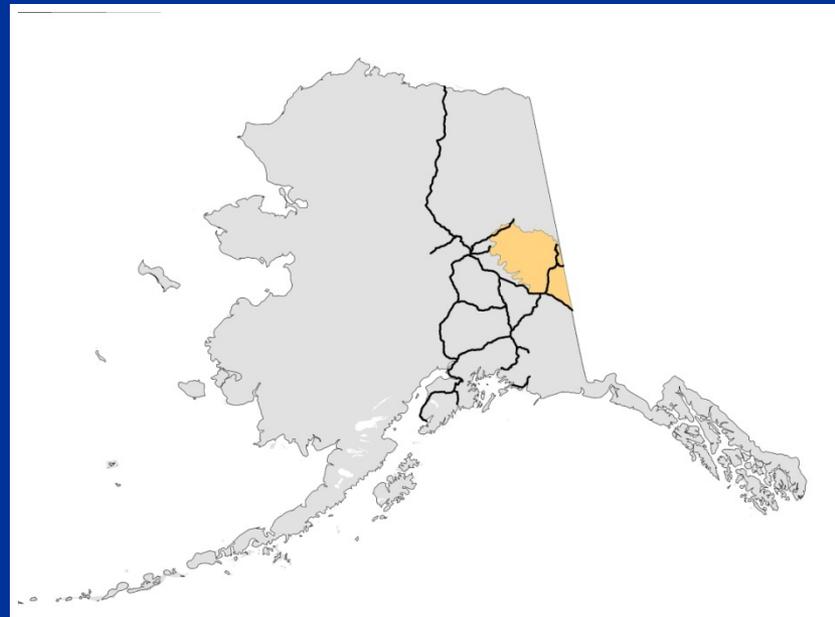


Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Program BOG Report 2004-2017



(Unit 20E and portions of 12, 20B, 20D & 25C)

Background

- **Adopted November 2004**
 - Reduce Predation – wolves and brown bears
 - Increase moose – portions of Units 12 and 20E

- **Implemented January 2005**
 - Up to 5-Years

- **Expanded May 2006**
 - **Wolf Control Area**
 - Fortymile Caribou Range
 - Larger portion of Units 12 and 20E – Moose
 - **Bear Control Area**
 - Larger Portion of southern Unit 20E

Background

- **Amended and Reauthorized in March 2009**
- **Bear Control – Suspended (July 1, 2009)**
- **Wolf Control – Continued**
 - Helicopters allowed
 - Department – **Shooting**
 - Public – **Retrieval**
- **5-year authorization (July 1, 2009 – July 1, 2014)**
 - **Fortymile Caribou** – Range in AK
 - **Moose** – northern Unit 12 and 20E

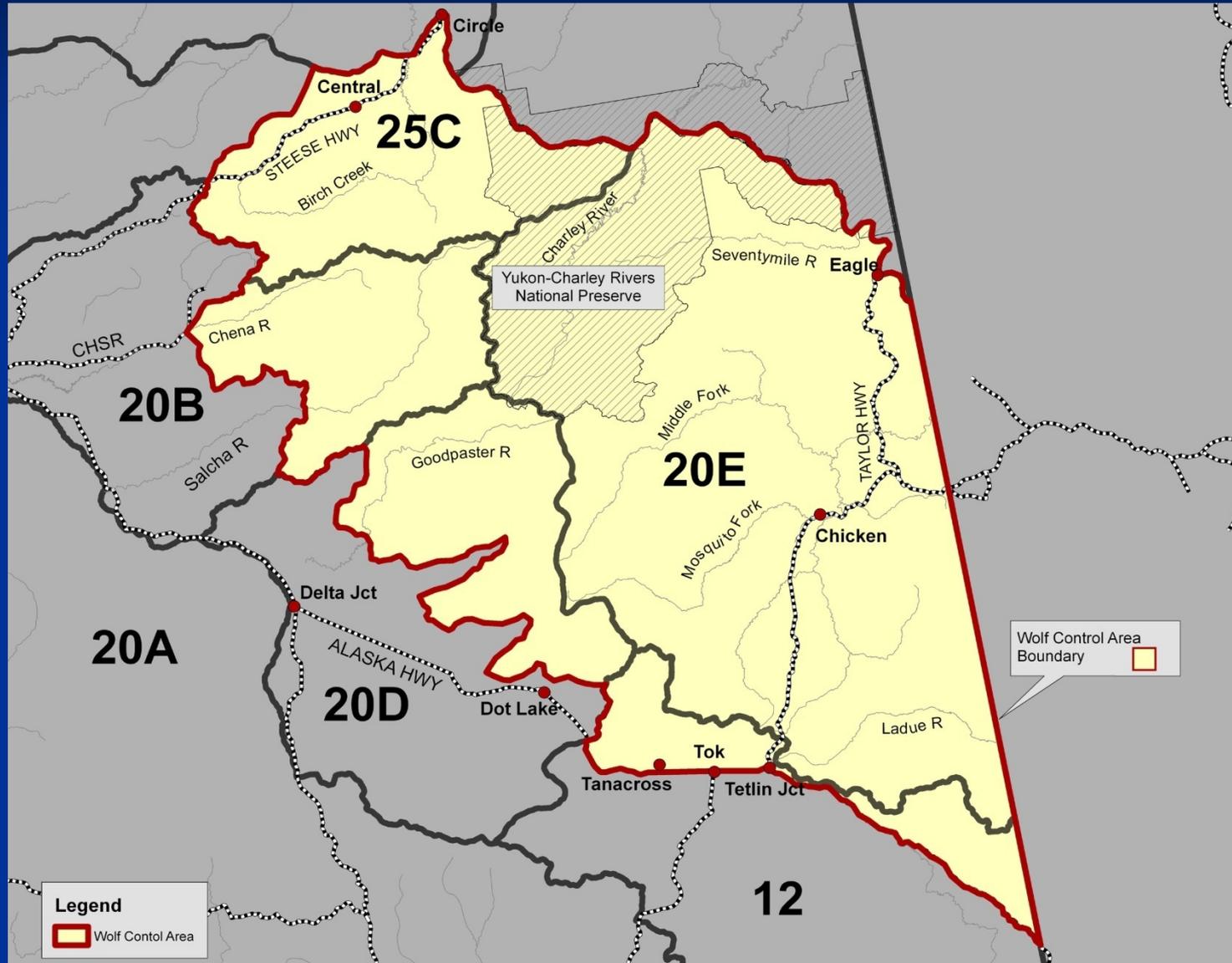
Background

- **Amended and Reauthorized in March 2014**
- **Moose** – Removed from plan
 - Assume benefits from wolf control for FCH
- **Wolf Control** – Continued
 - Helicopters allowed
 - Department – **Shooting**
 - Public – **Retrieval**
- **Wolf Control Focus** – FCH Calving/Summer Range
 - Target wolf predation on young calves
- **5-year** authorization (July 1, 2014 – July 1, 2019)
 - **Fortymile Caribou** – Range in AK

Program Objective

- **Increase the Fortymile Caribou Herd** to aid in achieving the intensive management population objective of 50,000–100,000 and harvest objective of 1,000–15,000.

Wolf Control Area (18,750 mi²)



Wolf Control Objective

- **75% reduction** in the pre-control Pop. of 350–410 wolves
- **Minimum Pop. Obj. = 88 wolves**
 - 75% reduction of low-end (350) of the precontrol estimate
- **Control Focus** – Calving/Summer Range
 - Target wolf predation on young calves

2014–2015 Wolf Control

➤ 60 Permits Issued

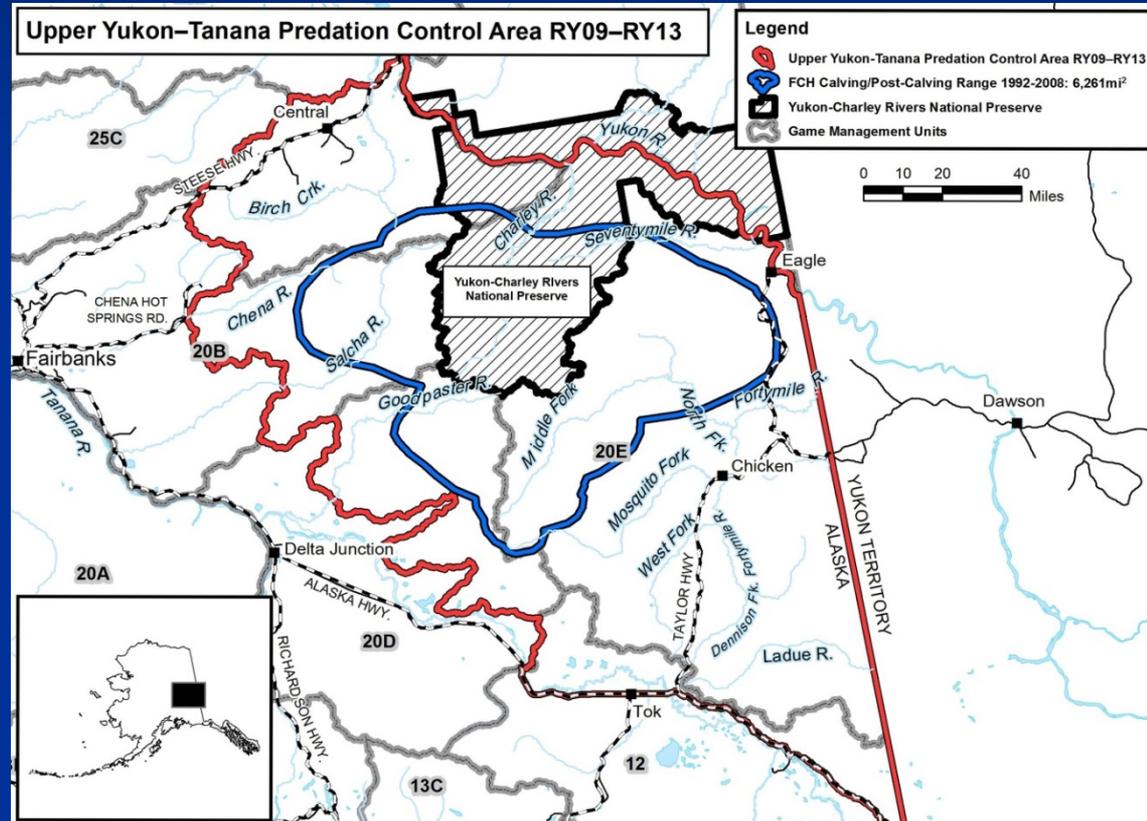
- 36 pilots
- 24 gunners
- Nov 1 - April 30

➤ 105 wolves taken

- 24 control
- 33 by ADF&G
- 48 hunters and trappers

➤ Area-wide Control Objective **Not Met**

➤ Calving/Summer Range – **Wolf Reductions >60%**



2015–2016 Wolf Control

➤ 54 Permits Issued

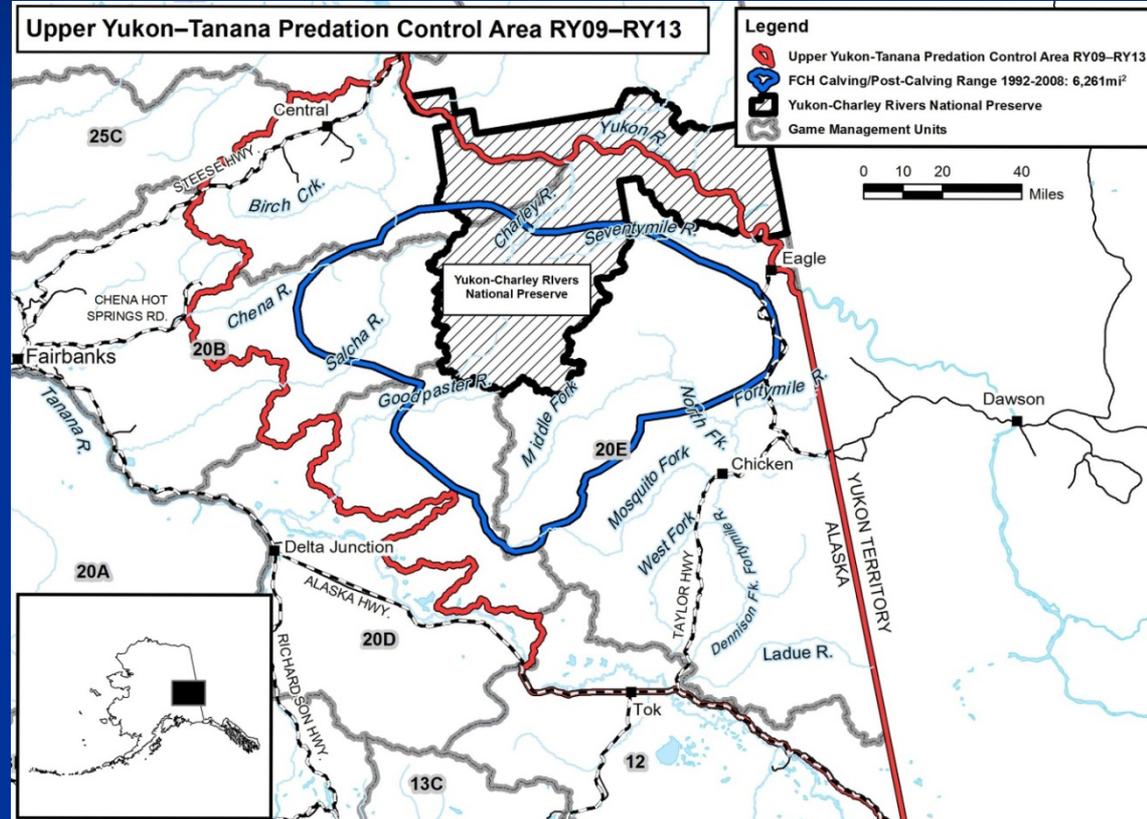
- 33 pilots
- 21 gunners
- Nov 1 - April 30

