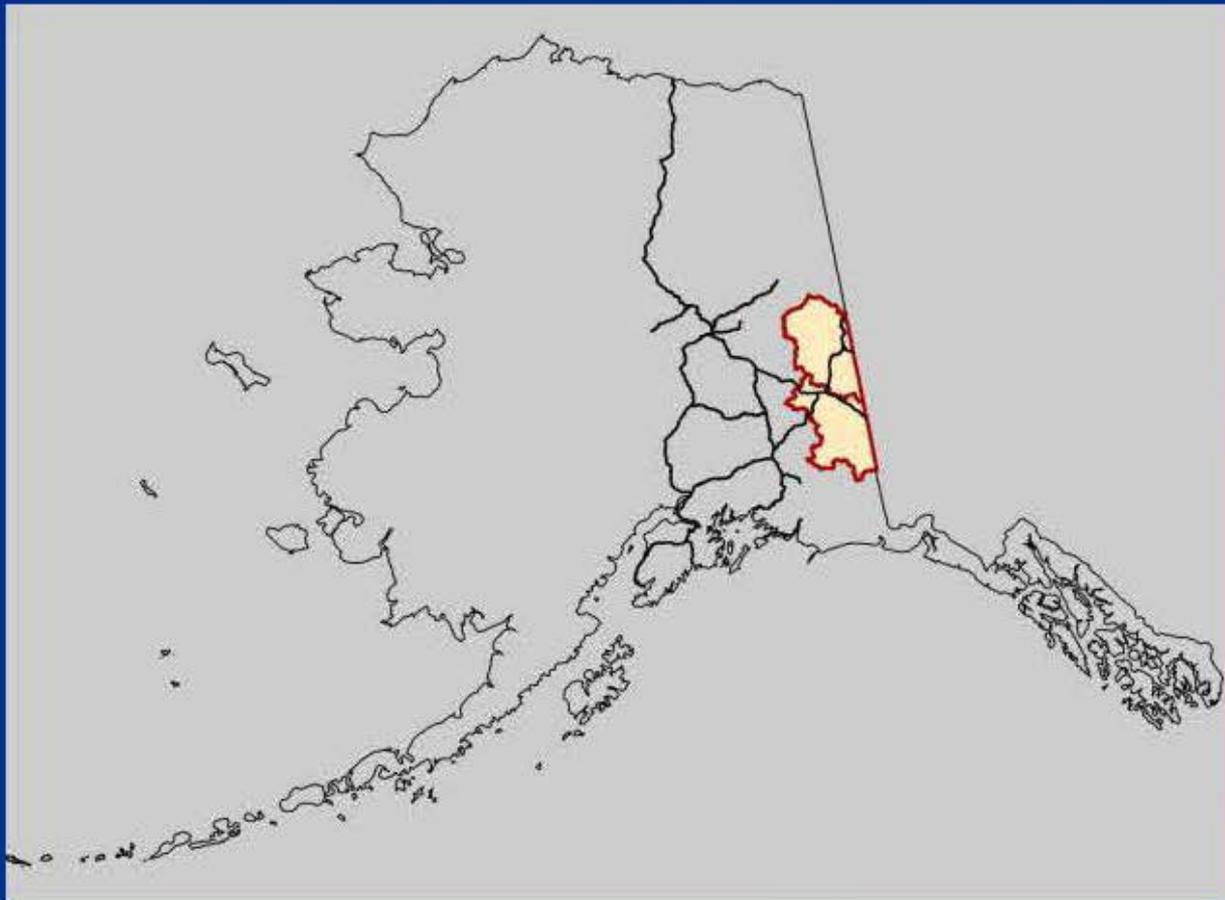




Tok ADF&G Wildlife Program - 2014



Tok ADF&G Office and Staff

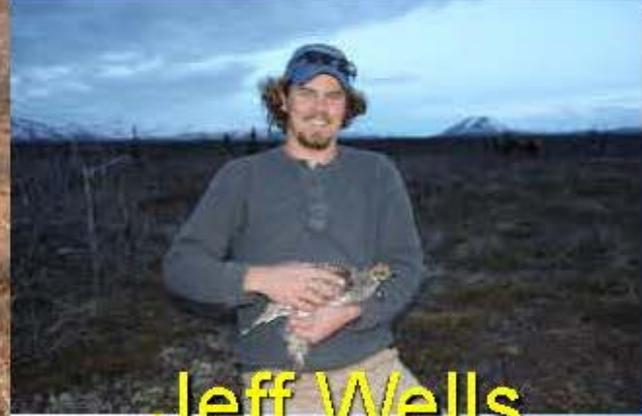
Jeff Gross



Bob Gingue



Jeff Wells



Tess Faulise



Downtown
Tok (-73° F)



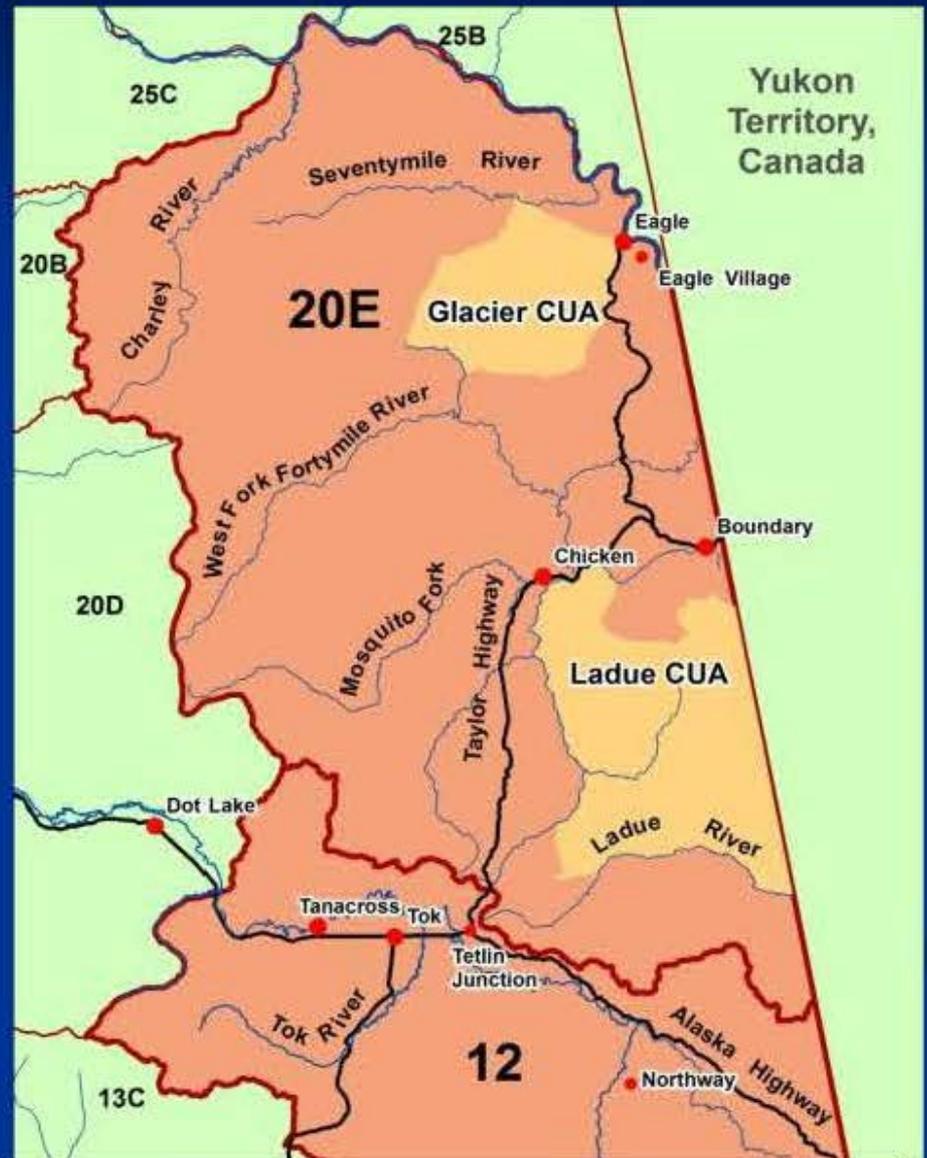
Tok Area

- Diverse Habitat
- Diverse Land Ownership
- 13 Communities
- 3 ACs



Controlled Use Areas (CUA)

- Glacier Mountain CUA (Unit 20E)
- Ladue River CUA (Unit 20E)



Management Areas

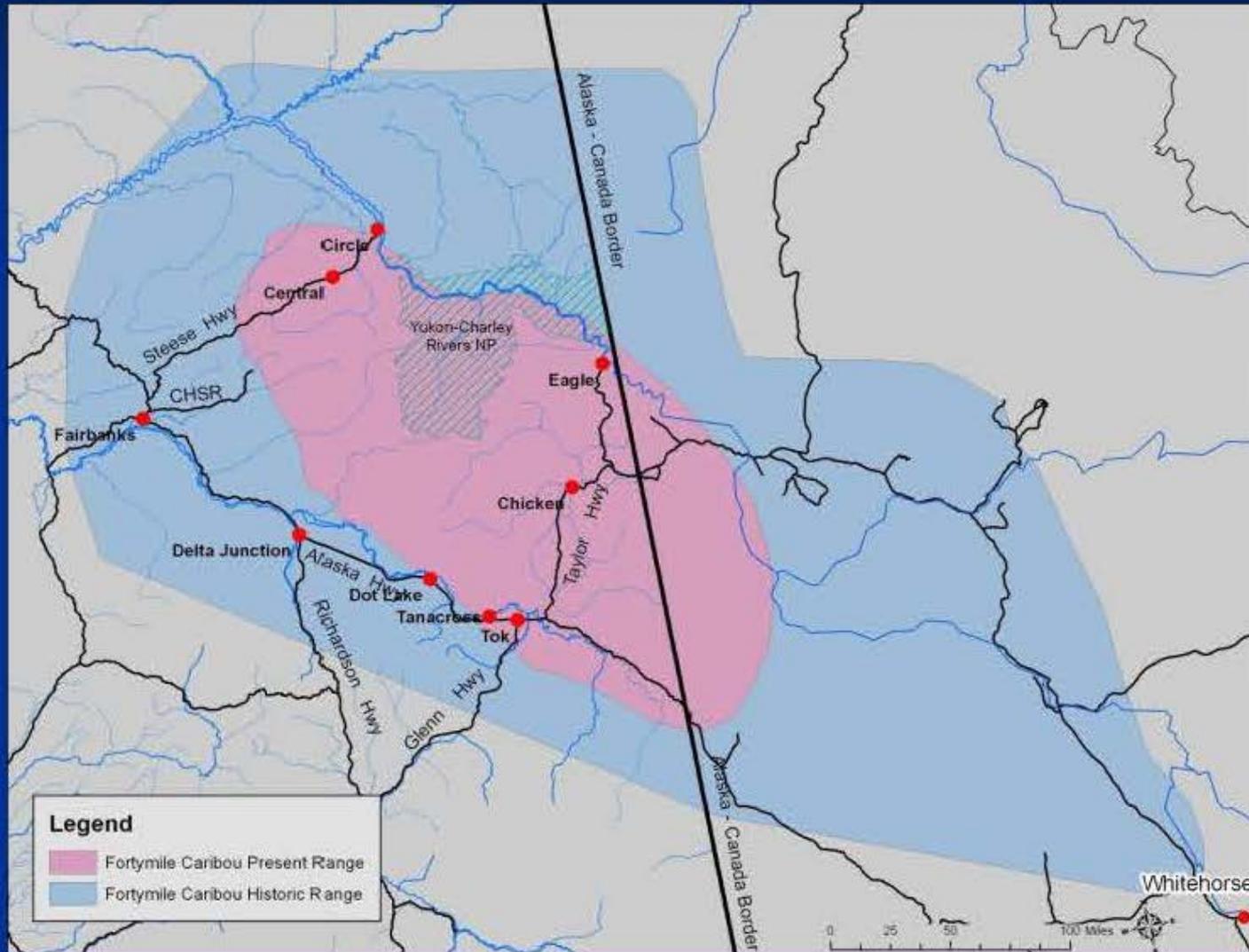
- **Tok Management Area (Unit 12)**
 - Trophy Sheep Management
 - Uncrowded Hunting Conditions



Caribou – Chisana Herd



Caribou – Fortymile Herd



Caribou – Fortymile Herd

High Levels of Human Use

Intensive Management Objectives

- **Population 50,000 – 100,000**
- **Harvest 1,000 – 15,000**

Harvest guided by 2012-2018 Harvest Management Plan

Caribou – Fortymile Herd

Current Population Est.

- 51,675 caribou (2010)
- Increasing

Management Activities

- Photo Census
- Fall Comp
- Spring Birthrate
- Harvest Monitoring



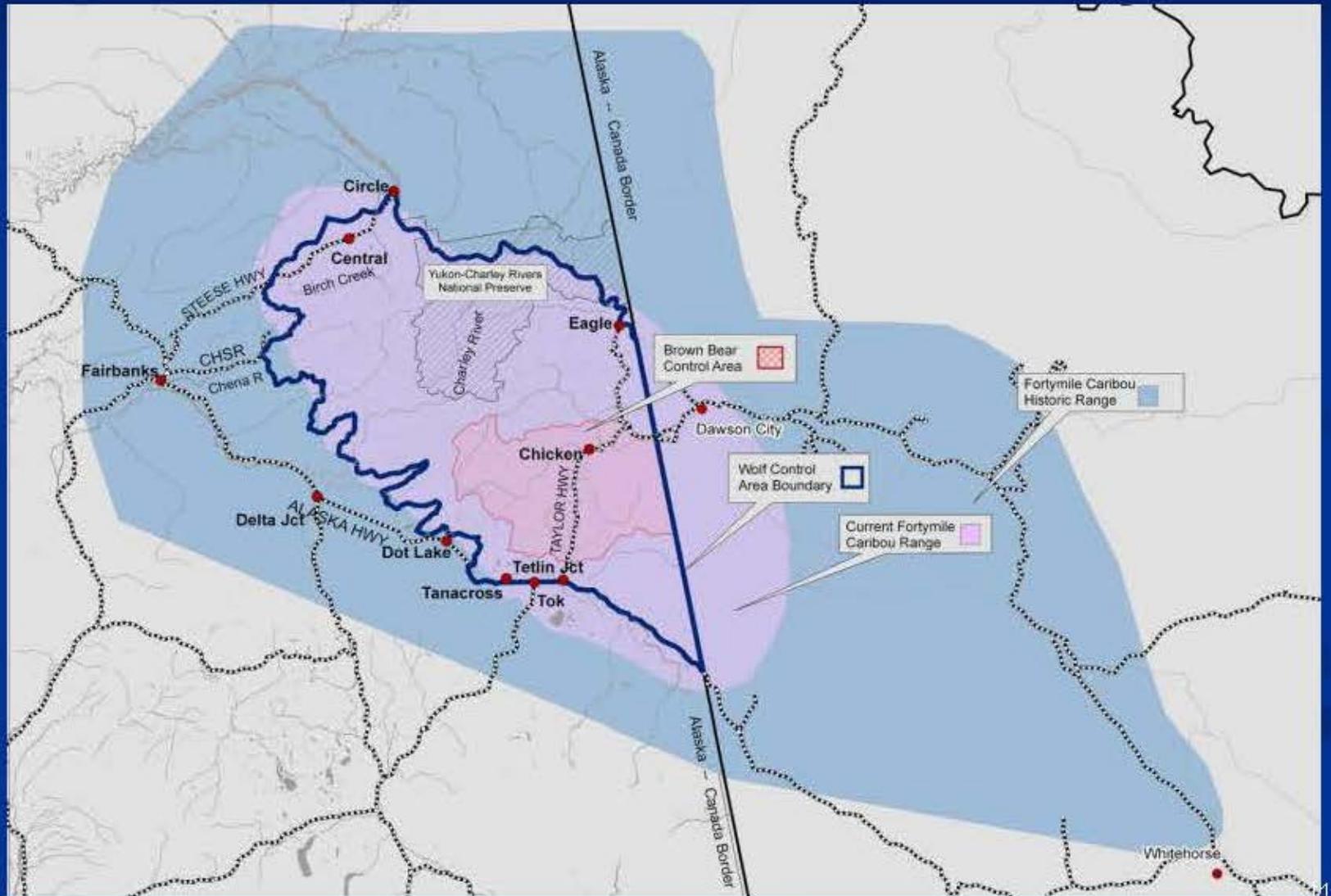
Caribou – Fortymile Herd

Harvest

- Fall and Winter **Registration Hunts**
 - ~**2,500** Hunters Annually
 - RY12 and RY13 Quota of **1000 Caribou**
 - season and area allocation



Caribou – Fortymile Herd



Moose – Unit 12

High Levels of Human Use

Intensive Management Objectives



➤ Population 4,000 – 6,000

➤ Harvest 250 – 450

Current Population Estimate = 4,300-5,600

Current Harvest = 129 (avg. 2002-2010)



Remainder of Unit 12.

Resident:	24 - 28 August	1 bull .
	8 - 17 September	1 bull.
Nonresident:	8 - 17 September	1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Unit 12, that portion in the Tok River drainage upstream from the Tok River bridge, including the Little Tok River drainage.

