

Unit 23 Working Group

A Cooperative Process to Address Fall Hunting Use Conflicts in Game Management Unit 23

Northwest Alaska



May 14-15, 2014

Unit 23 Working Group
May 14-15, 2014
Meeting Binder

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Unit 23 Working Group May 14-15, 2014

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers
163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, Alaska

Wednesday, May 14
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 15
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Public radio station KOTZ will broadcast the meeting on
Wednesday, May 14, 1-4 pm and Thursday, May 15, 9 am-12 pm; 1-4 pm
Tune to 89.9 FM or AM 720, or listen via the web at www.kotz.org**

AGENDA

Meeting Topics

- Update on Western Arctic herd population and harvest data
- Discuss 2013 hunting season & preparation for 2014 season
- Presentation regarding proposed road to Ambler Mining District
- Pilot education efforts and opportunities
- Update on State and federal management, planning and enforcement related to reducing hunting conflicts in Unit 23
- Public comment session – By phone or at Assembly Chambers
Thursday, May 15, 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
- Discussion of additional topics raised by Working Group members

Wednesday, May 14

Coffee/Refreshments

Note that from 1:00-4:00 pm, the meeting will be broadcast on KOTZ and online at www.kotz.org

1:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions – Review Agenda / Revise if necessary

- List of Unit 23 Working Group members
- Summary of recommendations made by the Working Group at past meetings

1:15 p.m. Western Arctic Herd Population / 2013 Hunting Season

- Caribou population data and 2013 harvest data
Jim Dau, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)
- Working Group comments/discussion regarding 2013 hunting season and preparation for 2014

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Proposed AIDEA Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road

- Presentation by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) regarding the proposed industrial access road to the Ambler Mining District, at the request of the Unit 23 Working Group
Mark Davis and Maryellen Tuttell, AIDEA
- Working Group questions and discussion

4:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Thursday, May 15

Coffee/Refreshments

Note that from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-4:00 pm, the meeting will be broadcast on KOTZ and online at www.kotz.org

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:10 a.m. Education Update – Update on Unit 23 education initiatives
Meghan Nedwick, ADF&G

9:40 a.m. Federal Aviation Administration – Pilot Education Efforts & Opportunities
Lisa Asplin, FAA Safety Team (education focus)

10:10 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Federal & State Management, Planning & Permitting – Agency presentations and Working Group discussion

- Noatak National Preserve
Frank Hays, National Park Service
- NPS Research – Non-subsistence hunting in Noatak Preserve
Andrew Ackerman, National Park Service (via webinar)

- Bureau of Land Management
Tim Hammond, Bureau of Land Management
- Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
Tina Moran, US Fish and Wildlife Service

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Public Comment Opportunity regarding user conflicts related to hunting in Unit 23 –Call-In & In-person Comments

Comments by phone, dial 1-800-315-6338, enter code 2323#

To participate in Kotzebue, please come to the NWAB Assembly Chambers. Time per comment may be limited, to ensure opportunity for those who want to speak.

2:15 p.m. Continue Agency Updates & Working Group discussion

- Alaska Board of Game Actions – January & March 2014
Steve Machida, ADF&G
- Alaska Guide Concession Program update
Valerie Baxter, Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development – Report on Transporter Activities in 2013
Lee Strout, DCCED (via teleconference)

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Working Group Discussion & Action

- Topics raised by Working Group members
- Follow-up on presentations or public comments
- Recommendations / Actions

4:15 p.m. Assignments / Wrap up

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

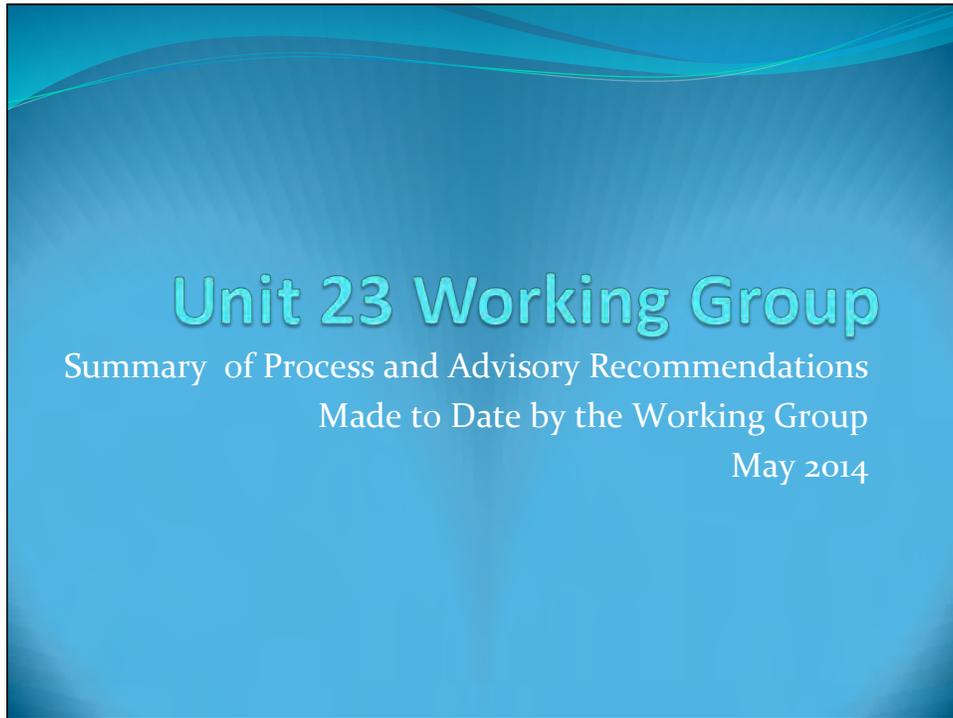
Additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group can be found at the project web site:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeplanning.unit23>

Unit 23 Working Group Membership

May 2014

Name	Affiliation
Public members	
Phil Driver	Alaska Professional Hunting Association Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
Cyrus Harris	Maniilaq Association Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
Stosh Hoffman	Alaska Board of Game
Victor Karmun	Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
Melvin Lee	Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee
Enoch Mitchell	Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee
Ron Moto, Sr.	North Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
Noah Naylor	Northwest Arctic Borough
Julie Owens	Transporter representative
Pete Schaeffer	Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
Joe Schuster	Alaska Professional Hunting Association
Ted Spraker	Alaska Board of Game Big Game Commercial Services Board
Note: Pete Probasco will be representing the Alaska Board of Game at the May 2014 Unit 23 Working Group meeting.	
Raymond Stoney	Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee
Alex Whiting	Kotzebue IRA
Agency representatives	
Valerie Baxter	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Tina Moran	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Dau	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Frank Hays	National Park Service
Tim Hammond	Bureau of Land Management



Working Group Charter - 2008

- Mission: Find solutions to hunting conflicts in Unit 23 that will preserve the Inupiaq values of the region, including opportunities for local hunters to take caribou needed, while also providing reasonable opportunities for Alaska resident personal use and non-resident harvest.
- Advisory recommendations / proposals, developed with group consensus.

Working Group meetings

- 9th meeting in Kotzebue
- Members of group met in Kiana and Noatak in 2008, and in Shungnak in 2009
- Since 2010 have been meeting once a year, to keep sharing information and to provide opportunity for public comments to the working group

3

Recommendations

- Noatak Controlled Use Area – Regulatory
 - Proposal approved by Board Game to extend dates to Aug. 15-Sept. 30. In effect 2010.
- Mandatory one-time online orientation of pilots flying in Unit 23 – Regulatory / Education
 - Proposal approved by Board of Game; effect 2010

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Recommendations

- Improved Communication – between local communities, management agencies, guides & transporters
 - Letters sent to guides and transporters recommending ways to reduce conflicts (most recently, in 2013 to operators in Wulik and Kivalina Rivers area)
 - Annual pre-season meeting with NWAB, local communities, management agencies
 - More complete information provided by permitting agencies to guides, transporters, visiting hunters – including land status maps updated yearly

5

Recommendations

- Authorities to manage guides and transporters
 - Supported State's Guide Concession Program and requested it be expanded to include management of transporters (bill has not been passed by Legislature)
 - Supported legislation in 2010 to expand authority of Big Game Commercial Services Board to regulate transporters (bill was not passed by Legislature)

6

Recommendations

- Agency Coordination
 - Law enforcement – Expansion & coordination of efforts, including working with NANA Trespass program
 - Contract investigator from Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, focused on transporter activity in 2010-2013
 - Federal management plans & permitting affecting guiding/transporting – Involvement of NWAB and local communities in planning
 - Federal permit stipulations and reporting – Consistent requirements for guides & transporters, focusing on ways to reduce conflicts

7

Recommendations

- Other actions
 - Keeping informed of proposed developments in northwest Alaska that may affect the herd, the availability of the herd for hunting, or the potential for conflicts between local and nonlocal hunters (such as proposed Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road).

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Unit 23 Planning Process

May 14-15, 2014

Background Information

Jim Dau

This Presentation

Western Arctic Herd:

- **2013 Census estimate**
- **Population projections: herd size & bull:cow ratios**

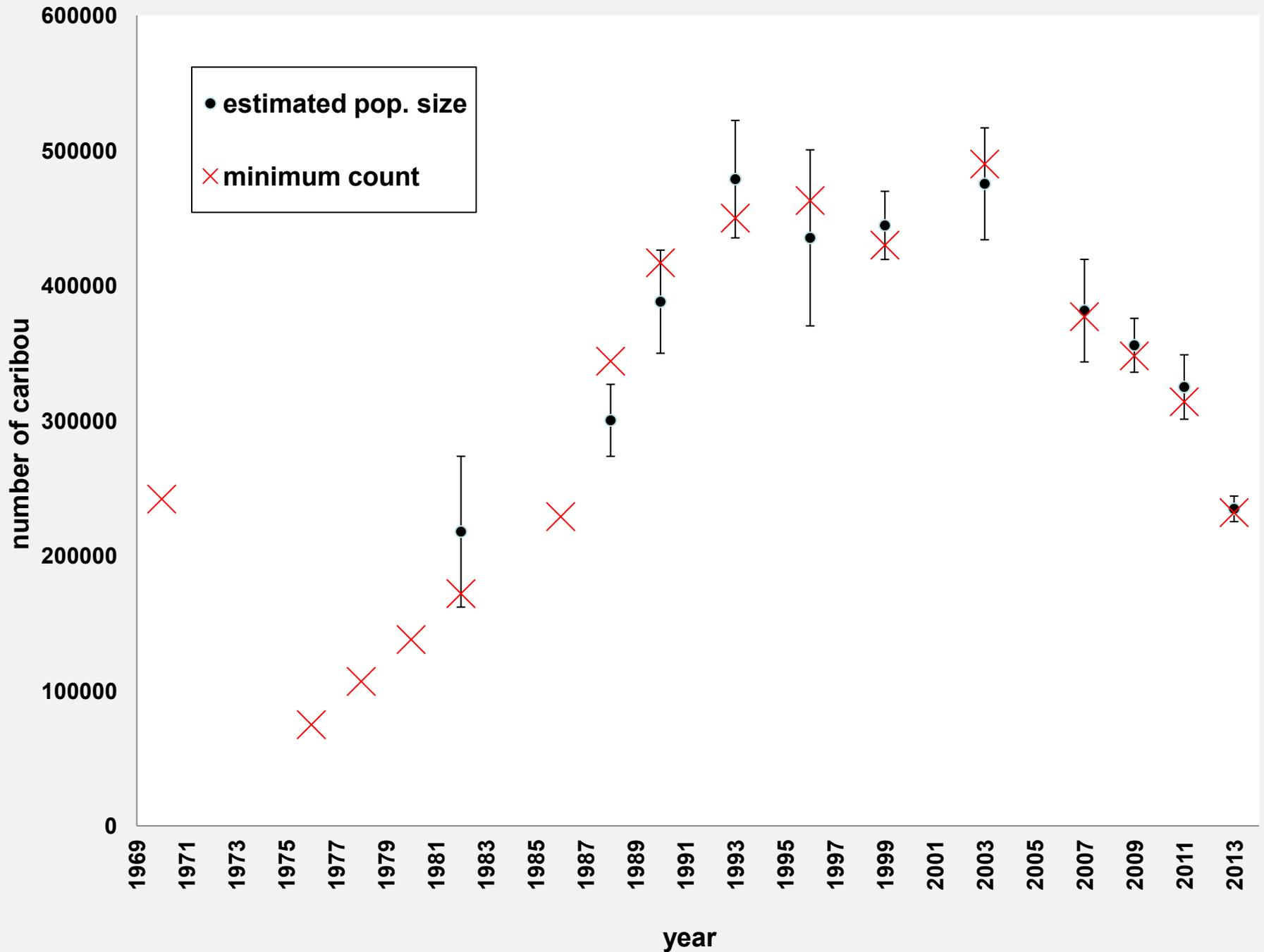
Harvest Data:

- **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 During Fall 2013

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population Information

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population Estimates



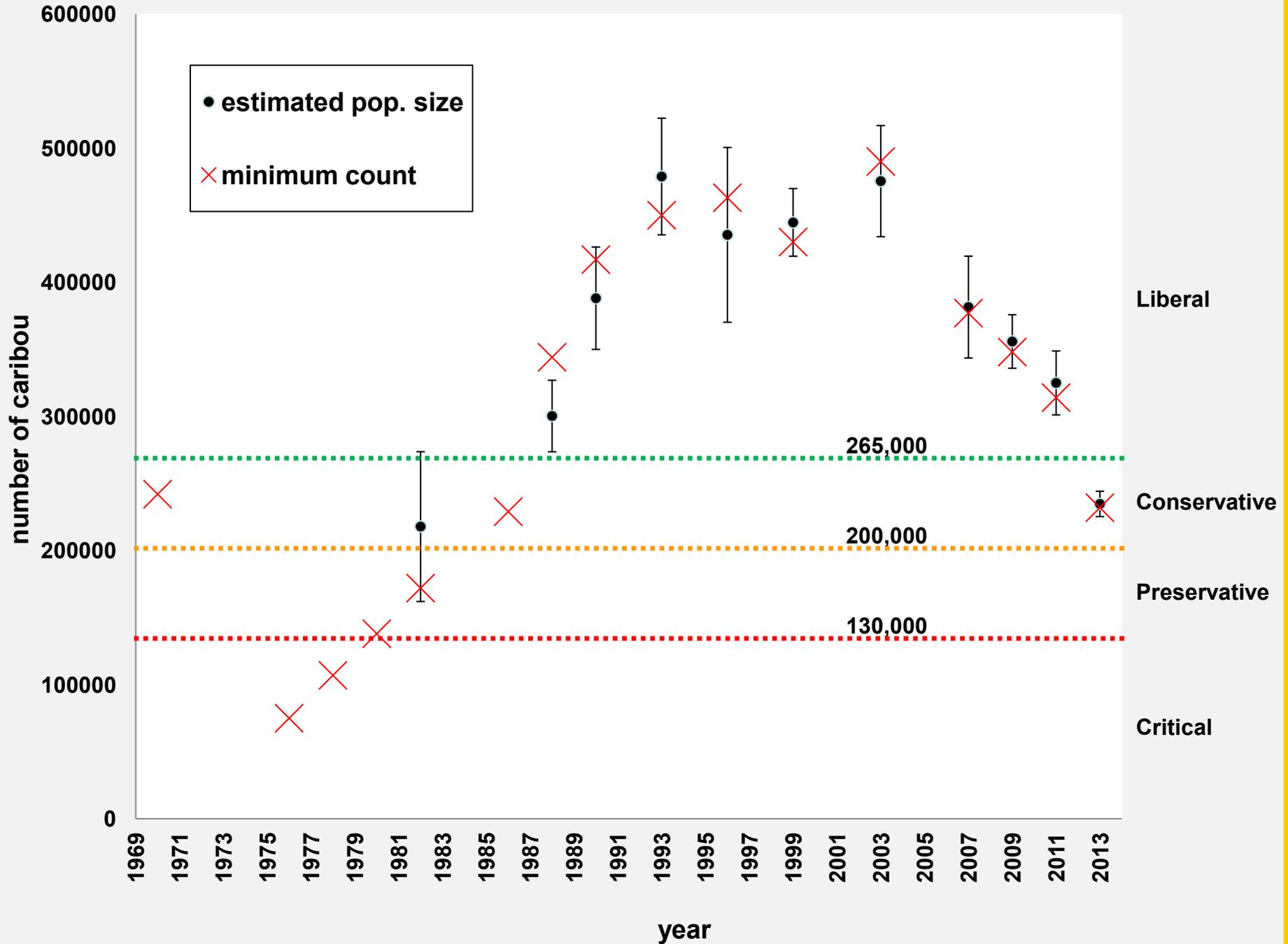
Management & Harvest Levels Relative to Population Size and Trend

Table 1

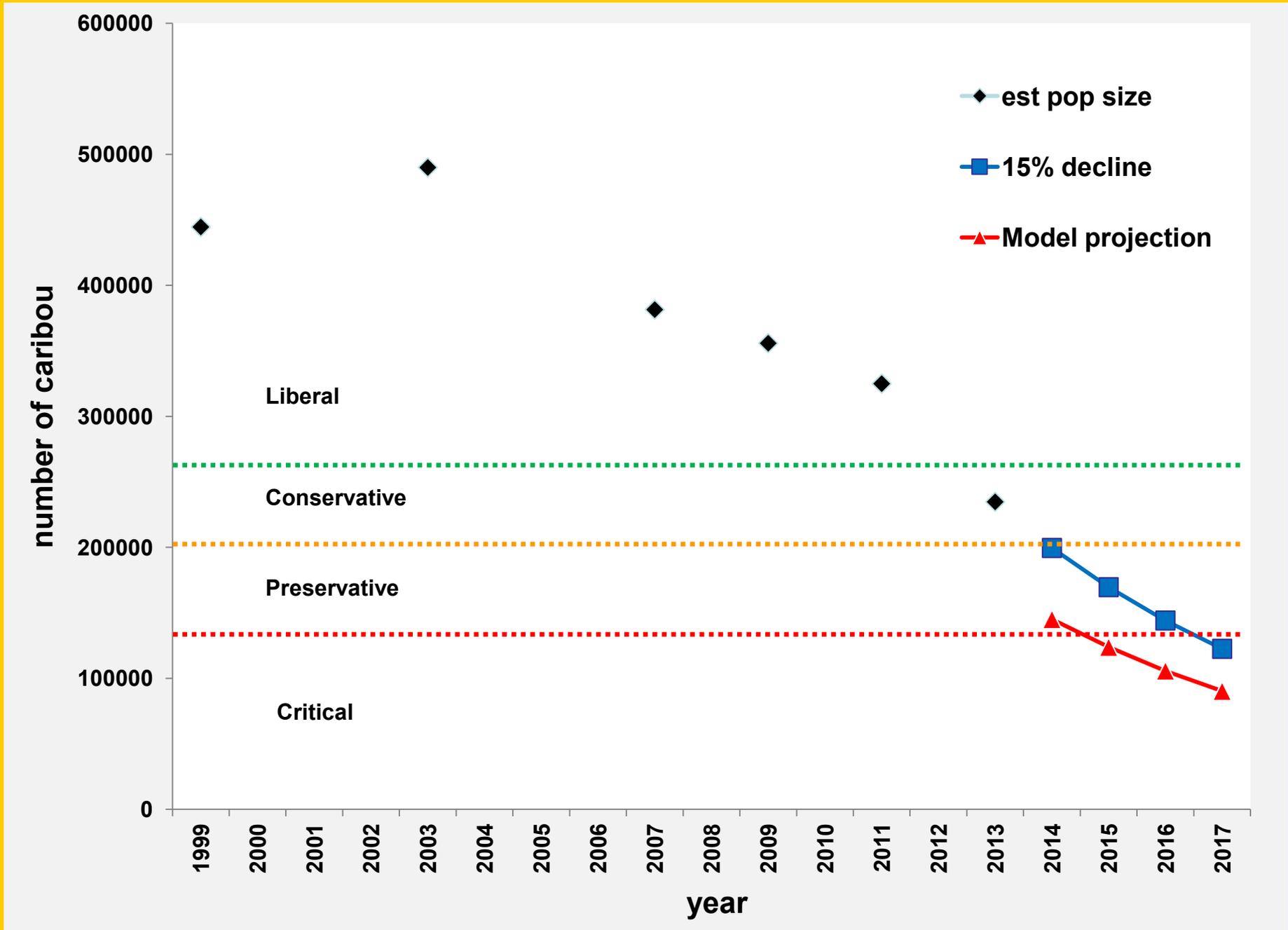
Management Level and Harvest Level	Population Trend		
	Declining Low: 6%	Stable Med: 7%	Increasing High: 8%
Liberal	Pop: 265,000+ Harvest: 18,550-24,850	Pop: 230,000+ Harvest: 16,100-21,700	Pop: 200,000+ Harvest: 16,000-21,600
Conservative	Pop: 200,000-265,000 Harvest: 14,000-18,550	Pop: 170,000-230,000 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