➤ 117 wolves taken

- 29 control
- 19 by ADF&G
- 69 hunters and trappers

➤ Area-wide Control Objective **Not Met**

➤ Calving/Summer Range – **Wolf Reductions >60%**



Wolf Control

2016 - 2017

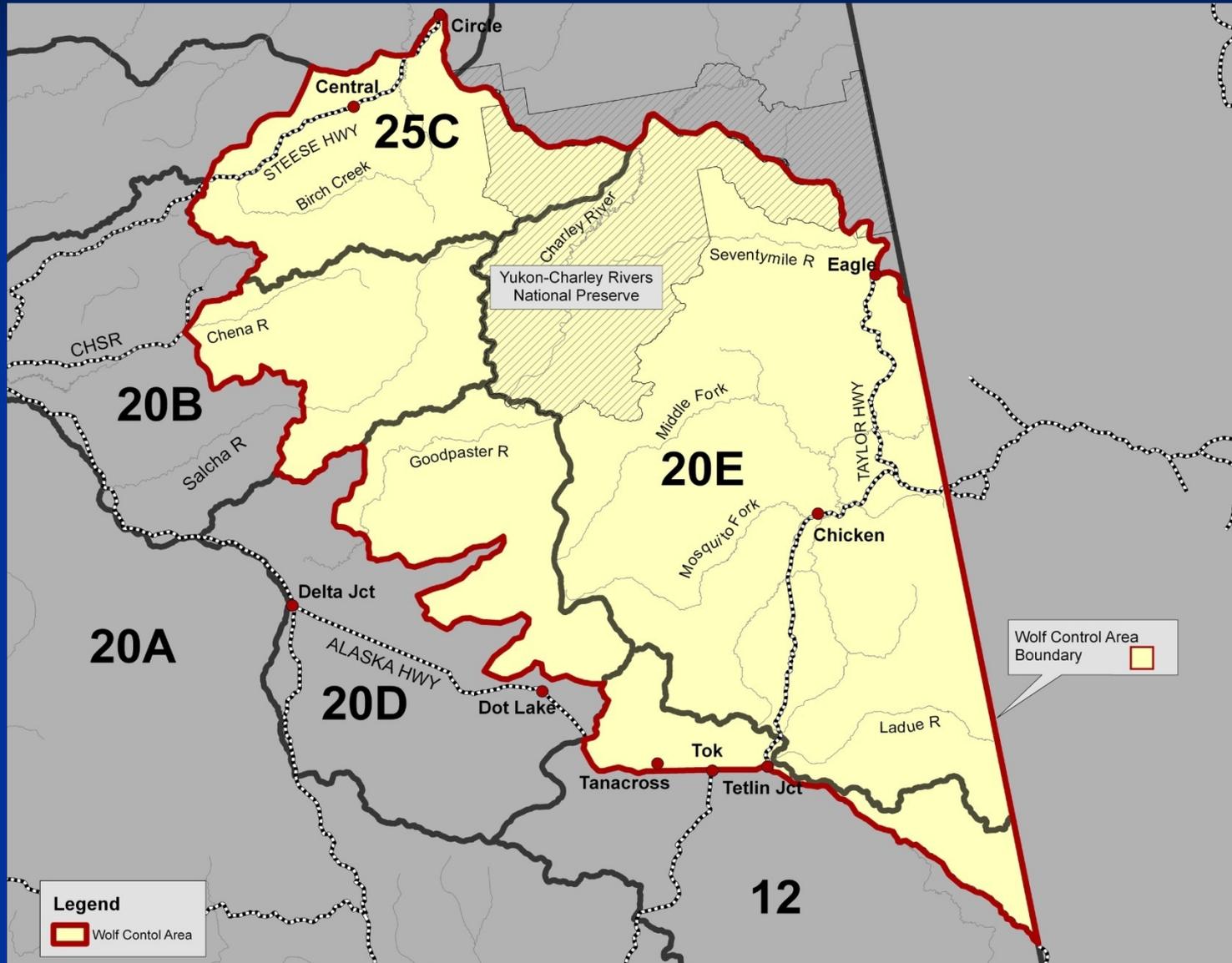
- Nov 1 – April 30

- 44 Permits Issued
 - 27 pilots
 - 17 gunners

- **10** wolves taken by all means (to date)

- Permits valid until April 30, **to early too draw conclusions**

Caribou Benefit Area



Fortymile Herd Population

- FCH added to the IM Program in 2006
 - 2006 Pop Est. = **43,000–44,000** (modeled)
 - Successful Photocensus in 2009 and 2010 only
 - **2009** Census = **46,510**
 - **2010** Census = **51,675**
 - Current population likely between **50,000 – 54,000** based on all population data collected through fall 2016.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Continue wolf control activities**
 - To evaluate the program and objectives

- **Wolf Control**
 - **>60%** Reduction in FCH Calving/Summer Range
 - **2016–2018** Research Project – program evaluation



Proposal 84 – Units 12 and 20E wolves

Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory
Committee

Effect of Proposal: Change the starting date of the wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E from Oct. 15 to Oct. 1

Recommendation: Neutral

Proposal 84 – Units 12 and 20E wolves

Wolf trapping season dates

- Current: October 15 – April 30
- Proposed: October 1 – April 30

Proposed dates would align federal and state seasons



Proposal 84 – Units 12 and 20E wolves

Current wolf population estimates above minimum objectives

Season extension – likely would have little or no impact on harvest

- Low harvest during Oct. 15–31 portion
- 1 wolf during 2011–2015



Proposal 84 – Units 12 and 20E wolves

Conclusion

Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal: Change the starting date of the wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E from Oct. 15 to Oct. 1

Recommendation: Neutral





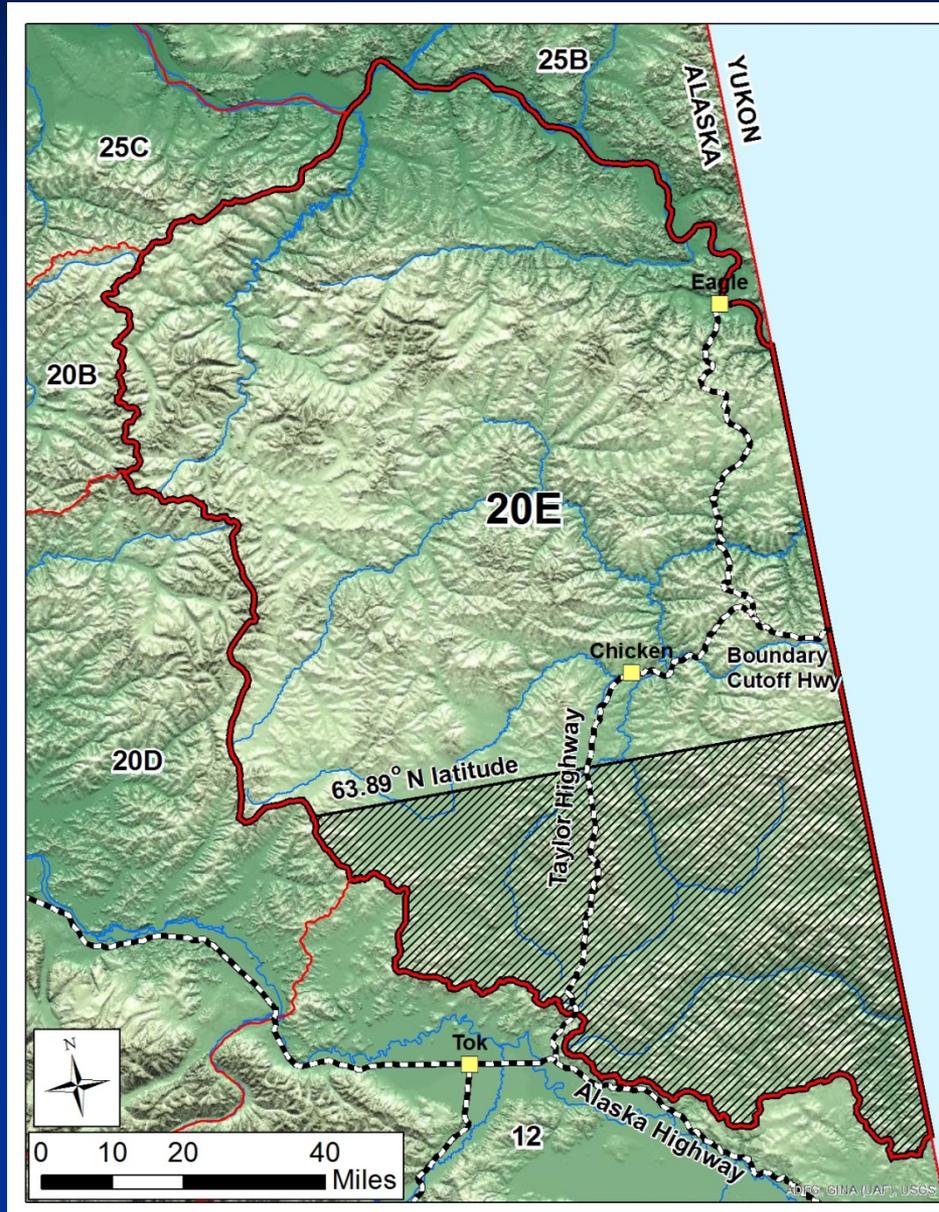
Proposal 85 – Open a resident drawing hunt for Nelchina caribou in southern Unit 20E.

Submitted by: Public

- **Effect of Proposal:** Establish a resident-only drawing permit hunt to provide opportunity to hunt Nelchina herd caribou in Unit 20E south of an east–west line running through Latitude 63.89 North, during September 1–30 and October 21–March 31, with a bag limit of one caribou.

ADF&G Recommendation: Neutral

Unit 20E - Caribou



Unit 20E - Caribou

➤ Current regulations:

- Registration Hunt (Fortymile caribou)
- Residents:
 - August 29–September 30, one bull;
 - December 1–March 31, one caribou.
- Nonresidents:
 - August 29–September 20, one bull.
- C&T Fortymile caribou
- Herd ANS of 350-400

➤ Proposed regulation:

- Add Drawing Hunt (Nelchina caribou)
- Residents-only:
 - September 1–30, one caribou;
 - October 21–March 31, one caribou.
- C&T and ANS for Nelchina Herd in Units 12 and 13 only

Unit 20E - Caribou

- Current regulations designed to accommodate all users
- Current registration hunts provide opportunity
- Herd mixing ratio determined with radio telemetry flights
- Area closures used to protect Nelchina in some years
- Board may wish to make a C&T finding for Nelchina Herd caribou for Unit 20E



Proposal 85 – Open a resident drawing hunt for Nelchina caribou in southern Unit 20E.

Submitted by: Public

- **Effect of Proposal:** Establish a resident-only drawing permit hunt to provide opportunity to hunt Nelchina herd caribou in Unit 20E south of an east–west line running through Latitude 63.89 North, during September 1–30 and October 21–March 31, with a bag limit of one caribou.

ADF&G Recommendation: Neutral



Proposal 86 – Close fall hunting of Fortymile caribou within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of highways in Unit 20E and limit permits.

Submitted by: Public

- **Effect of Proposal:** Caribou hunting within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff in Unit 20E would not be allowed during the fall (RC860) season and permits limited to address safety and enforcement concerns.

ADF&G Recommendation: Neutral

FCH Harvest Management

- **Public Harvest Mngt Planning Team** (est. - 2001)
- **International Membership** (*Harvest Management Coalition* – HMC)
- **Harvest Plans**
 - **Recommendations Guide FCH Harvest Mngt.**
 - **BOG & FSB Endorsed**

0
Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan, 2001-2006
Endorsed by the Alaska Board of Game, March 2000

Developed by the Advisory Committee Coalition
(Central, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks
and Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committees)

**FORTYMILE CARIBOU HERD
HARVEST PLAN
2006-2012**

**FORTYMILE CARIBOU HERD
HARVEST PLAN
2012-2018**



Photo by Robert Gingie

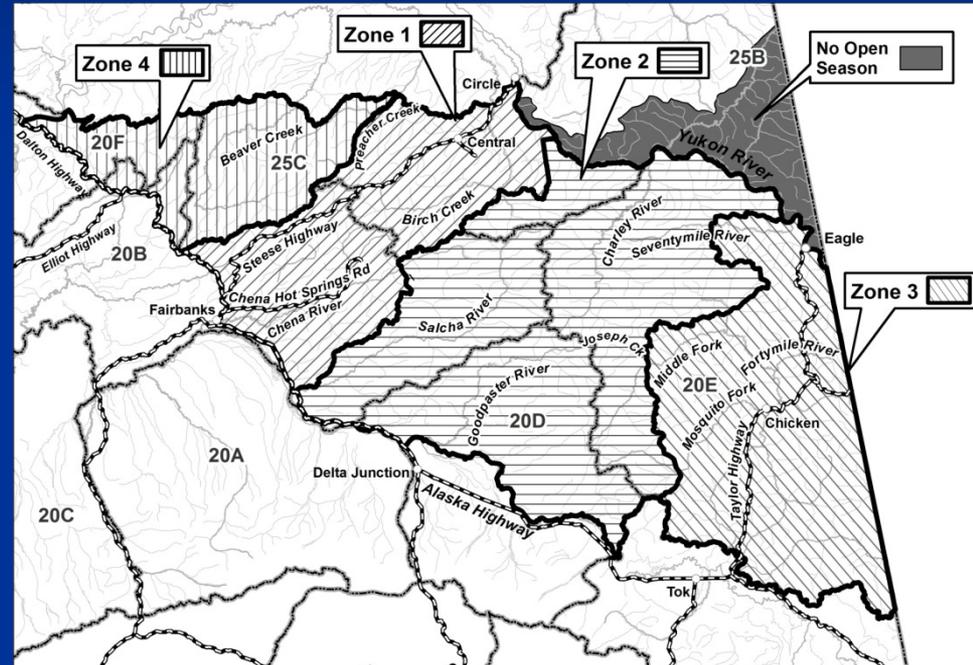
This plan was developed by the Harvest Management Coalition consisting of members of the Anchorage, Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, Matanuska Valley, and Upper Tanana/Fortymile advisory committees, and the Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council in cooperation with Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Department of Environment, Yukon First Nations, Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