Resident:	24 - 28 August
	8 - 17 September
Nonresident:	8 - 17 September

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

GMU 12

Unit 12, east of the Nabesna River and south of the winter trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border.

Resident:	1 - 30 September
Nonresident:	1 - 30 September

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.



Moose – Unit 12

Management Activities

- Population surveys
- Twinning counts
- Periodic browse surveys
- Harvest Monitoring
 - General Harvest Reports

Moose – Unit 20E

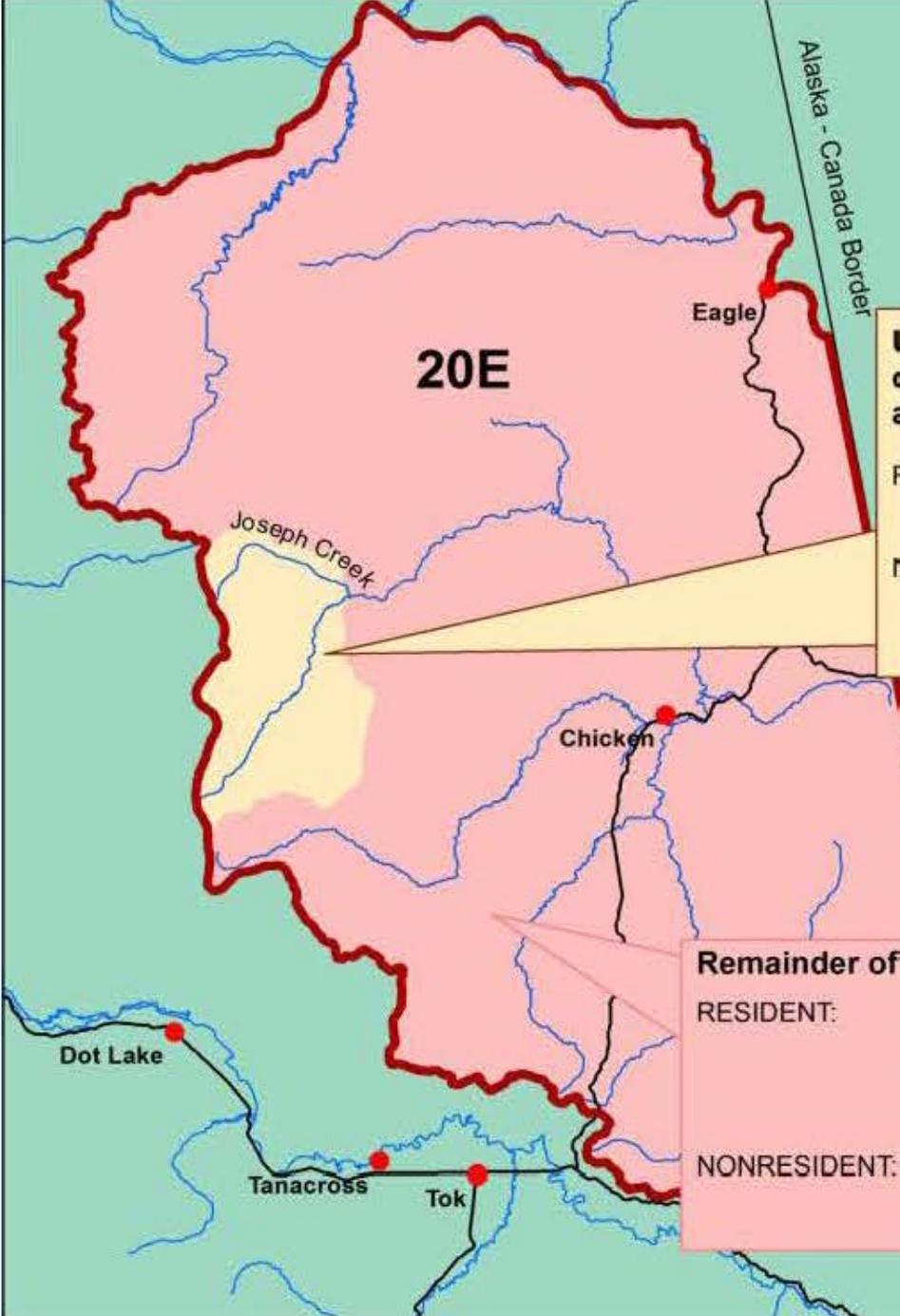
High Levels of Human Use

Intensive Management Objectives

- Population 8,000 – 10,000
- Harvest 500 – 1,000

Current Population Estimate = 4,000 –
6,100

Current Harvest = 177 (5-year avg.)



Alaska - Canada Border

20E

Eagle

Joseph Creek

Chicken

Dot Lake

Tanacross

Tok

Unit 20E drainages of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage:

RESIDENT:	24-28 August	1 bull
	8-17 September	1 bull
NONRESIDENT:	8-17 September	1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with from and including the 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Remainder of Unit 20E:

RESIDENT:	Registration	24-28 August	1 bull by permit RM865
	Registration	8-17 September	1 bull by permit RM865
	Drawing	1 Nov. - 10 Dec.	or 1 bull by permit DM 794 - DM796 in the Ladue River Controlled Use Area
NONRESIDENT:	Registration	8-17 September	1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit RM865

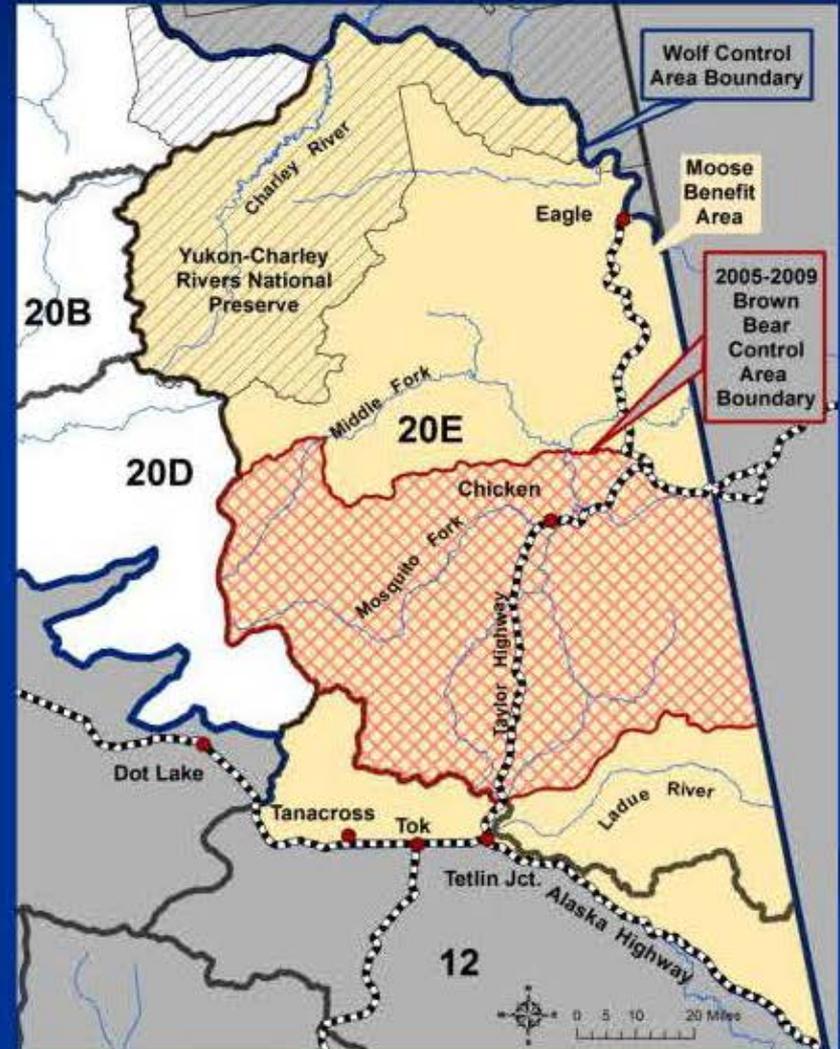
Moose – Unit 20E

Management Activities

- Population surveys
- Twinning counts
- Periodic browse surveys
- Harvest Monitoring
 - Registration Harvest Reports

Moose – Units 12 and 20E

Predator Control



Wolves

Units 12 and 20E

- High densities
- Primary management related to Wolf Control Program



Grizzly Bears

Units 12 and 20E

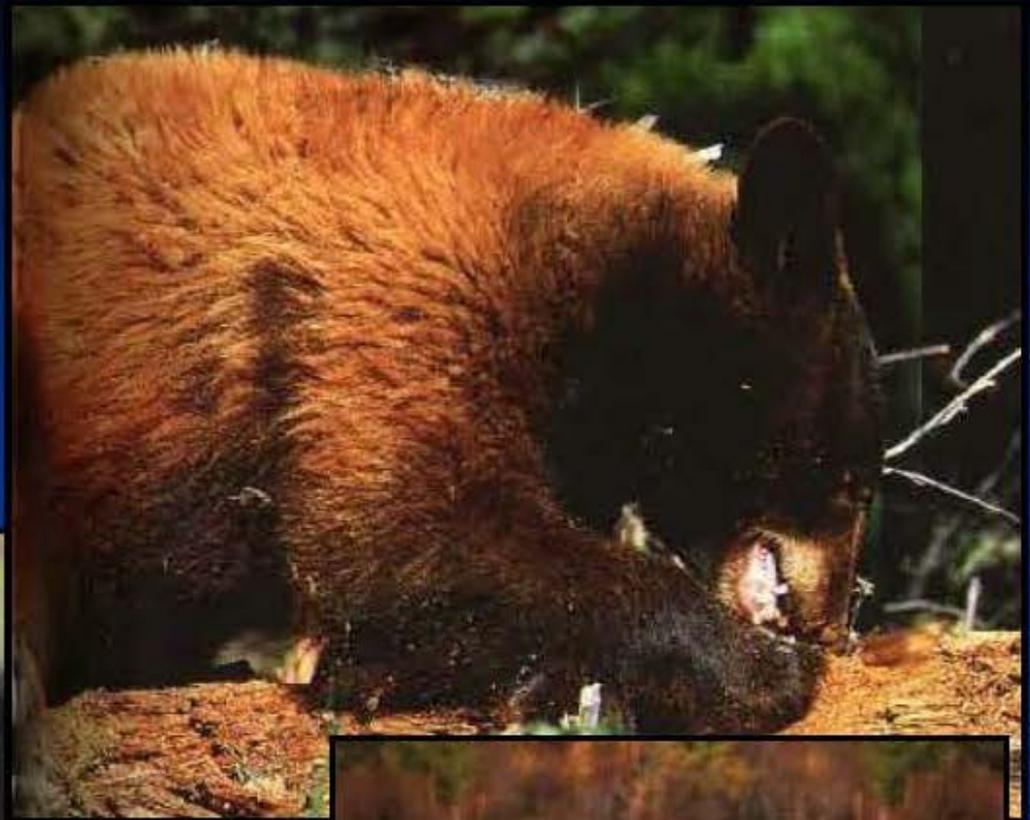
- Relatively high densities

Harvest (5-year avg.)

- Unit 12 – **21** bears/year
- Unit 20E – **17** bears/year
- Sustainable Levels



