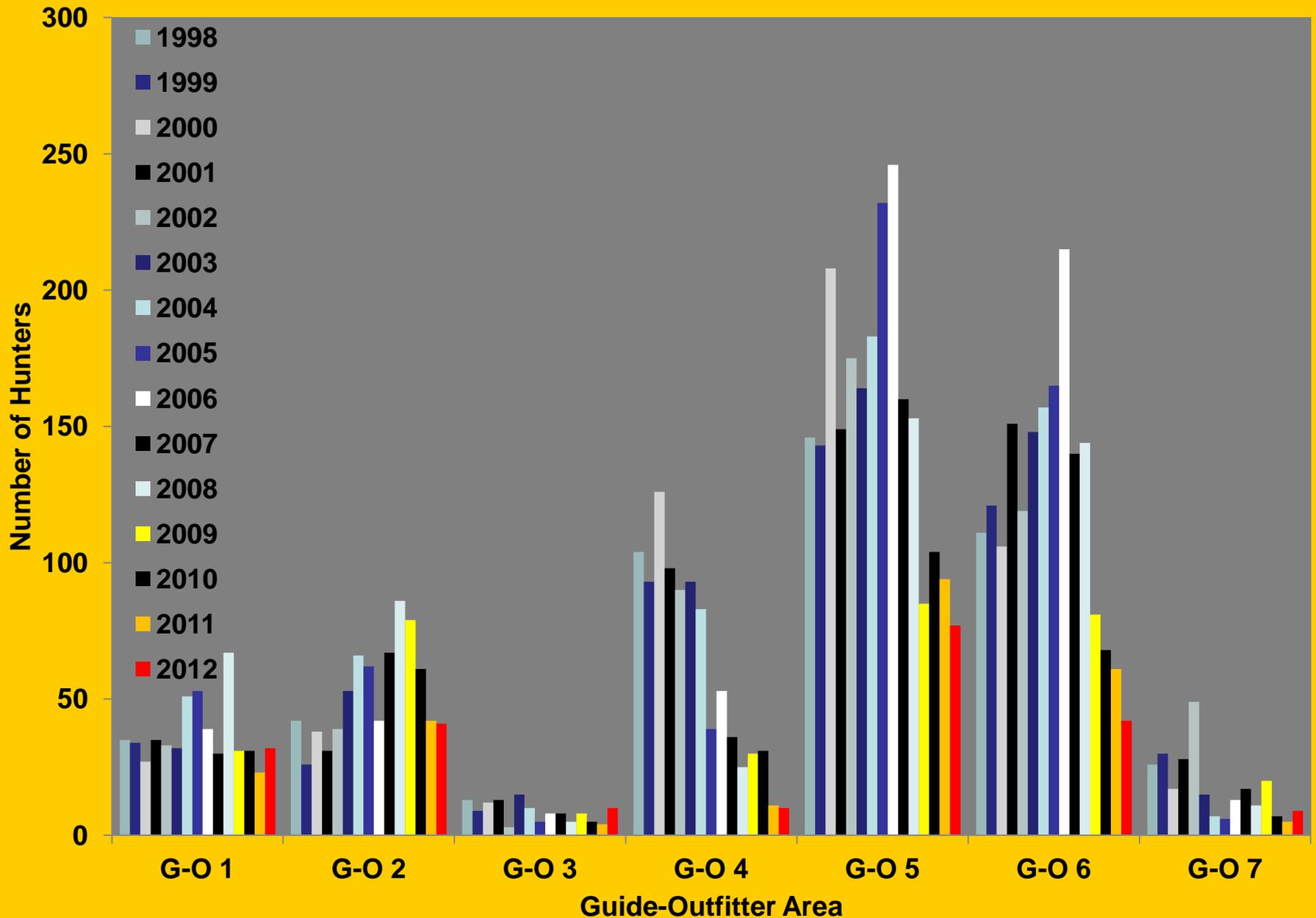
Average Nonlocal Hunter Effort by Day, Aug. 20-Oct. 10 (1998 thru 2012)