FCH Harvest Management

➤ Recommendations:

- Harvest Rate (2-3%)
 - **Allow for Growth**
- Annual Quota (1000 in 2016)
- Allocated Spatially and Temporally
 - Fall and Winter Hunt
 - 4 Zones
- **Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff -Zone 3**



FCH Harvest Management

- **Recommendations for road crossings**
 - Delayed hunt openings
 - Targeted hunts
 - Temporary openings/closures in:
 - “specific drainages” or “clearly defined areas”
- **Department has used these strategies to achieve desired harvest numbers**



2012–2018 FCH Harvest Management Plan

- **HMC also recognized:**
 - “when large numbers of caribou are crossing major roads, such as the Taylor or Steese Highways, special hunt management provisions are needed”
...“to **minimize public safety concerns**”
- **However...**no specific recommendations

Issues identified by Proposer



Issues identified by Proposer

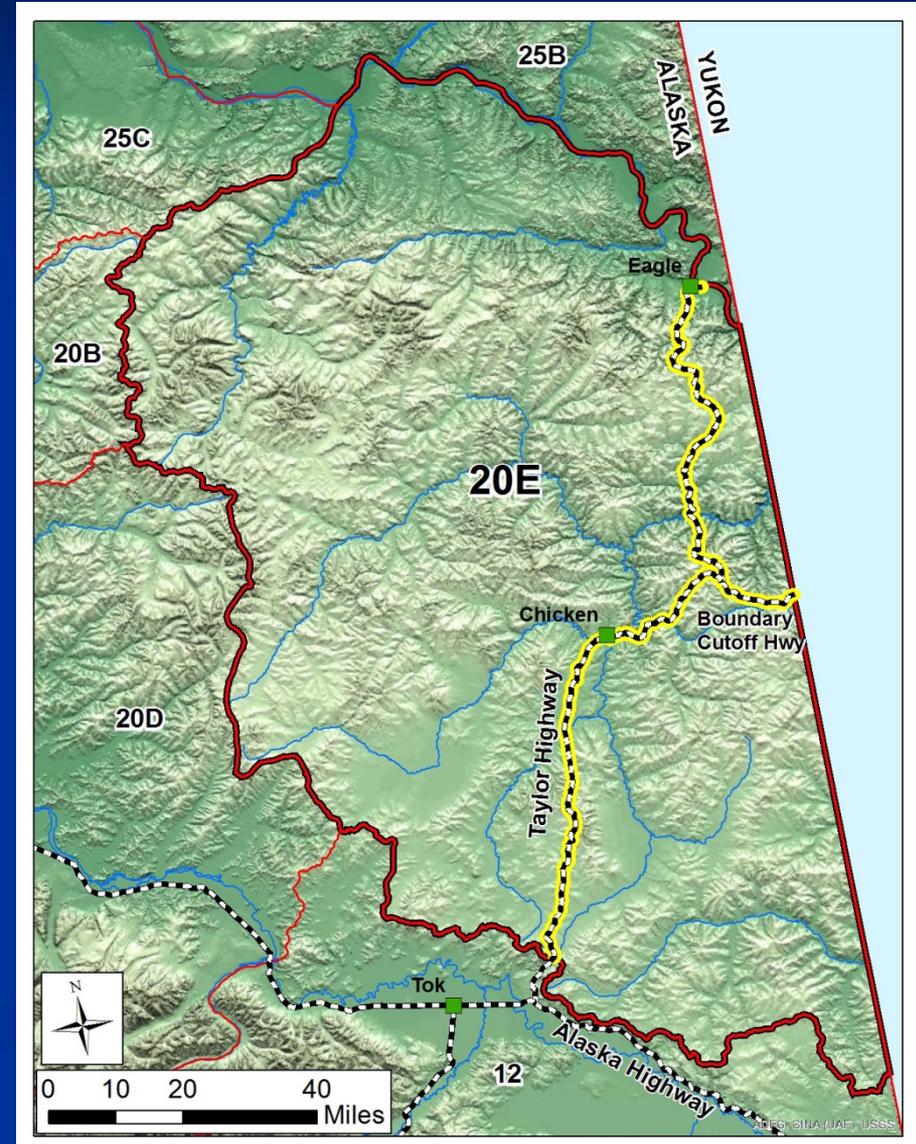


Issues identified by Proponent



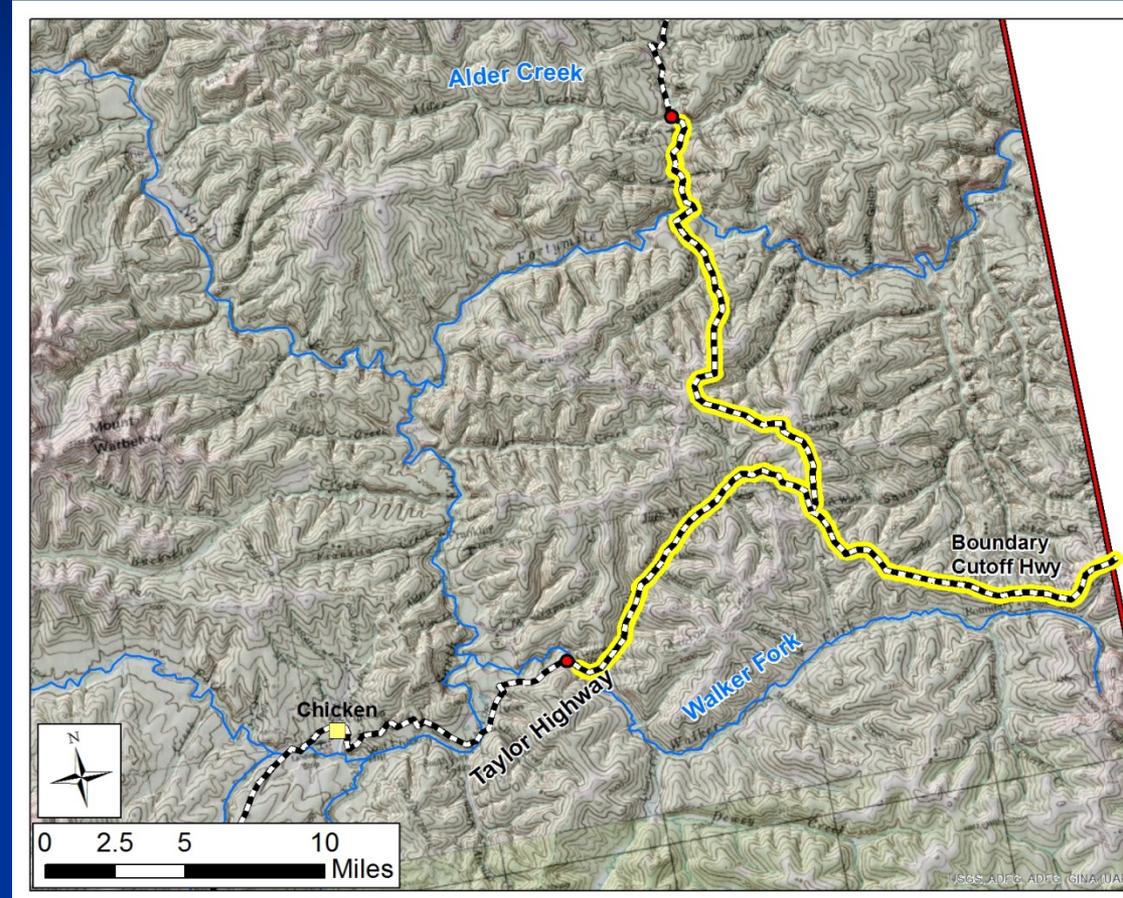
Corridor Options

1. Along entire Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff Road



Corridor Options

2. Between the Walker Fork Bridge (MP 82) and the Alder Creek Bridge (MP 115.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff - **Primary area of concern**



Experience with no hunt road corridors – 2 examples

Mid-1990s Unit 12 – **Alaska Highway** (Nelchina caribou hunt)

- No hunting within 300' of road (*600' corridor*)
 - Dangerous - hunters shooting toward each other
 - Numerous violations and wasted caribou
 - Determined unsafe, difficult to enforce and was not used in subsequent years.

Dec 2001 Units 20B & 25C - **Steese Highway** (winter Fortymile caribou hunt)

- No hunting within 1 mile of road (*2 mile corridor*)
 - Similar results – has not been used again

Additional Issue from Proponent

- Issuing over 3,000 permits for this hunt is not manageable or sustainable
- Permits should be limited so managers and law enforcement can manage the hunt in a “safe and sustainable manner”
- No specific number of permits recommended

Fortymile Caribou Harvest Planning

- Current harvest plan expires - June 2019
- HMC – meet spring 2017 to begin developing revised harvest plan
- New plan in place for fall 2019 hunting season
- These issues will be shared with the HMC during the development of the revised harvest plan

Additional Board Considerations

- If the board adopts this proposal the department recommends amending it to clarify that the area is only closed to the take of caribou, not all species
- Because it would be a permanent part of the hunt area, this proposal would result in a reduction of Fortymile herd caribou hunting opportunity; therefore, the board may wish to consider whether implementing the restrictions outlined in this proposal would continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses.



Proposal 86 – Close fall hunting of Fortymile caribou within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of highways in Unit 20E and limit permits.

Submitted by: Public

Effect of Proposal: Caribou hunting within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff in Unit 20E would not be allowed during the fall (RC860) season and permits limited to address safety and enforcement concerns.

ADF&G Recommendation: Neutral

Proposal 87 – Unit 20E

Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (Glacier Mountain CUA)

Submitted by:

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of the proposal: Change the start date of the Glacier Mountain CUA from Aug. 5 to July 26

Recommendation: Neutral - Allocation issue

Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

**Unit
20E**

Glacier Mountain CUA

Eagle

**Primary
sheep
habitat**

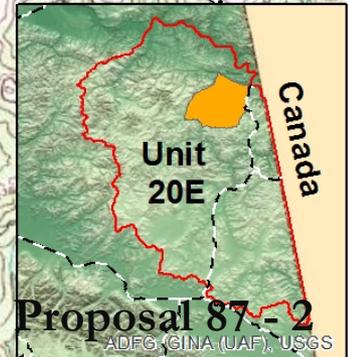
Taylor Highway

Yukon River

Wallcut Mountain



0 2 4 8 Miles

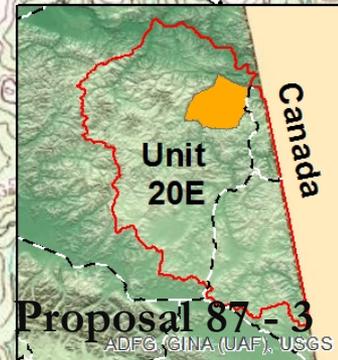
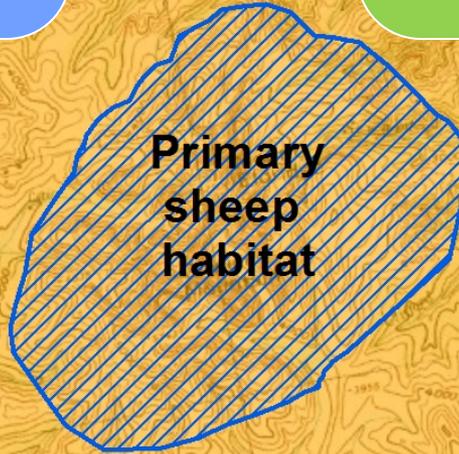