Black Bears



Sheep

Tok Management Area

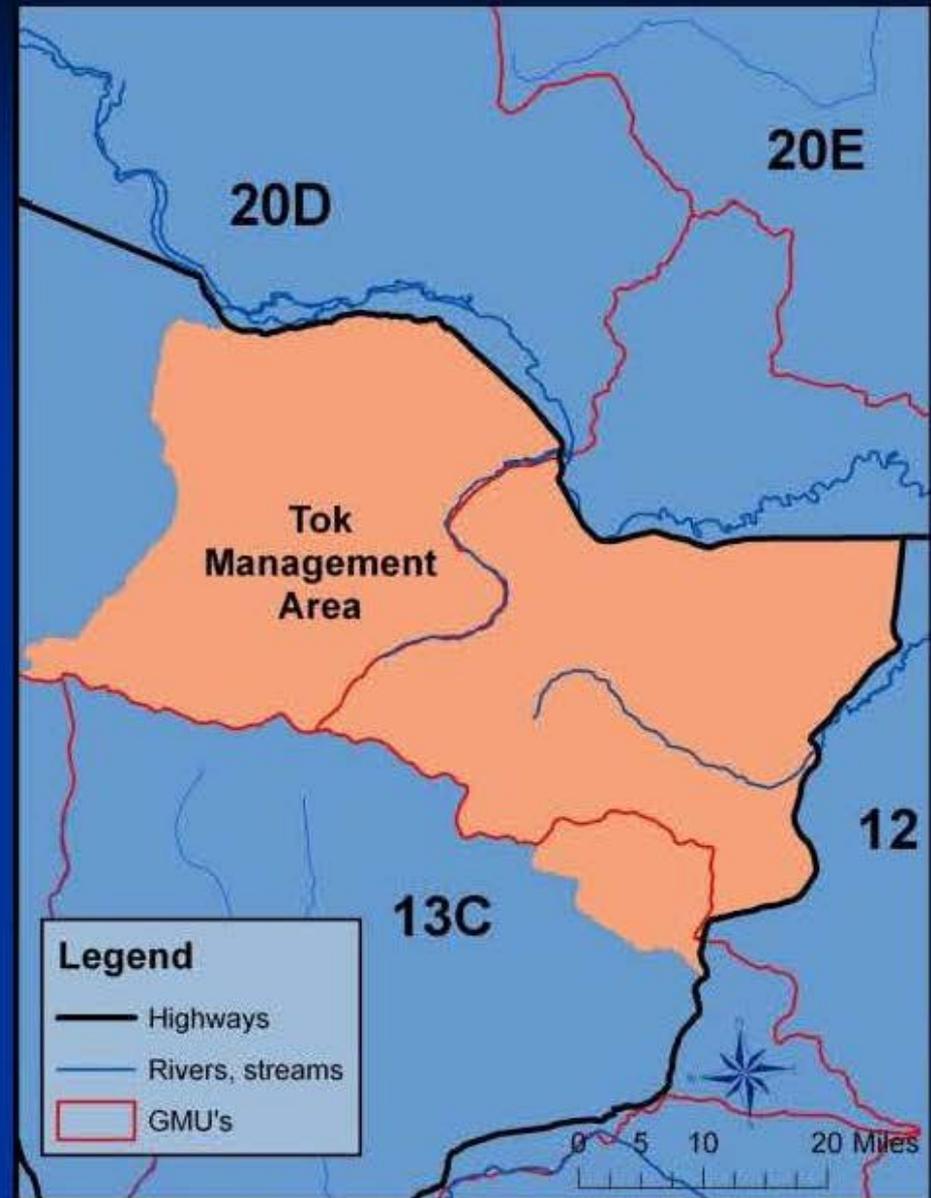
➤ 81 Permits

➤ 30-45 Rams Annually

Mt. Harper Permit Hunt

➤ 4 Permits

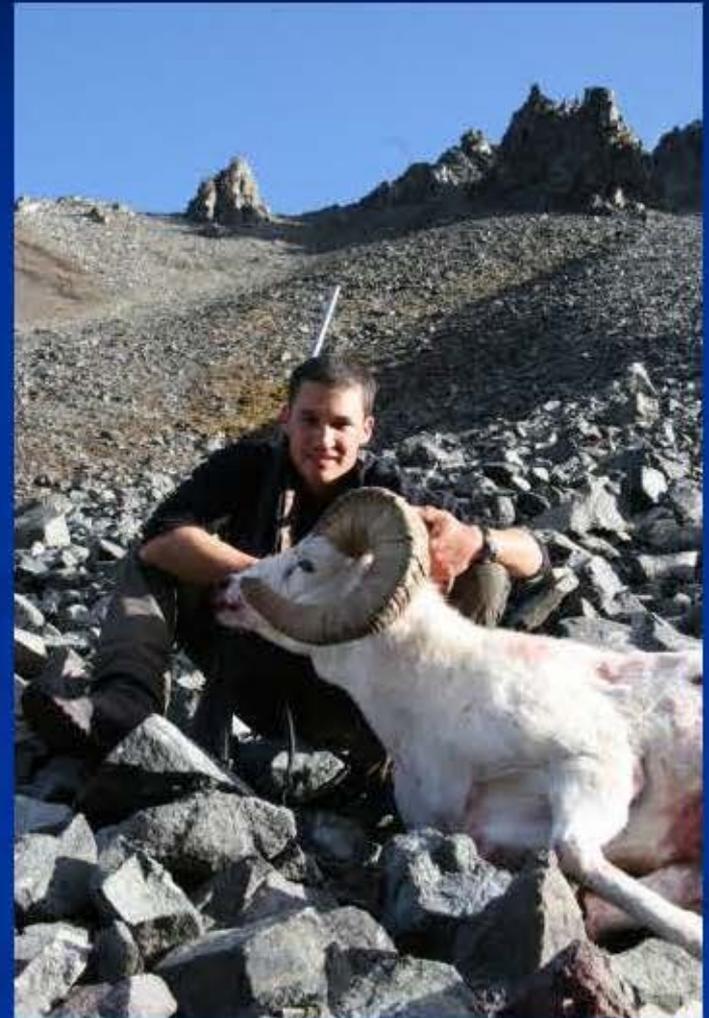
➤ 0-2 Rams Annually



Sheep

Management Activities

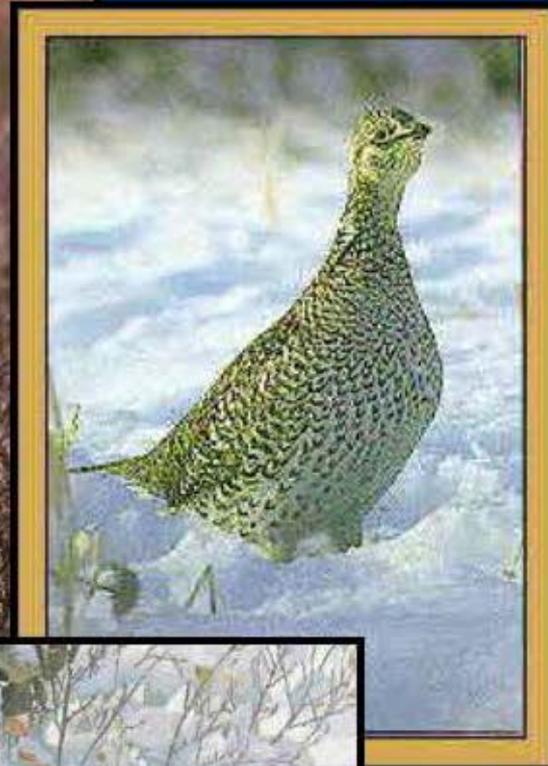
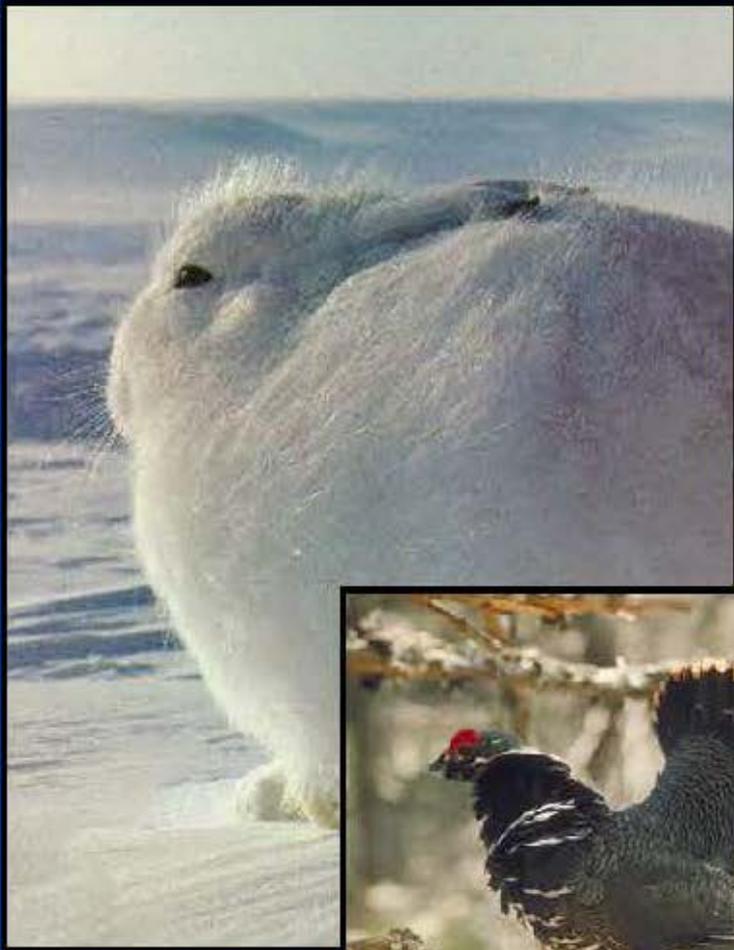
- Annual Survey –TMA
- Periodic Surveys
 - Unit 12 – N. Wrangell Mts.
 - Unit 20E – Tanana Hills
- Seal ~40-60 Rams/Year



Furbearers



Small Game



Proposal 81 – Sheep Tok Management Area (TMA)



Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal:

Part 1: Nonresident drawing process

Part 2: Guide-client agreement requirements



Proposal 81 – Part 1 Sheep Tok Management Area (TMA)



Effect of Proposal: Part 1 – Nonresident drawing process

- 1) Allocate a fixed 10% of TMA permits to nonresidents
 - Up to 50% to second-degree kindred
- 2) Establish separate draw permits for residents and nonresidents for each hunt period
- 3) Revise permit hunt application form to include relation to hunter (for nonresidents hunting with second degree-kindred)

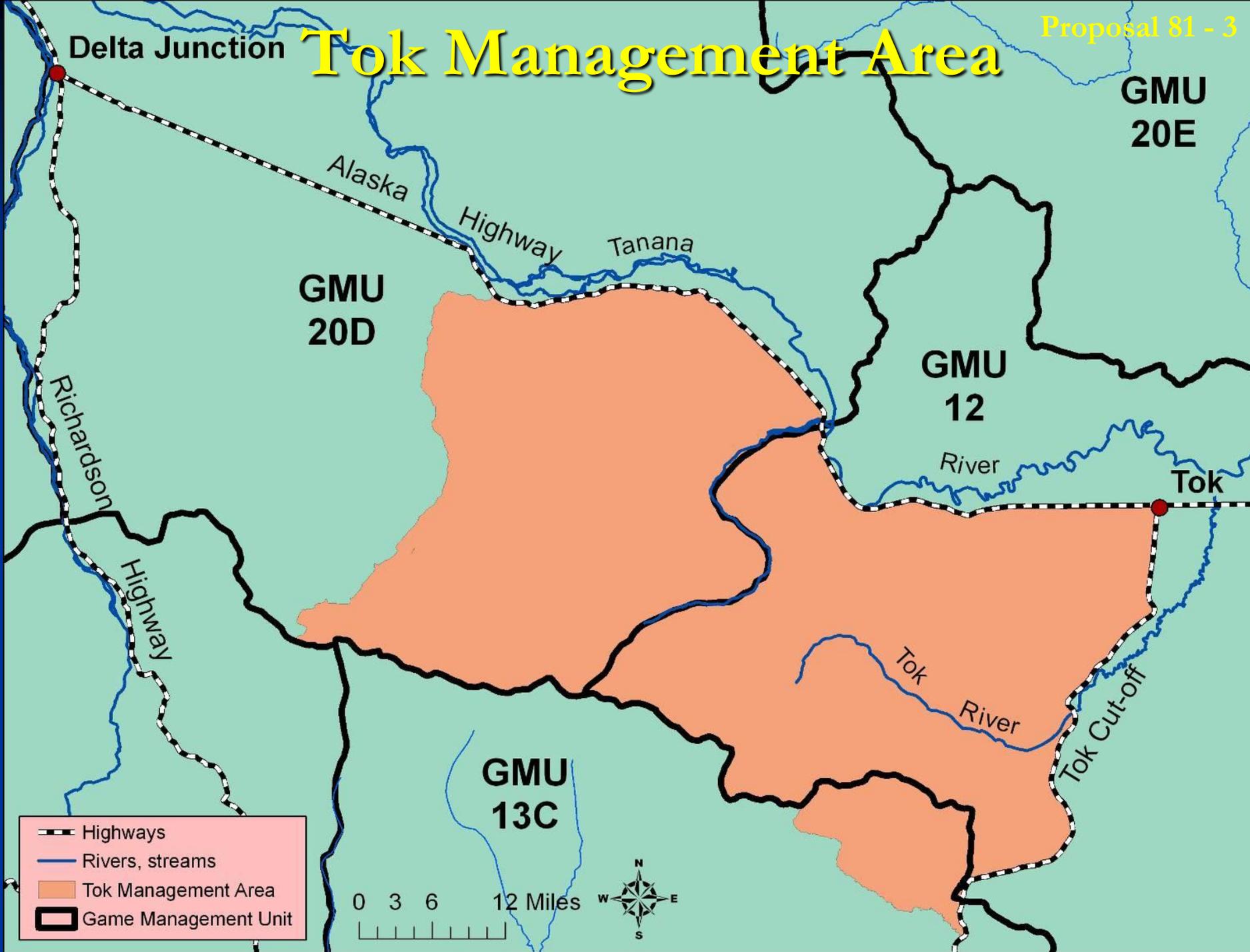
Department Position: Neutral

Allocation issue

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Support



Tok Management Area



Delta Junction

Tok Management Area

GMU
20E

GMU
20D

GMU
12

GMU
13C

Tok

Richardson
Highway

Alaska
Highway
Tanana

River

Tok
River

Tok Cut-off

- Highways
- Rivers, streams
- Tok Management Area
- Game Management Unit

0 3 6 12 Miles



Background

TMA permits are highly sought after

- Over 5500 applicants in 2013

81 permits issued in 2013

- 40 permits for Aug 10 – Aug 25 (DS102)
- 40 permits for Aug 26 – Sept 20 (DS103)
- One Governors Tag

Hunters have <2% chance of receiving a permit



Background – Part 1

In 2007, BOG limited nonresidents to up to 10% of TMA permits

1. All applicants selected at random
2. Until 10% to nonresidents
3. Remaining permits to residents only

Since 2007: 7.5% to 10% to nonresidents

Proposal would allocate nonresidents a fixed 10% of TMA permits

- Little or no impact on harvest



Background – Part 1

Proposal would create separate draw permit for nonresidents

- Board action not necessarily required
- If fixed 10% allocated to nonresidents
 - ADF&G likely would create separate draw permit



Background – Part 1

Currently, nonresidents are required to include either:

1. Name of contracted guide OR
 2. Name of resident relative
- **Proposal: relationship of relative**



Conclusion – Part 1

Nonresident TMA drawing process

- 1) Allocate a **fixed** 10% of TMA permits to nonresidents
 - Up to 50% to second-degree kindred
- 2) **Establish separate draw permits for residents and nonresidents for each hunt period**
- 1) **Revise permit hunt application form to include name of guide or second-degree kindred and **relation to hunter****

Department Position: Neutral

Little or no influence on harvest level

Allocation issue

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Support

Proposal 81 – Part 2

Guide-client agreement requirements within TMA

Effect of proposal:

- 1) Require nonresident applications be submitted by the contracting guide (for those hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide)
- 2) Require a copy of the guide-client agreement be submitted to the Tok ADF&G office prior to the draw application deadline
- 3) Restrict drawing of permits for nonresidents hunting with a registered guide to those with at least one guide use area (GUA) within the TMA both during the year the application is submitted and the year the permit will be valid

Department Position: Defer to March 2014
statewide meeting

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Support

Current Regulations

1) Hunter or guide submits application

- Proposal: guide submits application

2) Completed guide-client agreement before submitting application

- Proposal: submit agreement to Tok ADF&G



Guide Use Area requirement

5 AAC 92.057 states that the department may enter an application for the applicable hunt only to a nonresident that presents proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide who has a guide use area (GUA) on file that is within the drawing hunt area during the season the drawing permit is valid



Guide Use Area requirement

Proposal requires guides have a GUA within the TMA both during the year the application is submitted AND the year the permit will be valid

Example: if applying for a 2015 TMA permit, the guide would be required to have both:

1. GUA within TMA for 2014 AND
2. GUA within TMA for 2015

Guide Use Area requirement

Issues:

- Guide use area selection timeline
- Not regulated by ADF&G
 - ADF&G has no ability to verify GUA selection

As a result, permits have been issued to hunters contracted with guides who do not have a guide use area registered in the TMA at the time of application



Guide Use Area Requirement

Further changes required to remedy problem:

- Significant programming changes
- Timing of application period
- Access to electronic information from DCCED



Cost Analysis

Increased costs to department:

- Review guide-client agreements
- New GUA selection requirements



Conclusion – Part 2

Guide-client agreement requirements

- 1) Require nonresident applications be submitted by the contracting guide (for those hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide)
- 2) Require a copy of the guide-client agreement be submitted to the Tok ADF&G office prior to the draw application deadline
- 3) Restrict drawing of permits for nonresidents hunting with a registered guide to those with at least one guide use area (GUA) within the TMA both during the year the application is submitted and the year the permit will be valid

Department Position: Defer to March 2014 statewide meeting

Proposal 82 – Sheep

Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (Glacier Mountain CUA)



Submitted by:

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal: Prohibit the use of pack animals for hunting or transportation of hunters within the Glacier Mountain CUA during August 5–September 20.

Department Position: Neutral

Allocation issue

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Supports with amendments: limitations apply to sheep hunters only

Current regulations:
Motorized vehicles
prohibited Aug. 5–
Sept. 20

Proposed regulations:
Pack animals also
prohibited Aug. 5–
Sept. 20

Glacier Mountain CUA

Taylor Highway



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



Background

History

- Established as a walk-in only area in 1971
- Pack animals added in 1981

Surveys

- 2012: 159 total sheep, 9 full-curl rams
- 2013: 63 total sheep, 2 full-curl rams



Background - Harvest

1990–2011: average harvest of 1.8 rams per year

(range 0–4)

- 5 hunters reported using pack animals
- Harvested 2 rams

2012: 5 rams harvested

- 3 used pack animals
 - 1 guided hunter

2013: 3 rams harvested

- 2 used pack animals
 - 0 guided hunters



Background

Full-curl regulations designed to protect population

Harvested majority of legal rams in 2013

- 2 legal rams observed during survey
- 3 rams harvested (1 sublegal)

No conservation concerns: allocation issue

- User crowding
- Chance of harvesting full-curl ram



Background

Proposal would affect moose and caribou hunters

- 2003–2012: 4 moose hunters and 16 caribou hunters accessed the area with pack animals



Conclusion

Proposal 82: Prohibit the use of pack animals for hunting, including transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game within the Glacier Mountain CUA during August 5 – September 20.

Allocation issue

Department Position: Neutral

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Supports with amendments: limitations apply to sheep hunters only

Proposal 83 – Bear baiting

Limit guides in Units 12 and 20E



Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Limit guides to two bear bait sites in Units 12 and 20E

Department Position: Neutral

Allocation issue

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Supports with amendments: remove 20E from limitations and increase limit to 4 bait sites per guide in Unit 12.

Units 12 and 20E Regulations

Current Regulations

Guides: 10 bait sites
per guide use area

Non-guides:
2 bait sites

Proposed Regulations

Guides:
2 bait sites

Non-guides:
2 bait sites

Background

Spring 2013 was the first time hunters were allowed to harvest grizzly bears over bait in Units 12 and 20E

Increased interest in bear baiting

- 78% increase in bait sites in Unit 12
 - RY00–RY11 average: 50
 - Spring 2013: 89
- 92% increase in bait sites in Unit 20E
 - RY00–RY11 average: 12
 - Spring 2013: 23

Background

Increase in bait sites registered by guides

- Between 2001–2012, no bait sites registered by guides in Units 12 or 20E
- In 2013:
 - 17 sites (19%) in Unit 12 registered by guides
 - 13 sites (57%) in Unit 20E registered by guides

Complaints of hunter crowding

Competition for bait sites in road-accessible areas

Black bear harvest

No increase in black bear harvest in 2013

- Lower harvest than average
 - Other areas also had decreased harvest
- No conservation concerns



Grizzly bear harvest

Unit 20E objective: temporarily reduce the population

- 2 grizzlies taken over bait in spring 2013
- Harvest ineffective at reducing population

Unit 12 objective: 3 year mean harvest \leq 28 bears per year

- 3 grizzlies taken over bait in spring 2013
- 3 year mean harvest = 23 bears



Conclusion

Proposal 83: Limit guides to two bear bait sites in Units 12 and 20E

No conservation concerns

Allocation issue

Department Position: Neutral

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Supports with amendments: remove 20E from limitations and increase limit to 4 bait sites per guide in Unit 12.

Proposal 84 – Bear baiting

Use of game meat in Units 12 and 20E



Submitted by:

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal: Allow ADF&G to issue permits to use inedible game meat at bear bait sites in Units 12 and 20E

Department Position: Neutral

Board may want to consider this regulation on a statewide basis

Bear Bait Regulations

Current Regulations

Legal bait: Head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested game may be used. Game meat not allowed.

Proposed Regulations

Would add as legal bait:
Allow use of game, furnished by the state, as bait in Units 12 and 20E.

Trapping bait:
Currently allowed under 5 AAC 92.040

Trapping Bait – 5 AAC 92.040

The department may issue a permit to take furbearers by trapping with the use of game, furnished by the state, as bait.