Taken from WAH Management Plan (revised 2011)

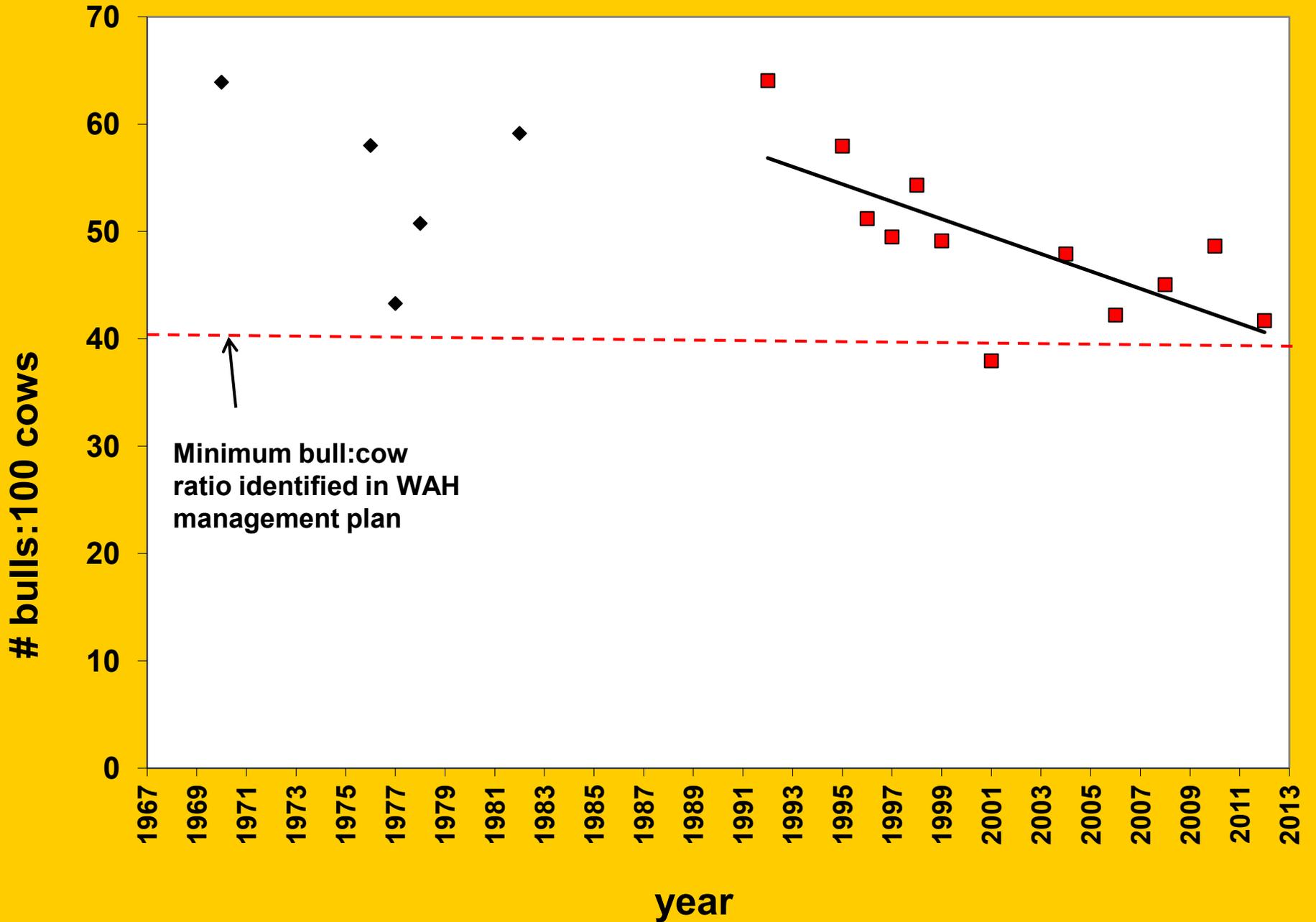
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population Estimates



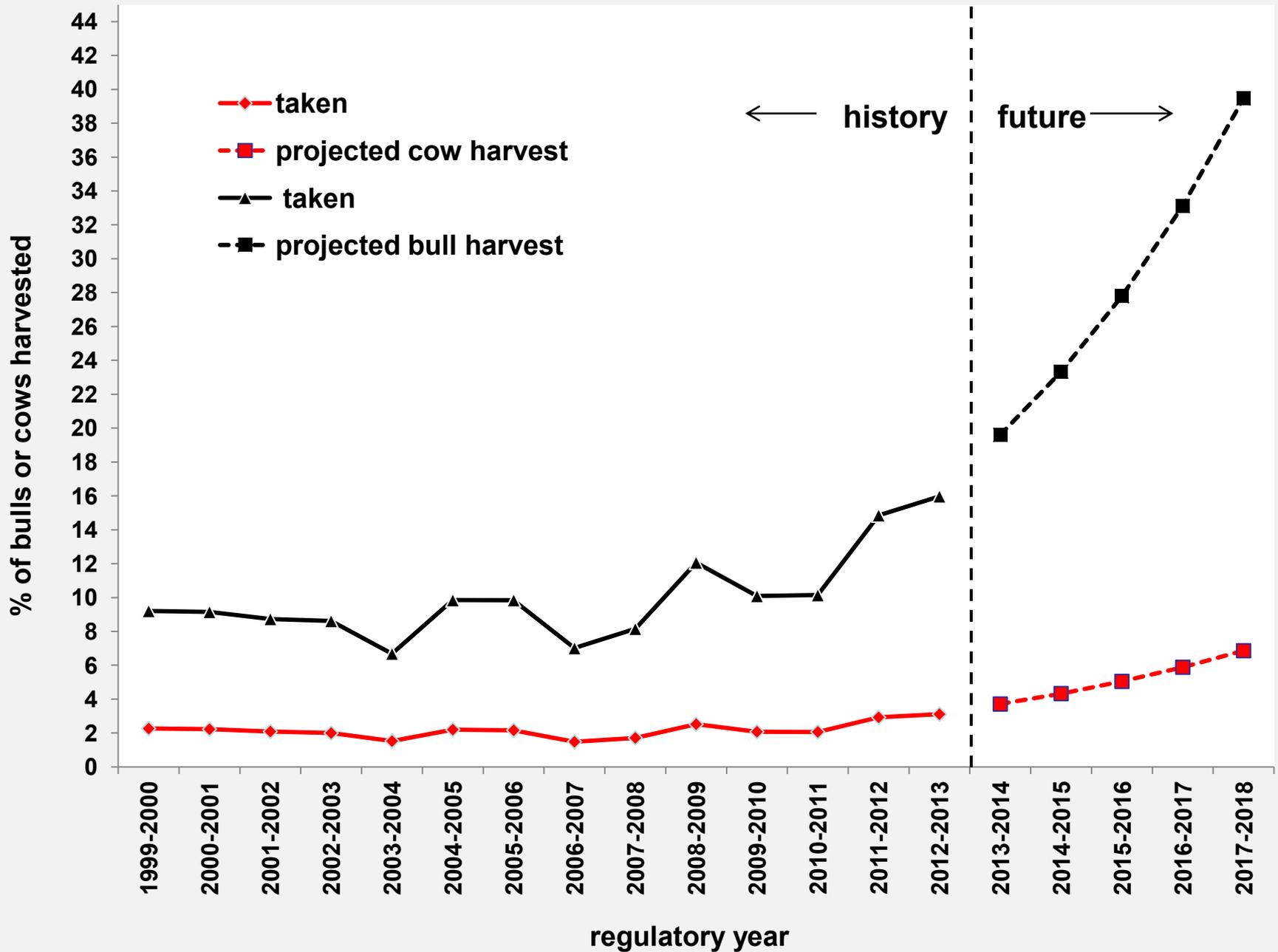
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population Projections



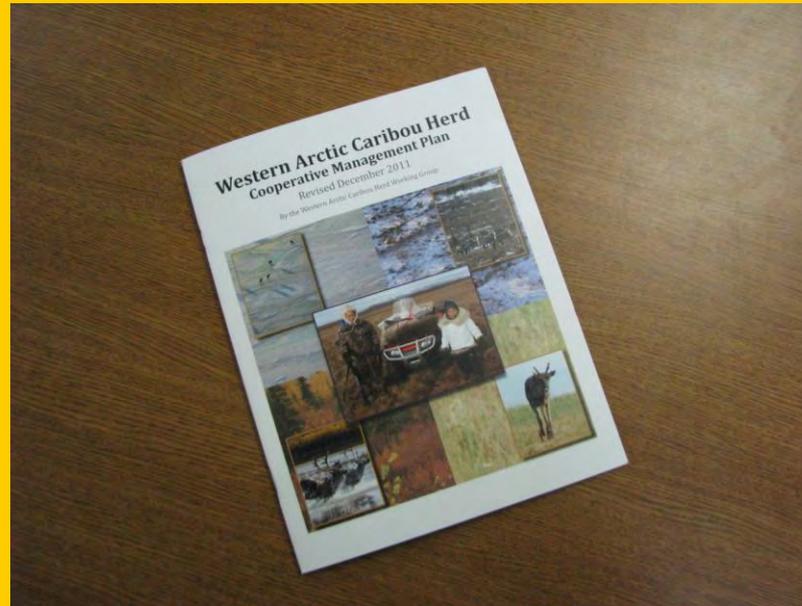
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Bull:Cow Ratios



Western Arctic Caribou Herd Bull & Cow Harvest Projections



Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management Plan



The latest revision of the Plan was finalized in December 2011

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 (Note: The WAH ANS was revised at the January 2014 BOG meeting to include the TCH)
- 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.

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

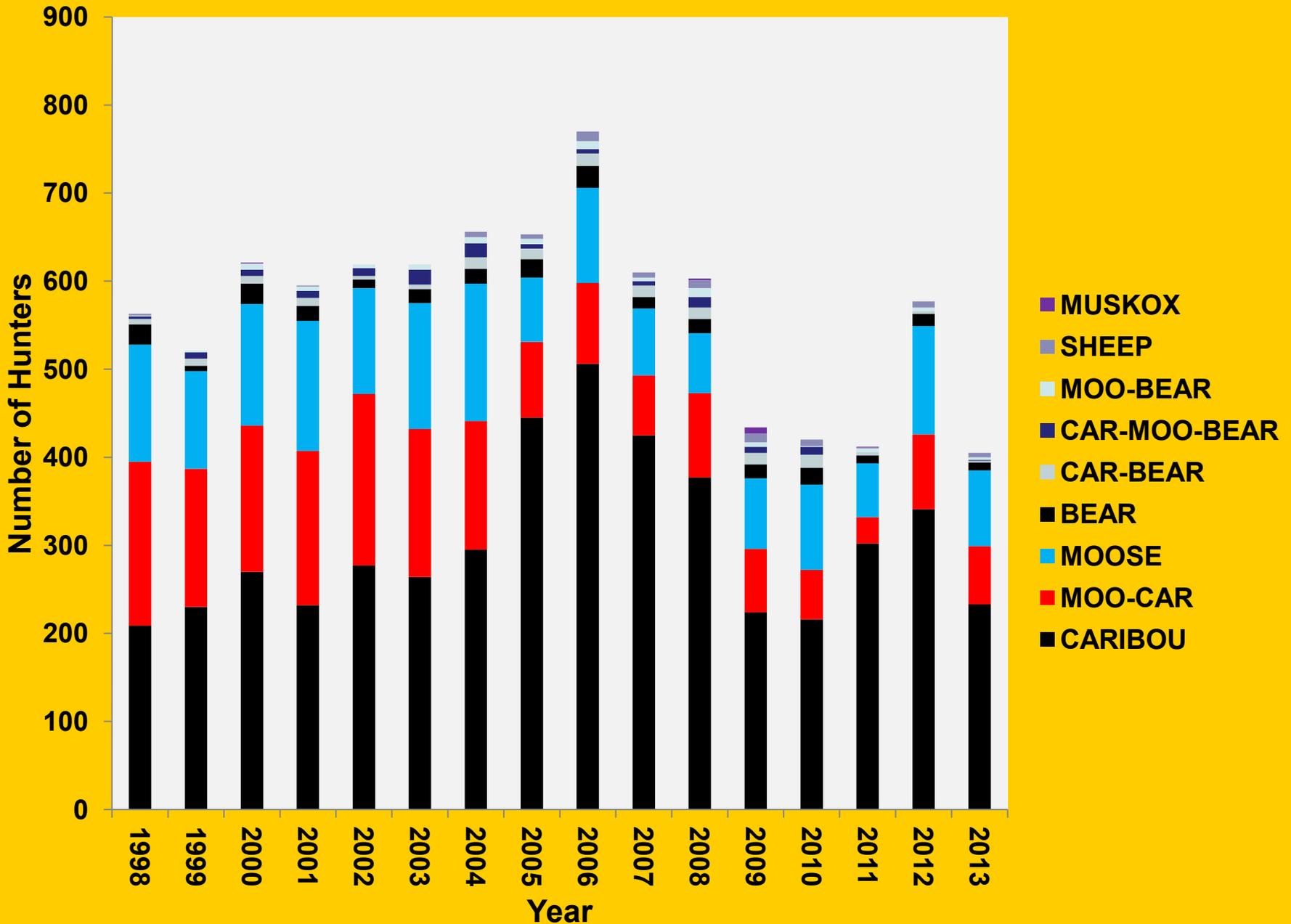
Why spend so much time on WAH biology & management for a working group that is charged with minimizing conflicts among users in Unit 23?

- Sensitivities regarding competition and/or disturbance increase among all users, including local residents, visiting hunters and commercial operators, when caribou are not readily available.
- The overall decline in WAH abundance combined with a disproportionate decline of bulls will make it more difficult for people to harvest caribou in the near future (this, along with delayed timing of fall migrations, is probably already affecting some villages, e.g. Noatak).
- Increased sensitivities attributable to social factors may be offset somewhat if reduced availability of caribou (and moose) or regulatory restrictions cause fewer nonlocal hunters to come to Unit 23.
- However, even with reductions in wildlife, over the short term Unit 23 will still probably provide better hunting opportunities than most other parts of Alaska: the WAH is still one of the largest caribou herds in North America.

Harvest Data: All Species

- **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 2013**
 - **August 1-October 31**

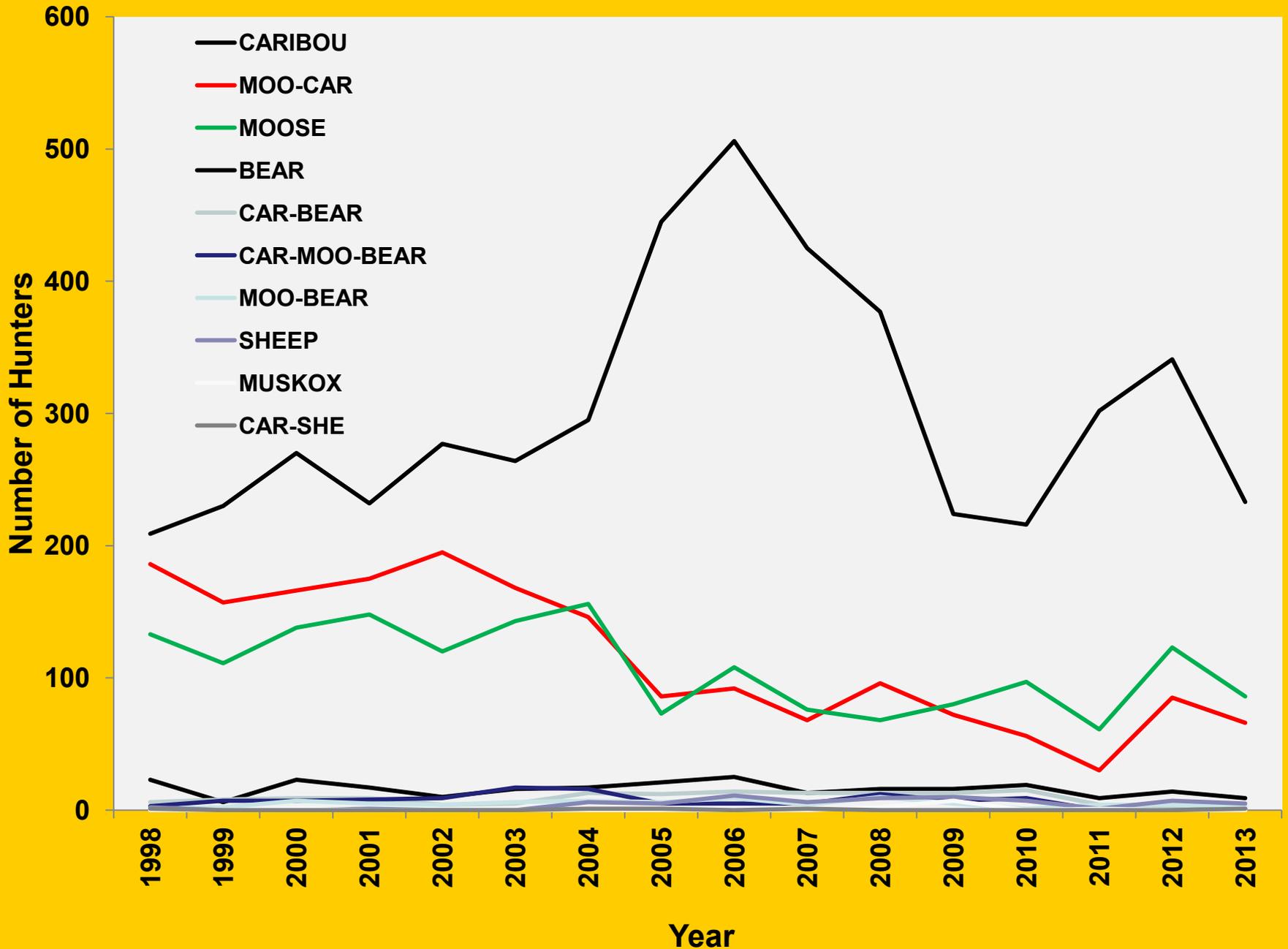
Numbers of Nonlocal Hunters by Species & Year (Fall 1998-2013)