ADFG, GINA (UAF), USGS

Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

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

Proposed regulations:
Motorized vehicles
prohibited July 26–
Sept. 20



Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

Background

History

- Established in 1971
- Isolated sheep population

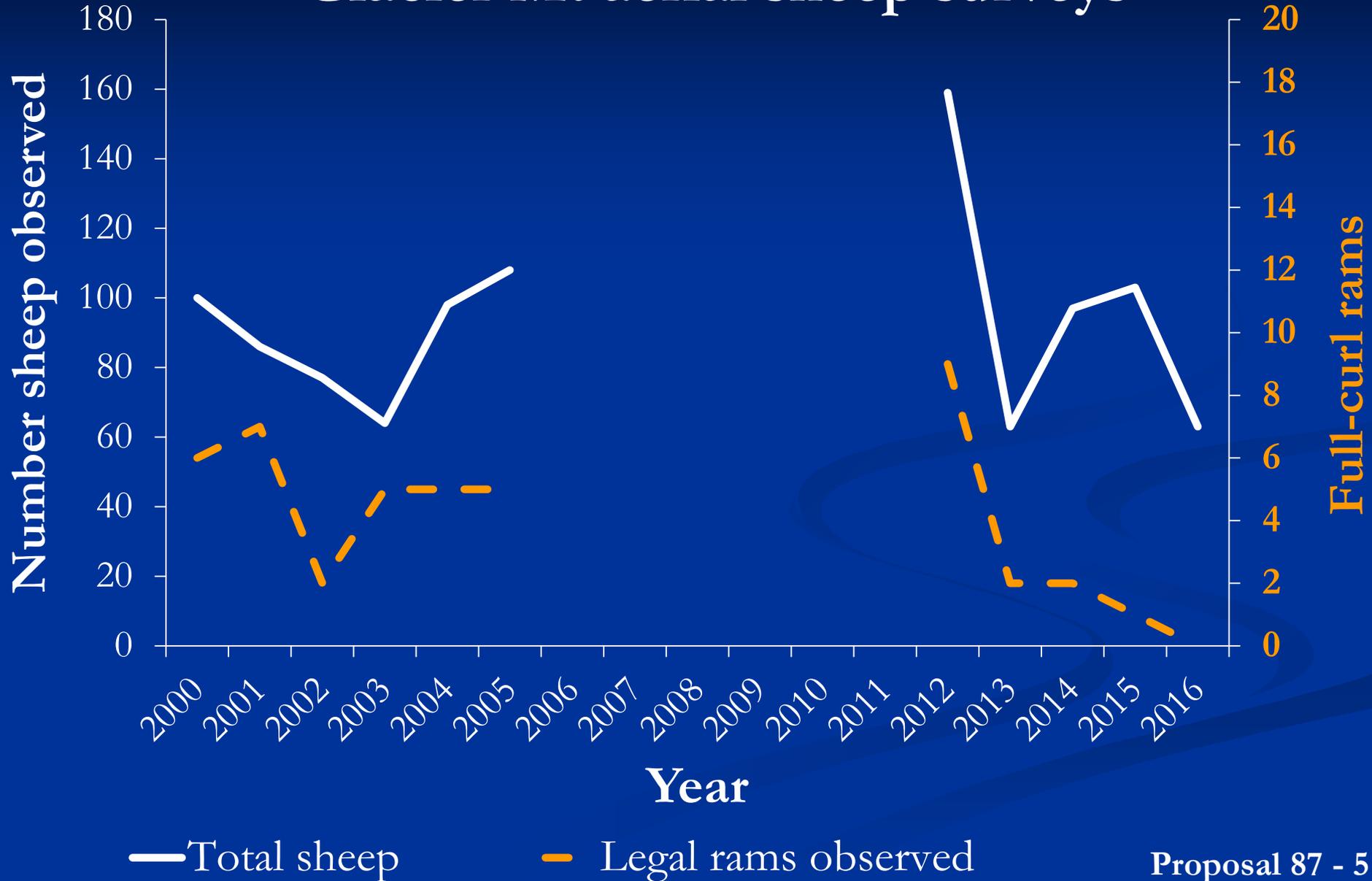


Sheep seasons - harvest ticket

- Aug. 10 – Sept. 20; full-curl ram
- Youth season – new in 2016
 - Aug. 1-5; full-curl ram
 - Motorized vehicles – before Aug. 5

Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

Glacier Mt aerial sheep surveys



Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

Glacier Mt sheep surveys and harvest



Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

Conclusions

Some years, most of legal rams harvested

Full-curl regulation

No biological concerns: allocation issue

- Motorized vs. non-motorized users
- Youth vs. general season



Proposal 87 – Unit 20E; Glacier Mt CUA

Conclusion

Submitted by:

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of the proposal: Change the start date of the Glacier Mountain CUA from Aug. 5 to July 26

Recommendation: Neutral - Allocation issue

Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose

Submitted by: ADF&G

Effect of the proposal: Modify the boundary of the Tok River antler-restricted moose hunting area

Recommendation: Support
Housekeeping proposal

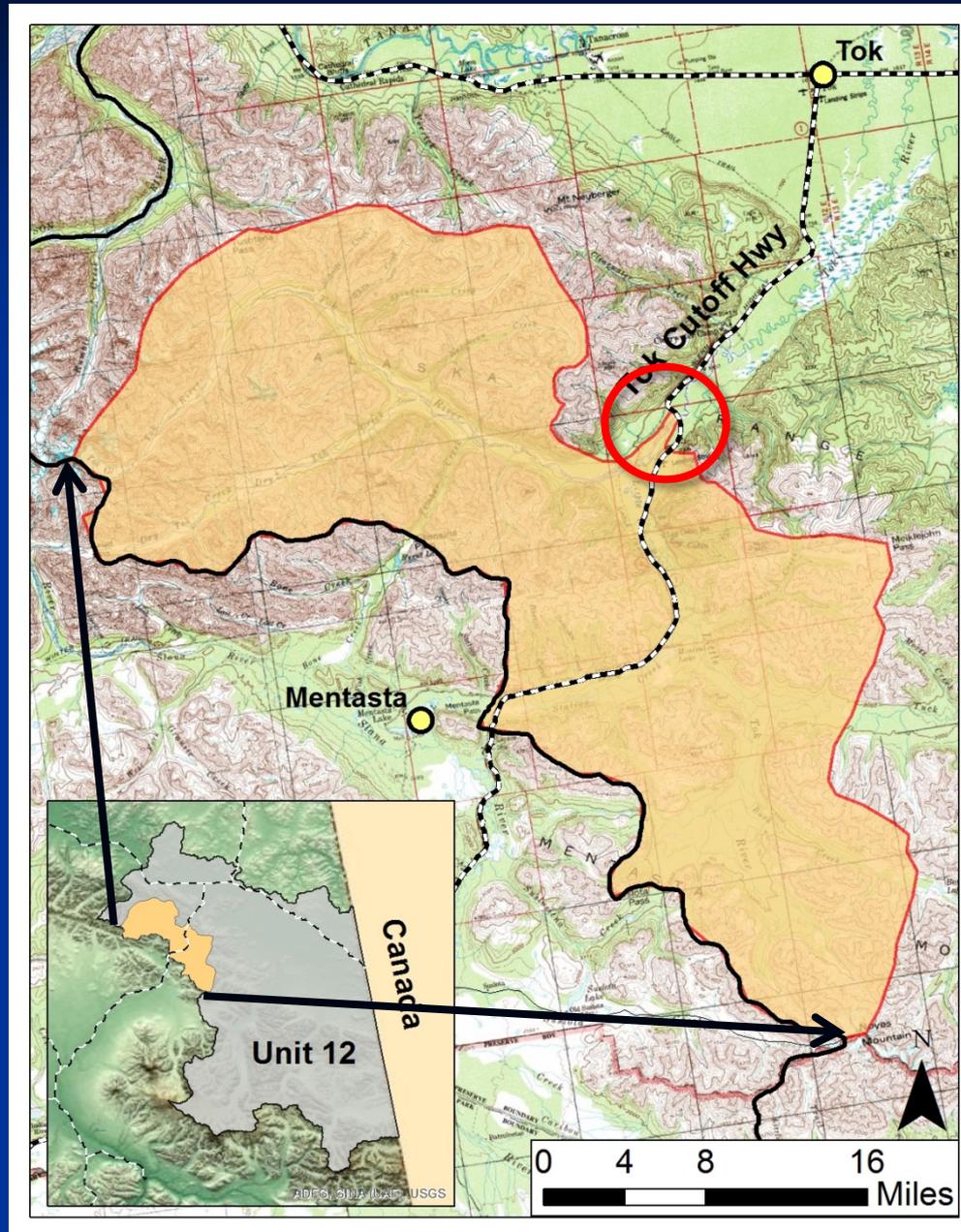
Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose Background

Antler-restricted area

- Expanded in 2006 to Tok River drainage upstream from the Tok Cutoff bridge

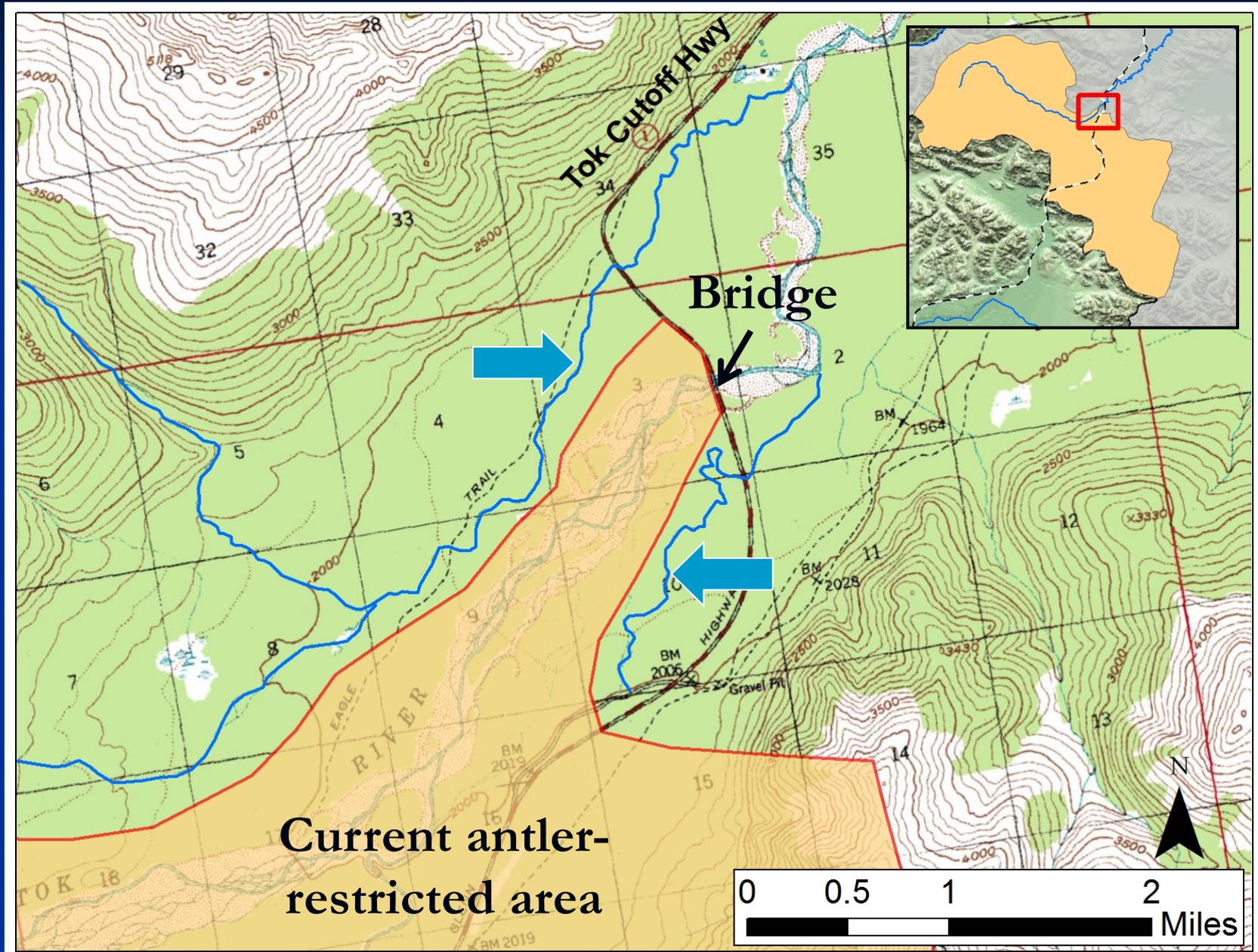
Boundary is unclear along Tok Cutoff Hwy

Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose

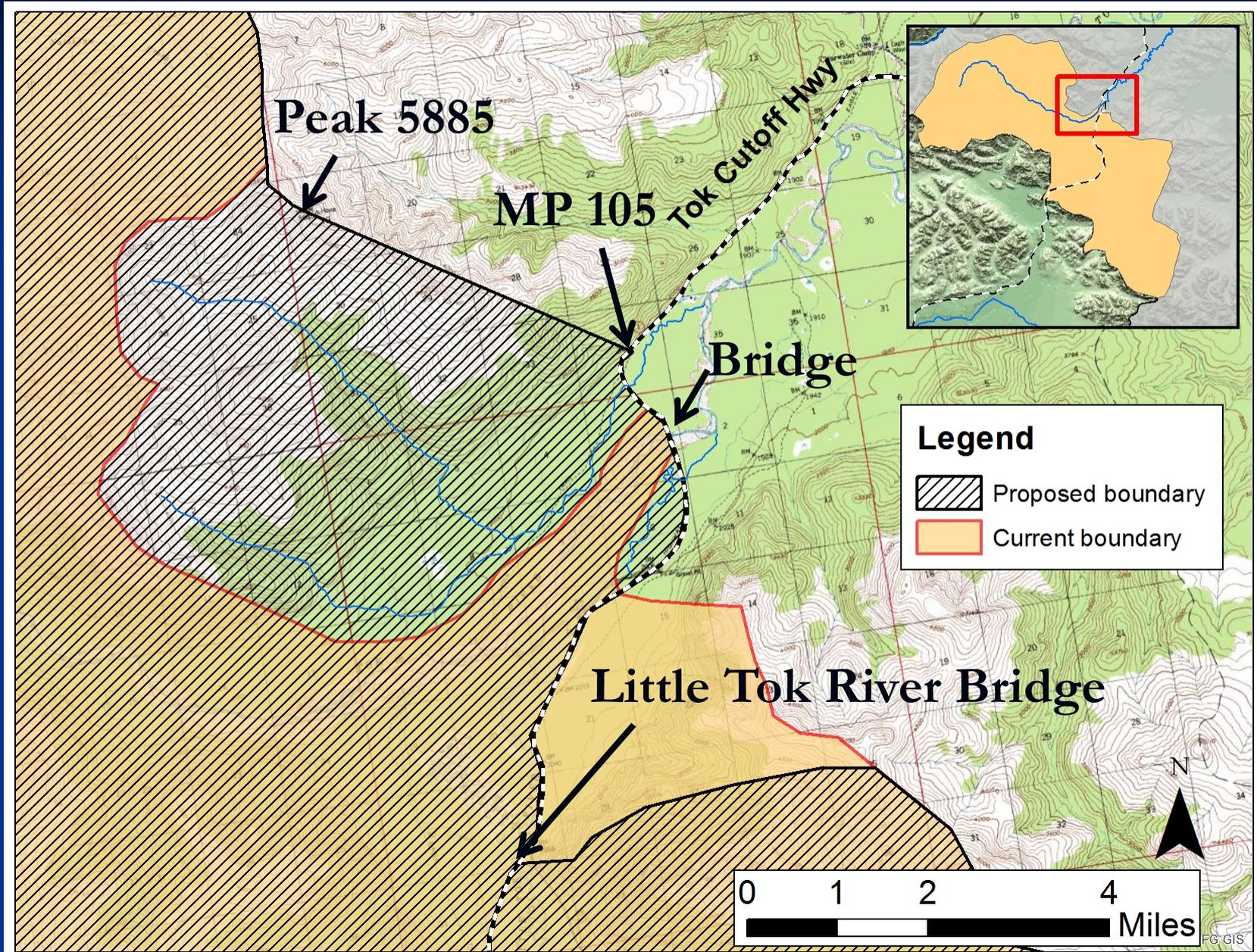


Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposal 88 - 4



Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose



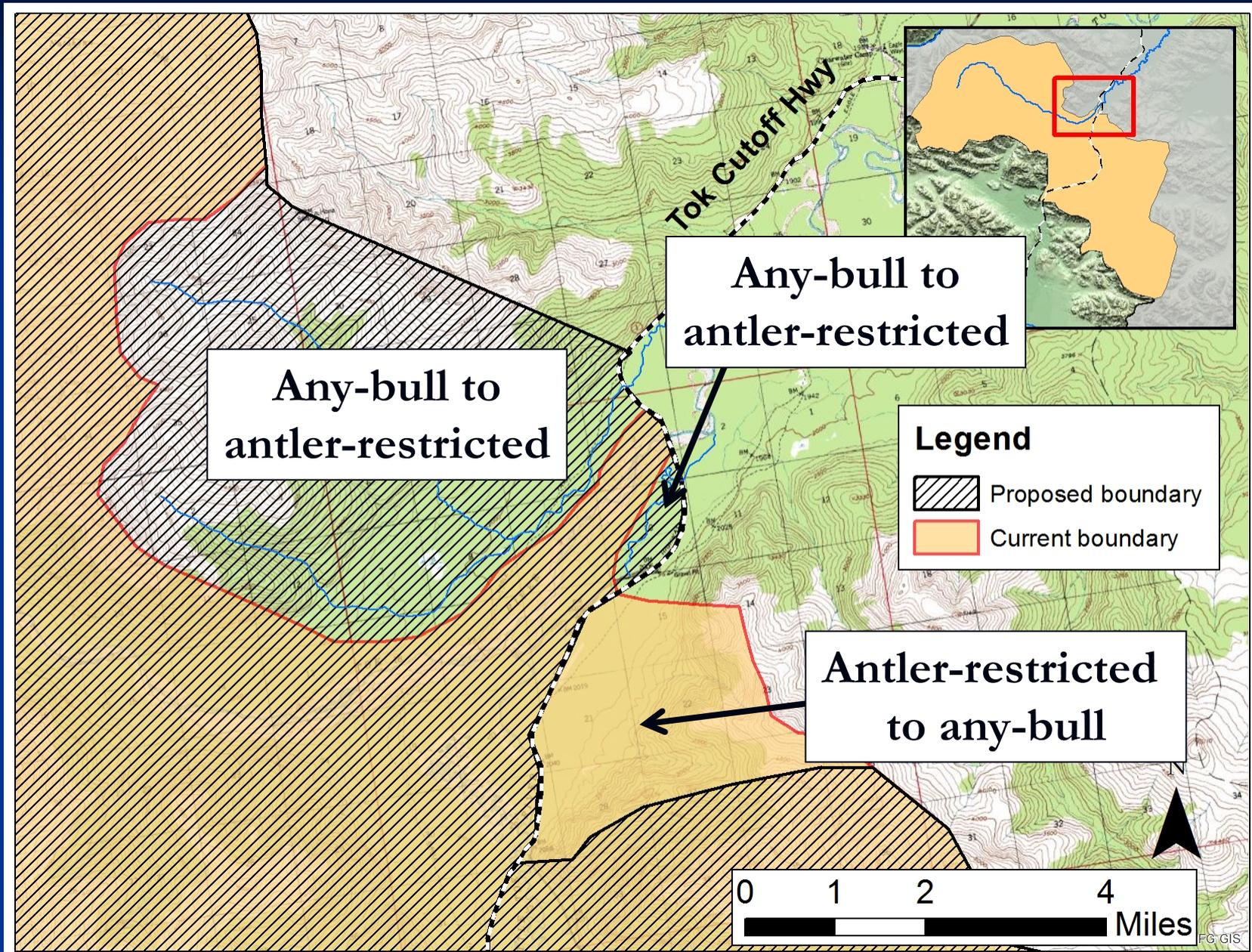
Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposal 88 - 6

Milepost 105 Tok Cutoff



Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose



Proposal 88 – Unit 12 Moose Conclusion

Submitted by: ADF&G

Effect of the proposal: Modify the boundary of the Tok River antler-restricted moose hunting area

Recommendation: Support
Housekeeping proposal

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Submitted by:

Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee

Effect of the proposal: Change the antler-restriction for moose in portions of Unit 12 for residents and nonresidents to spike/fork, 50”, or 2 or less brow tines on each side

Recommendation: Neutral



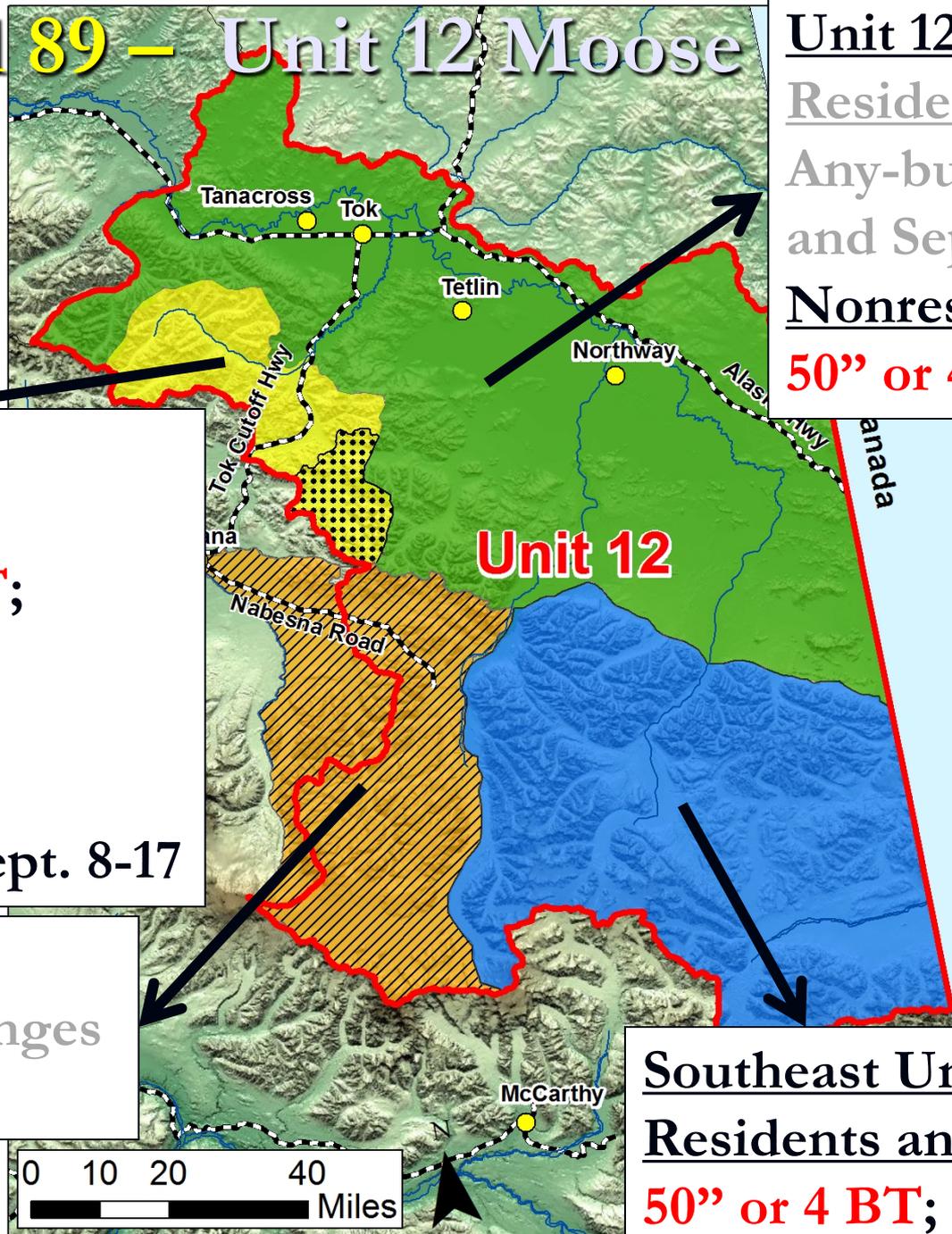
Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proponent's reasoning for proposal:

- Try new strategy
- Concerns with current strategy
 - Brow tines
- Switch harvest pressure
 - To bulls with fewer brow tines
- Keep superior bulls in population



Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose



Unit 12 remainder

Residents:

Any-bull; Aug. 24-28
and Sept. 8-17

Nonresidents:

50" or 4 BT; Sept. 8-17

Tok River

Residents:

SF, 50" or 4 BT;

Aug. 24-28 and
Sept. 8-17

Nonresidents:

50" or 4 BT; Sept. 8-17

RM291:

Proposed changes
do not apply

Southeast Unit 12

Residents and nonresidents:

50" or 4 BT; Sept. 1-30

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposed antler restriction:

- Spike/fork

OR

- 50” antler spread
or greater

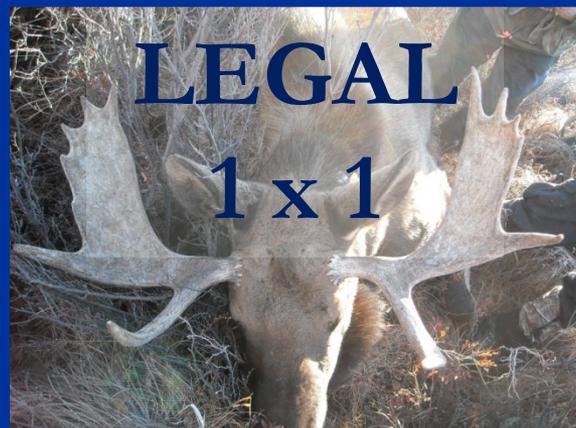
OR

- Antlers with 2 or
less brow tines on
each side

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposed antler restriction:

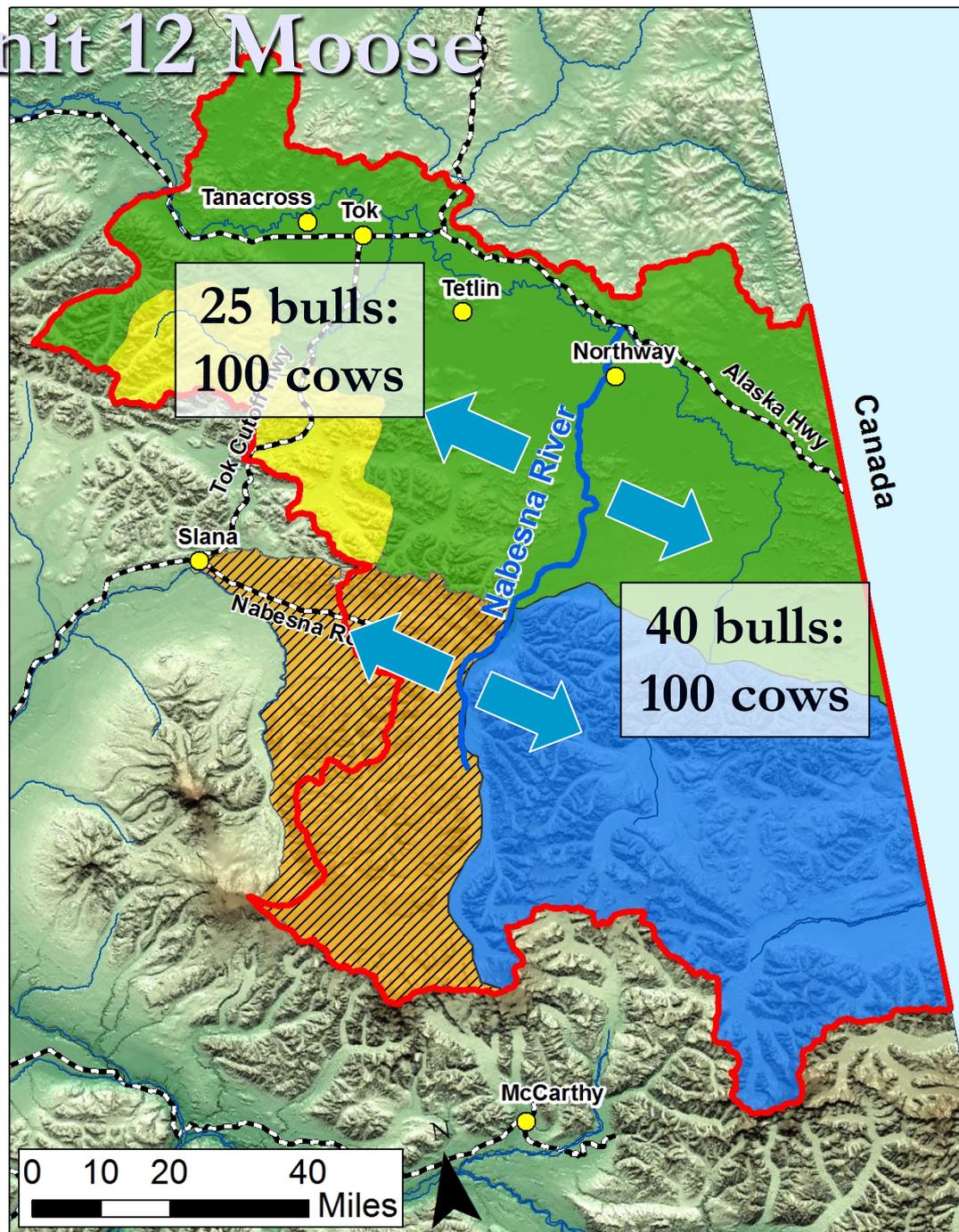
- Spike/fork
OR
- 50” antler spread
or greater
OR
- Antlers with 2 or less brow tines on each side