- Nonedible meat and fish
- Natural mortality (e.g. predation) OR
- Unnatural mortality (e.g. road kill)

Tok issues an average of 6 permits/year

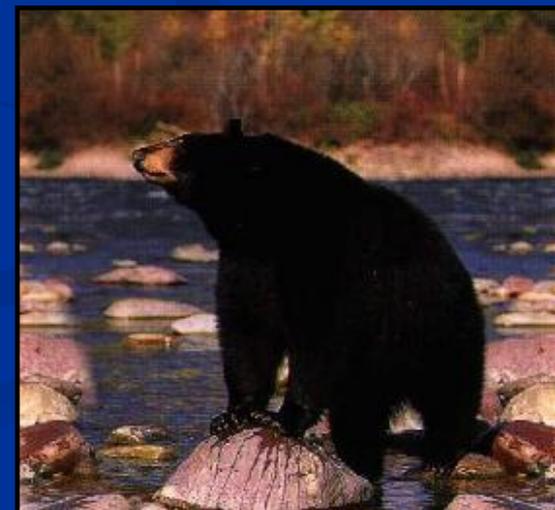
Background – Black Bears

Black bear harvest during 2001–2012

- Average harvest of 18 bears at 53 bait sites in Unit 12
- Average harvest of 3 black bears at 14 bait sites in Unit 20E

Use of game meat would likely have little influence on black bear harvest

No conservation concerns



Background – Grizzly bears



Grizzly bear harvest in spring 2013

- 3 harvested over bait in Unit 12
- 2 harvested over bait in Unit 20E

Use of game meat would likely have little influence on grizzly bear harvest

No conservation concerns

Conclusion

Proposal 84: Allow ADF&G to issue permits to use game meat not fit for human consumption at bear bait sites in Units 12 and 20E

No conservation concerns

Department Position: Neutral

Proposal 86 – Moose

Implement antler restrictions within the Robertson River drainage Units 12 and 20D



Submitted by:

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal: Restrict resident moose hunters' bag limit within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of the West Fork and the East Fork to bulls with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Department Position: Oppose

Upper Tanana/40mile AC: Withdrew proposal

Delta Junction AC: Oppose



Robertson River

**GMU
20D**

West Fork Robertson River

East Fork Robertson River

**GMU
12**

**GMU
13C**

Alaska Highway



Background

Local residents concerned about number of hunters and harvest

- Average harvest has increased from 3 (1992–2001) to 8 (2002–2012)

Unit 12 portion of Robertson River

- 43 bulls:100 cows in 2008
- 24 bulls:100 cows in 2012 (only 4 units surveyed)

2013 survey included Units 12 and 20D

- 33 bulls:100 cows
- Above the objective set for both Units 12 and 20D

Conclusion

Proposal 86: Restrict resident moose hunters' bag limit to bulls with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

This proposal would unnecessarily reduce opportunity for Alaskan residents to harvest moose in the Robertson River drainage

Department Position: Oppose

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC: Withdrew support

Delta Junction AC: Oppose



Proposal 87

Submitted by: ADF&G

Effect of the proposal: Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan in 92.113 for predation control in Upper Yukon Tanana Predation Control Area

ADF&G Position: Support

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Supports with amendment to reimplement bear control (Proposal 88)

Current vs. Proposed comparison:

- **Current regulation:**
 - **An Intensive Management Plan exists for Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Area and expires in June 2014**
- **Proposed regulation:**
 - **Would re-authorize the Upper Yukon/Tanana Intensive Management Plan (92.113)**
 - **Retain FCH and Wolves**
 - **Remove Moose**
 - **Bears not included**
 - **For 6 years, expiring June 30, 2020**

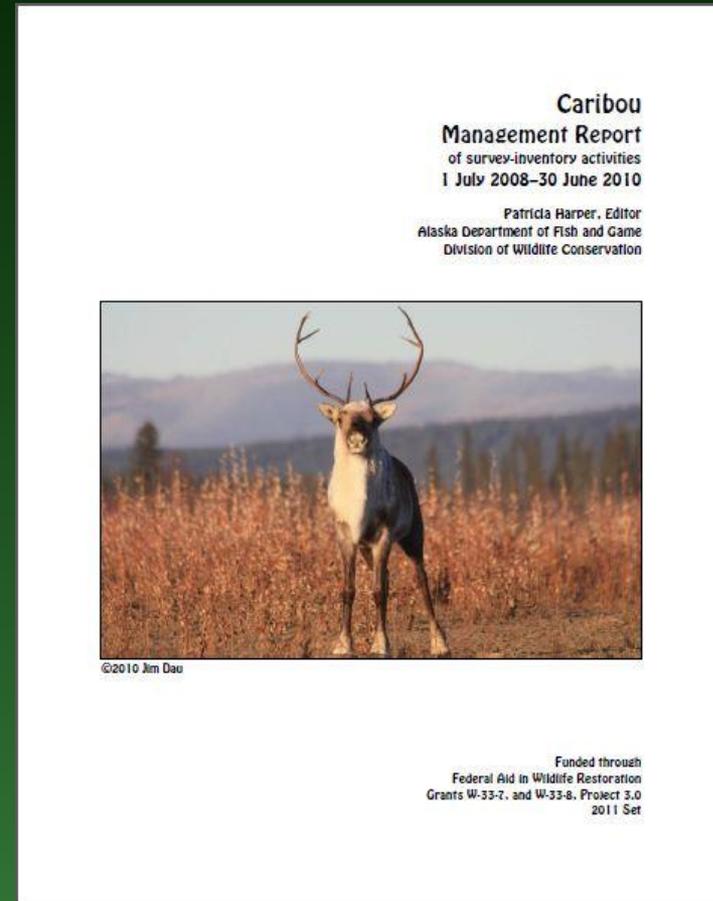
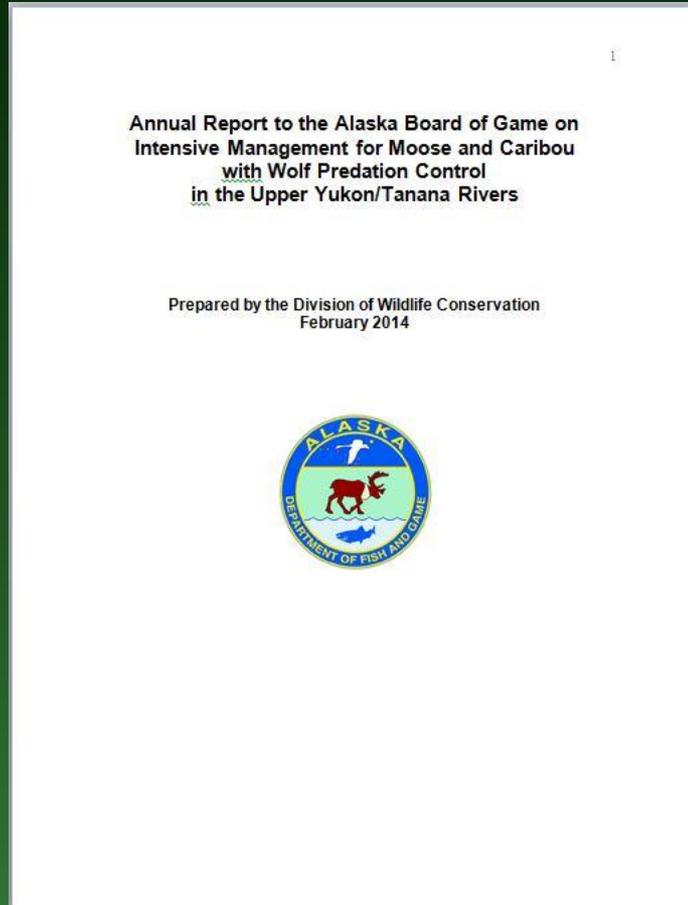
Upper Yukon/Tanana Intensive Management

- Program first authorized in 2004
- Updates/reauthorizations of this plan occurred in Jan 2006, May 2006, and March 2009.
- Grizzly bear baiting in 2005–2009
- Expansion to include FCH range in 2006
- Aerial public wolf control spring 2005 – present
- Department wolf control with helicopters since spring 2009

Research

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- HAYES, R. D., R. FARNELL, R. M. P. WARD, J. CAREY, M. DEHN, G. W. KUZYK, A. M. BAER, C. L. GARDNER, AND M. O'DONOGHUE. 2003. Experimental reduction of wolves in the Yukon: Ungulate responses and management implications. *Wildlife Monographs* 152:1–35.

Additional References



www.adfg.alaska.gov

Operation Plan

**OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT
OF THE FORTYMILE CARIBOU HERD IN GAME
MANAGEMENT UNITS 12, 20B, 20D, 20E AND 25C
DURING REGULATORY YEARS 2014–2019**

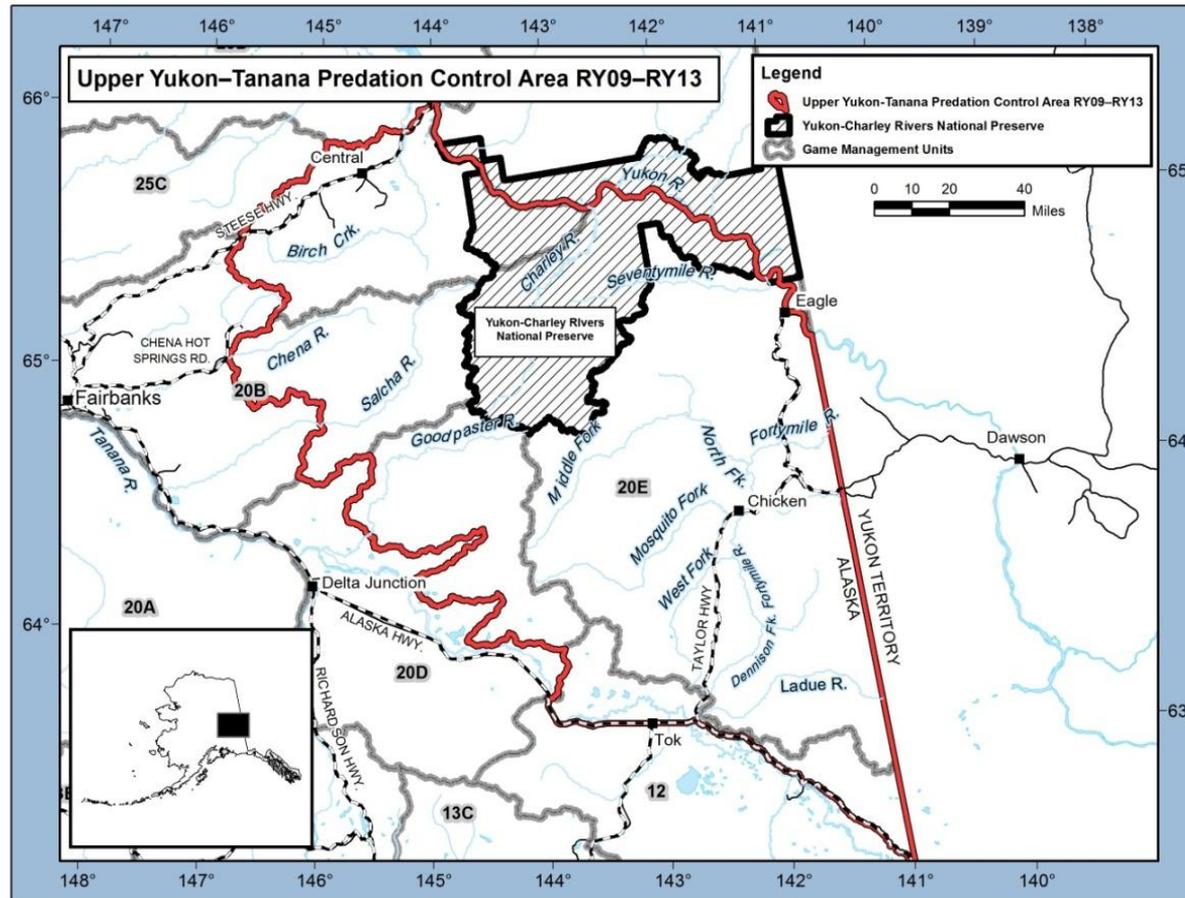


Prepared by:

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

February 2014

Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Area



Fortymile Herd Population

- FCH added to the IM Program in 2006
 - 2006 Pop Est. = **43,837** (modeled)
 - Successful Photocensus in 2009 and 2010 only
 - 2009 Census = 46,510
 - 2010 Census = 51,675
 - Current population likely between **50,000 – 52,000** based on all population data collected through fall 2013.

COMPARISON OF FCH POPULATION ESTIMATES AND IM OBJECTIVE

FCH - 2013 Pop Est

2010 Census = 51,675

2013 likely 50-52,000

FCH - IM Pop Obj

50,000 – 100,000



2012–2018 FCH Harvest Management Plan

- Guides Harvest Management
- Harvest Management Coalition
 - International Planning Team
- Goal:
 - Promote herd growth without compromising herd health.
- Harvest Objective:
 - 2-3% annual harvest rate

FCH Harvest 2006 - 2013

Reg. Year	Reported Alaska Harvest
2006–2007	864
2007–2008	1,032
2008–2009	907
2009–2010	1,094
2010–2011	729
2011–2012	1,084
2012–2013	1,306
2013–2014	1,165

COMPARISON OF FCH HARVEST AND IM OBJECTIVE

FCH-2013 Harvest

Total Alaska = 1,165

FCH-IM Harvest Obj

1,000 – 15,000



FCH Nutrition Indices

- Parturition Rates
- Fall calf weights
- Seasonal movements
- Range expansion

Fortymile Caribou Herd: Increasing Numbers, Declining Nutrition, and Expanding Range

WILDLIFE TECHNICAL BULLETIN 14

RODNEY D. BOERTJE
CRAIG L. GARDNER
KALIN A. KELLIE
BRIAN D. TARAS



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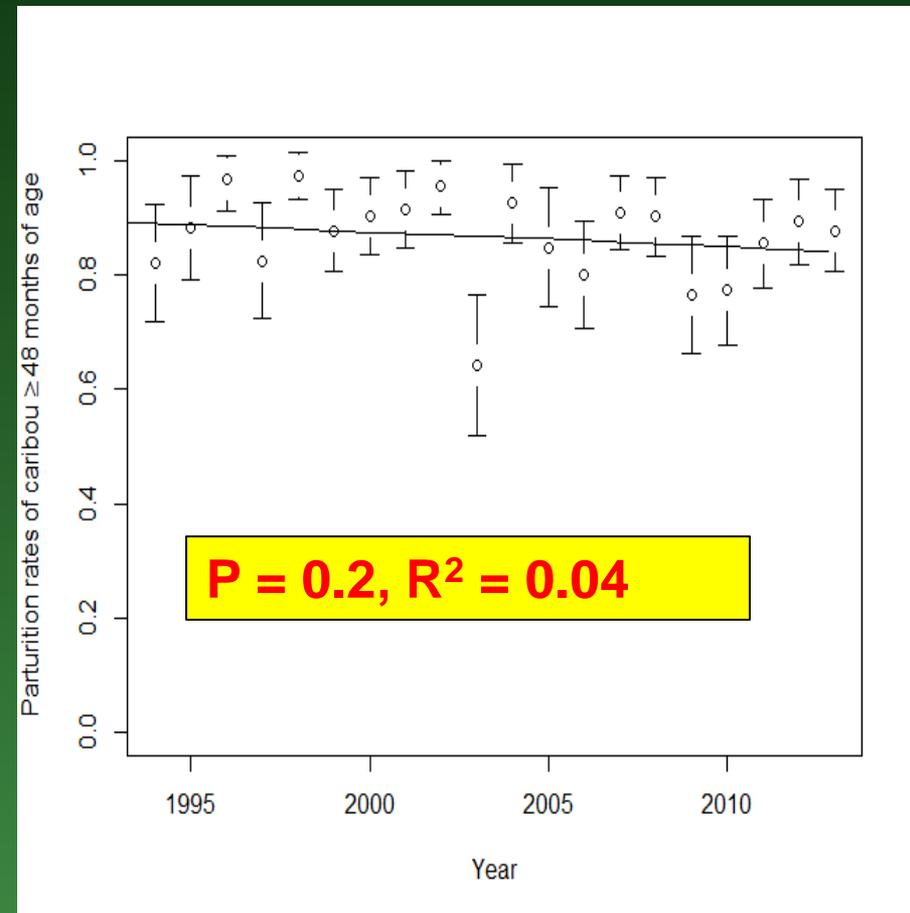
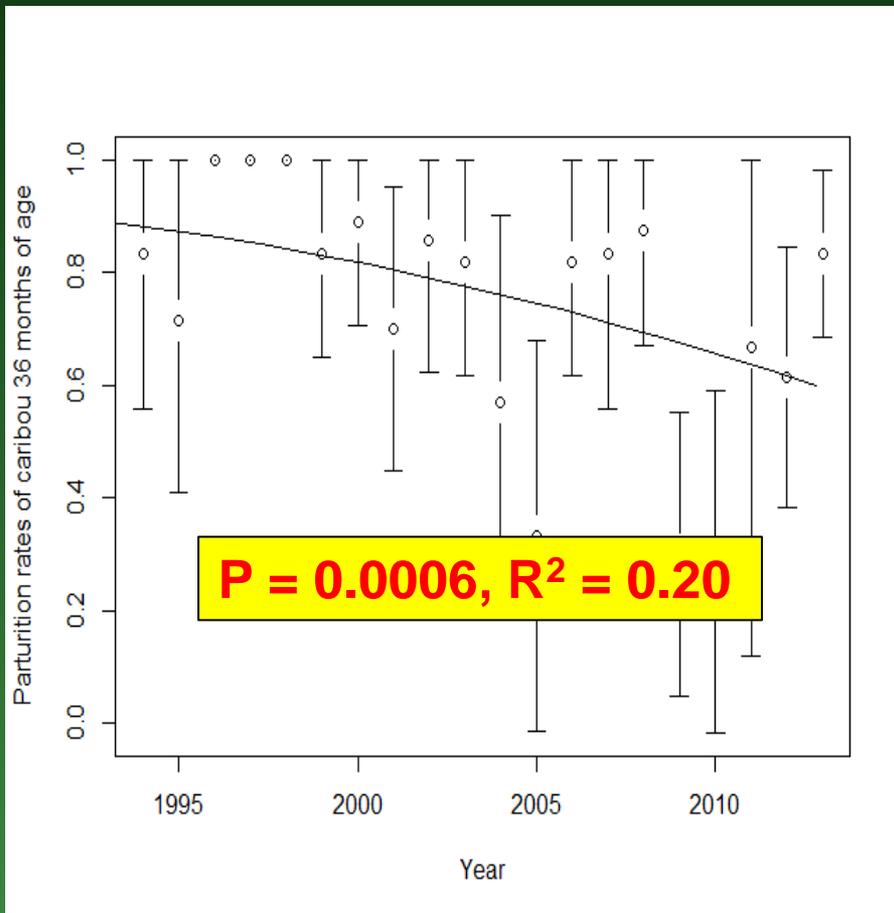
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation