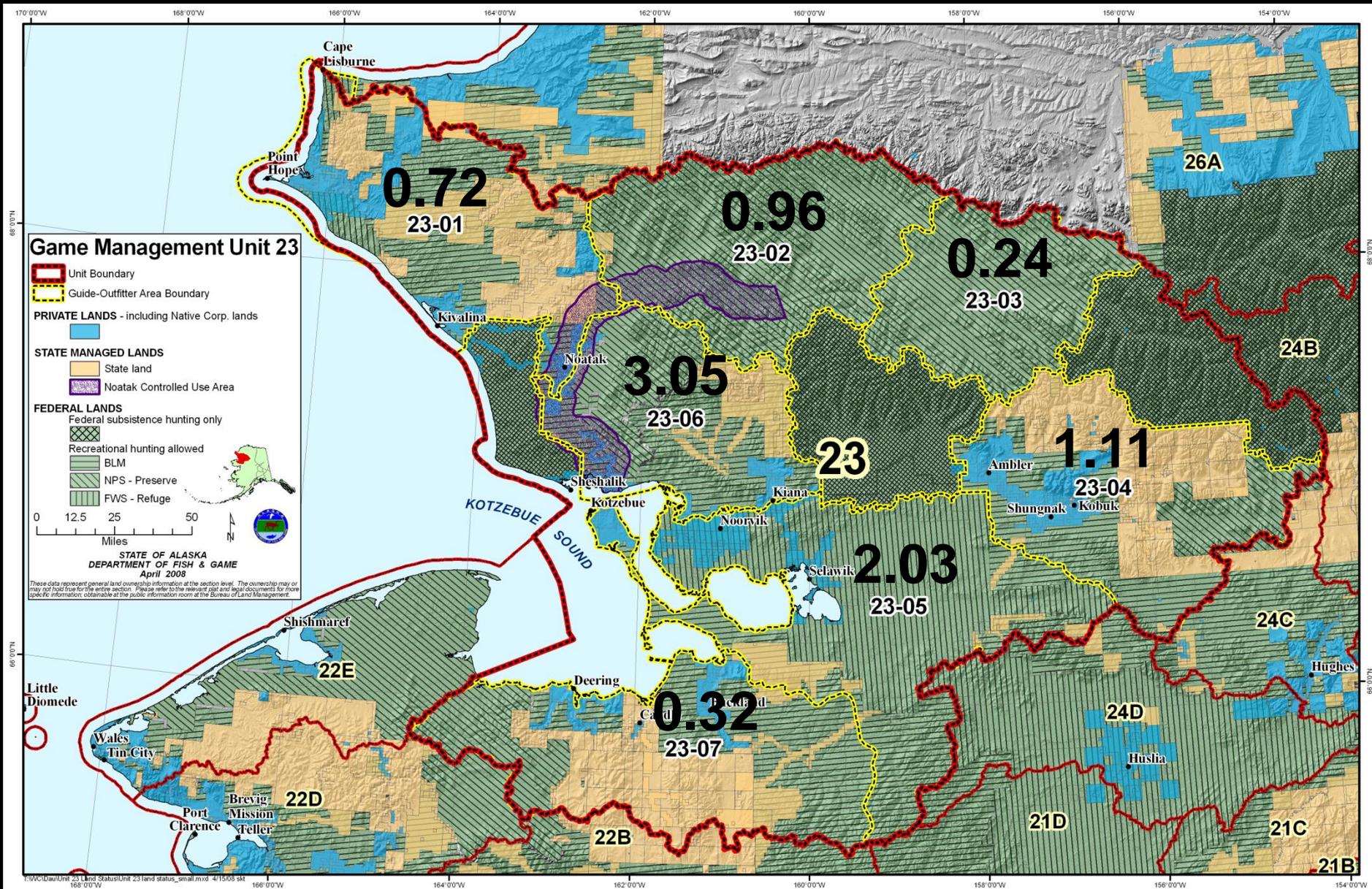
‘Date of kill’ used to track chronology of effort; when >1 species taken, midpoint date was calculated.