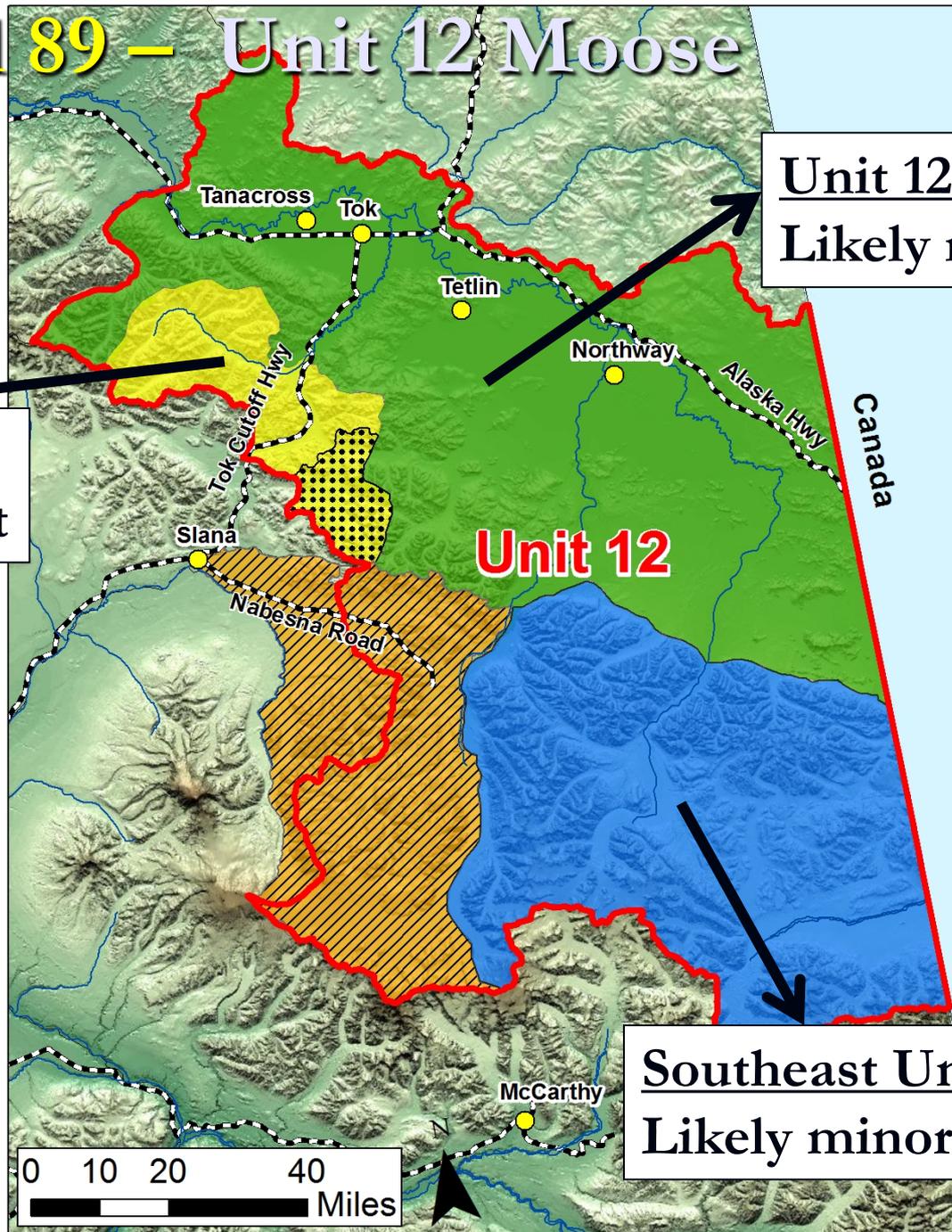
*Unless ≥ 50 "

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Management objectives



Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

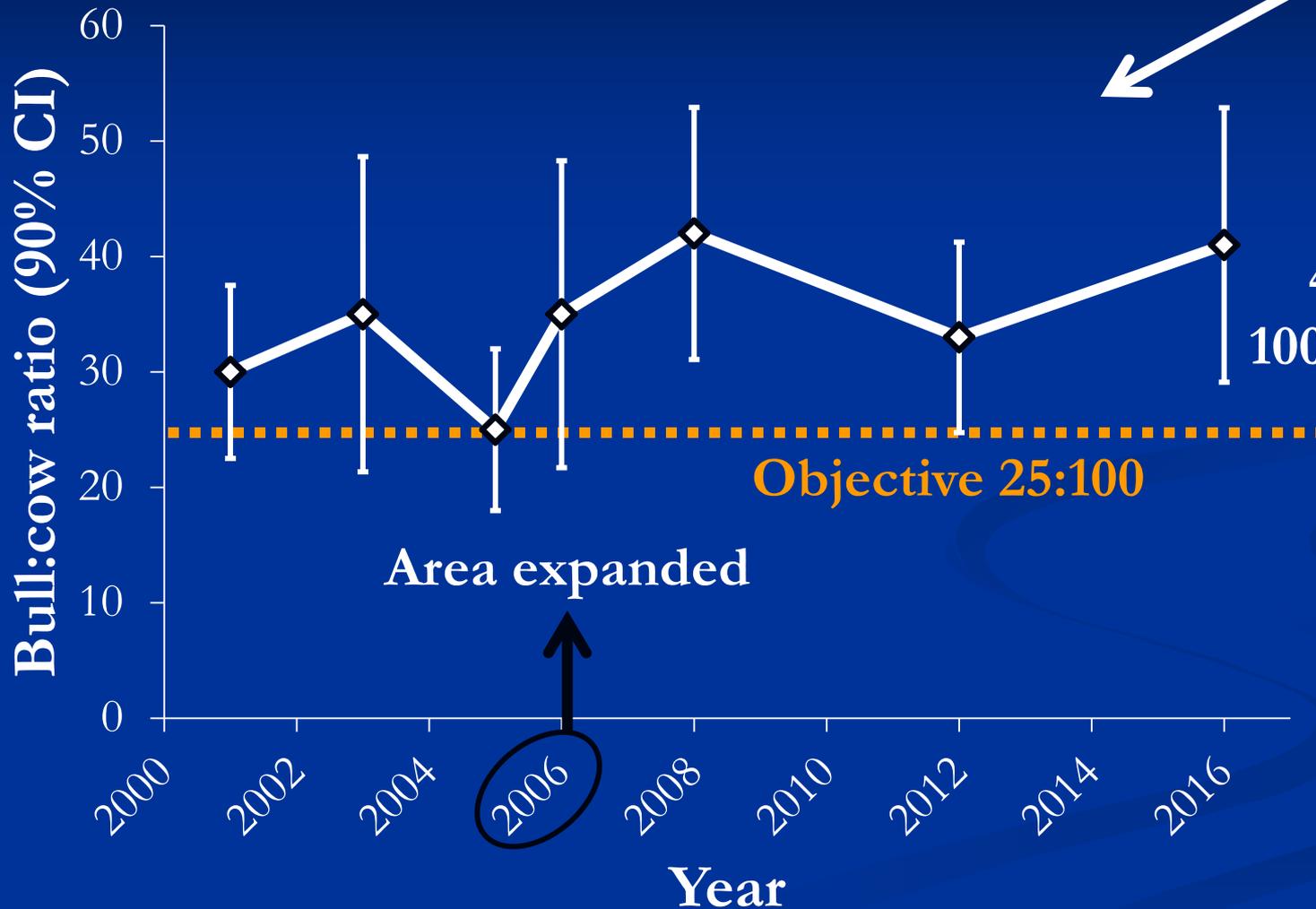
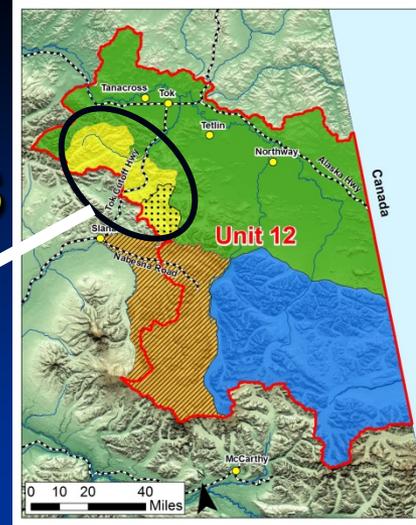


Unit 12 remainder
Likely minor impact

Tok River
Largest impact

Southeast Unit 12
Likely minor impact

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose Tok River – bull:cow ratios

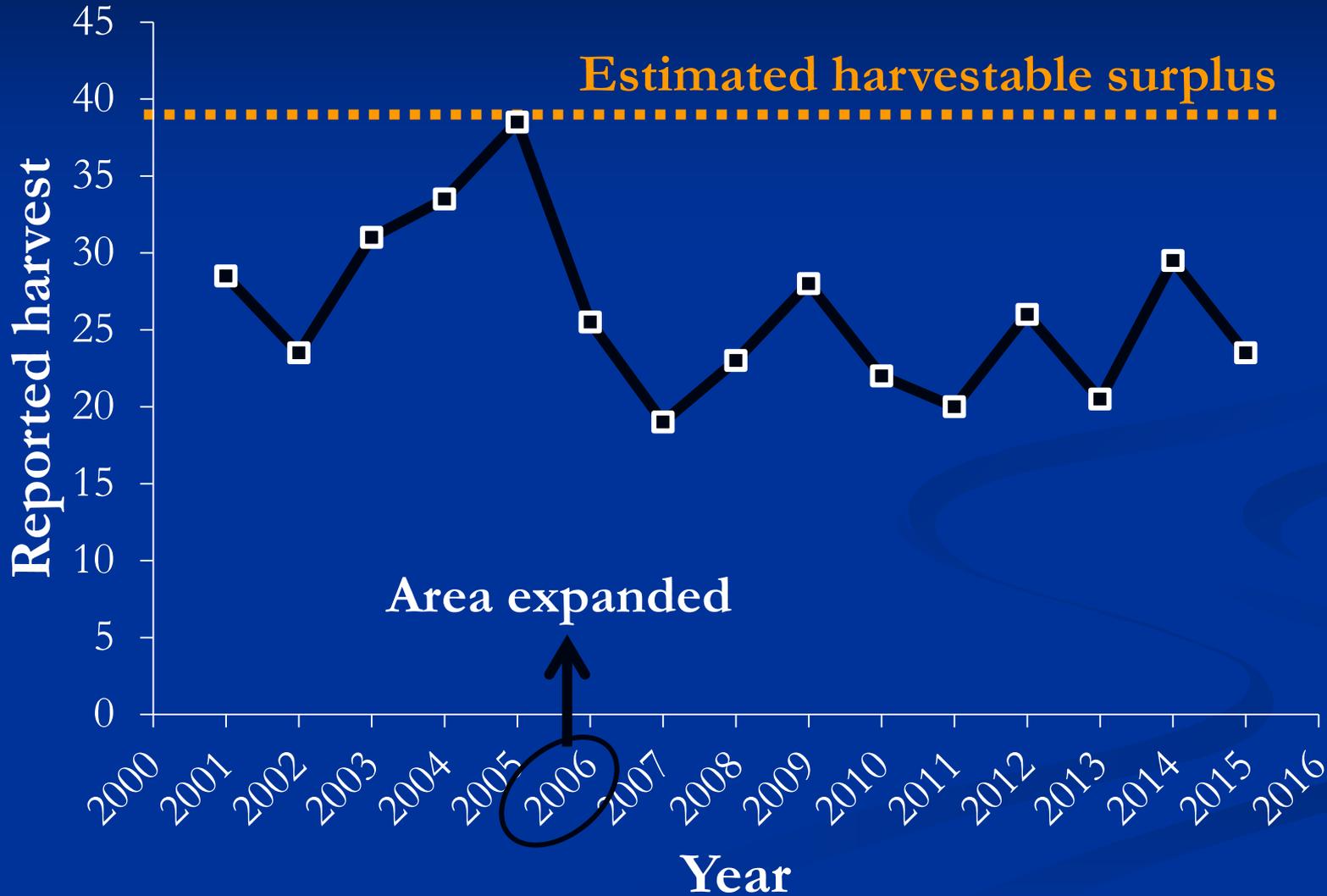
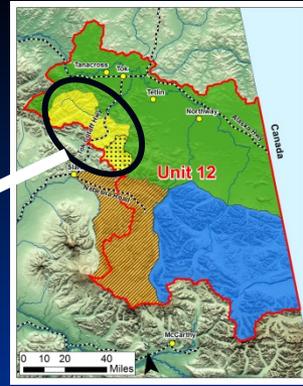