2012

FCH Parturition 1994–2013

36-month cows
Declined

≥48-month cows
Stable



Parturition as nutritional index

36-mo. more sensitive indicator

- Valkenberg et al 2003
- Bergerud et al. 2008

5-yr moving avg

- >60% sufficient
- 55-60% cautionary
- <55% nutrition may be compromised – alert HMC
- 2+ yrs <55% stabilization considered

2009-2013 Avg. = 59%

- Caution – Monitor Closely

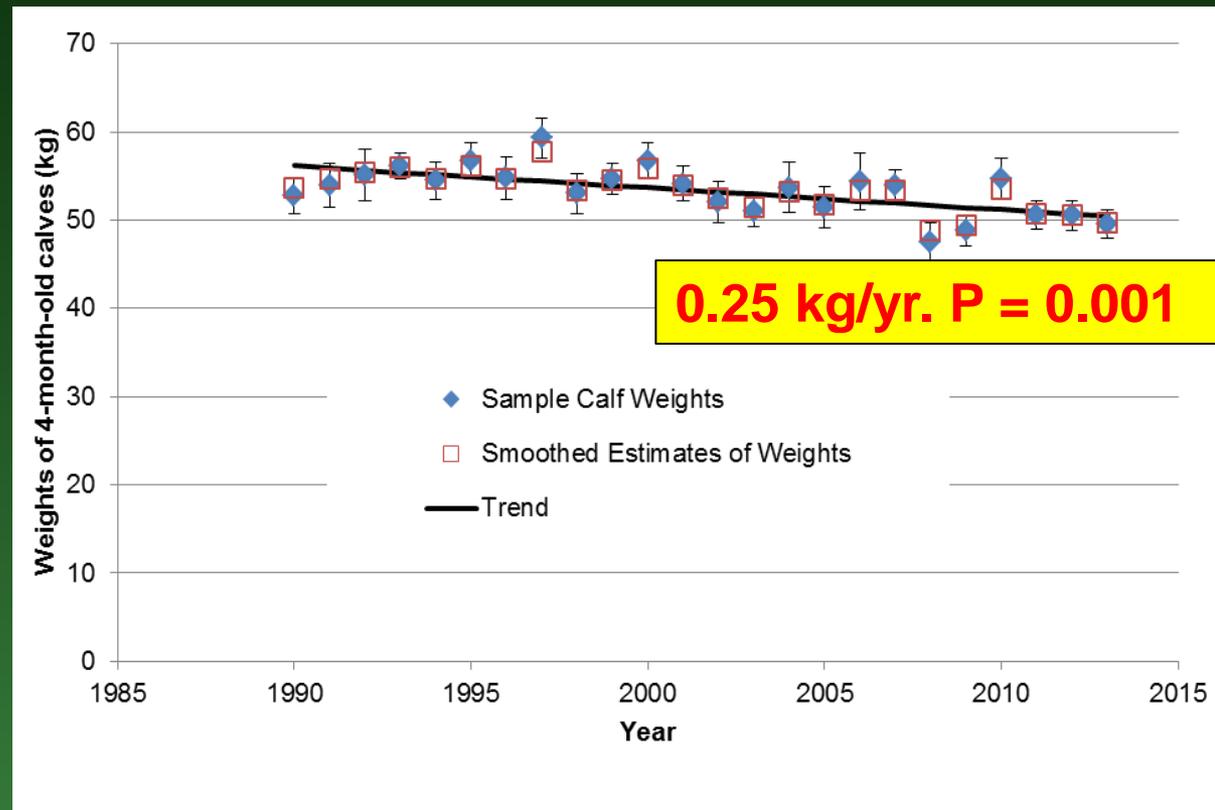
Year	Parturition Rate (%)
2006	82 (n=11)
2007	83 (n=6)
2008	88 (n=8)
2009	30 (n=10)
2010	29 (n=7)
2011	67 (n=3)
2012	62 (n=13)
2013	83 (n=18)

\bar{x} (5-yr)
= **59%**

FCH Fall Calf Weights 1994–2013

(4-month old females)

- Weights declined
- Will not be used as sole index for management decisions
- Still be considered



Range Expansion – Fall 2013

- **Since mid-2000s - White Mountains**
- **2013 - Expanding further in Yukon**
 - **Dempster Highway Area**
 - **Earlier than previous years**
 - **October rut period**
 - **Yukon hunt closures**
 - **Mixing with PCH and several smaller mountain herds**
 - **Outside documented range to northeast**

- Remained through winter
- Herd likely exploring for new range

**Fortymile Herd Tombstone
Territorial Park, YK (Oct. 2013)**

Picture by Allan Code



FCH Nutritional Status

- **Decline indices = cautionary signals**
- **Recent range expansion could provide some relief**
- **Close monitoring of herd**
- **Continue to manage for herd growth based on Boertje et al. 2012 recommendations**
- **Consider risk of continued herd growth.**
- **Herd stabilization could be necessary if nutrition continues to decline**

Calf Survival and Herd Composition 2006-2013

Calf predation by wolves

- First 5-6 weeks of life
- Primary Factor Limiting Growth
 - Boertje and Gardner (1998, 2000)
 - Boertje et al. 2008

Reduction in wolf predation

- Recruitment could increase
 - allocate to growth or harvest

Fall Calf:Cow Ratios

- Avg 31:100 (range 22-37)

Bull:Cow Ratio > mid-30s

- Harvest sustainable

Year	Calves: 100 COWS	Bulls: 100 COWS
2006	34	43
2007	37	36
2008	33	37
2009	34	59
2010	32	43
2011	25	42
2012	22	40
2013	28	38

Other Mortality Factor

Other Predators

- Minor relative to wolf predation
 - Boertje and Gardner (1998, 2000)
 - Boertje et al. 2008

Disease – not limiting

- Zarnke 2001
- 2012 Samples – pending analysis
 - No obvious signs observed – all available information

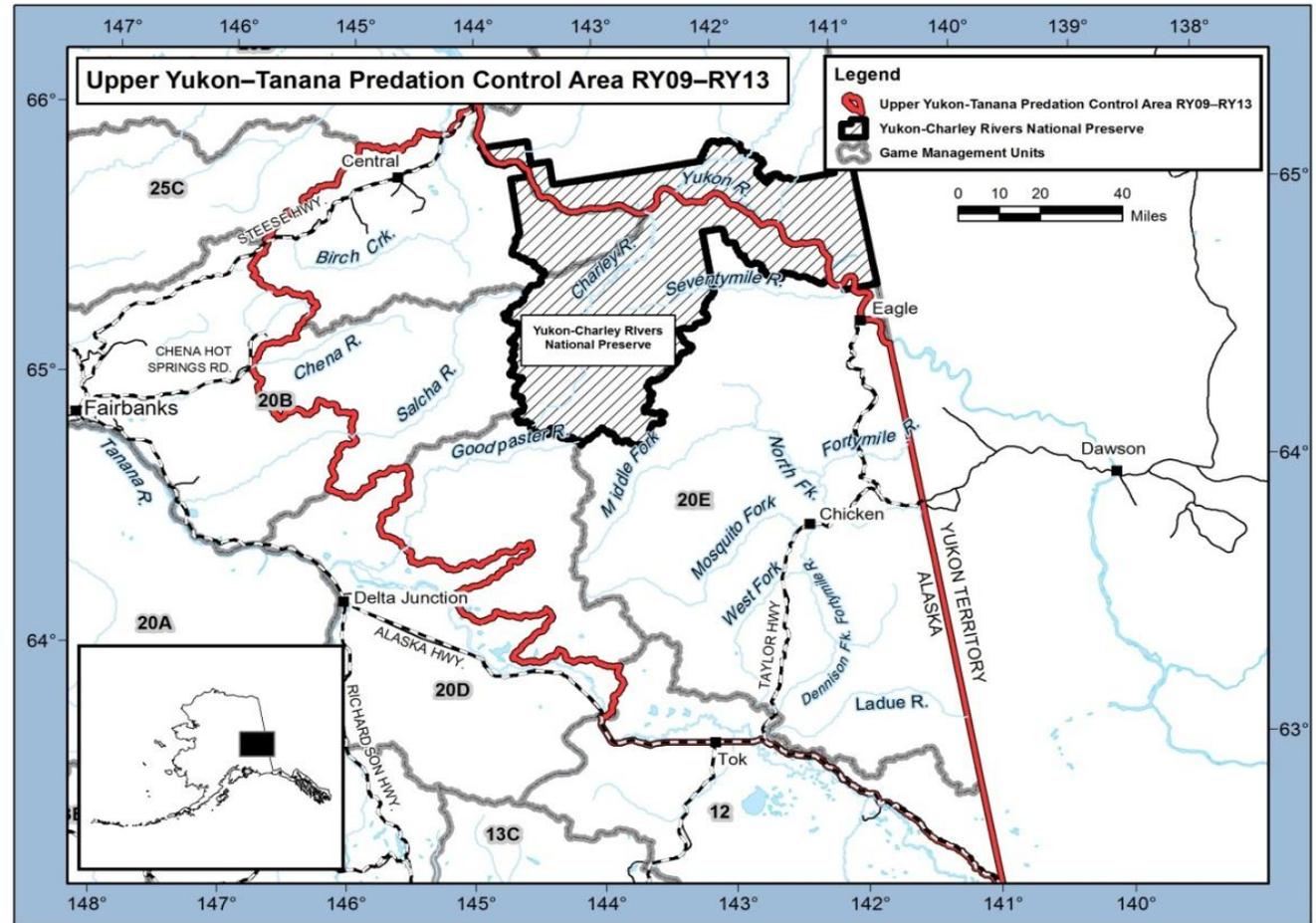
Weather – freq. of severe weather events low

- Not identified as limiting
 - Boertje and Gardner (1998, 2000)
 - Boertje et al. 2008
 - Boertje et al. 2012

Wolf Population

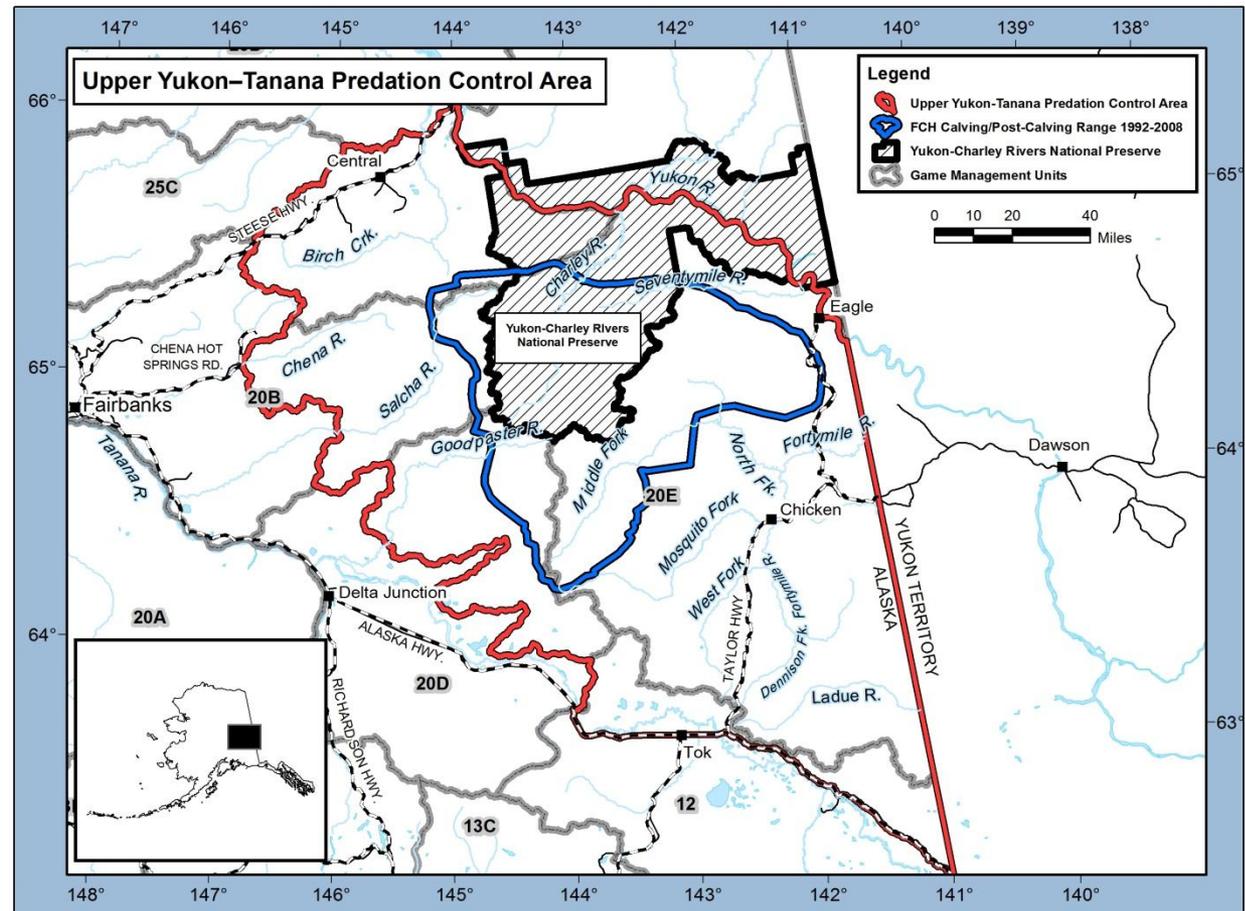
(Entire Control Area-18,750 mi²)

- **Fall 2004**
(Pre-control)
 - 350-410
- **Fall 2013**
 - 338-373



Wolves in Packs Overlapping FCH Calving/Post-Calving Range (4,646 mi²)

- **Fall 2004**
(Pre-control)
- **180 (150-210)**



Wolf Removal/Reduction

(Entire 18,750 mi² Control Area)

R/Y	Hunt Trap	Public control	Dept Control	Total removal	Spring abundance (range)	% reduction from pre-control
2006	73	23	N/A	103	259 (197-322)	32
2007	57	27	N/A	98	284 (268-300)	25
2008	82	49	84	226	146	62
2009	31	10	15	60	175	54
2010	26	25	0	62	212 (200-223)	44
2011	62	8	56	145	184 (170-197)	52
2012	41	78	40	171	215 (197-232)	43
AVG	53	31	39	124	211 (193-228)	45

Wolf Reductions in Packs Overlapping FCH Calving/Post-Calving Range (4,646 mi²)

Ry	Spring abundance (range)	% reduction in wolves from packs overlapping FCH Calving/Post-Calving Range
2008	146	69
2009	175	71
2011	184 (170-197)	62
2012	215 (197-232)	84
AVG	211 (193-228)	72

Wolf Objectives

- **Control Objective:** No fewer than 88–103 wolves by May 1 of each year
- **Department effort to focus on:** Reduce wolves in packs with territories that overlap the calving/post calving range by 60-80% of the pre-control levels

Wolf Control Focused on Calving Range

- Targeting wolf predation on calves in first 5-6 weeks of life.
 - Primary Factor Limiting FCH growth
- Reduced predation anticipate if desired reductions achieved
- Magnitude of reduction uncertain
 - Calf Mort Study needed to further evaluate reductions in calf mortalities under this program
- Allow for further evaluation of program

Wolf Control Decision Framework

- Management actions may be required if FCH nutrition continues to decline
 - Stabilize or reduce – with increased harvest
 - Suspend wolf control if harvest insufficient
- Increased caribou harvest in lieu of herd growth
 - With wolf control – reallocate caribou from wolves to harvest
 - Without wolf control – likely at a reduced level of caribou harvest
 - IM Operational Plan
 - Continued wolf control to maximize hunter harvest
 - Suspend wolf control if harvest insufficient

Wolf Control Decision Framework (continued)

Wolf Control will be suspended if:

- Herd nutrition becomes compromised and herd stabilization or reduction is unsuccessful through harvest alone
- The FCH exceeds 100,000 caribou and herd growth cannot be stabilized or reduced through harvest alone
- Reported harvest of the FCH $>15,000$

Area-wide wolf numbers currently near pre-control levels. Anticipated recovery in all areas in no more than 3-years if control efforts cease.

Proposal 87

- **Effect of the proposal:** Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan in 92.113 for predation control in Upper Yukon Tanana Predation Control Area through June 2020.
- **ADF&G Position:** Support
- **Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC:** Supports with amendment to reimplement bear control (Proposal 88)

Questions?

Fortymile Herd Tombstone Territorial Park, YK (Oct. 2013)

Picture by Allan Code





RC 2

Proposal 88 – Re-implement brown bear control portion of the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Program in southern Unit 20E, with modifications.