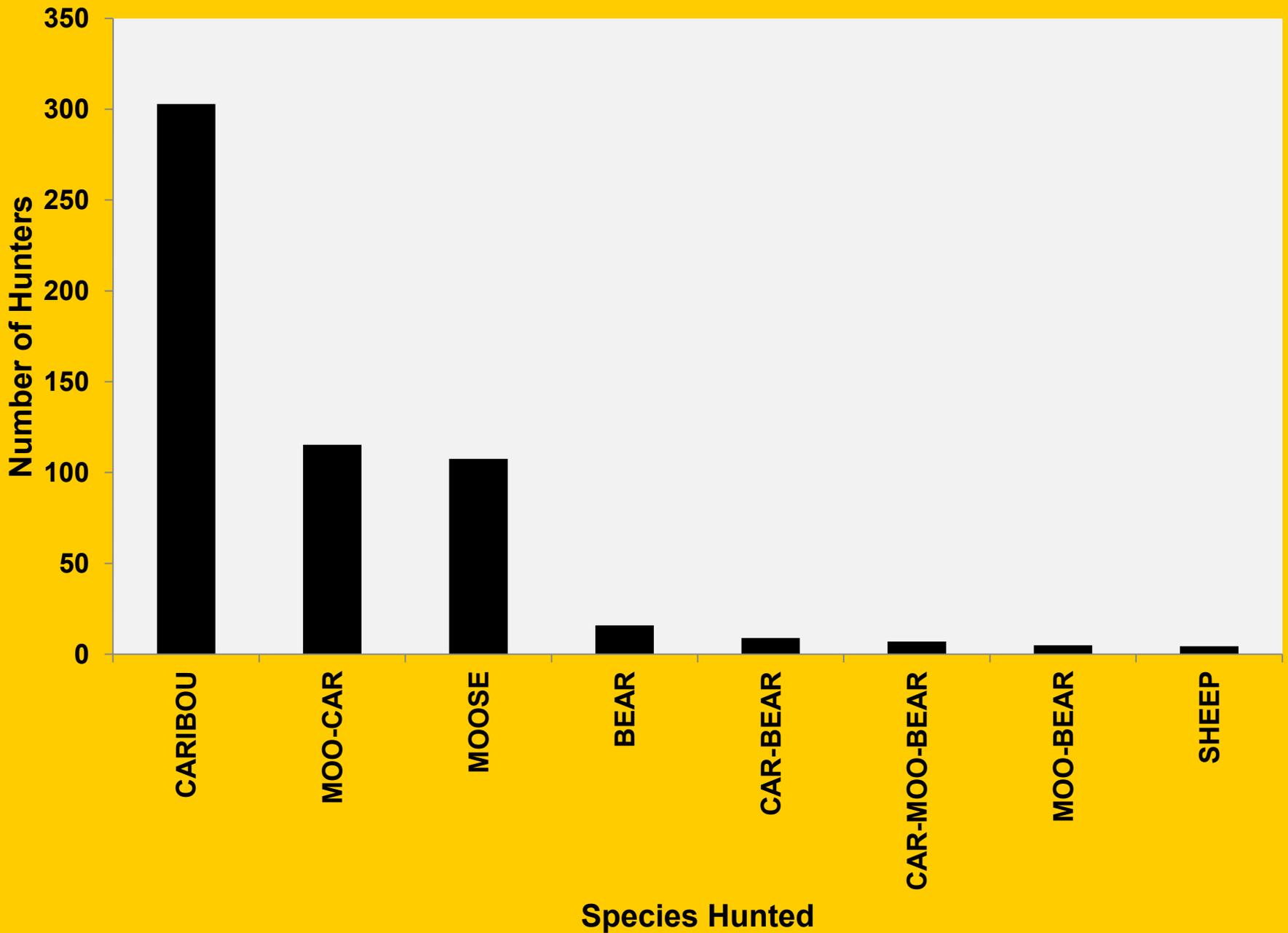
Categories are mutually exclusive; each hunter counted only once even if hunted >1 species

Annual Numbers of Nonlocal Hunters by Species & Year

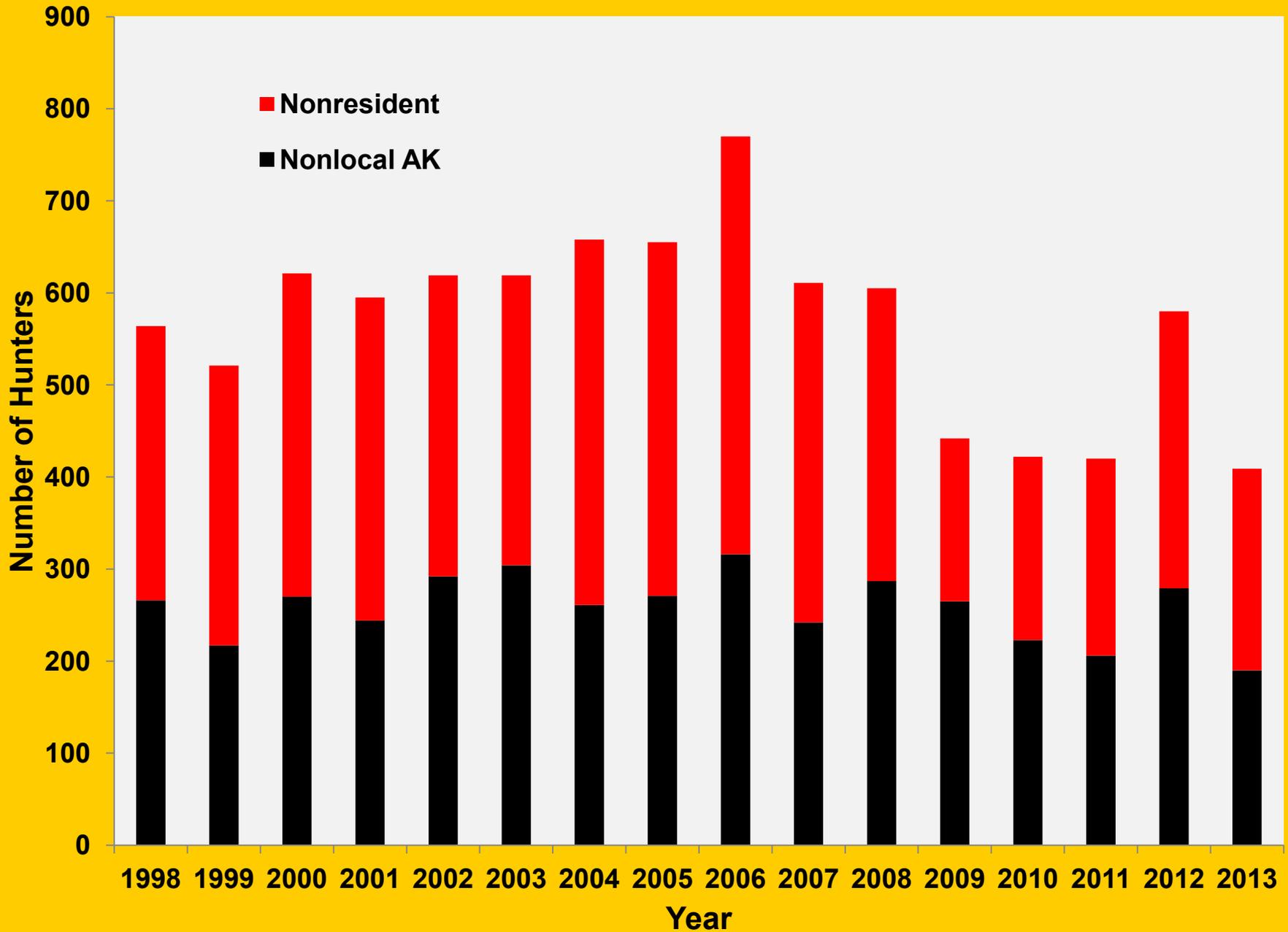
(Fall 1998-2013)



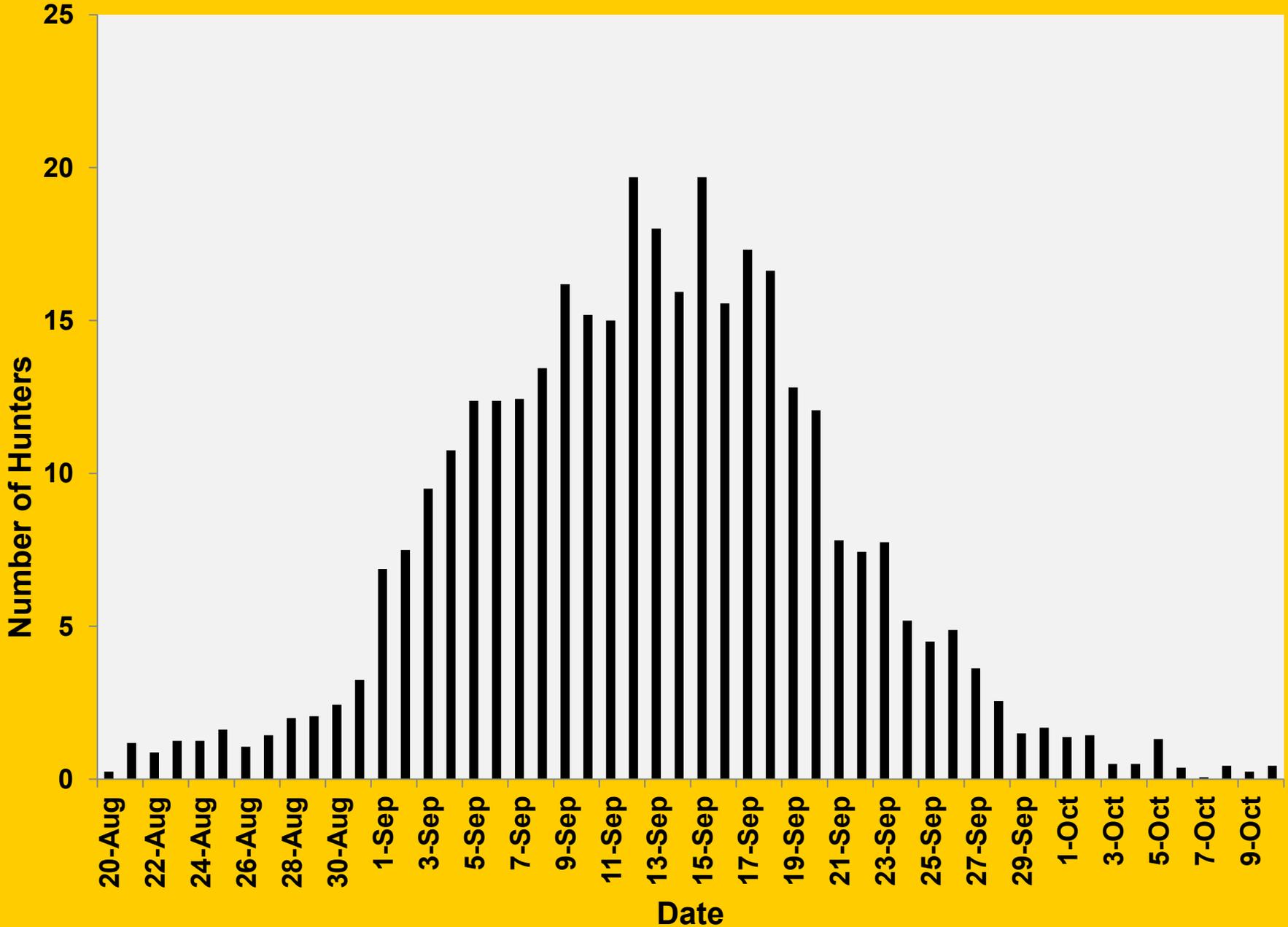
Average Annual Number of Nonlocal Hunters by Species (Fall 1998 thru 2013 combined)



Numbers of Nonresident & Nonlocal Alaskan Resident Hunters

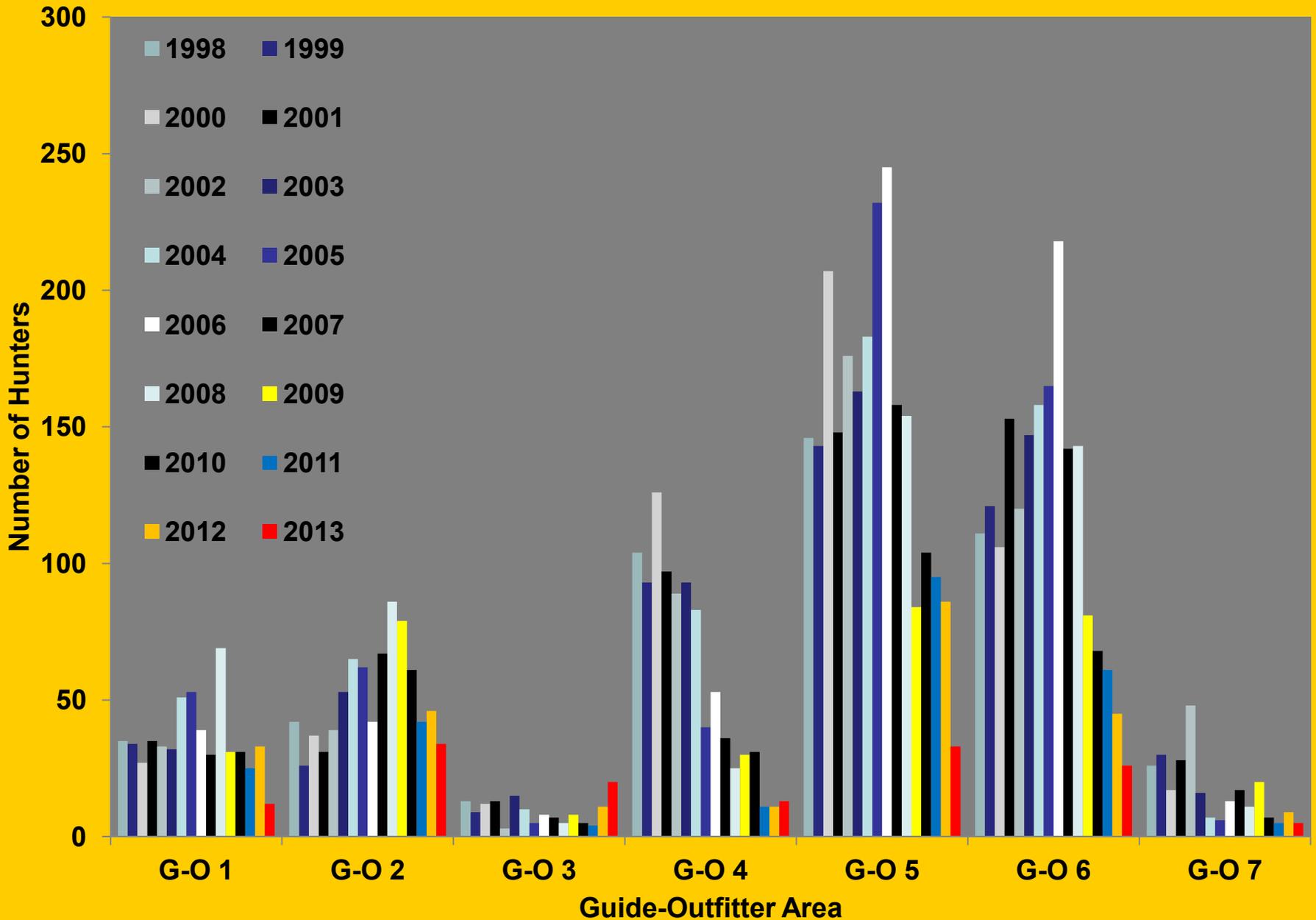


Average Nonlocal Hunter Effort by Day, Aug. 20-Oct. 10 (1998 thru 2013)



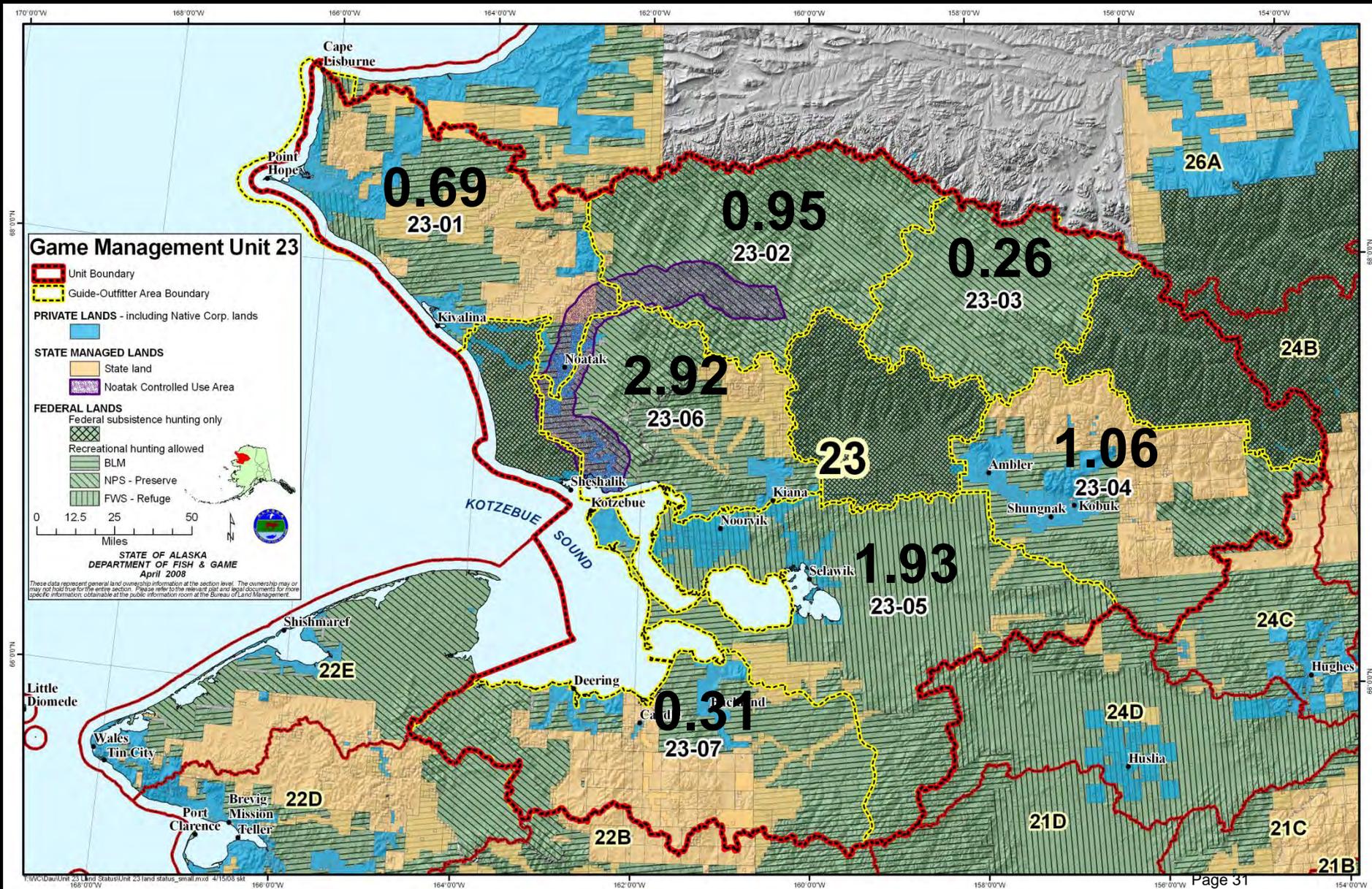
‘Date of kill’ used to track chronology of effort; when >1 species taken, midpoint date was calculated.