41 bulls per
100 cows in 2016

Objective 25:100

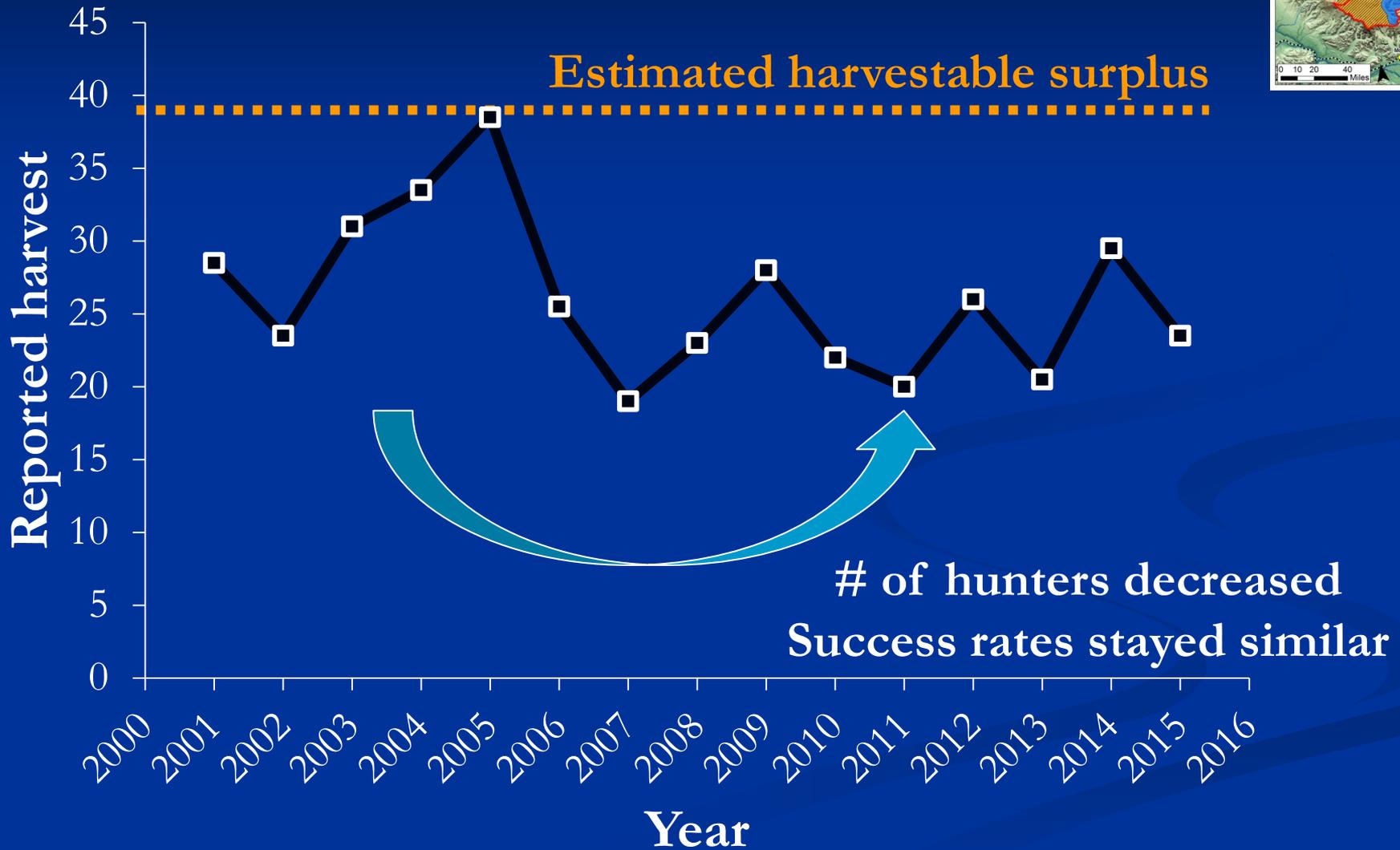
Area expanded

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose Tok River - harvest



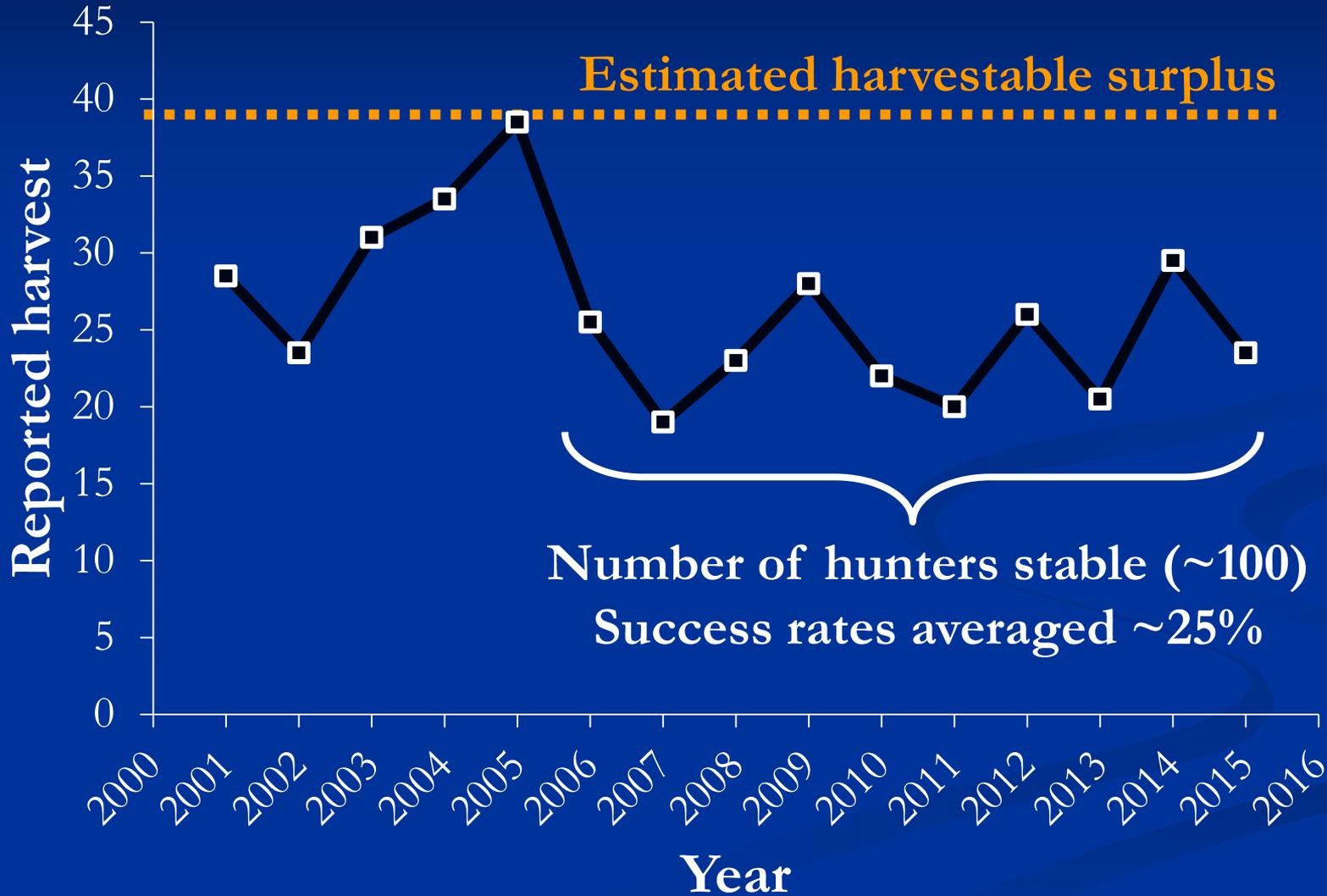
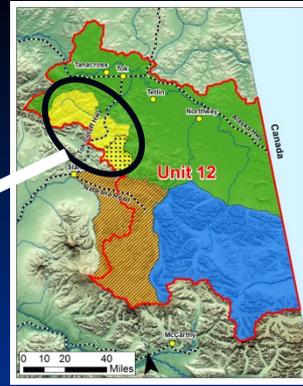
Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Tok River - harvest

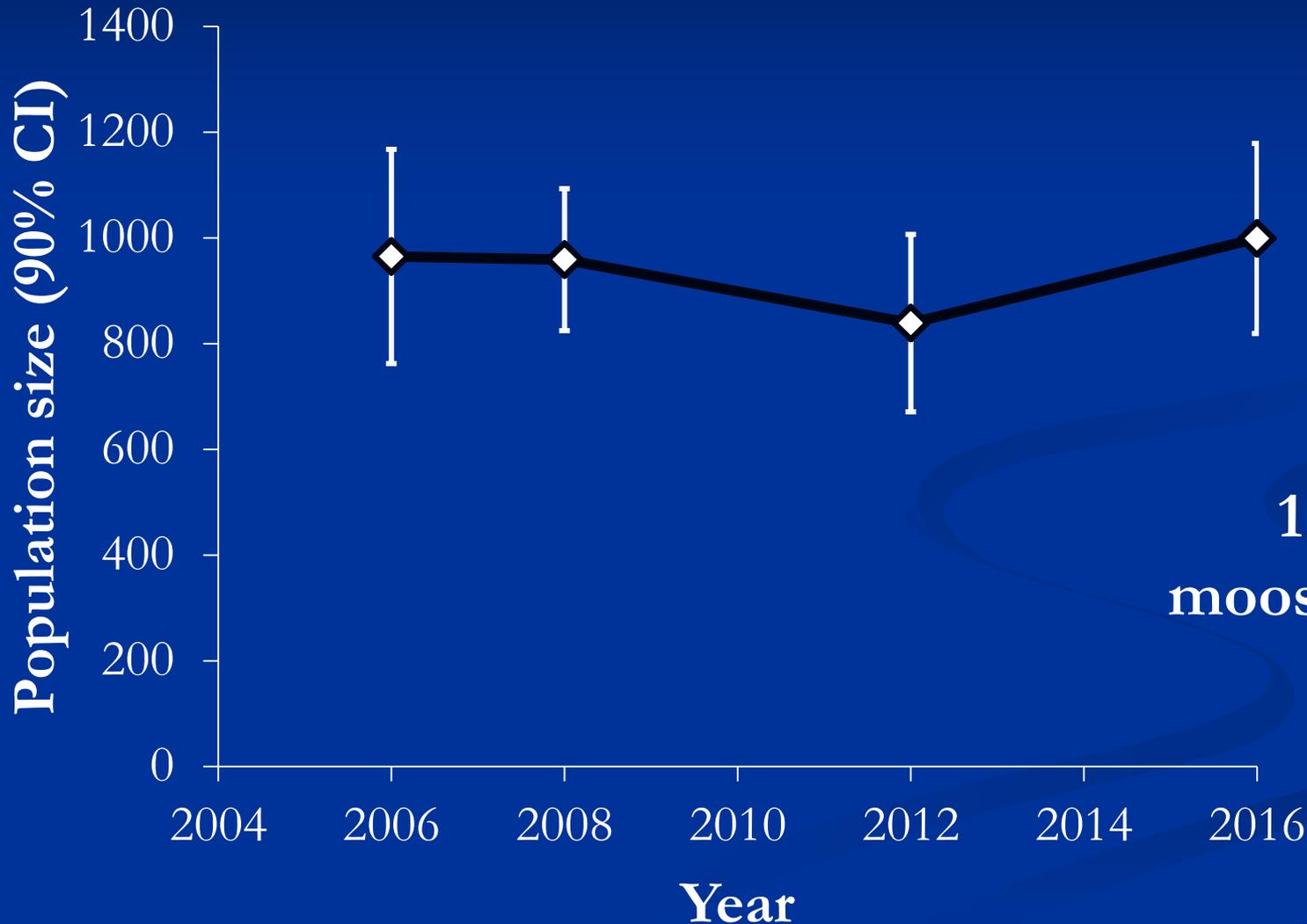
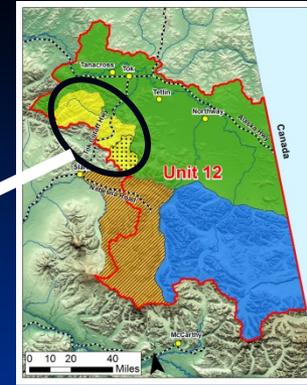


Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Tok River - harvest



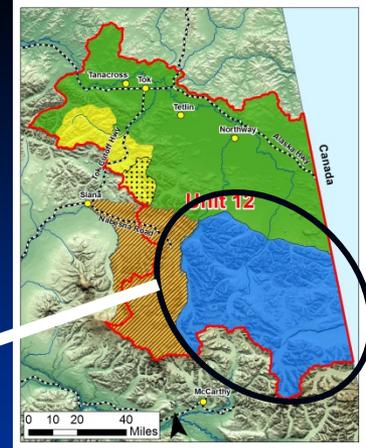
Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose Tok River – population estimate



1.4 - 1.7
moose/sq mile

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Southeast Unit 12



Population estimates (2014)

- 50 bulls:100 cows (90% CI \pm 10)
 - Minimum objective: 40:100
- 0.41 moose/mi²
- Estimated harvestable surplus = 27 bulls

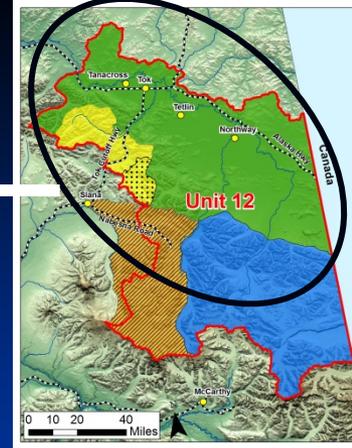
Harvest

- Stable and mostly nonresidents
- 2013-2015 mean harvest = 14 bulls/year
(range 13-14 per year)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Unit 12 remainder ←

Proposal would change nonresident antler restriction



2012 bull to cow ratios above objectives

- 37:100 west of Nabesna River (obj = 25:100)
- 46:100 east of Nabesna River (obj = 40:100)