Submitted by: Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC

Effect of Proposal: Allow take of any brown or black bear by foot or bucket snare, and allow same-day-airborne take of bears at bait sites and sale of hides, skulls and claws. Intended to reduce grizzly bear predation on moose calves.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Supports

ADF&G Position: Neutral



Proposal 88 –UYTPCP Bear Control Unit 20E.

ADF&G Position: Neutral

Considerations:

- Require more than a public effort
 - Department participation
 - Contracting with trappers
- R III - Personnel and Funding being fully utilized
- Feasibility Assessment

Unit 20E – IM Moose Population and Harvest Objectives

- Population Objective

- 8,000–10,000

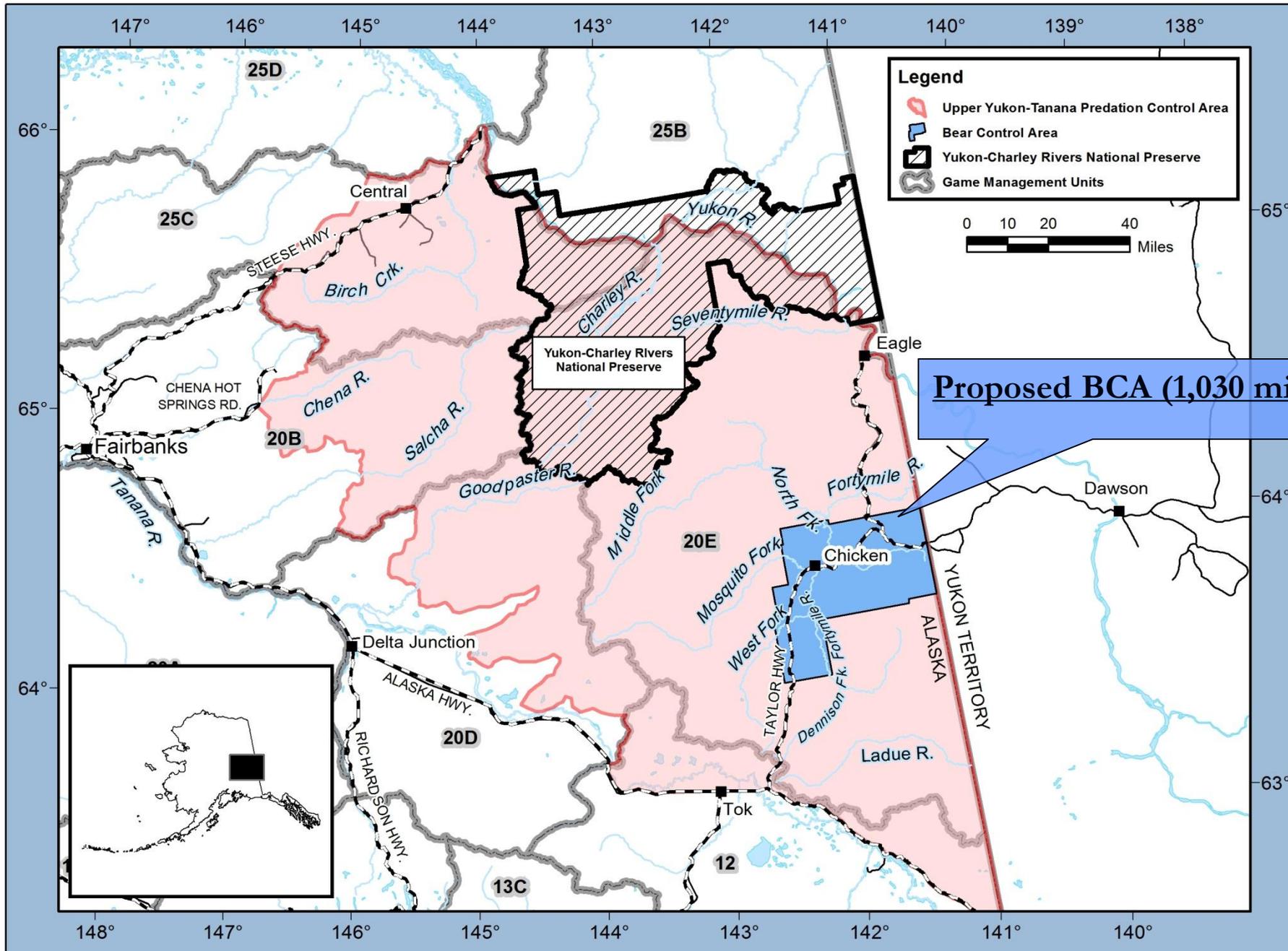
- Harvest Objective

- 500–1,000

Unit 20E – IM Moose Objectives

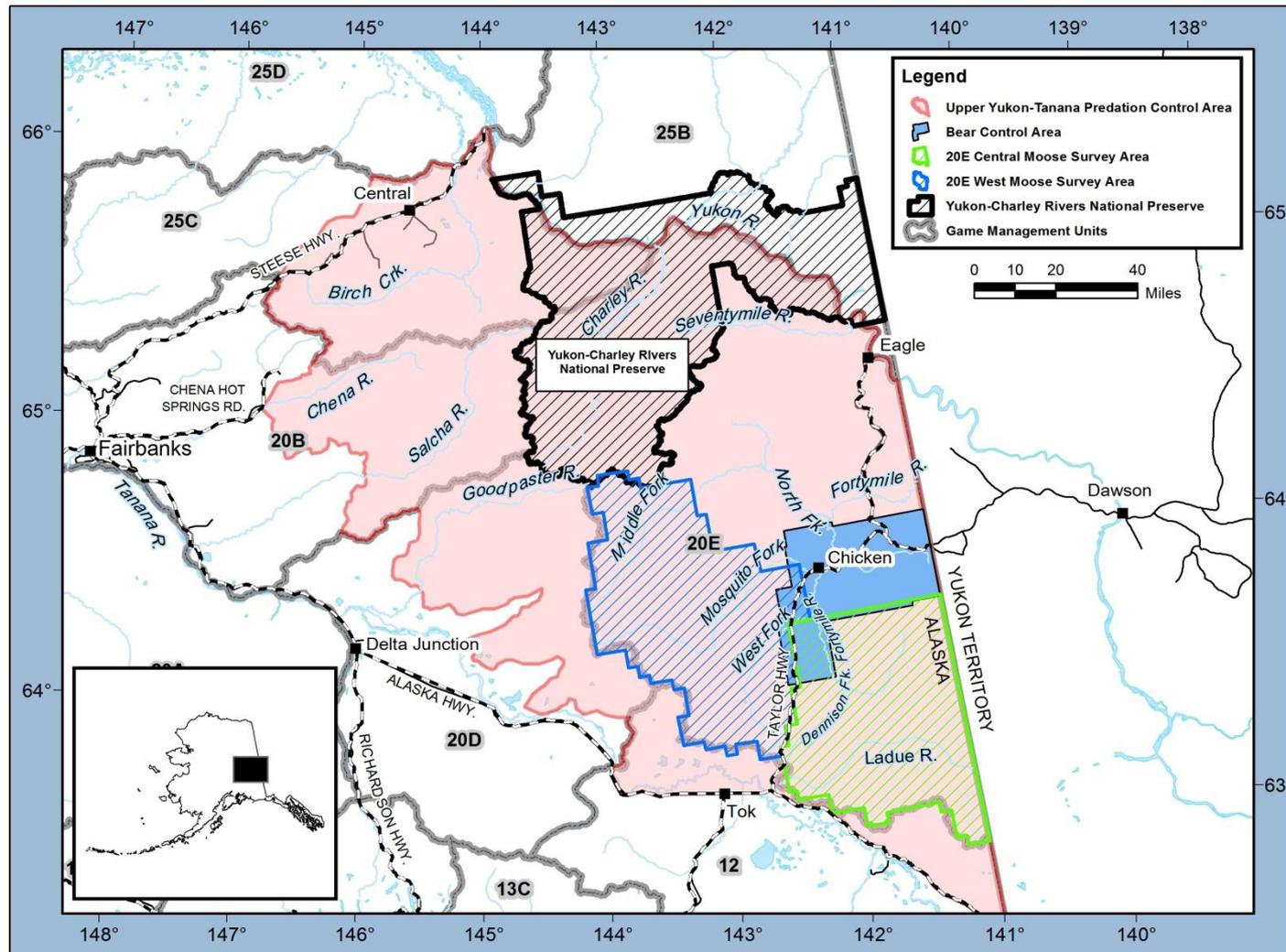
- **Population Objective (8,000–10,000 moose)**
 - **2012** Unit-wide Population Est. = 4,034–6,084
 - IM Objective Not Being Met

- **Harvest Objective (500–1,000 moose)**
 - **RY08–RY12** Unit-wide Harvest = 164 – 186 annually
 - IM Objective Not Being Met



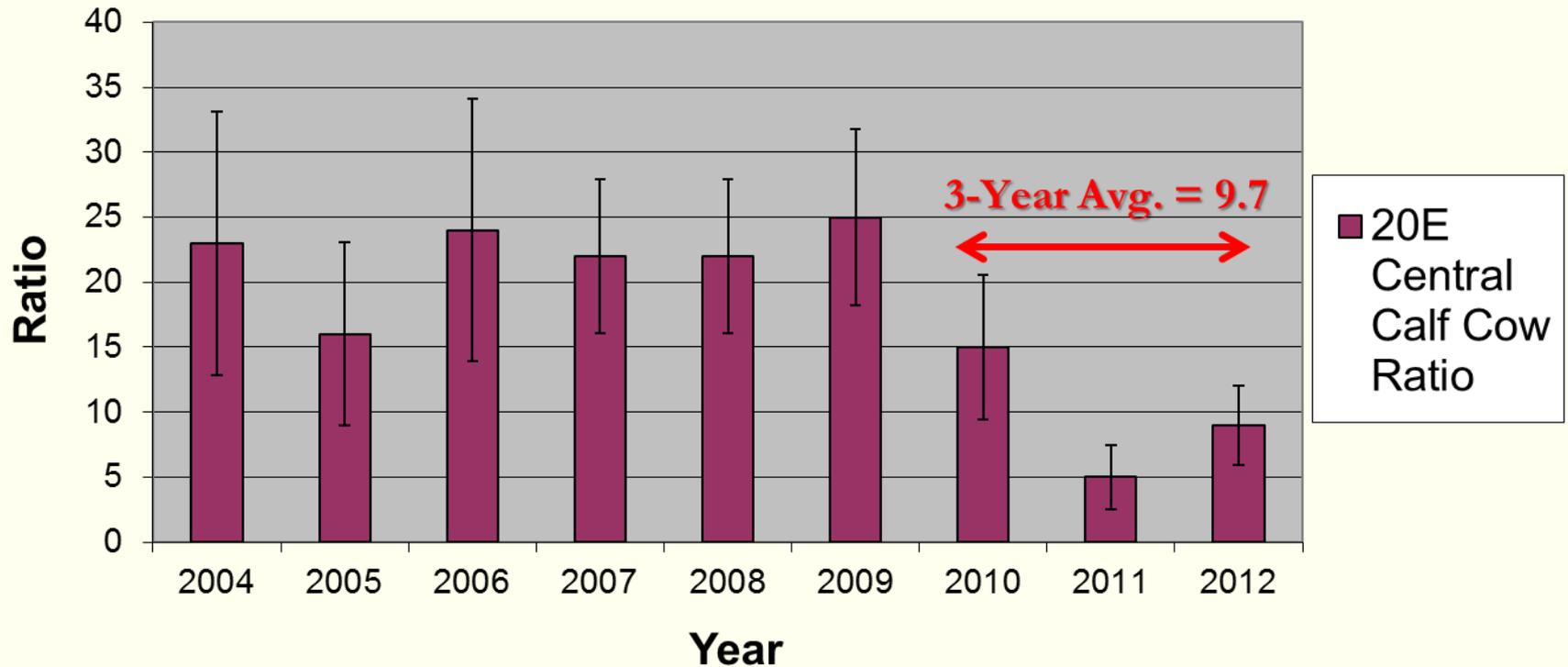
Proposed BCA (1,030 mi²)

Unit 20E Moose Survey Areas (2004 – 2012)



Moose Calf:Cow Ratio

**Unit 20E Tok Central Moose Survey Results 2004-2012
Calf:Cow Ratios**

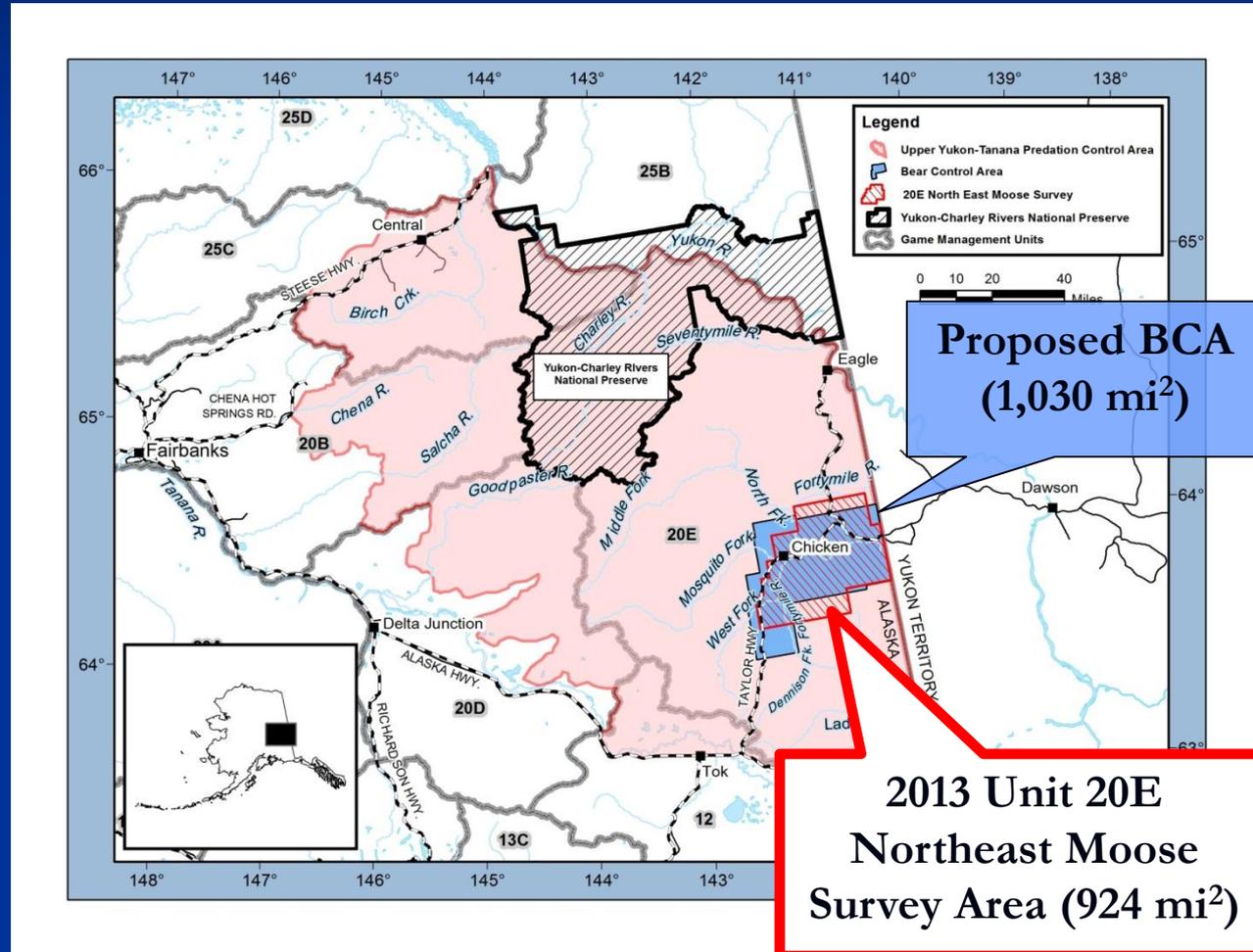


2013 Unit 20E Fall Moose Survey

Est. # moose = 694
(90% CI \pm 15%)