Nonlocal Fall Hunters by Guide-Outfitter Area & Year (1998 through 2013)

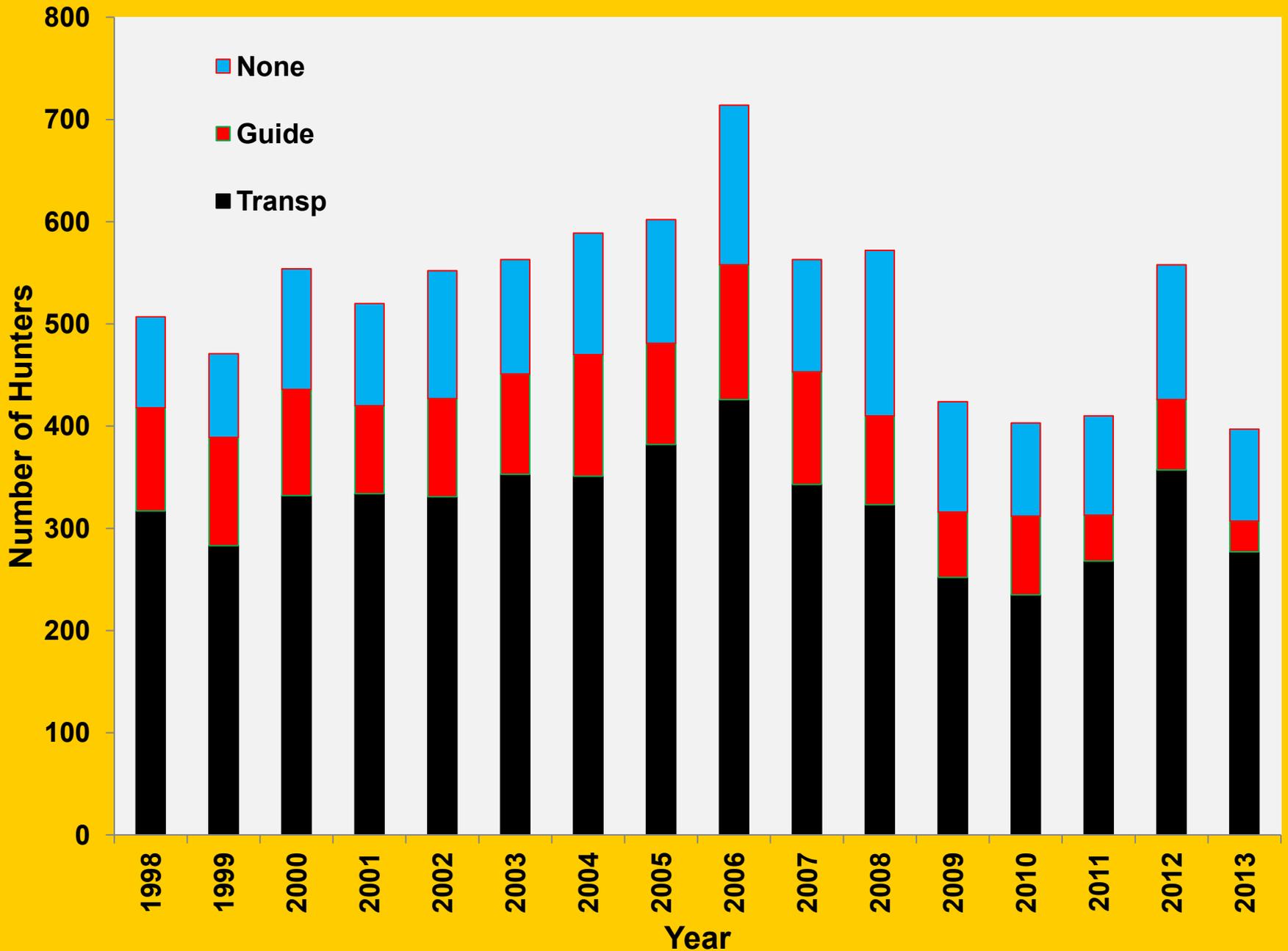


Note: In recent years, an increasingly high proportion of hunters did not report the specific location where they hunted (2011-30%; 2012-51%; 2013-54%).

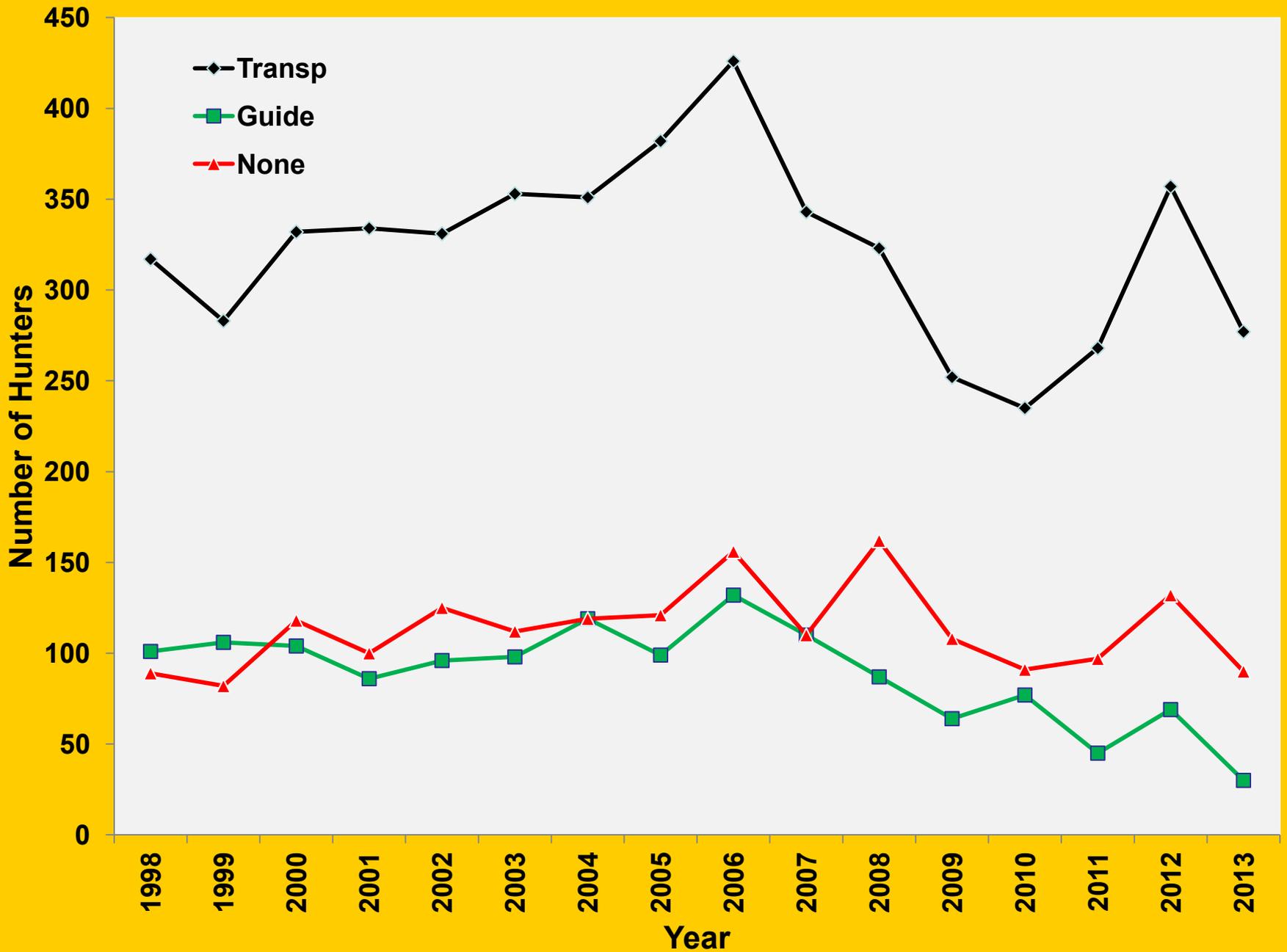
Average Annual Nonlocal Hunter Density (#/100 mi²) By G-O Area (Fall 1998-2013)



Number of Fall Nonlocal Hunters by Commercial Services & Year

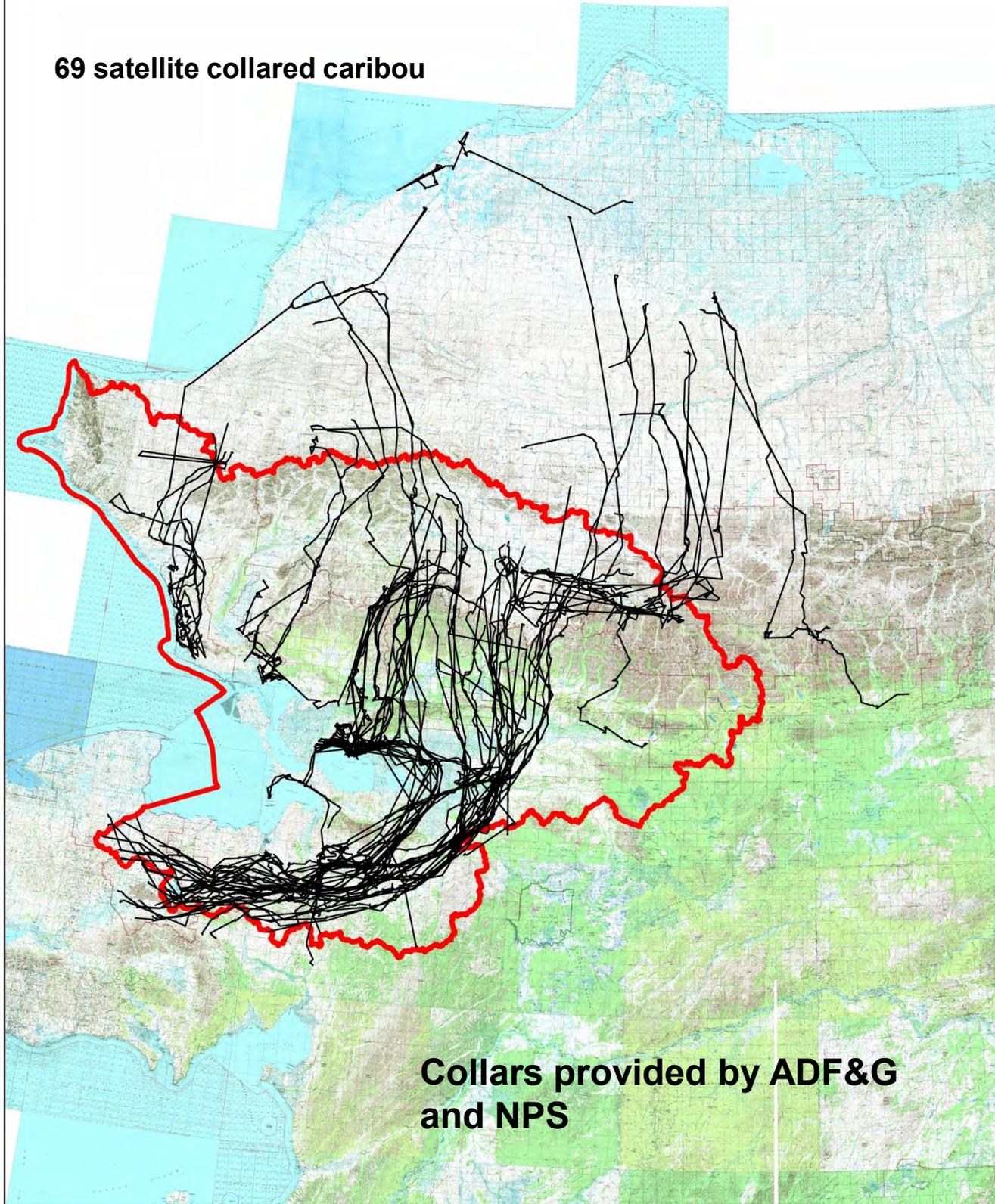


Number of Nonlocal Hunters by Commercial Services Through Time



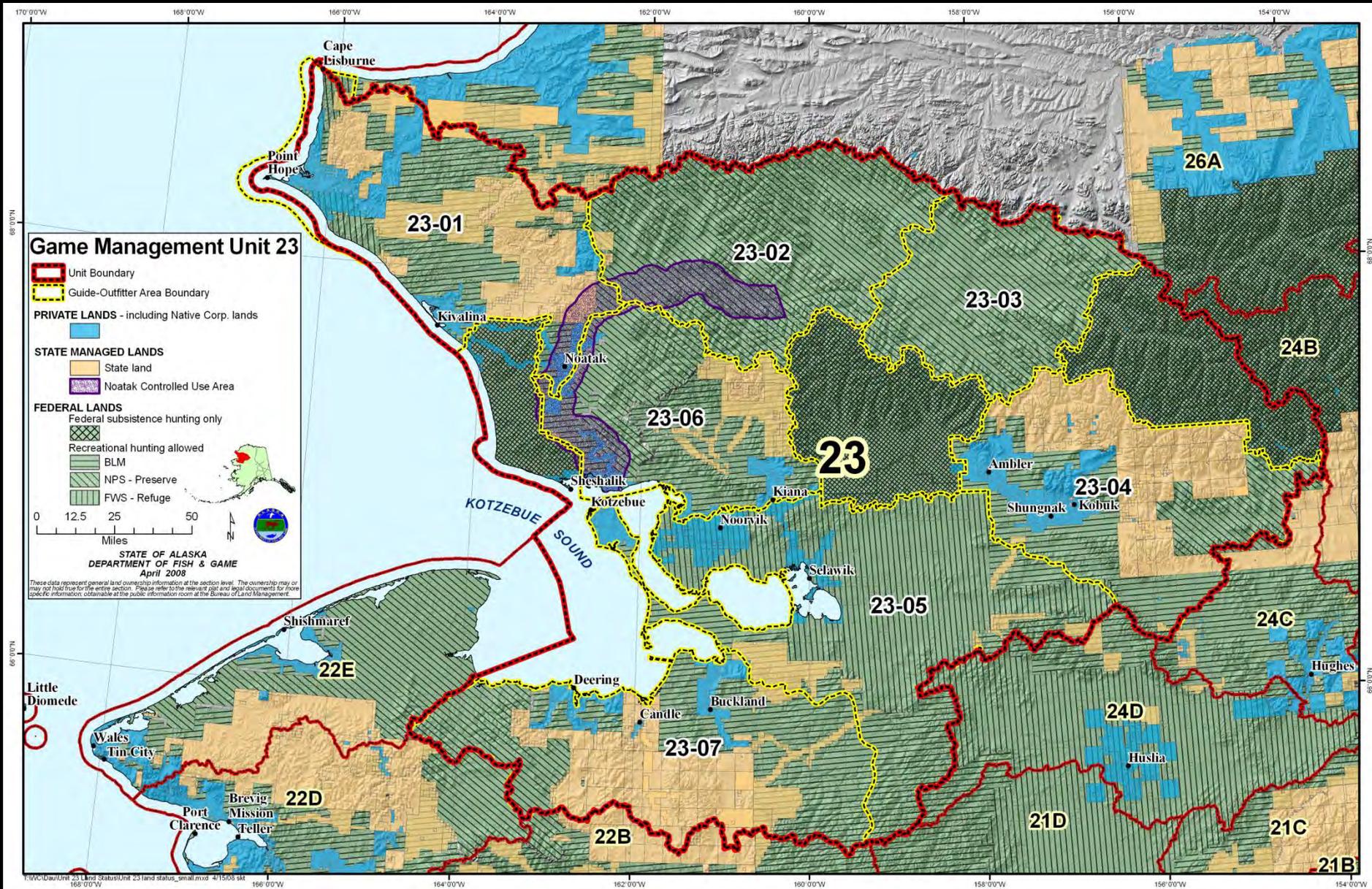
Fall 2013 WAH Movements

69 satellite collared caribou



Collars provided by ADF&G
and NPS

Questions?





AMBLER MINING DISTRICT

INDUSTRIAL ACCESS ROAD

Unit 23 Working Group
May 14, 2014





What is AIDEA?

- Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority
 - Formed as public corporation in 1967
 - Mission: creating job opportunities and encouraging economic growth, including development of natural resources
- Experience working with private sector
- Took over Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road (AMDIAR) in mid-2013

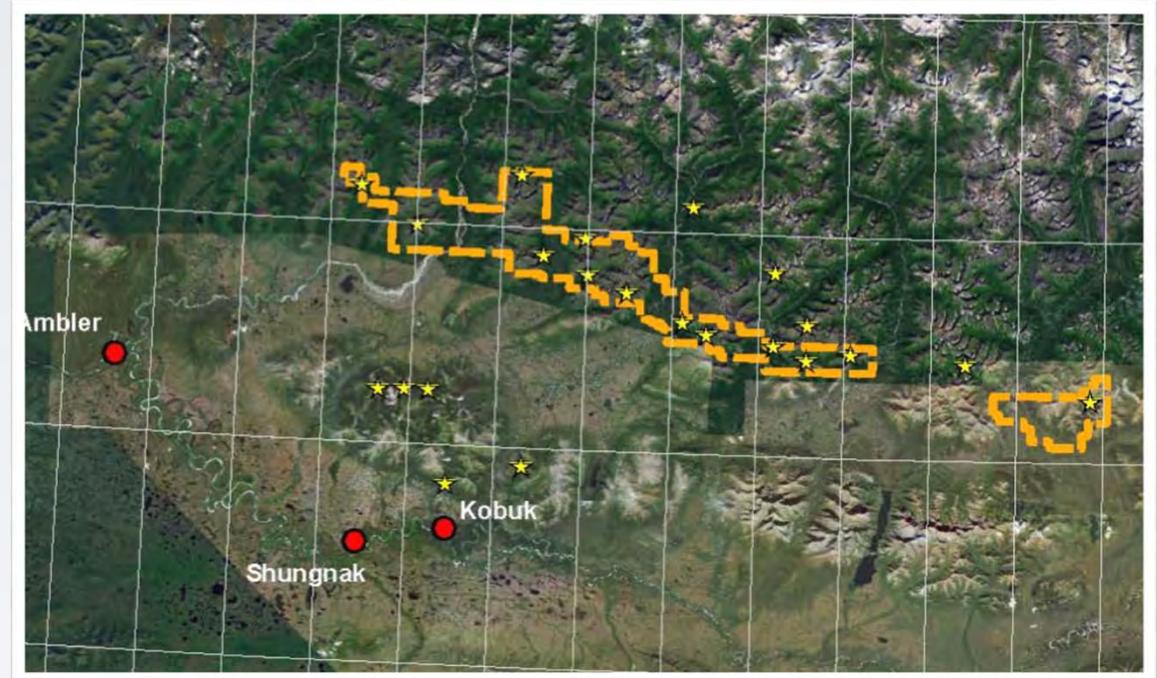
Purpose of the Project

- Construct industrial access road to the Ambler Mining District
- Support exploration and development of mineral resources in the Ambler Mining District



Resource Rich Region

- 75 mile long State-owned mineralized area
- Copper, zinc, lead, silver and gold
- Key deposits:
 - Arctic (Nova Copper)
 - Sun (Andover Ventures)
 - Bornite (NANA)
 - Smucker (Teck Cominco)



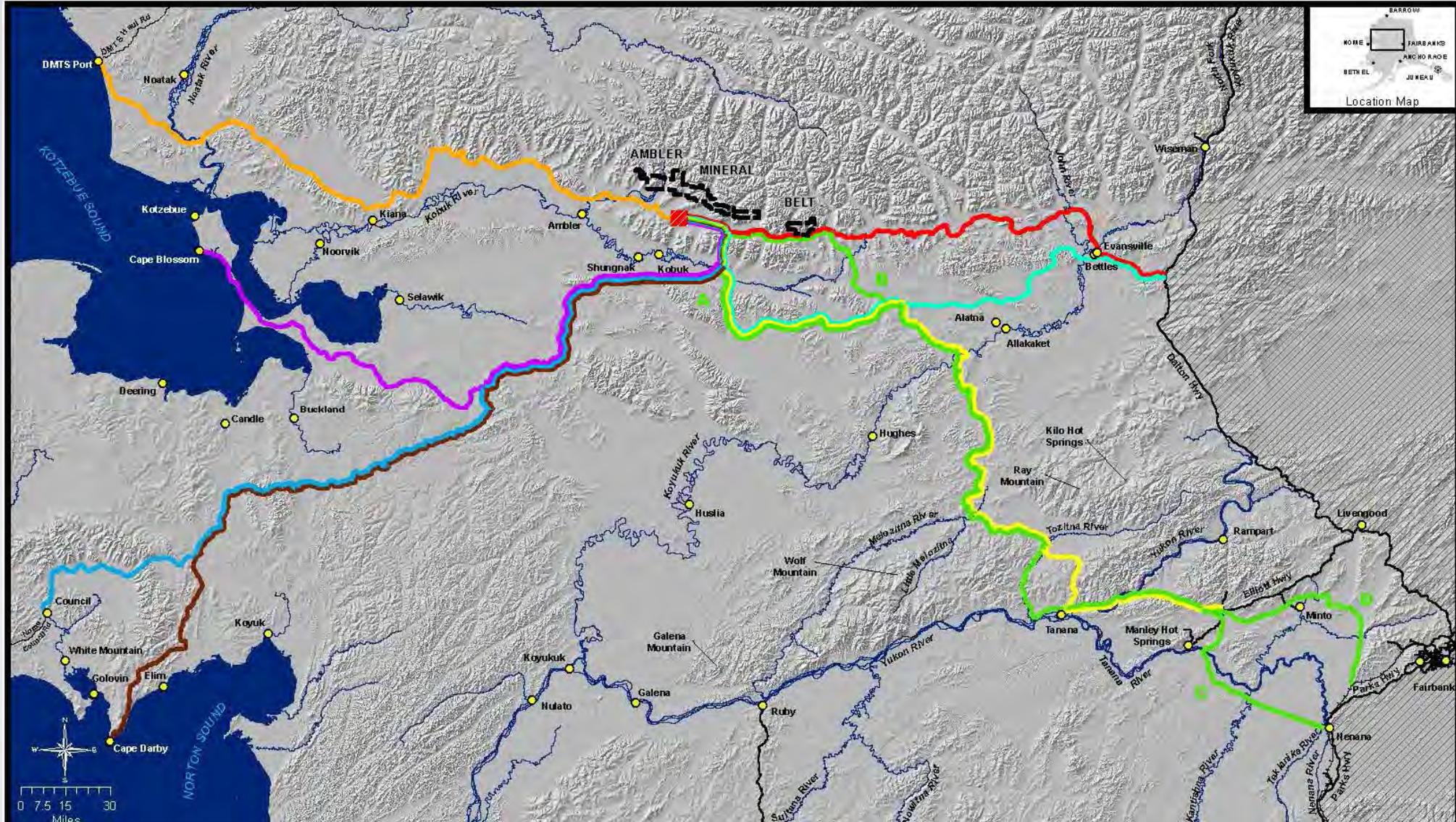
Mine feasibility studies show overland transportation is required for mining to be economically feasible



Project Development To Date

- DOT&PF initiated transportation reconnaissance efforts in 2010
- Community outreach
- Preliminary engineering
- Preliminary baseline environmental research
- Identified feasible routes

Alternatives Evaluated



Preliminary Corridor Analysis

- Preliminary corridors were evaluated on:
 - Corridor length
 - Federal Conservation System units (e.g. wildlife refuges)
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - Salmon/sheefish habitats
 - Caribou habitats
 - Threatened/endangered species and critical habitats
 - Wetland habitats
 - Availability of material sites
 - Construction/maintenance cost



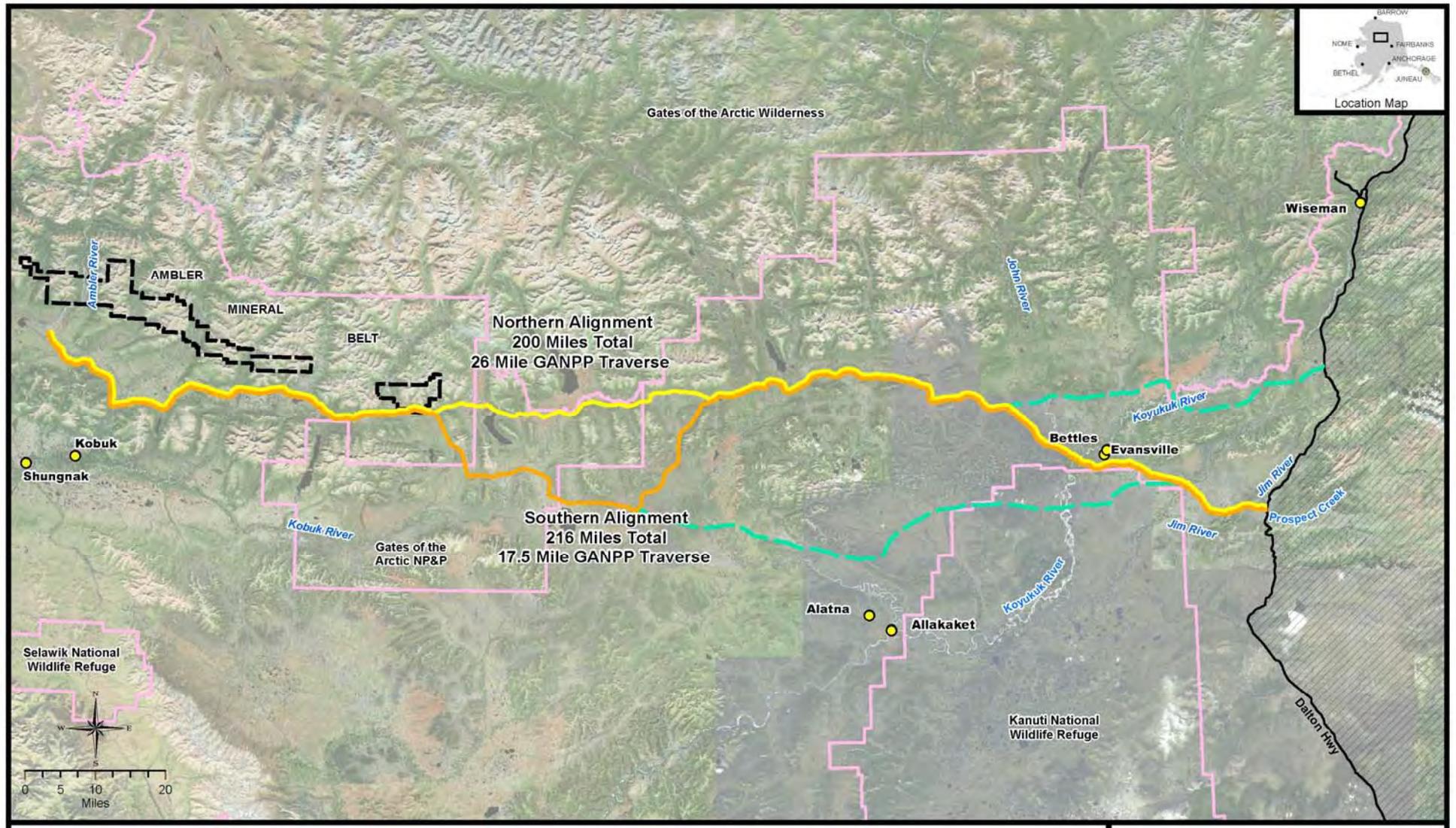


AMDIAR East Corridor

- Most feasible route:

- 200+/- miles long
- Four maintenance stations
- 15 large bridges (>150 feet)
- Least caribou impacts, no endangered species impacts
- Least impact on salmon/sheefish habitats
- Corridor through Gates of the Arctic National Preserve
- Generalized land status
 - 115+/- miles on State land
 - 45+/- miles on federal (NPS/BLM) land
 - 45+/- miles on ANCSA corporation lands

Proposed AMDIAR Corridor





Tasks in Progress by AIDEA

- Community outreach/meetings
- Additional reconnaissance studies
- Preliminary engineering
- Environmental documentation/permitting
 - Agency consultation
 - Permit application to initiate EIS and ANILCA Title XI reviews

Community Input

- High level of interest in communities throughout the region
- Many of the comments/concerns have centered on:
 - Economics (employment, cost of living, etc.)
 - Subsistence
 - Access (restricted vs. public) and number of vehicles
 - Environmental (wilderness, asbestos, acid rock drainage)



Different than Dalton Highway

- Constructed using public ROW from BLM and closed by Commissioner of Transportation
- Dalton Highway owned by State and managed by DOT&PF - Commissioner has authority to open or close road
- Dalton Highway placed on the Federal Aid Highway System - allowed federal funds to be used for maintenance and repairs

Similar to Red Dog Mine Road

- Controlled access - for industrial use only
- Not designed to public highway standards
- User tolls to fund/repay construction, maintenance, and eventual reclamation
- Lessons learned from Red Dog Mine Road:
 - How to deal with caribou crossing road
 - How to identify road crossings for local community
 - Covered/closed containers to limit potential for dust
 - Commercial driver training/enforcement

Red Dog Mine Road



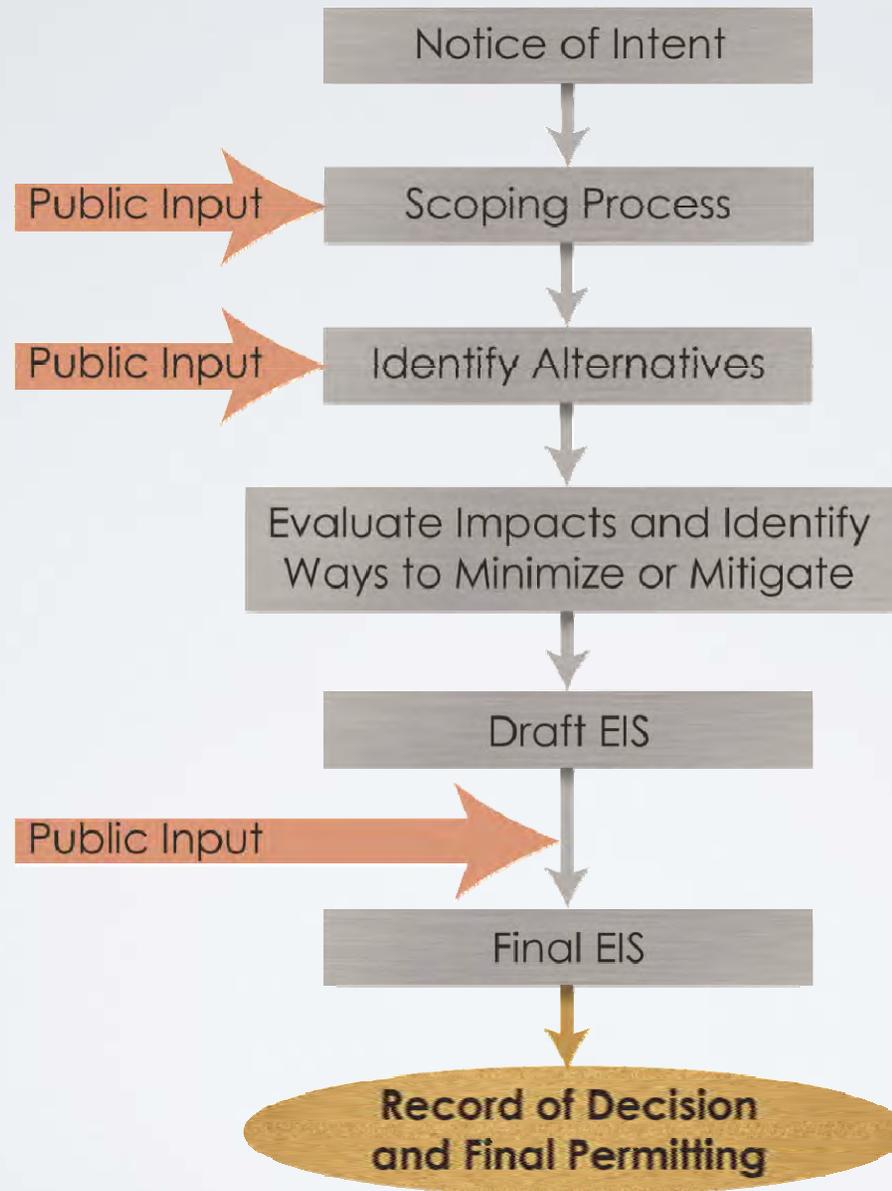


Project Development Steps

- Reconnaissance Studies
- AIDEA Board approves Filing for Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Financing Analysis
- AIDEA Board decision to proceed
- Final design/permitting
- Construction
- Operation
- Reclamation



EIS Process



Proposed Project Schedule

- Community Outreach/Consultation
 - Routing/Reconnaissance Studies
 - Baseline Environmental
 - Preliminary Engineering
 - Submit permit application/start EIS
 - P3 Development Process
 - Permitting/Final Design
 - Construction Start
- 2011-2018
 - 2010-2013
 - 2012-2015
 - 2013-2015
 - 2014
 - 2016
 - 2016-2018
 - 2019

Questions/Comments?



Game Management Unit 23
Working Group
114 S. Franklin St., Ste. 203
Juneau, AK 99801

July 10, 2012

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner Luiken:

As the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) evaluates the feasibility of various alternatives to access the Ambler Mining District and other “Roads to Resources” projects in Northwest Alaska, the Game Management Unit 23 Working Group would like to submit the following requests.

The Unit 23 Working Group was formed in 2008 to discuss fall hunting conflicts between local hunters, nonlocal hunters and big game commercial service providers (guides, transporters) in Game Management Unit 23, in northwest Alaska. The group works together by consensus to identify ways to reduce fall hunting conflicts in Unit 23 and protect subsistence uses, while providing opportunities for non-local hunters. The 20-member Working Group includes representatives from local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Big Game Commercial Services Board and Alaska Professional Hunters Association, regional and tribal governments and organizations, land and wildlife management agencies, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Alaska Board of Game, and the Federal Subsistence Board. The group has sent numerous advisory recommendations to government agencies, regulatory boards, and others for these entities to evaluate and consider for implementation. Additional information about the group can be found at its website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeplanning.unit23>

At the Unit 23 Working Group’s May 2012 meeting, DOT&PF project staff Ryan Anderson and Paul Karczmrczyk presented information regarding planning for a proposed road to access the Ambler Mining District. The Working Group appreciated that DOT&PF staff came to Kotzebue to present information about the project and engage in constructive discussion. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Working Group to consider and discuss the potential effects of a road and increased public access to the region on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) and its migration, the distribution and intensity of hunting in the region, and the level of conflicts between local subsistence hunters and non-local hunters who visit the region.

The Unit 23 Working Group believes that it is important that the State of Alaska consider projected impacts of new roads on the caribou herd and the people who depend upon it for food security. The following potential impacts must be fully evaluated before decisions are made on road construction, routine, access rights, and rules of operation:

1. Road impacts on the WACH, including changes in movements, distribution, and population size in response to infrastructure, disturbance and hunting pressure.

2. Impacts of roads on hunting access for local residents and visiting hunters, including anticipated changes in harvest levels and areas used by hunters.
3. The potential for increased hunting access to worsen conflicts between local and non-local hunters.
4. Cumulative effects of all road and development projects within the range of the WACH on the herd and use of the herd, particularly for subsistence users.

Similar concerns were raised in an April 20, 2012 letter from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group to Governor Parnell regarding the Roads to Resources projects.

The Working Group requests that no decision be made regarding whether to establish new roads in northwest Alaska and the extent to which those roads will be open to general public access, until there is a full evaluation of these potential affects.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the Unit 23 Working Group's request. We look forward to your response.