Nonlocal Fall Hunters by Guide-Outfitter Area & Year

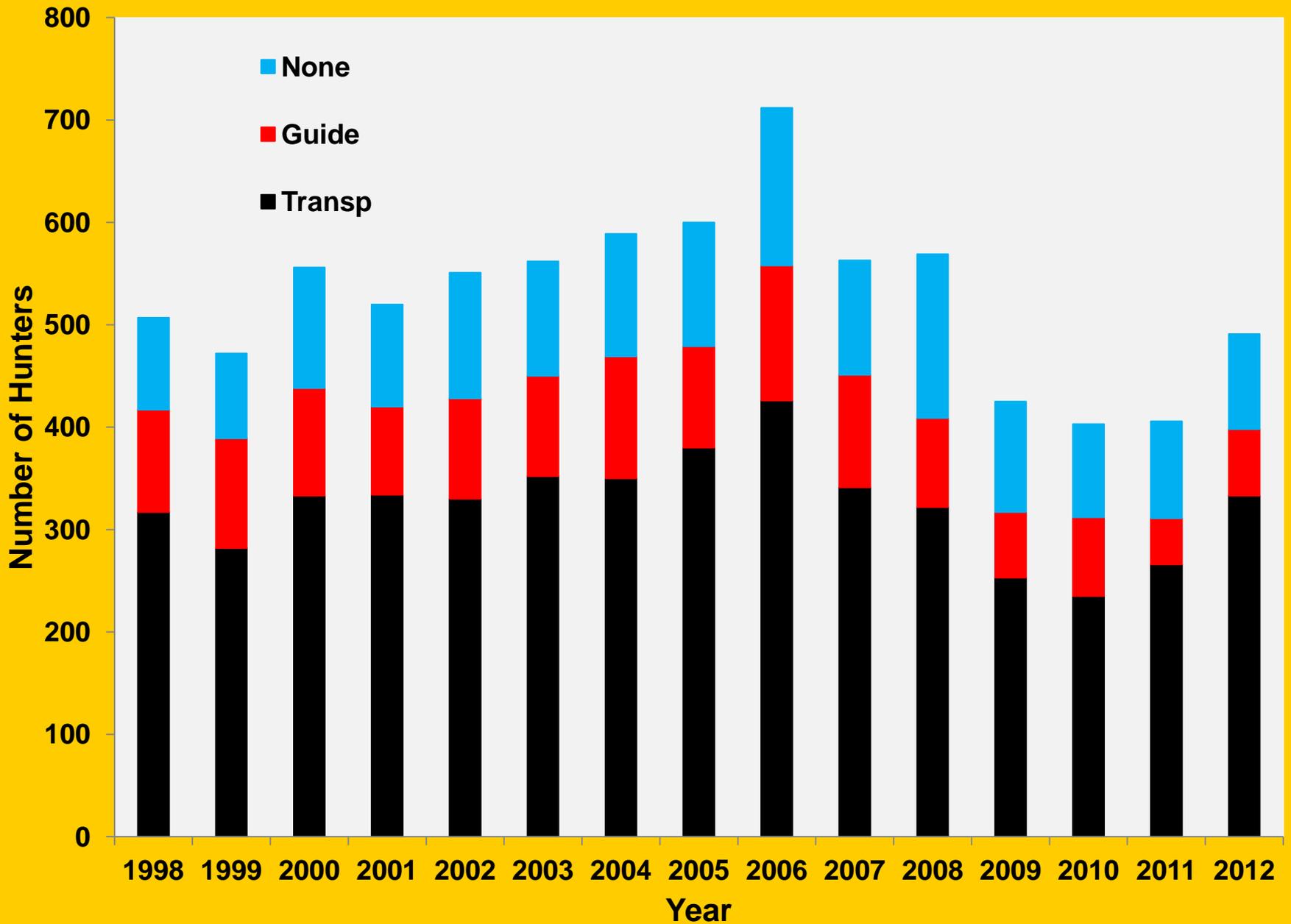
(1998 through 2012)