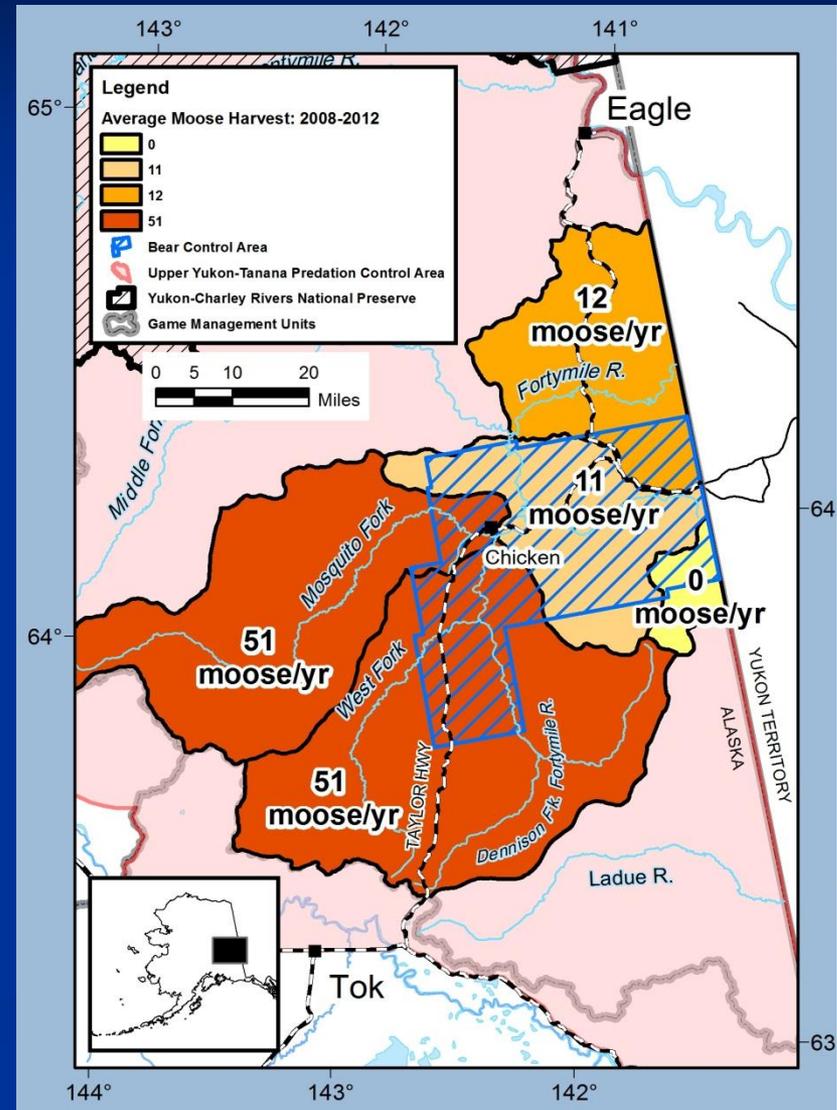
Density Est. = 0.75
(90% CI \pm 15%)

Calf:Cow = 17
(90% CI \pm 18%)



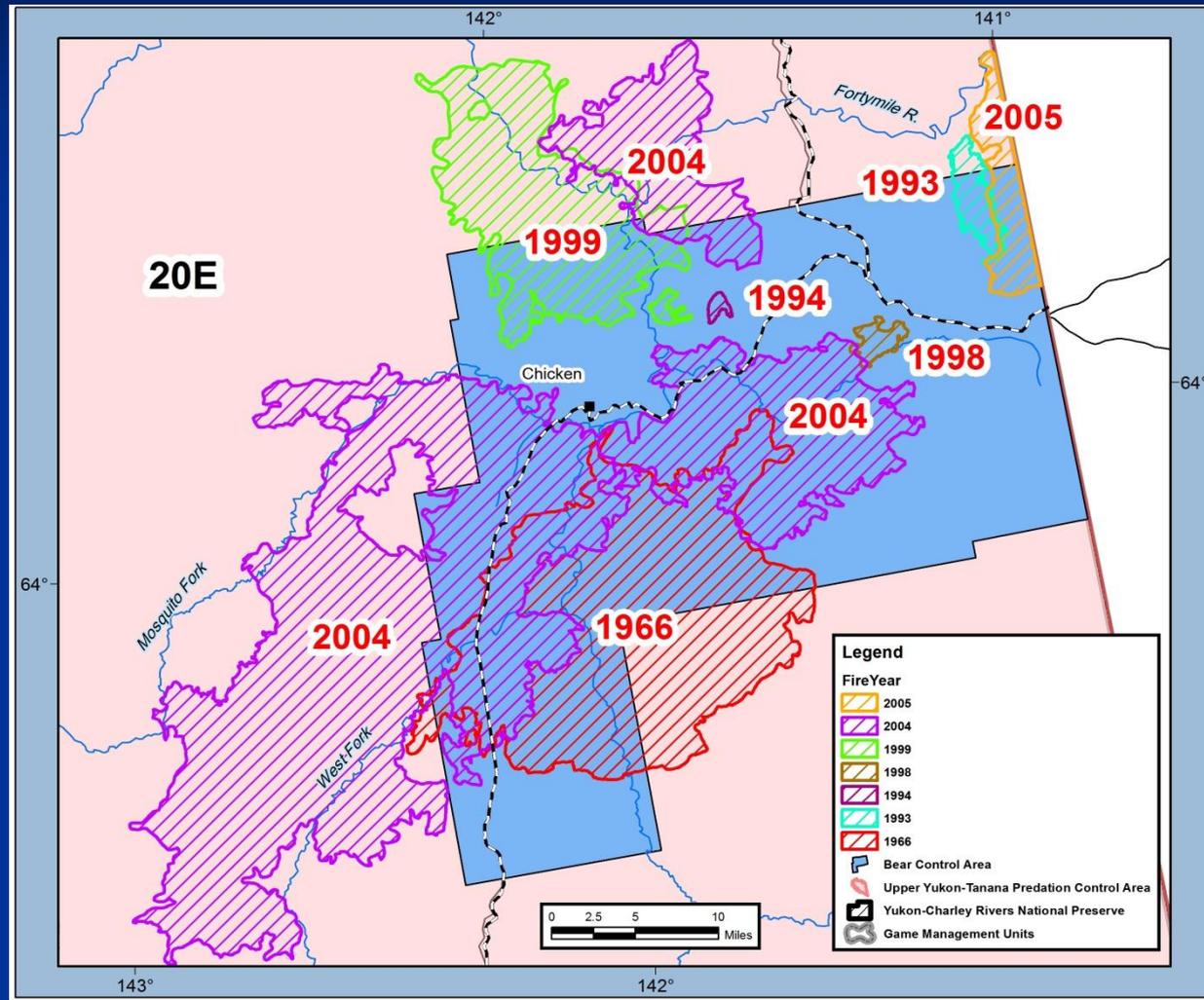
Moose Harvest

- Multiple UCUs difficult to determine exact harvest
- Overlaps areas of highest harvest in Unit 20E
- Likely (5-years) Avg. = **40-50/yr.**



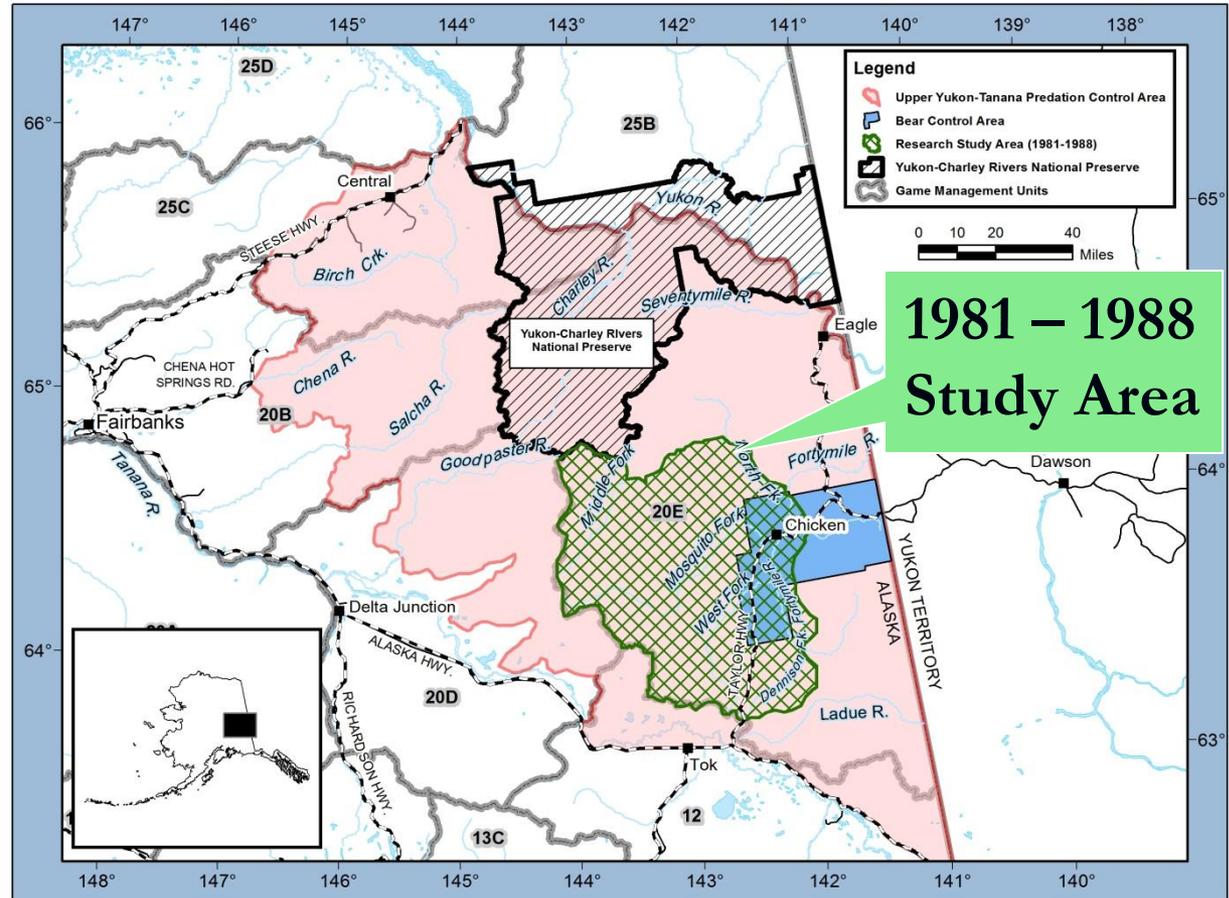
Fire/Habitat

- 1966 Burn
 - 229 mi² burned (22% of BCA)
- 1993 – 2003
 - 71 mi² burned (7% of BCA)
- Since 2004
 - 324 mi² burned (31% of BCA)



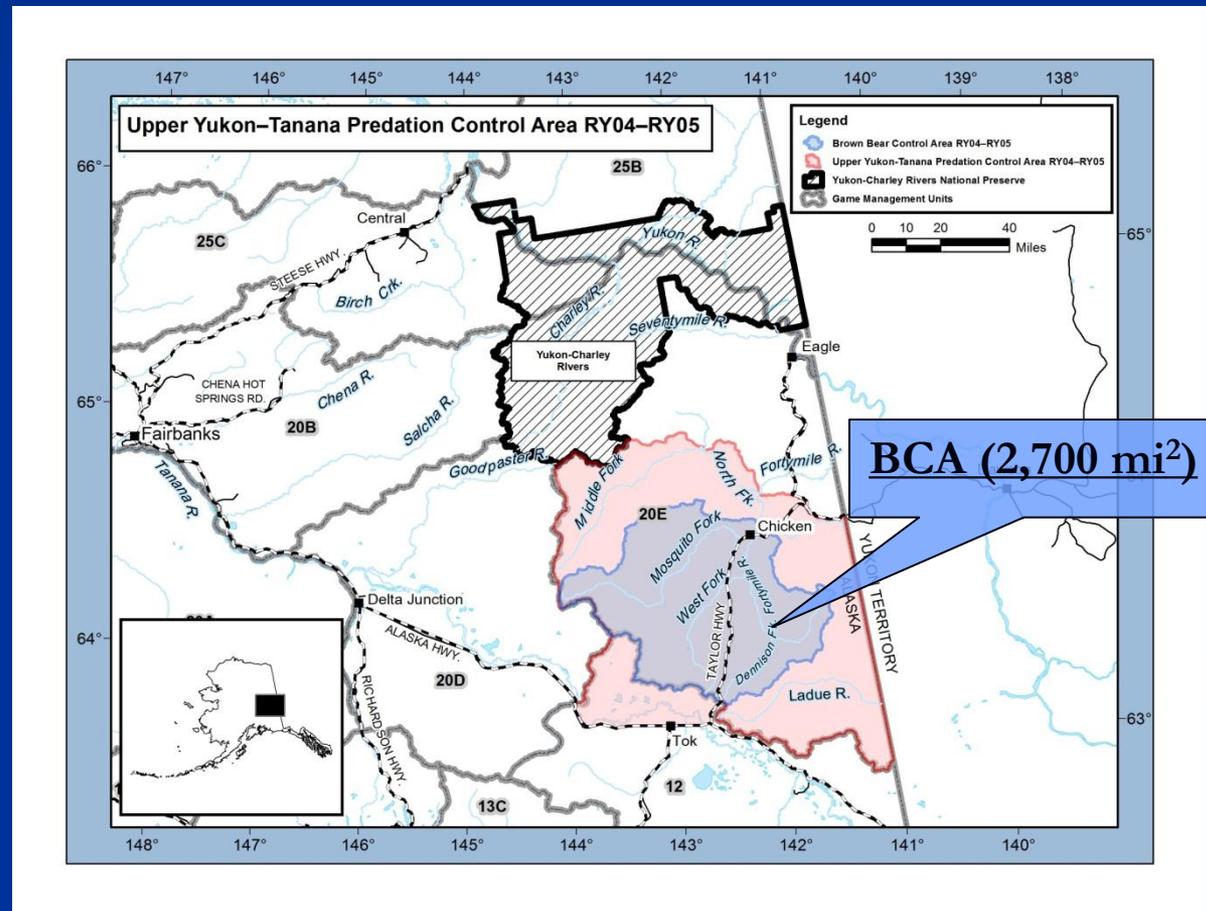
Bear/Moose Research

Grizzly Bears
killed > 50%
of all moose
calves
annually in
study area.



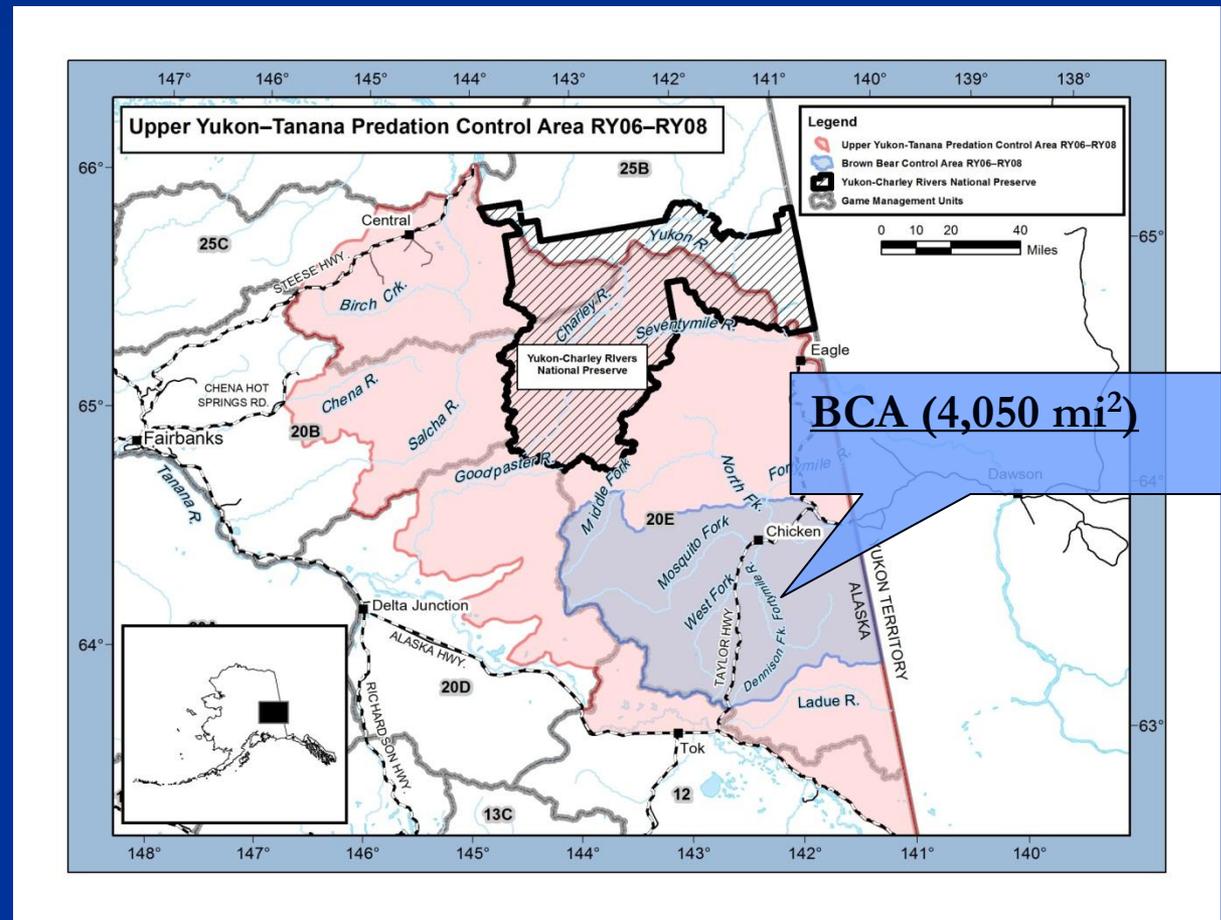
2004-2006 Bear Control - UYTPCP

- Baiting
- Benefit moose in Units 12 and 20E



2007–2009 Bear Control - UYTPCP

- Baiting
- Same-day-airborne take at bait stations
- Sale of hides and skulls
- **Suspended in 2009**