Regards,

Unit 23 Working Group

Unit 23 Working Group Members (May 2012):

Phil Driver, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Western Arctic Caribou Working Group
Cliff Judkins, Alaska Board of Game
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association
Victor Karmun, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
Melvin Lee, Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee
Enoch Mitchell, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee
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Alex Whiting, Kotzebue IRA
Jim Dau, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Valerie Baxter, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Lee Anne Ayres, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Frank Hays, National Park Service
Shelly Jacobson, Bureau of Land Management

cc: Ryan Anderson, DOT&FF
Paul Karczmrczyk, DOT&PF

Unit 23 Working Group Meeting – May 8-9, 2013
Meeting Agenda and Packet



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Natural
Resources**

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT &
PERMITTING

400 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0101
Main: 907.465.3177

19 August 2013

Game Management Unit 23
Working Group
114 S. Franklin St., Ste. 203
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Unit 23 Recommendations for potential impacts to be evaluated when considering road and development projects

Dear Working Group Members,

It was my pleasure to meet with you during your 2013 annual meeting in Kotzebue to discuss the changes in the proposed Ambler Access Road. I would also like to pass on their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in your meeting from John Moller, Rural Affairs Advisor to Governor Parnell, Mark Davis, Deputy Director of Infrastructure Development, and Mike Catsi, Business Development Officer, both of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), and Doug Vincent-Lang, Director of the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation.

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the Working Group's 10 July 2012 letter to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Commissioner Marc A. Luiken detailing the Working Group's recommendations for potential impacts to be evaluated when considering road and development projects. Since the letter was sent, there have been major changes to the structure of the Ambler Road proposal, including a transfer of lead project responsibilities from ADOT&PF to AIDEA. These changes have delayed the response to your letter and I apologize for the lateness in providing a formal reply. I am hopeful that the information provided by Mark Davis and John Moller during your recent annual meeting provided some assurance that the concerns in your letter would be addressed.

During the project transition, AIDEA requested assistance from the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) to coordinate the review and permitting process of the project and I have been assigned as the OPMP Large Project Coordinator. Our office is housed within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Commissioner's Office and is

designed to be the primary point of contact for project proponents, state agencies, federal agencies, and other stakeholders for the larger scale resource projects. In addition to providing a state point of contact for stakeholders, my role is to facilitate coordination between the state agencies reviewing and permitting project activities and to foster a cooperative working relationship between the state and the project proponent. In this role, I have followed up on your letter to Commissioner Luiken by consulting with the state agencies with the appropriate expertise to address the specific concerns in your July 2012 letter and provide the following information in response.

The State of Alaska values the Working Group's input into the assessment of the potential effects of new roads on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd caribou herd and the people who depend upon it for food security. Specific recommendations of the Working Group expressed in the letter to Commissioner Lukin included evaluation of the following.

1. Potential road impacts on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH), including changes in movements, distribution, and population size in response to infrastructure, disturbance and hunting pressure.
2. Potential impacts on hunting access for local residents and visiting hunters, including anticipated changes in harvest levels and areas used by hunters.
3. Potential for increased hunting access to worsen conflicts between local and non-local hunters.
4. Cumulative effects of all road and development projects within the range of the WACH on the herd and use of the herd, particularly for subsistence users.

The Ambler Access Road project currently expects to file a permit application with the Corps of Engineers in the spring of 2014. The filing of the permit application begins the formal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and public scoping processes to determine the issues that need to be addressed in the EIS. The environmental and social impacts of the proposed road, including those identified by the Working Group, will be considered during the formal EIS process.

As the project is still in the pre-application phase, there has not yet been the opportunity to fully evaluate potential effects, but the state appreciates the Working Group initiating constructive discussion on the project. Until then, I can offer the following general response from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to your concerns regarding the potential impacts to caribou herds from road development.

Potential Effects

Roads and associated development and infrastructure have the potential to affect the abundance and distribution of caribou; however these effects are largely dependent upon the coexisting effects of ecological factors in the natural environment, variations in road design, and operational aspects of the road.

The Central Arctic Herd in Alaska, which has had the most contact with industrial development, has been one of the fastest growing herds in the world in the last decade, implying that any observed changes to distribution or productivity have not resulted in population level impacts. This is also true for other Alaskan caribou herds such as the Nelchina Herd, which is robust despite the presence of the Richardson, Denali, and Glenn highways in its range.

In the long term, caribou populations are expected to adapt to habitat change when the total extent of change falls within the range of naturally occurring variation in the environment. To date, human caused habitat change in Alaska has presumably been well within this range; at historic levels of development and subsequent caribou displacement, the impacts to caribou population and abundance have been limited. This is especially true for the WACH where natural variation in abundance is large.

Given the wide natural variation in timing and strength of the WACH migration measuring the influence of road and associated infrastructure development on hunting success is a difficult proposition. While caribou abundance at the population level may not be affected by development, local changes in movement patterns could affect availability for local hunters, if caribou were somehow diverted away from local communities. This poorly understood relationship requires further study.

In recent years, this has become a prominent social issue. Although caribou populations on the North Slope are relatively high, local abundance can be low, and the causes of this disparity are much debated. Natural variation in the timing and strength of migration appear to have the greatest effect on local abundance. It is also conceivable that other activities in the area or in the villages themselves deter some caribou.

When caribou behavior and distribution have been formally studied, unless a road is essentially closed, there are usually measurable effects on caribou behavior. This illustrates that the types and levels of activity on a road are likely to have the greatest impact on the overall effect of the road. In most cases, these effects are small, but can result in delayed crossing of groups, the diversion and deflection of certain individual caribou, or reduced density in the vicinity of the roads.

Based on current distribution and movement patterns of caribou herds and our understanding of how caribou react to roads, the effects on caribou behavior could be mitigated through control over traffic levels, road access and activities permitted from the road. Hunting buffers and seasonal closures could also be used to mitigate impacts to subsistence and conservation concerns.

Attached for your reference is a white paper evaluating the potential effects of the proposed Road to Umiat on which provides further details on abundance and distribution of caribou in relation to potential road corridors.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information to you. I encourage the Working Group to be actively involved in the formal commenting opportunities for the Ambler Access Road, particularly during public scoping, in order to ensure your concerns are considered during the permitting process. The Working Group is welcome to contact me at any time with questions or inquiries regardless of whether or not there's a formal opportunity to comment. You can reach me at (907) 334-2185 or marie.steele@alaska.gov.

Most Respectfully,



Marie Steele, Large Project Coordinator
Office of Project Management and Permitting

cc:

Jan Caulfield, Unit 23 Working Group Facilitator
John Moller, Rural Affairs Advisor, GOV
Jeff Jones, Special Assistant for Resources, GOV
Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, ADNR
Kim Rice, Deputy Commissioner, DOTPF
Craig Fleener, Deputy Commissioner, ADFG
Doug Vincent-Lang, Director Wildlife Conservation, ADFG
Tom Crafford, Director Office of Project Management and Permitting, ADNR
Mark Davis, Deputy Director of Infrastructure Development, AIDEA
Mike Catsi, Business Development Officer, AIDEA
Maryellen Tuttle, Project Manager, Ambler Access Road, AIDEA
Ryan Anderson, P.E., Northern Region, DOTPF

Attachments:

Unit 23 Working Group 10 July 2012 letter to Commissioner Marc A. Luiken
ADFG Whitepaper *The Road to Umiat - Biological and Social Issues*

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Western Arctic National Parklands



Big Game Hunters and Transporter Activity

An Integrated Study of Hunting and Caribou in Noatak National Preserve 2009-2013

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Unit 23 Working Group Meeting
 May 15, 2014
 Andrew Ackerman, M.S.
 Social Scientist
 Western Arctic National Parklands

Study Problem & Background

- Very little non-local hunting pressure pre-1980
- Non-local hunting activity increases moderately 1985-1995 and more significantly 1995-present (+10-15% per year)
- Social Values Conflict: Two User Groups

Recent findings in Squirrel (Fix, et. al, 2009):

1. Low levels of direct field competition for shared resource, but high levels of perceived problems
2. Hunt conflict is asymmetric; locals describe as problematic but not vice-versa
 - Hunting for trophy and meat rotting
 - Alteration of migratory patterns

- Mode of Access to Resource—Air (non-locals) vs. Boat (locals)
- Migration period temporally bounded (Aug-Oct) = urgency to hunt while in proximity of Noatak

Subsistence Hunters



Non-Local Hunters





Western Arctic Caribou

Shared Resource; Divergent Objectives & Values

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Management Strategies To Date

- The Alaska Game Commission
 - expanded
 - expanded
 - AK BOG
 - Improved authority
- In 2012, N and a trans part of Noatak
 - 20-mile w arriving vi



R. corridor Big
 8 (8/20-9/20)
 tes in '95 (8/25-9/15)
 WVG recommendations
 entation (2010)
 new BGCSB
 (i) activities in Unit 23
 permit limitations
 for the western
 local caribou hunts

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Noatak NP Study Objectives (2013-2015)

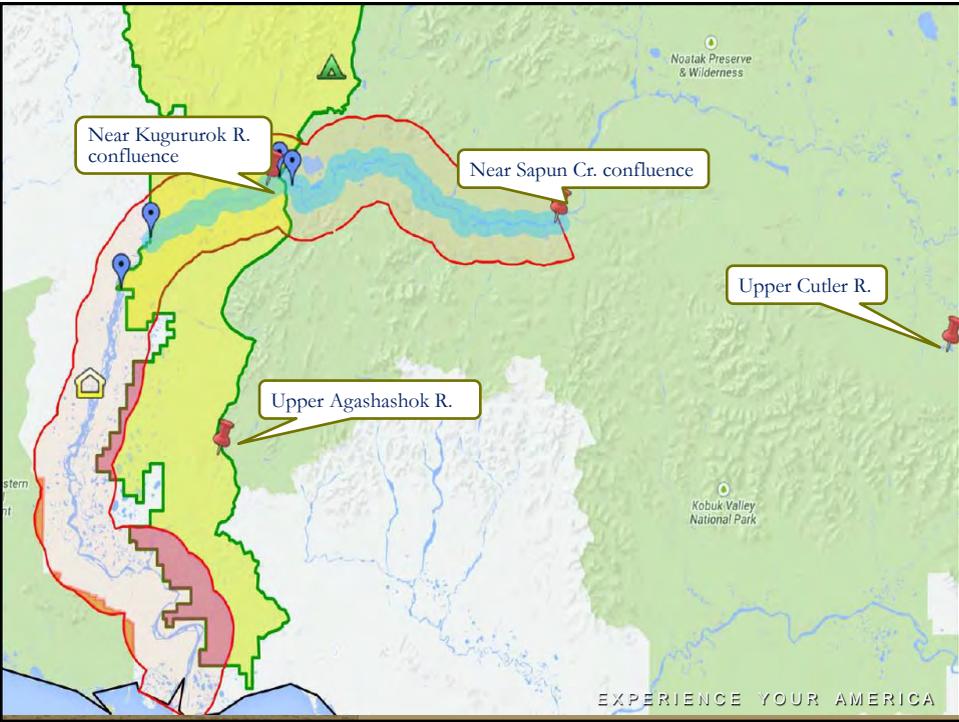
1. Gather, summarize, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on hunters, hunt activity, experiences and associated activity (i.e., commercial air transport, guiding activity, etc) [2013-14].
2. Use soundscape monitors to document motorized sounds (air and ground sources) and characterize existing conditions in a variety of areas in NOAT [Fall 2013-14]. Spatial model of sounds along NOAT river corridor will be done 2014-15
3. Conduct spatial analyses: trends or patterns in data gathered in 1. and 2. integrated with WACH gps collar data
4. **Integrate** results with TEK study being done in Noatak in 2013-14.

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Study Methods

- Compile existing data on commercial hunting and transporter activity in Noatak NP into database/GIS [2013-14]
- Mail-survey to Noatak NP non-local hunters over the four year period 2010-13 [2014]
- Structured interviews: non-local hunters, guides, and pilots [2014]
- Monitor acoustic conditions in Noatak NP during peak hunt season and differing management areas [2013-14]
- TEK research in Noatak Village using semi-structured interviews and small group participatory mapping (Kofinas & Halas, UAF) [2013]

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Existing Commercial Use Operators: *Noatak National Preserve*

2013 Licensed Transporters

- Air Juneau (formerly RAM)
- Brooks Range Aviation
- Coyote Air
- Golden Eagle Outfitters
 - Arctic Backcountry Flying
- Northwestern Aviation
- Transmountain Aviation

Incidental Hunt Transport (Air Taxi)

- Bettles Air*
- Arctic Backcountry Flying

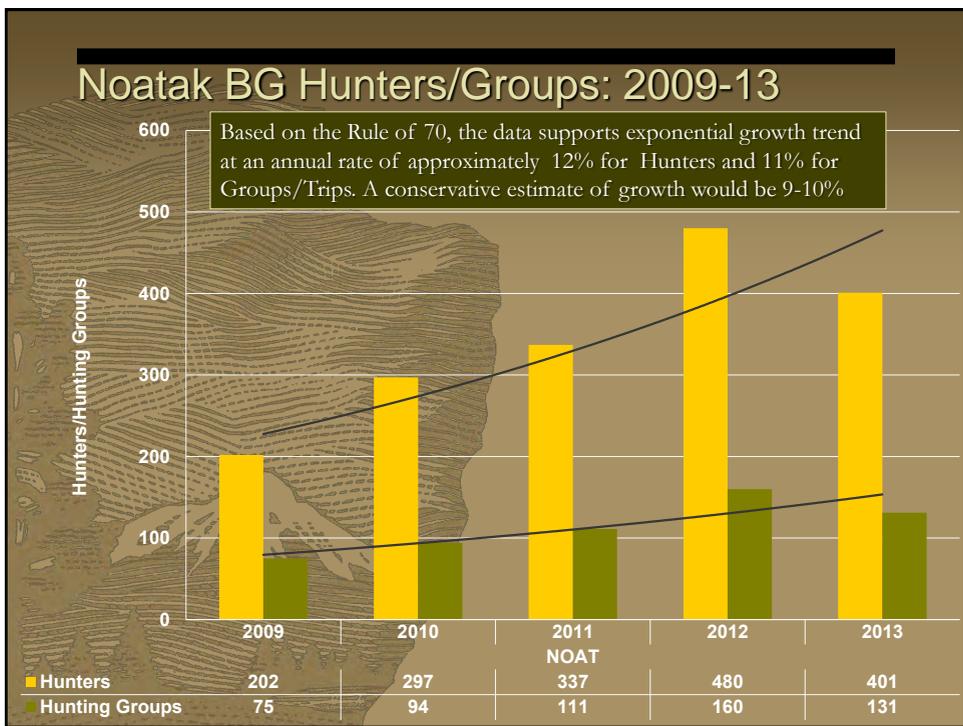
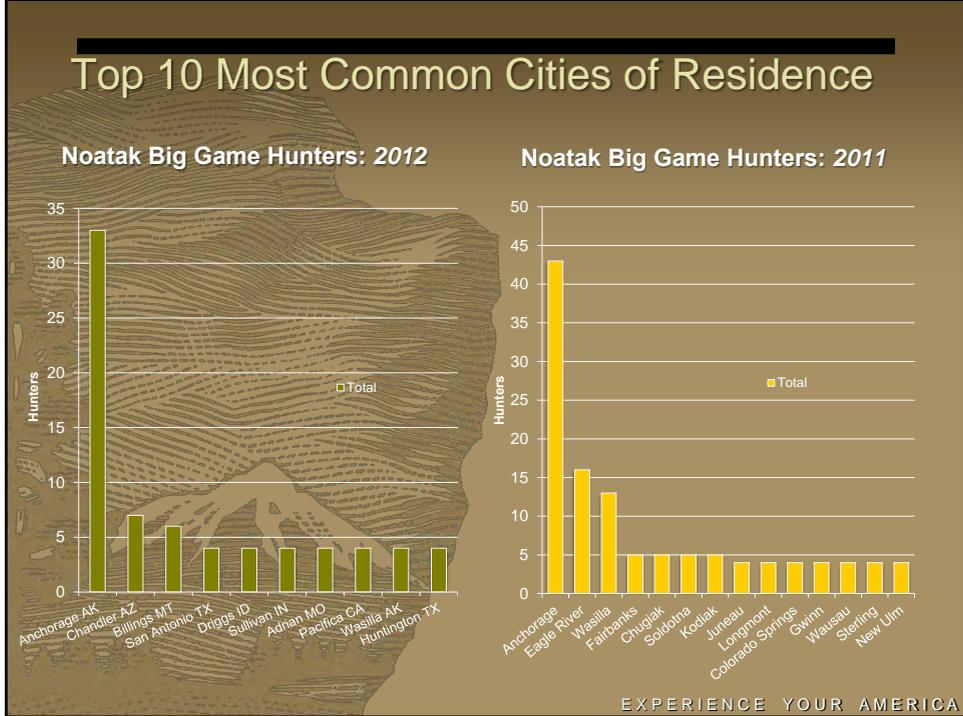
Other Air Taxis

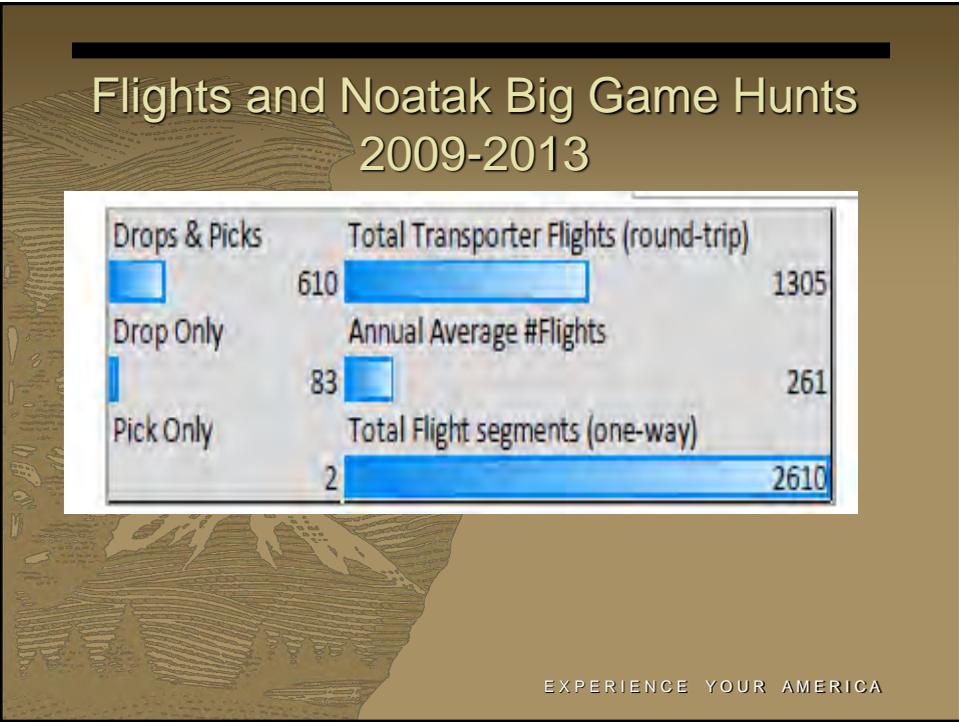
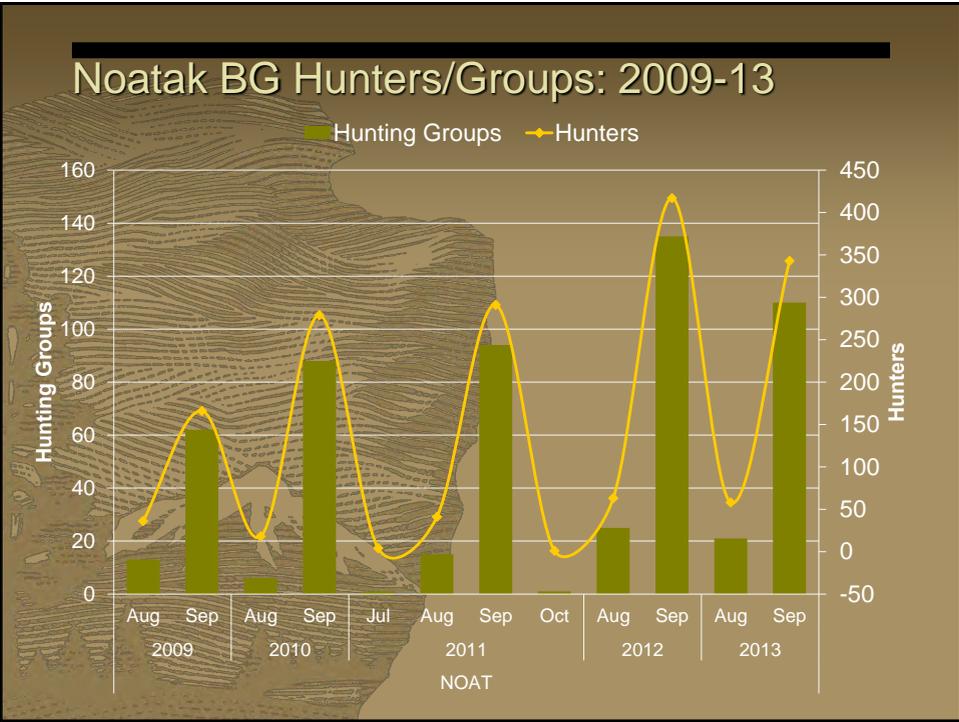
- Shadow Aviation
- Wright Air Service
- 70 North