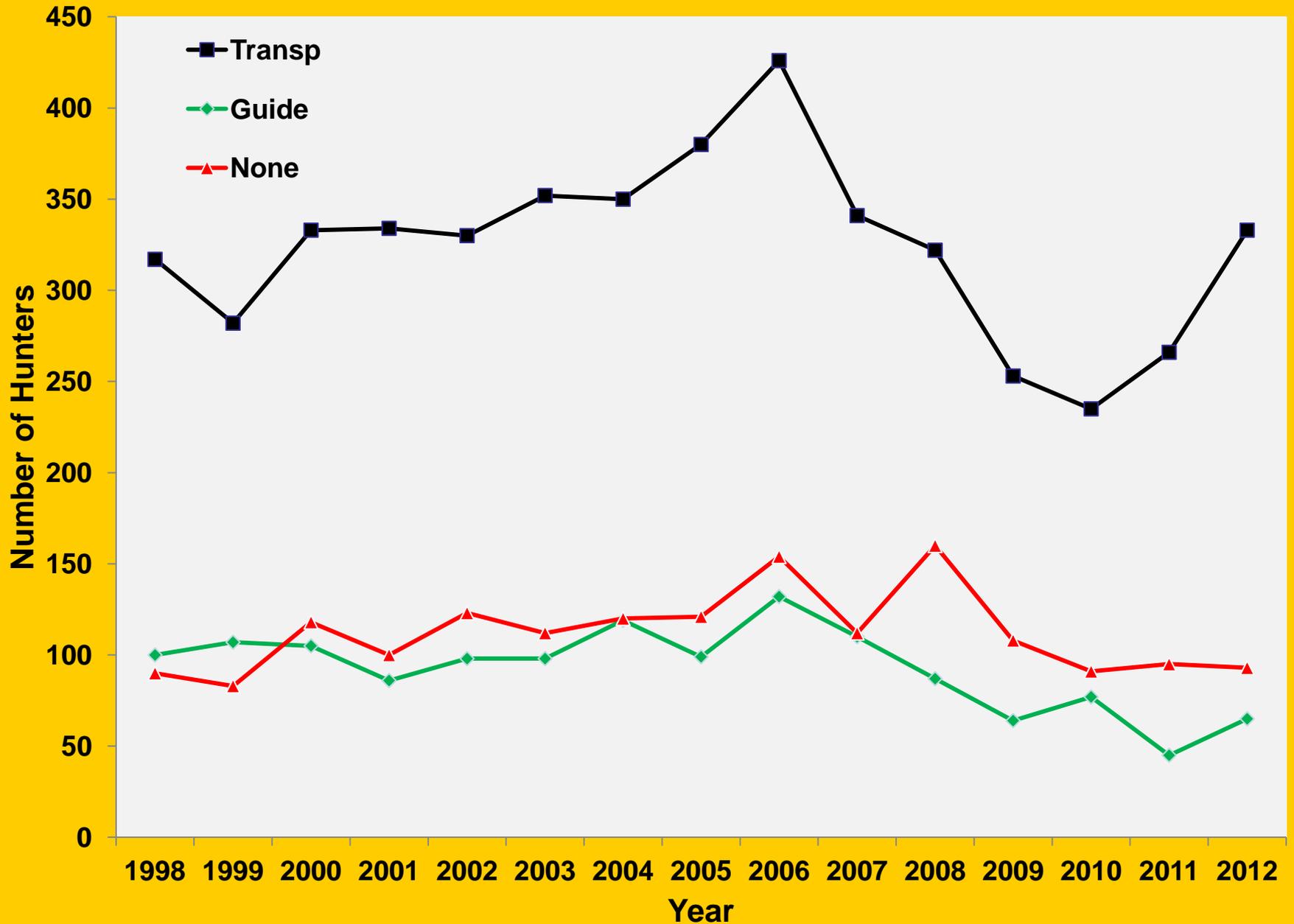
Average Annual Nonlocal Hunter Density (#/100 mi²) By G-O Area (Fall 1998-2012)