Grizzly Bear Population

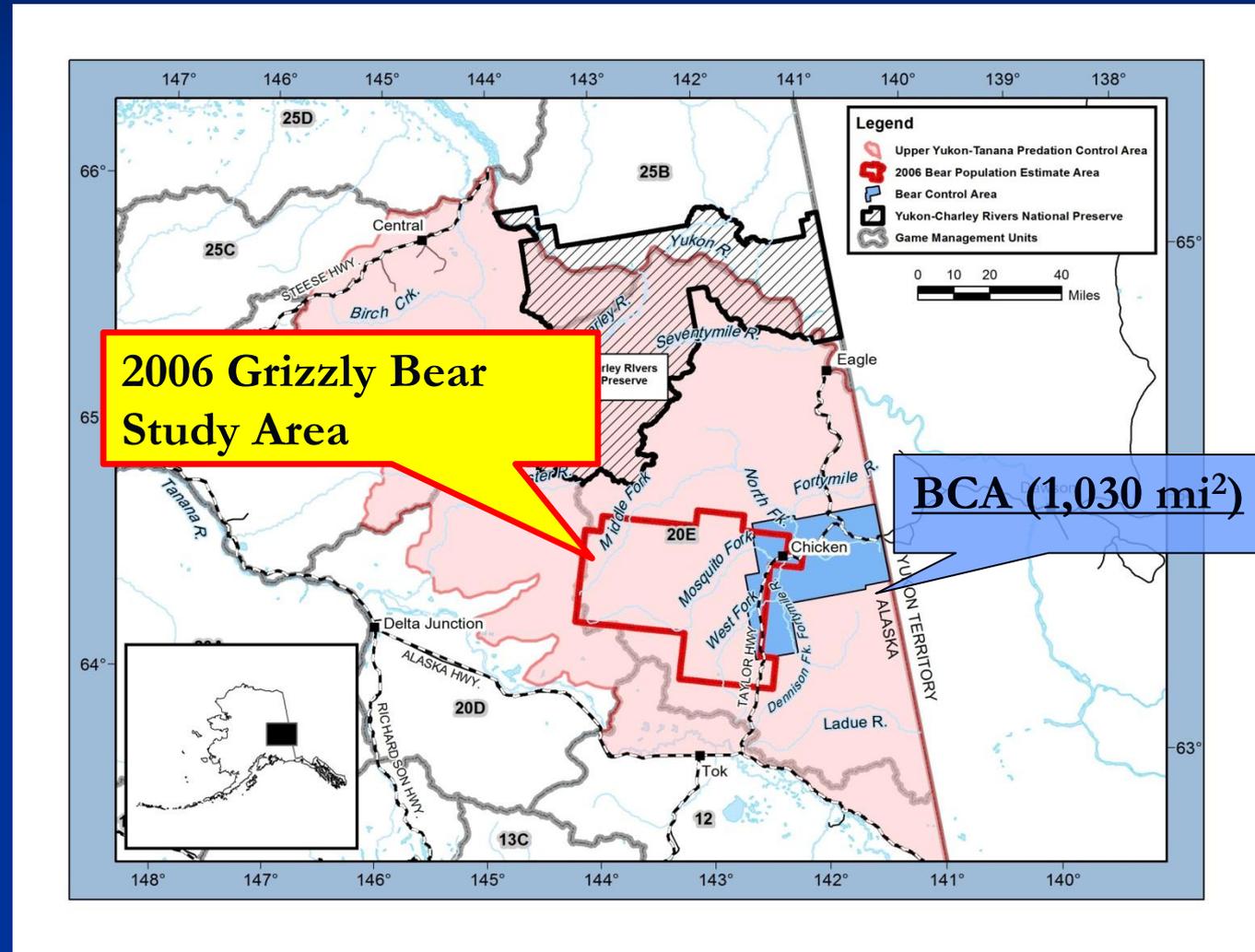
2006 Study

- Density Est.
 - 2.8-3.5 grizzly bears/100 mi²

BCA (1,030 mi²)

- Est. # Grizzlies = 28-35

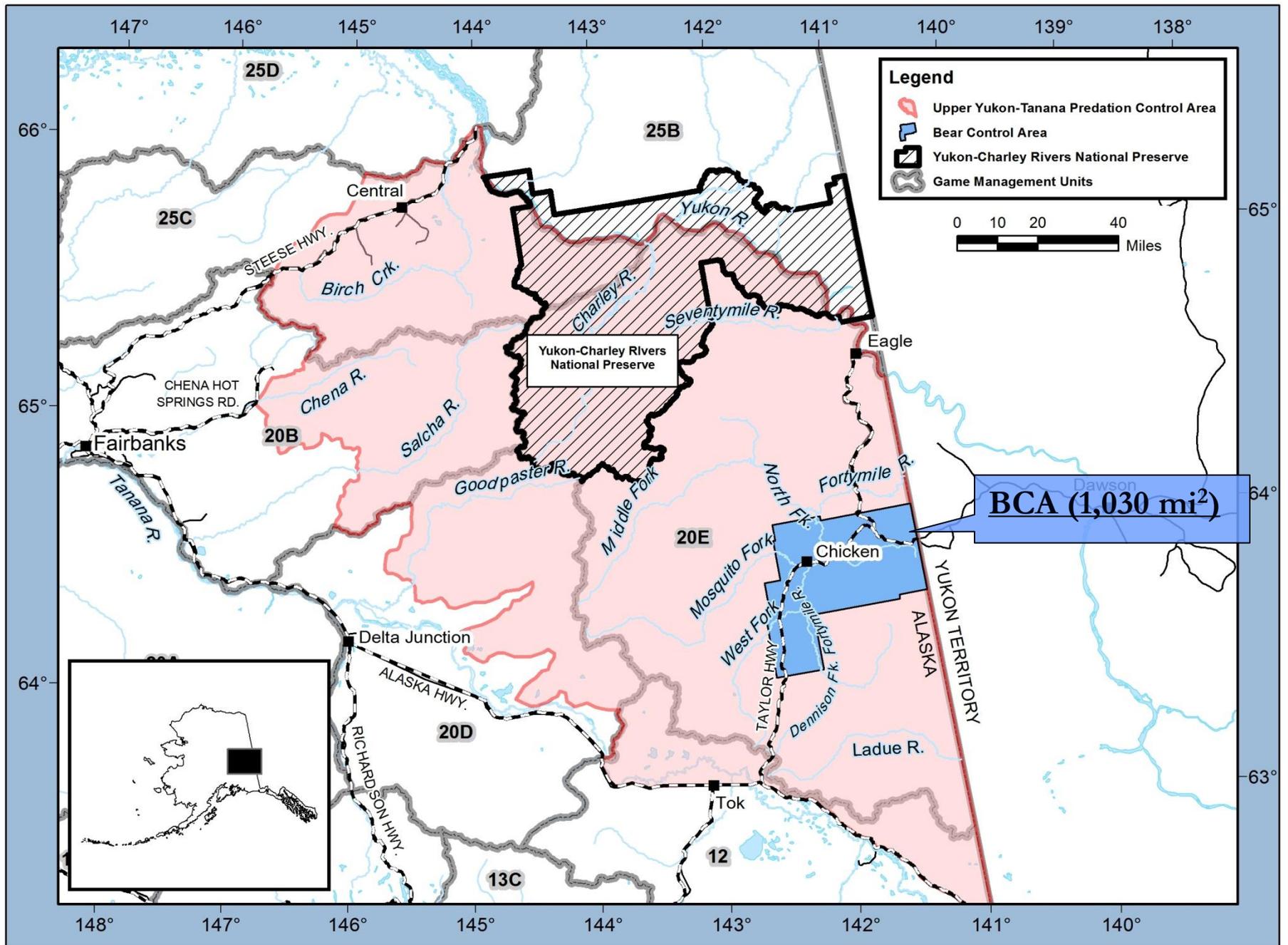
- 60% reduction, need to remove 17-21 grizzly bears



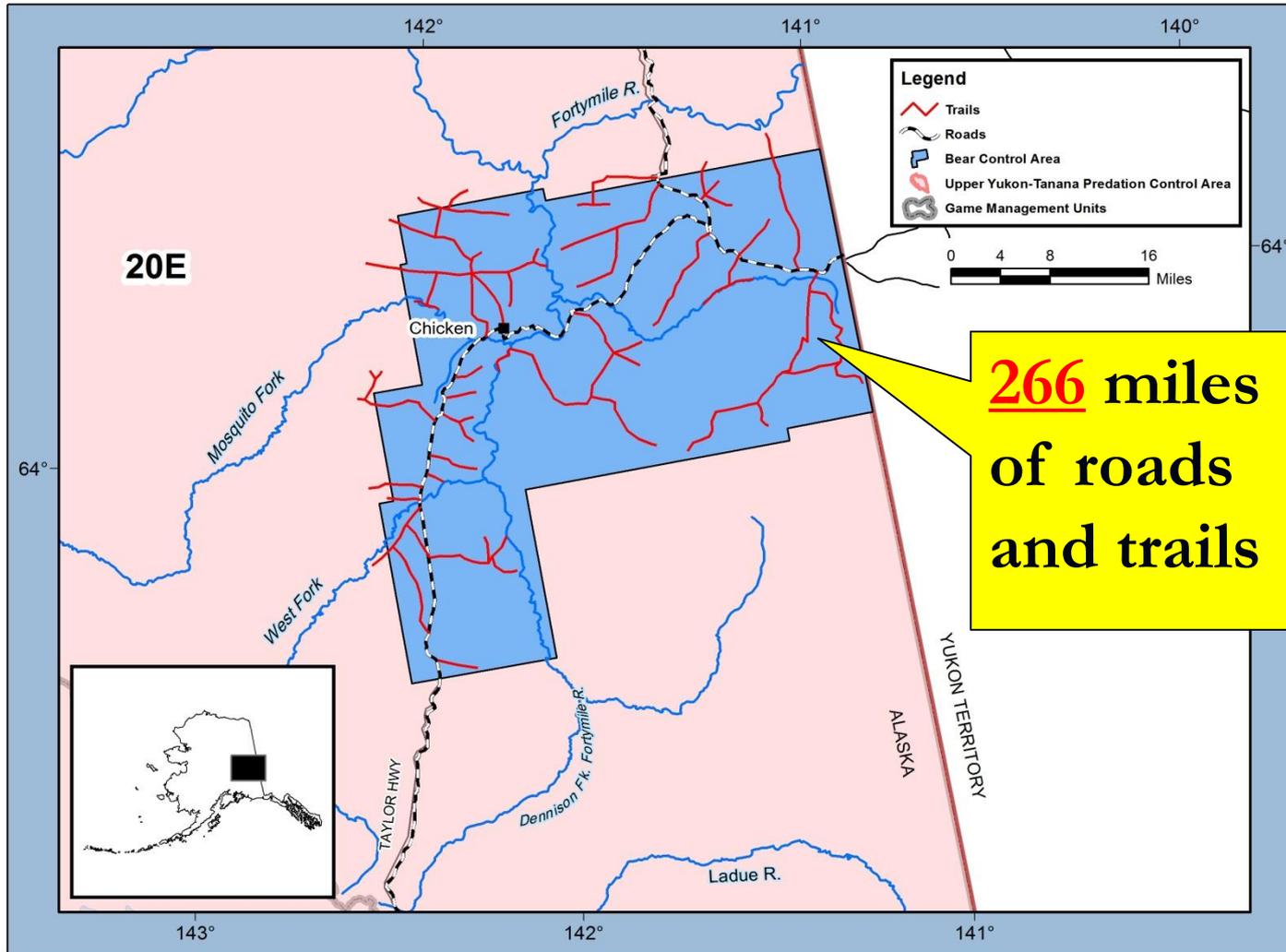
Grizzly Bear Population and Harvest

- Grizzly Bear Population
 - Unit 20E – 320–394 bears

- 2003–2012 Unit 20E Grizzly Bear Harvest
 - Avg. of 16 bears/yr. (range 7-19)
 - 2-6% harvest rate



Road and Trail System



**266 miles
of roads
and trails**

Proposal 88 – UYT'PCP Bear Control Unit 20E

Allow:

- Bucket and ground foot snares to take bears
- Any grizzly and black bear, including sows and cubs.
- April 1 to August 23rd and September 17 to November 30th.
- VHF trap monitoring devices to check traps
- Use of airplanes and helicopters to set and check snare sets
- Sale of hides, skulls and claws either attached or removed from hide
- Incentive payment (bears and wolves)
- Department training
- Limit #s of trappers

Conclusions

ADF&G Position:

Neutral





RC 2

Proposal 89 – Implement wolf control program on State Land in Unit 12 to benefit moose.

Submitted by: Ahtna Tene Nene; Customary & Traditional Use Committee

Effect of Proposal: Establish an aerial or land-and-shoot wolf control program on state lands in Unit 12 so that the moose population will increase.

Upper Tanana–Fortymile AC: Opposes

ADF&G Position: Oppose

Unit 12 – IM Moose Population and Harvest Objectives

➤ Population Objective

➤ 4,000–6,000

➤ Harvest Objective

➤ 250–450

Unit 12 – Moose Population

- Fall 2012 Unit-wide Pop. Est. = **4,199–6,175**
 - Based on 2011 and 2012 Unit 12 Surveys
- IM Pop Objective = **4,000–6,000**
 - Objective **being met.**

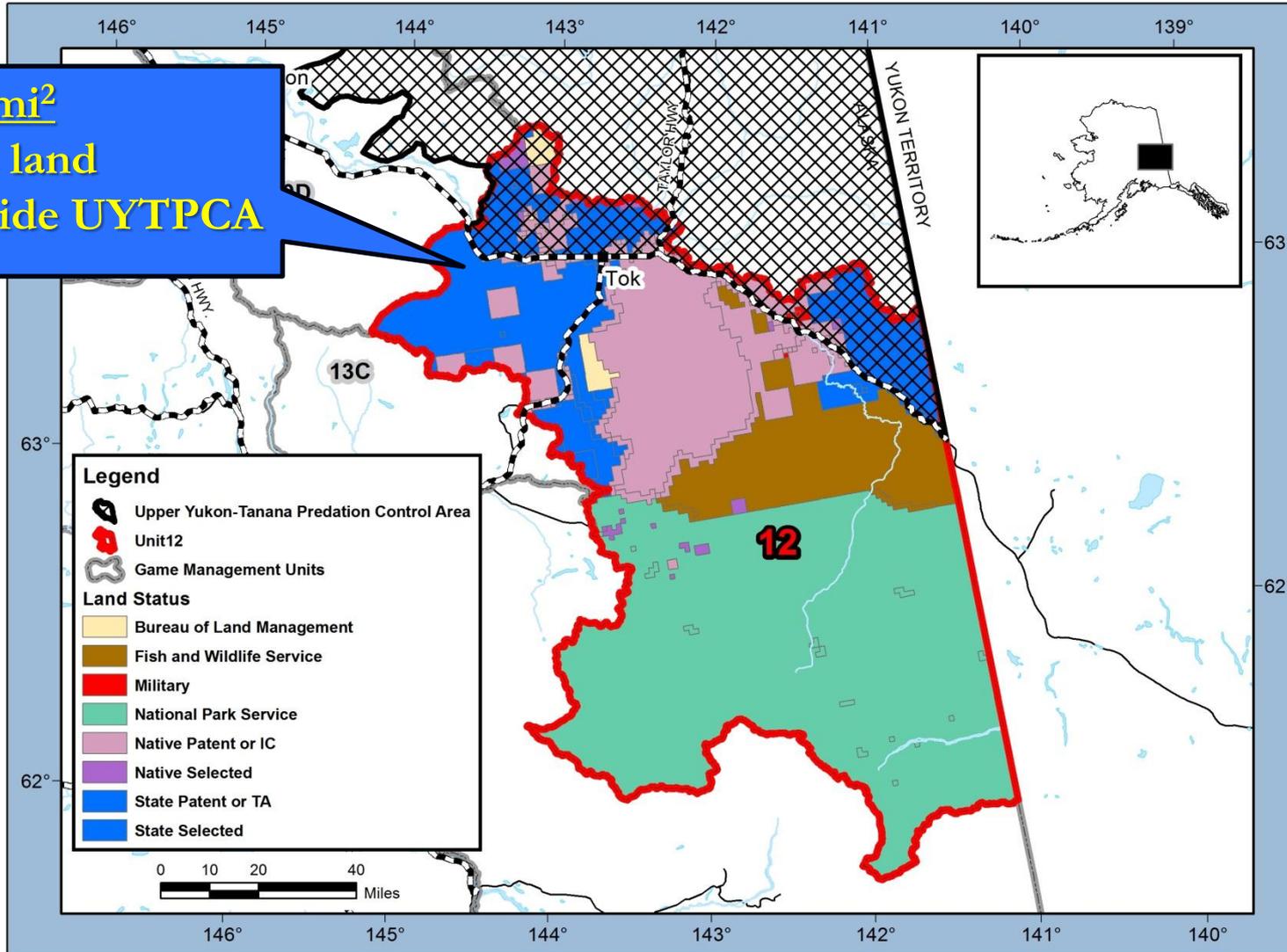
Unit 12 – Moose Harvest

- RY08–RY12 Harvest
 - Avg. = **130** (range 109–157)
- IM Harvest Objective = **250–450**
 - Objective **not being met.**
- Positive C&T for moose in Unit 12
 - ANS = **60–70** moose – currently **being met.**

Unit 12 – Land Status

~1,000 mi²

- State land
- Outside UYTPCA



Feasibility of Aerial Control



Proposal 89

- ADF&G Position:
Oppose
- IM Pop Obj **Met**
- IM Harvest Obj **Not Met, but access is restricted**
- 50% of state land in UYTPCA
- Land ownership patterns