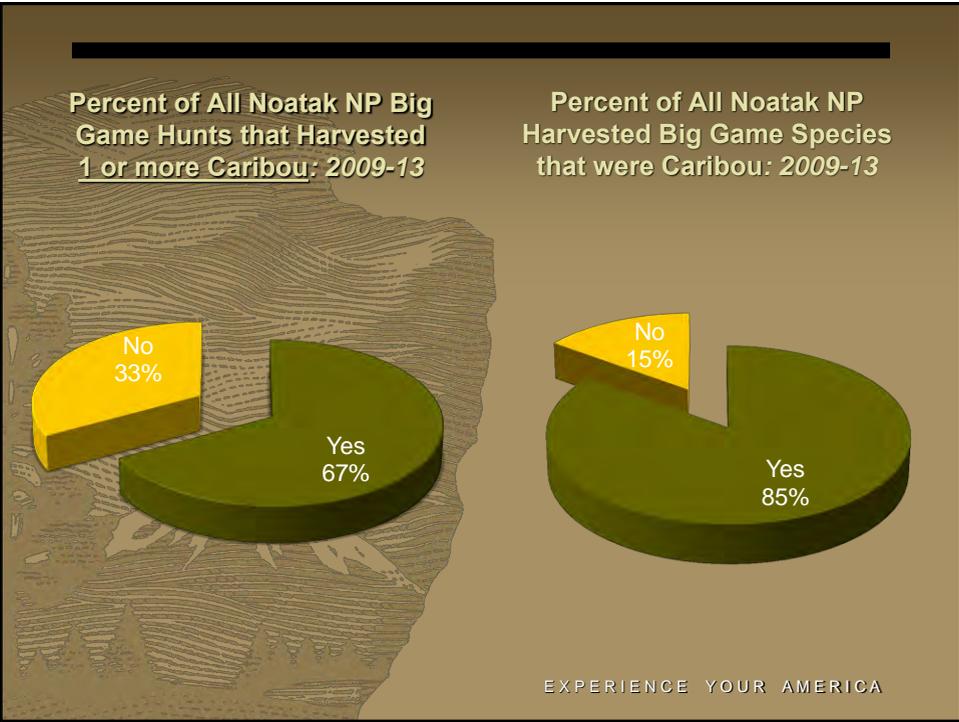
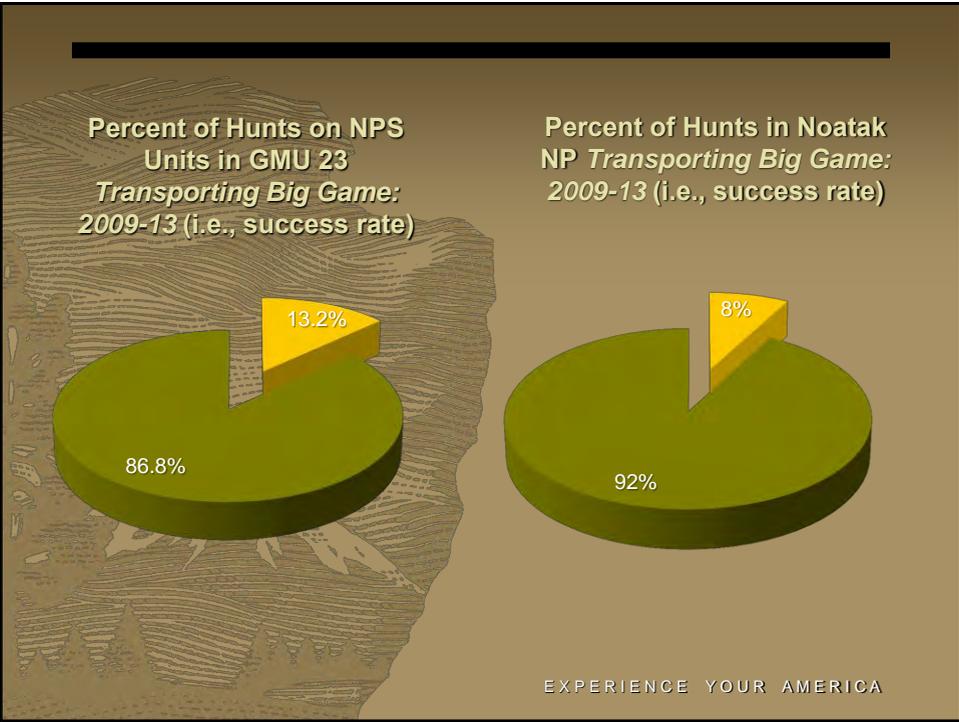


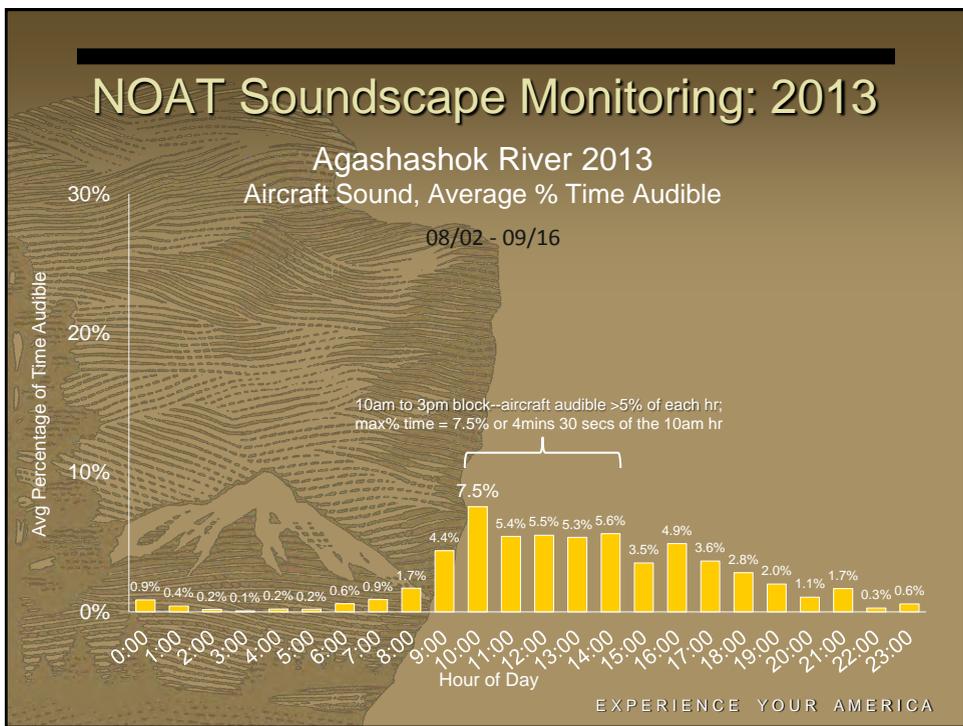
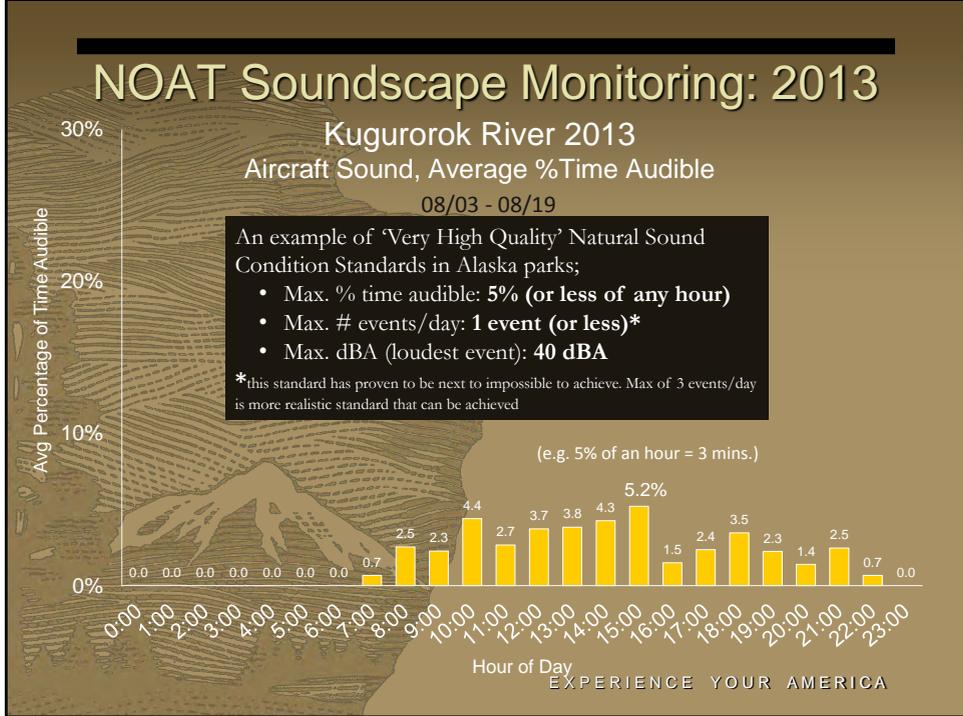
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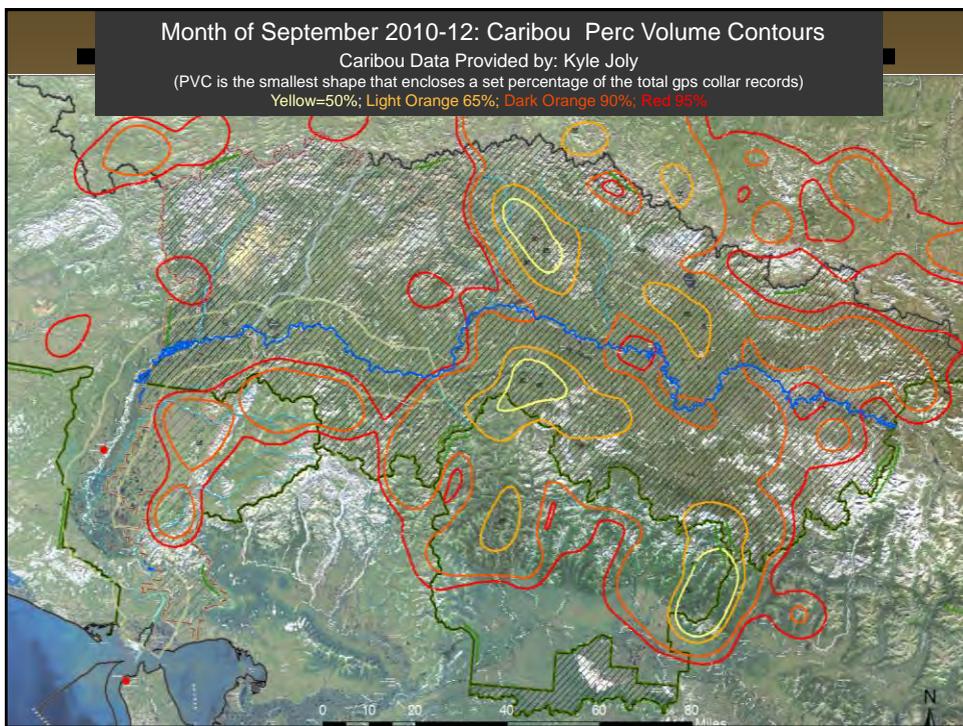
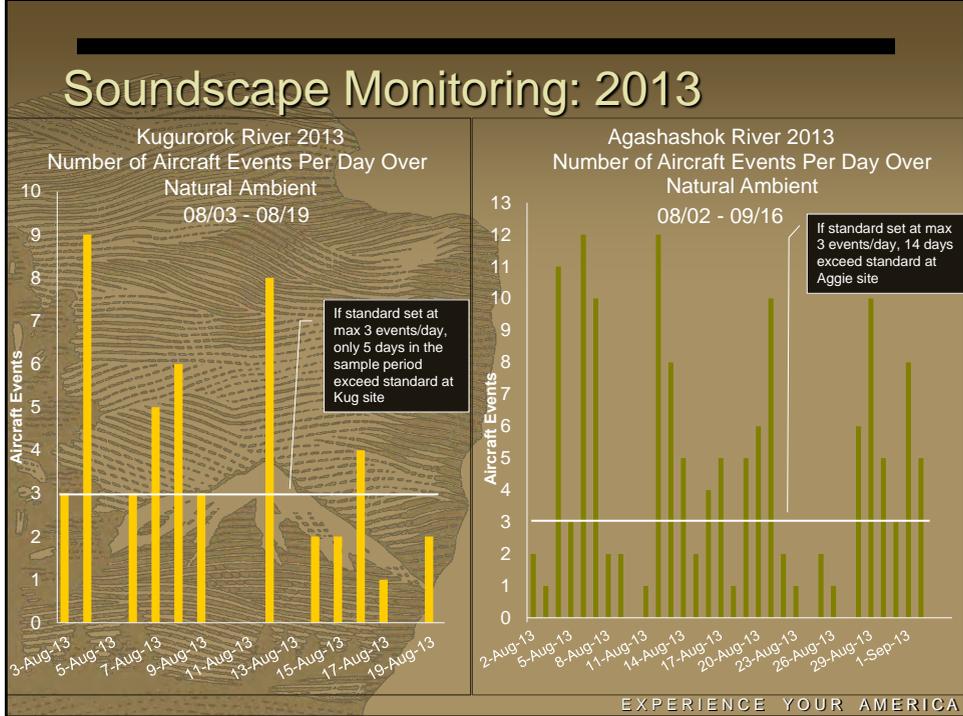
*Bettles Lodge transferred ownership in 2014

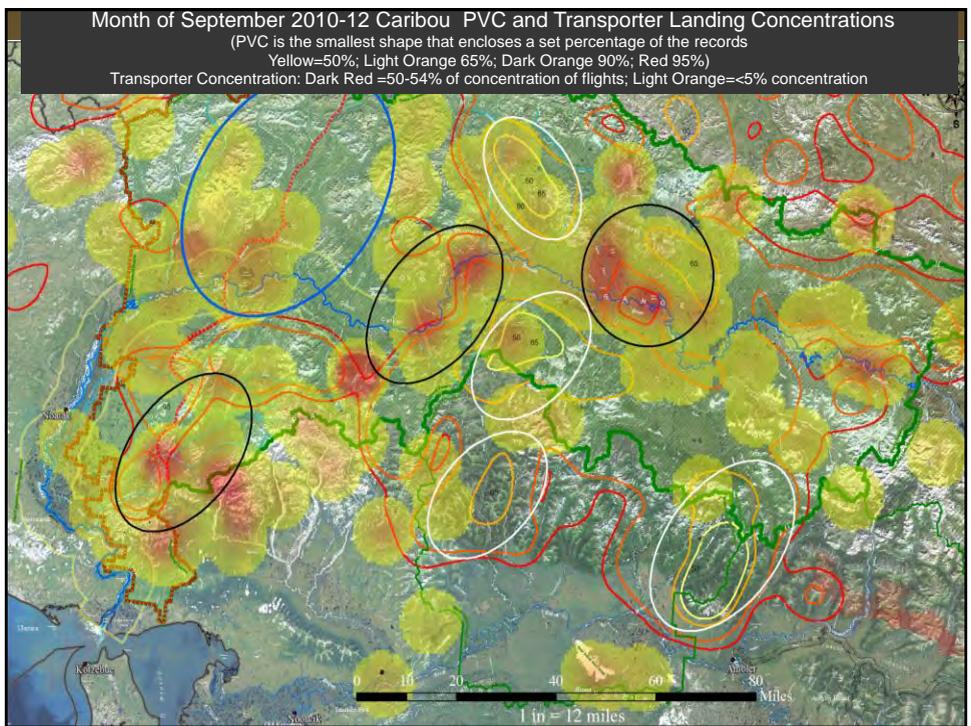
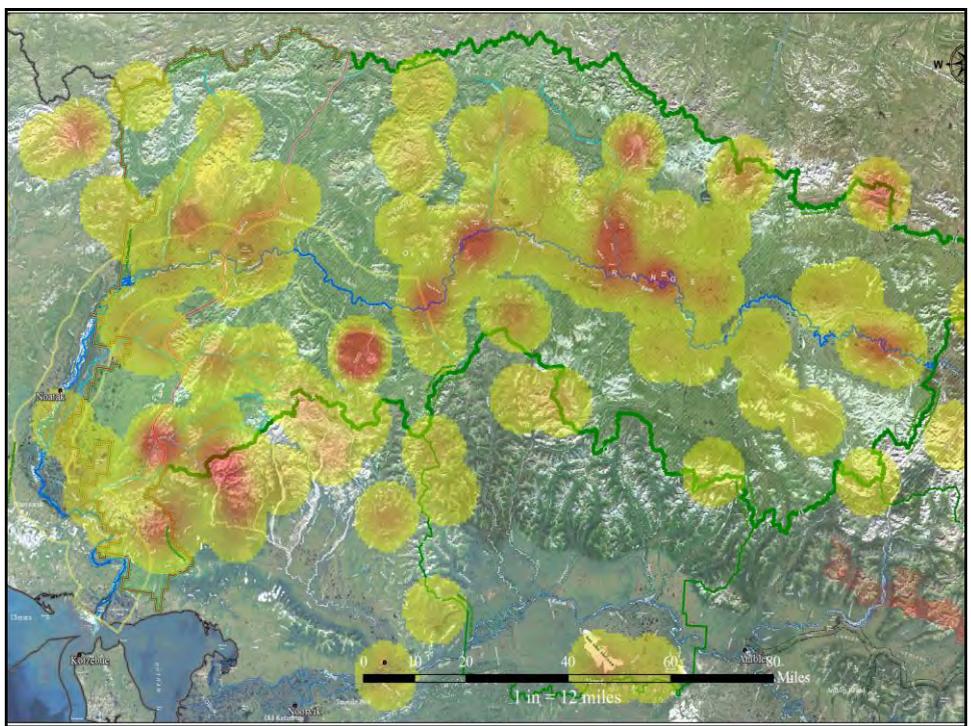