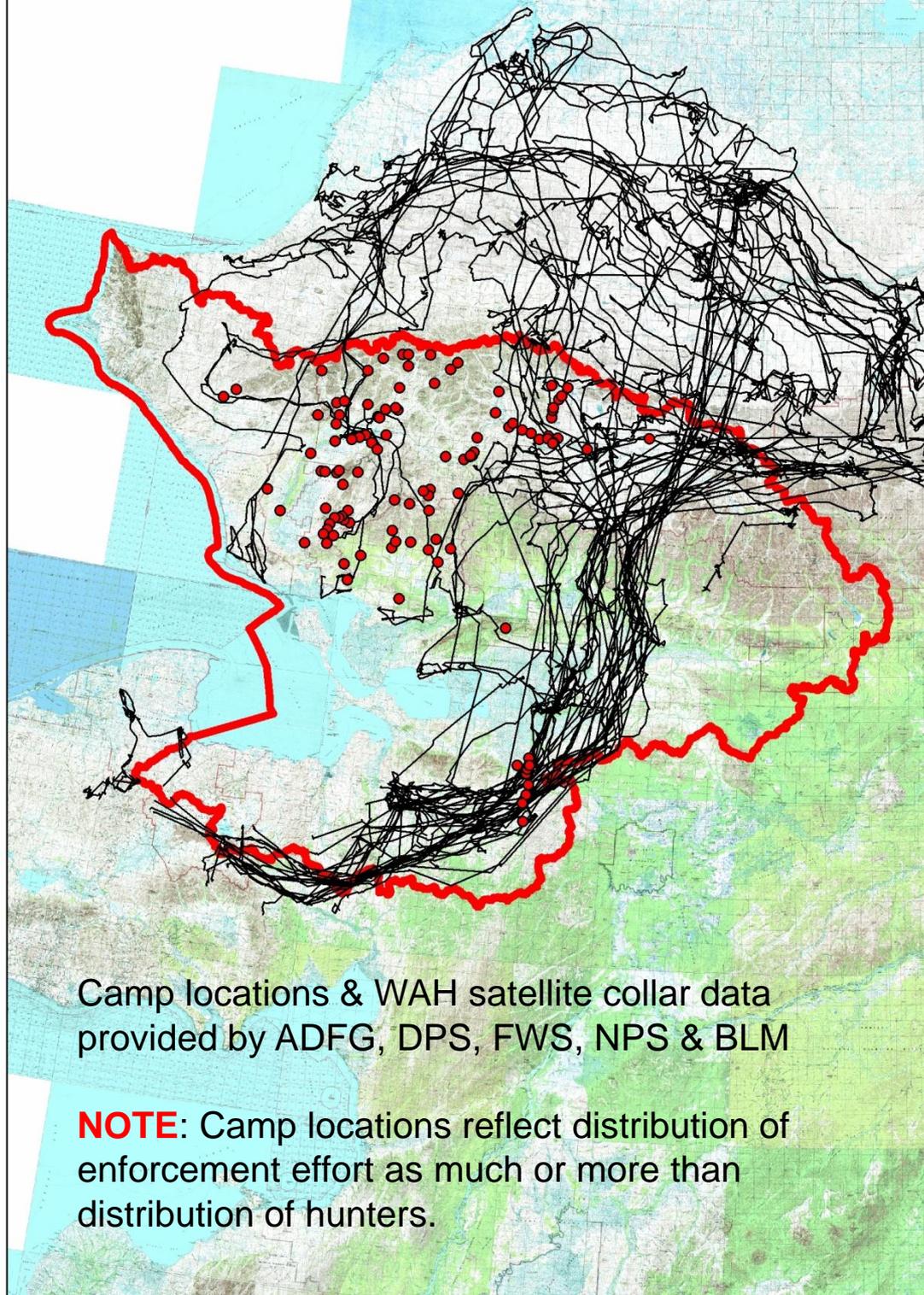
Number of Fall Nonlocal Hunters by Commercial Services & Year



Number of Nonlocal Hunters by Commercial Services Through Time



2012 Fall WAH Movements & Camp Locations



Camp locations & WAH satellite collar data provided by ADFG, DPS, FWS, NPS & BLM

NOTE: Camp locations reflect distribution of enforcement effort as much or more than distribution of hunters.

Questions?