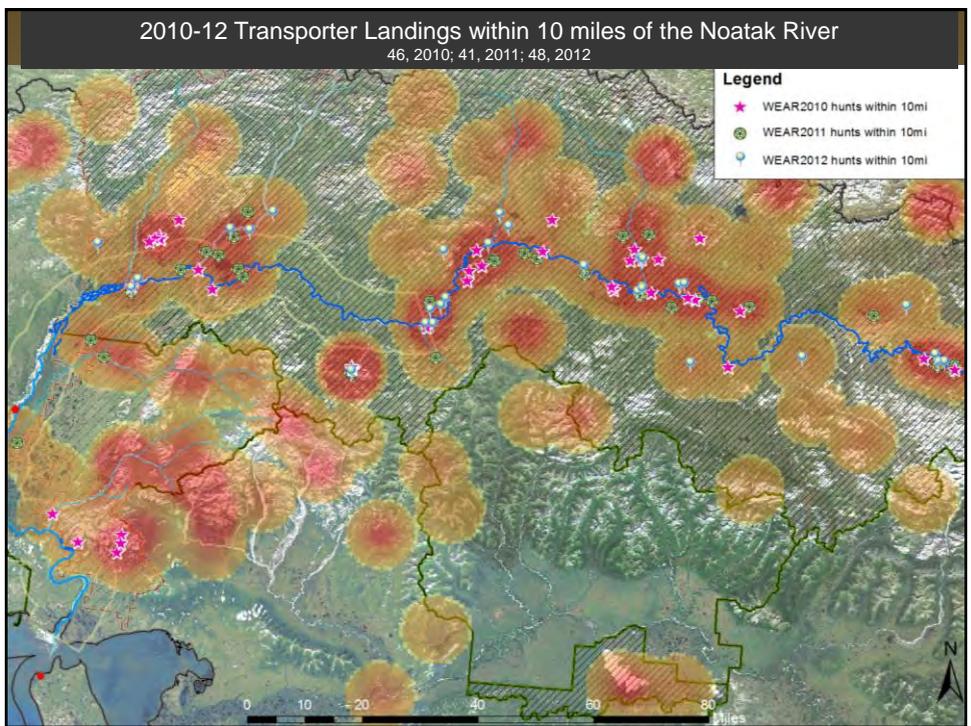
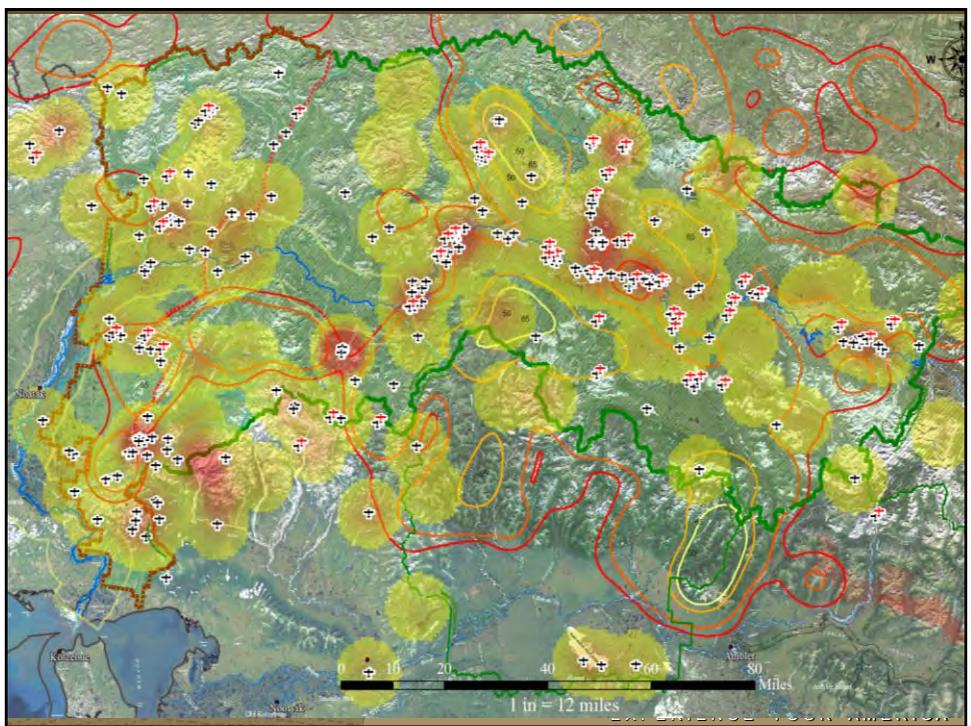












Transported Hunter Survey Data

To supplement existing database

- Sample Frame = all hunters with an address transported via licensed transporter into Noatak Preserve b/t 2010-2013 and includes:
 - ? about the movements of hunters, where and how they harvested game
 - ? about encounters with other parties and motorized sounds
 - ? about levels of knowledge of existing hunt policies and local hunting traditions
 - ? about the adequacy of hunt related services in and around Kotzebue
 - Hypothetical management scenarios intended to get at choices hunters would make when faced with tradeoffs

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Transported Hunter Survey Data

- N = 1300 hunters; Frame = 1150; current return n=390+ [In progress] for about a 35% Response
- Data will be analyzed in tabular fashion and spatially to ID patterns or trends in how hunters use NOAT
- Draft Report expected by October 2014

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February 27, 2014

Senator John Coghill
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801
Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov

Representative Mia Costello
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 160 / House Bill 158 - "An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

Dear Senator Coghill and Representative Costello:

The Game Management Unit 23 Working Group is writing to express its support for both Senate Bill 160 and House Bill 158, each of which would authorize the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land.

The Unit 23 Working Group was formed in early 2008 to address fall hunting conflicts between local hunters, nonlocal hunters and commercial operators in Game Management Unit (GMU) 23 in northwest Alaska.¹ The 20-member stakeholder / interagency group works collaboratively to find ways to reduce fall hunting conflicts in GMU 23, protect subsistence uses, and provide opportunities for other hunters. The Working Group includes representatives from the regional and tribal governments and organizations, the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB), guide and transporter businesses, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Alaska Board of Game, the Federal Subsistence Board, and State and federal land and wildlife management agencies.

At each of its meetings to date, the Unit 23 Working Group has consistently agreed on the importance of the State of Alaska having the right tools in place to manage big game hunting commercial services provided by guides, transporters and other businesses. These management tools are particularly important to avoid conflicts and crowding among users in areas where substantial nonlocal hunting activity coincides with local subsistence hunting, such as in GMU 23, as well as to address potential wildlife conservation issues.

At its May 2013 meeting, the Unit 23 Working Group reaffirmed by consensus its support for the Guide Concession Program that DNR has been developing to manage

¹ Unit 23 project web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeplanning.unit23>

guided hunting on general State lands. The Working Group also recommends that the State of Alaska provide DNR the authority to expand the management program to include transporters that provide commercial services for hunters.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

For additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group, please contact the group's facilitator, Jan Caulfield at (907)523-4610 in Juneau.

Regards,

Unit 23 Working Group

Unit 23 Working Group Members (2014)

Phil Driver, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Western Arctic Caribou Working Group

Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association

Stosh Hoffman, Alaska Board of Game

Victor Karmun, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee

Melvin Lee, Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee (*unable to attend May 2013 WG meeting*)

Enoch Mitchell, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee

Ron Moto, Sr., North Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee

Noah Naylor, Northwest Arctic Borough

Pete Schaeffer, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee

Joe Schuster, Alaska Professional Hunters Association

Ted Spraker, Chair, Alaska Board of Game

Julie Owen, Transporter representative

Raymond Stoney, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee

Tim Towarak, Federal Subsistence Board (*unable to attend May 2013 WG meeting*)

Alex Whiting, Kotzebue IRA

Jim Dau, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Valerie Baxter, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Shawn Bayless, US Fish and Wildlife Service (*at May 2013 meeting, USFWS was represented by former Refuge Supervisor Lee Anne Ayres*)

Frank Hays, National Park Service

Shelly Jacobson, Bureau of Land Management

cc: Governor Sean Parnell

Senator Donald Olson, Alaska State Legislature

Representative Benjamin Nageak, Alaska State Legislature

Commissioner Joe Balash, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Clark Cox, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD
GMU 23 Working Group
Investigation and Enforcement Services
Report 2013



Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Big Game Commercial Services Board

www.commerce.alaska.gov/ooc/pgui.htm

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wildlife Resource Management in Alaska is accomplished through the cooperative efforts of Alaska's Departments Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Fish and Game, and Public Safety. Collaboration between these state departments, as well as with federal wildlife management agencies and other stakeholders, is an important part of the stewardship of Alaska's wildlife.

The Big Game Commercial Services Board (Board), administered through DCCED, regulates and licenses the big game commercial service industry in Alaska. The Board also enforces its regulations through investigative and possible disciplinary action against commercial operator licensees who violate licensing laws.

The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (Division) monitors compliance with Board regulations through investigative and enforcement efforts conducted by an investigative unit. One permanent investigator assigned to the Board is responsible for investigation and enforcement efforts within Alaska's 26 game management units (GMUs).

In 2008, the Board was invited to participate in a 21-member working group established to address hunting game management concerns in the area encompassing Kotzebue Sound and the Chukchi Sea, known as Game Management Unit 23 (GMU 23).¹ These concerns centered around the conduct of commercial operators such as Big Game Guides, Transporters and Air Taxis and their involvement in the wasting of game meat, unlicensed activities, and remaining in the field with their clients.

Since the establishment of that working group in 2008, the Division has hired a seasonal Investigator to assist the Board while the assigned Investigator travelled into Unit 23 to conduct camp inspections, field contacts, and ramp checks etc. on these commercial operators for consecutive years, 2010, 2011 and once again in 2012. This did not occur in 2013.

¹ The 21-member working group is comprised of representatives from regional and tribal governments and organizations, state and federal land and wildlife management agencies, Fish and Game advisory committees, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, NANA Corporation, the Alaska Board of Game, the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Big Game Commercial Services Board. *See* Appendix B, GMU 23 Working Group.

OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct field inspections of Board-regulated licensees to verify compliance with statutes and regulations related to big game hunting.
2. Interview hunters to determine if any transporter violations, game animal waste, or other illegal activity had occurred during their hunt, as well as to review the quality of their hunting experience in Alaska.
3. Investigate, enforce, and report any violation of statutes and regulations relating to big game commercial services.
4. Coordinate with state and federal wildlife management agencies, permitting agencies for commercial operations on public lands, and regional organizations.

RESULTS

OBJECTIVE 1: Conduct field inspections within GMU 23 to verify licensees' compliance with statutes and regulations related to big game commercial services.

- Investigator Strout spent 4 days traveling within GMU 23 during September 2013. During that time, he met with 11 transporters, air taxi operators, and guides to verify they were correctly licensed and in compliance with big game hunting laws. The investigative and enforcement results of his field inspections are discussed below.
 - While in the field, the investigator observed or uncovered minor violations involving both **transporters** and **guides**. These were violations that could be easily corrected on site. Specifically the completion of a date, the correction of the hunter's first name or a transporter activity report. The violations were corrected by the licensees, and no further action was necessary.
 - The Investigator assisted one **Transporter** in interpreting/clarifying statute/regulation intent relating to her signature on the Transport Activity Report, Specially 12 AAC 75. 400, Transporter Activity Reports.

OBJECTIVE 2: Interview hunters to determine if any transporter violation, game animal waste, or other illegal activity had occurred during their hunt, as well as to review the quality of their hunting experience in Alaska.

- Investigator Strout interviewed approximately 18 hunters at various locations at which hunters gather. The interviews were conducted at hunters' camps, the Kotzebue airport, restaurants, hotels, and on the street.

- Hunters were asked about methods used to get to and from the field, whether they were bringing in the required harvested meat, and concerns or issues that may have arisen during the hunt. Most were pleased with the services they were receiving, except for one transported party of non-resident caribou hunters who complained about their camp location and the lack of caribou in the area. This party was due to depart the field and was going to discuss a refund with their Transporter. No official complaint has been received.
- Statute and Regulations interpretation and intent were discussed in these contacts.

OBJECTIVE 3: Investigate, enforce, and report any violation of statutes and regulations relating to big game hunting, with a focus on transporter and air taxi activity.

- The Investigator accompanied Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) to follow up on a complaint from a local elder with a camp on the Noatak, alleging a Guide or Transporter was observed flying low at some caribou and running them off from local hunters.
 - Contact was made with the elder who reported that the complaint had been greatly exaggerated by the time it was received by AWT back in Kotzebue. The Elder, stated he had observed a plane (occupants unknown), flying low around an area in which he had observed caribou earlier. The elder could not say the pilot was a guide or a transporter or that there was anything unlawful taking place.
- The investigator assisted AWT in possible violations of antler before meat and failure to leave the meat attached to the rib bones of moose. The case involved a party of private hunters and no guides or transporters were involved. At least one citation was issued.
- An investigation was initiated into a transporter crossing the line between his transporter business and his guiding operation. AWT is pursuing the issue for possible culpability and subsequent prosecution.
- The investigator met with Alaska Fish and Game to follow up on a complaint that a brown bear cub may have been harvested by a Guided non-resident client. After further investigation, despite being very young and very small, it was determined the bear was old enough and a legal harvest. No further action was taken.

NOTE: The investigator's efforts were hampered by the inability to obtain unescorted access to the aircraft ramp where a majority of the transporter and air taxi activity takes place.

OBJECTIVE 4: Coordinate with state and federal wildlife management agencies to investigate big game hunting violations, and with agencies involved in issuing permits for commercial operations involving hunting on public lands, and with other regional organizations.

- The investigator traveled with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to check field camps of operators within GMU 23. He spent three days on patrol with Alaska Wildlife Troopers.
- The investigator met Kotzebue Mayor Reggie Jewell and his assistant Zack Stevenson to discuss the ability to obtain unescorted access to the air field. Mr. Jewell agreed there is a need for unescorted access and that he would have his assistant look into the necessary training to accomplish same.

SUMMARY

The investigator traveled to the Kotzebue area to investigate concerns of wanton waste and the level of illegal or unlicensed activity, and surveyed approximately 18 hunters to determine what methods were being used to get to and from the field. The investigator also looked into how hunters were harvesting their game animals. Field inspections of transporters and guides to ensure compliance with hunting laws were conducted, and minor violations were corrected in the field. Serious violations have been or will be brought before the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

Game Management Unit 23 Working Group

c/o 114 S. Franklin St., Ste. 205
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-523-4610

August 7, 2013

To: Transporters and Guides using the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers
in Game Management Unit 23

Subject: Avoiding user conflicts during hunting season on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers

The Unit 23 Working Group was formed in early 2008 to discuss fall hunting conflicts between local hunters, nonlocal hunters and commercial operators in Game Management Unit 23 in northwest Alaska. The Working Group met most recently on May 8-9, 2013 in Kotzebue, during which public comment was taken in person and over the phone. Residents from the community of Kivalina contacted the group and expressed concern over incidents that occurred during the fall 2012 hunting season on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers. The concerns centered around incidents of nonlocal visiting hunting parties camping in favored local hunting spots and interactions between visitors and local hunters on the river that were perceived negatively by local hunters. These types of comments surfaced after the fall 2011 season as well and suggest that these occurrences are either increasing or that residents of Kivalina are becoming more vocal in expressing their concerns.

The Working Group continues to work collaboratively to find ways to reduce fall hunting conflicts in Unit 23, protect subsistence uses and provide opportunities for visiting hunters. The 20-member Working Group includes representatives from the Big Game Commercial Services Board and Alaska Professional Hunters Association (including representatives of transporter and guide businesses); regional and tribal governments and organizations; land and wildlife management agencies; Fish and Game Advisory Committees; the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; and the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

For most of their lengths, the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers are rather narrow and as such it is hard to get adequate spatial separation between parties. In addition, there are few choice locations for parties to glass and wait for game. Most of the hunting activity by local residents occurs on the lower half of the rivers, those places easily accessed by boat, leaving much of the upper half of the rivers unoccupied by local hunters and easily accessed by fly in dropped off hunters.

Although many drop off hunters will float the entire river to be picked up in Kivalina, it would help reduce conflicts if they focused their actual hunting activities in the upper reaches of the river that are rarely visited by residents of that community who hunt by boats. If you guide or transport hunters in the Wulik River and Kivalina River areas,

please inform your clients about the potential for higher numbers of local hunters to be using the middle and lower reaches of the rivers and the potential to disrupt other hunters waiting for approaching game.

Please also inform your clients that most of the riverbanks, including the best game observation points, are privately owned by residents of Kivalina. These lands are not open to public use. A map of the lower reaches of the rivers is attached for your reference and for you to share with your clients. Please contact Unit 23 facilitator Jan Caulfield at 907-523-4610 or janc@gci.net if you would like to have a more detailed land status map for the sections that you typically use for your business. The Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Department of Natural Resources can also identify the location of private lands for your information.

Your efforts to inform clients of ways to minimize conflicts along the rivers near Kivalina will help ensure that they have a good experience during their trip. Additionally, it will help avoid the possibility of requests for new controlled use areas that could reduce or eliminate recreational hunting, fishing, guiding, and transporting opportunities.

Thank you for considering these concerns and making efforts to reduce the occurrence of hunting conflicts on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers.

For additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group, please visit the website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeplanning.unit23> or contact the group's facilitator, Jan Caulfield at (907) 523-4610 in Juneau or at janc@gci.net

Regards,

Unit 23 Working Group

Unit 23 Working Group Members (2013):

Enoch Mitchell, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee
Victor Karmun, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Ron Moto, Sr., North Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee
Pete Schaeffer, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
Raymond Stoney, Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Melvin Lee, Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee
Phil Driver, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
Julie Owen, Transporter representative
Joe Schuster, Alaska Professional Hunters Association
Alex Whiting, Kotzebue IRA
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association
Noah Naylor, Northwest Arctic Borough
Tim Towarak, Federal Subsistence Board
Ted Spraker, Alaska Board of Game
Stosh Hoffman, Alaska Board of Game

Jim Dau, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Valerie Baxter, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Lee Anne Ayres, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Frank Hays, National Park Service
Shelly Jacobson, Bureau of Land Management

Attachment: Land status map