Harvest

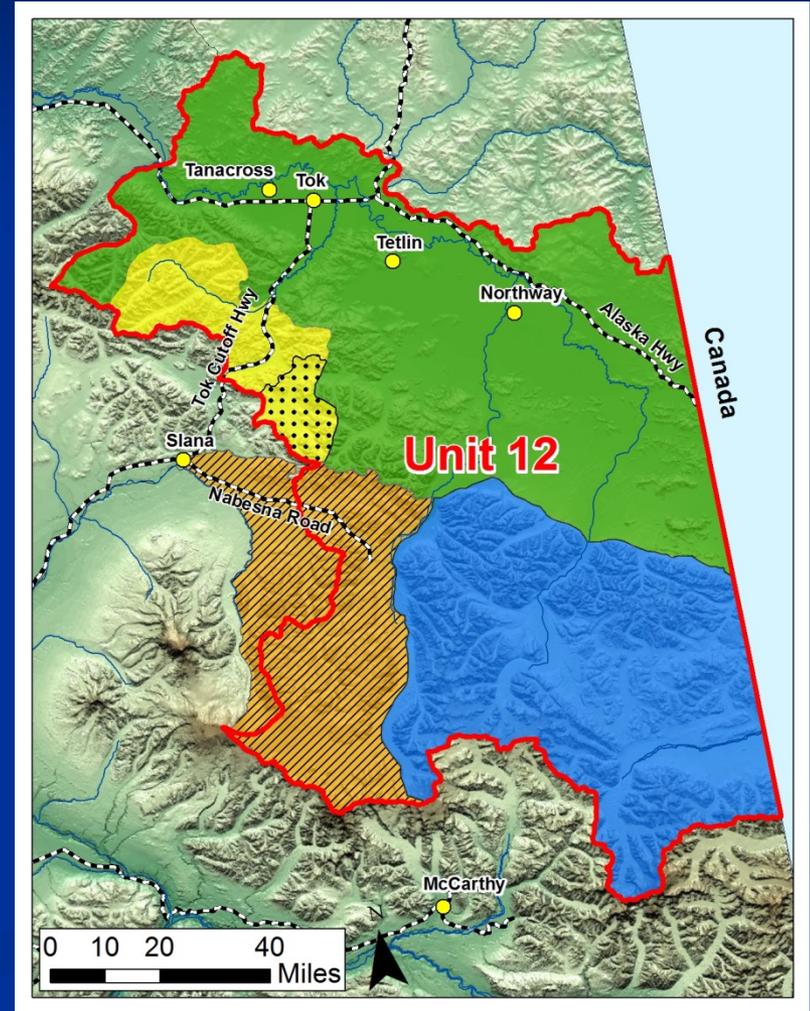
- Stable; ~85% by residents (2013-2015)
- 2013-2015 mean harvest = 104 moose/year (range 62-133)
- Harvestable surplus = 156 bulls

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Review

Bull to cow ratios
above objectives

Harvest below
estimated harvestable
surplus



Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

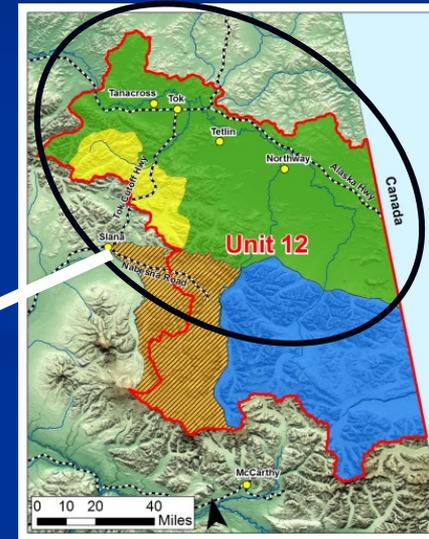
How would the proposal influence harvest?

New antler restriction

- Unable to compare to other areas

Unit 12 any-bull harvest

- Applied current and proposed restrictions
- 2013-2015: 205 harvested
 - 177 included reported antler width and # of brow tines

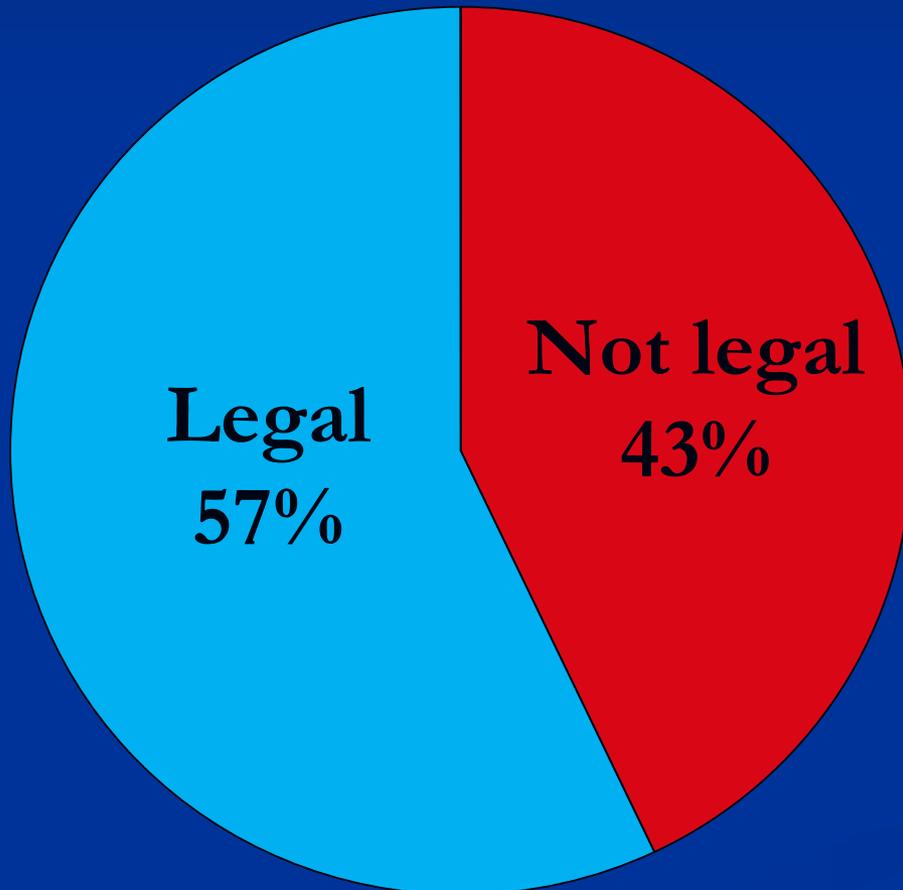


Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

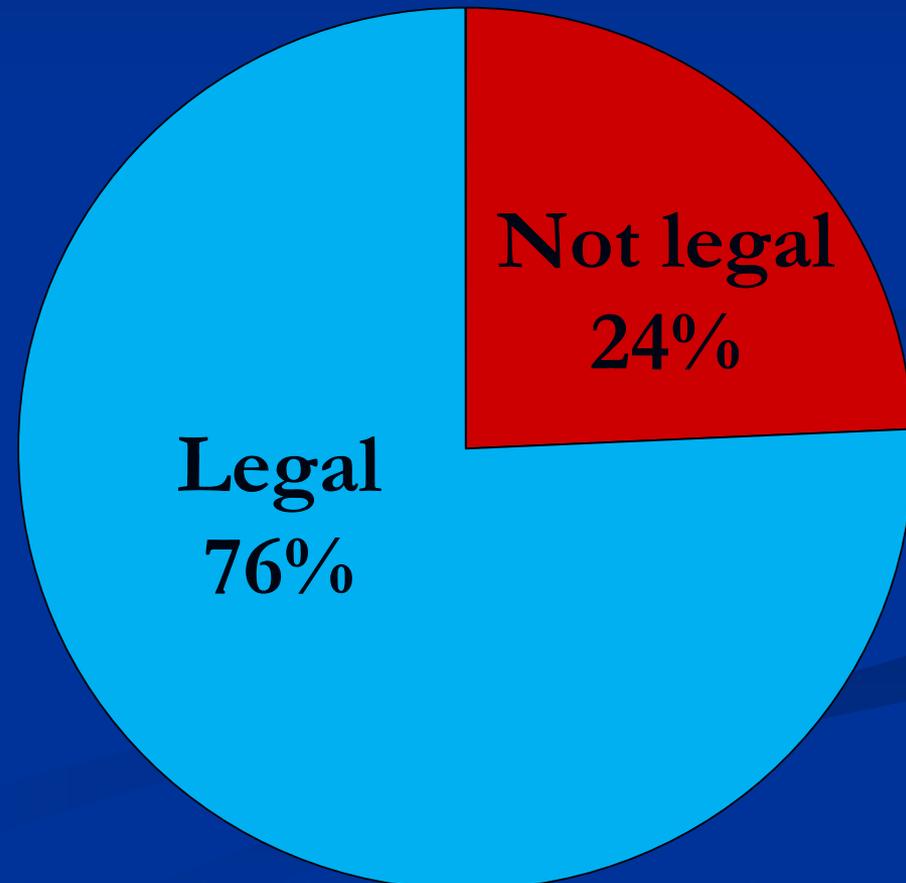
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



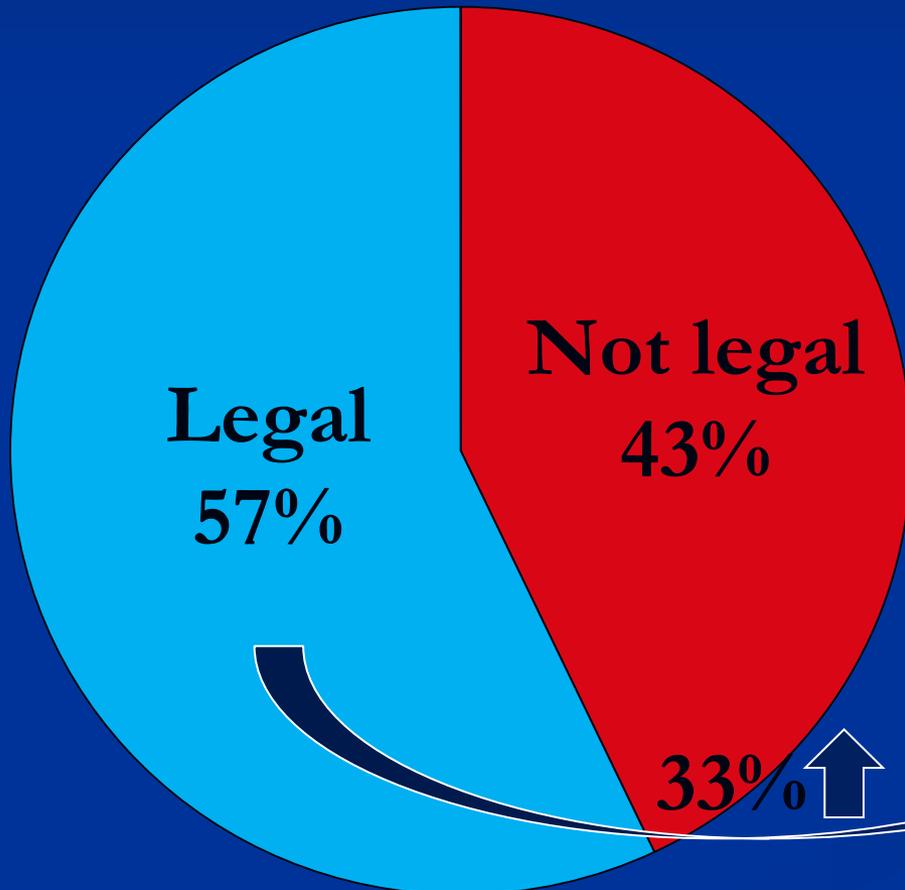
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

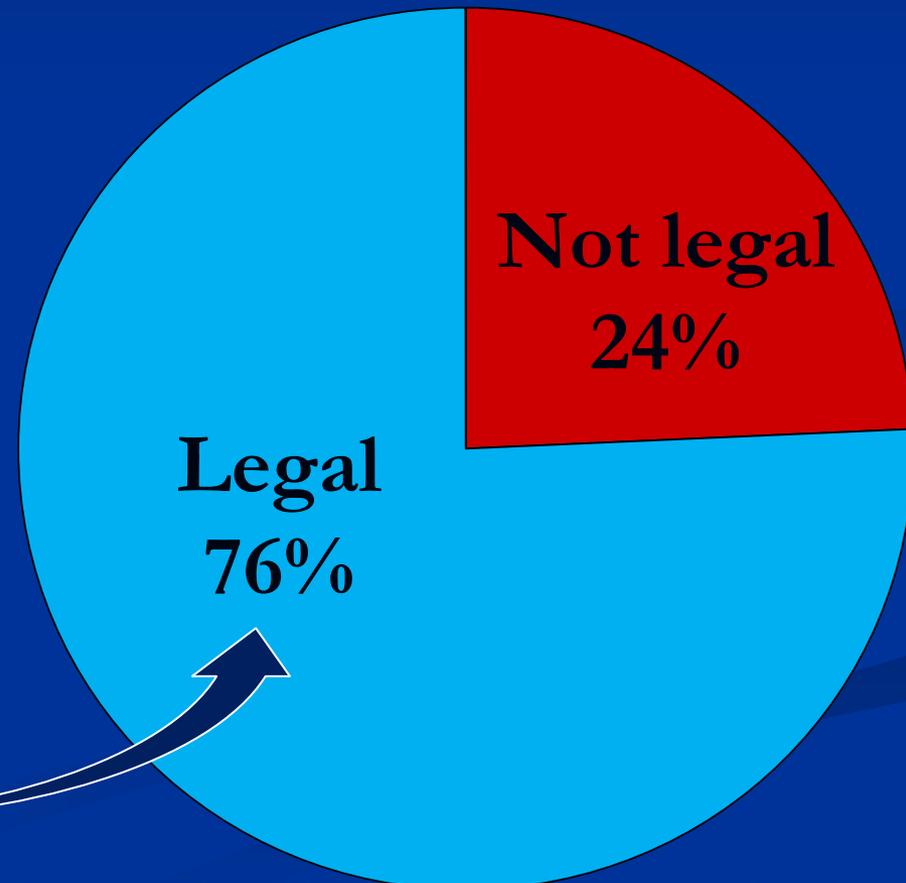
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



33% ↑

Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposal 89 - 19

What would be available for harvest?

Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = \underline{177}$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

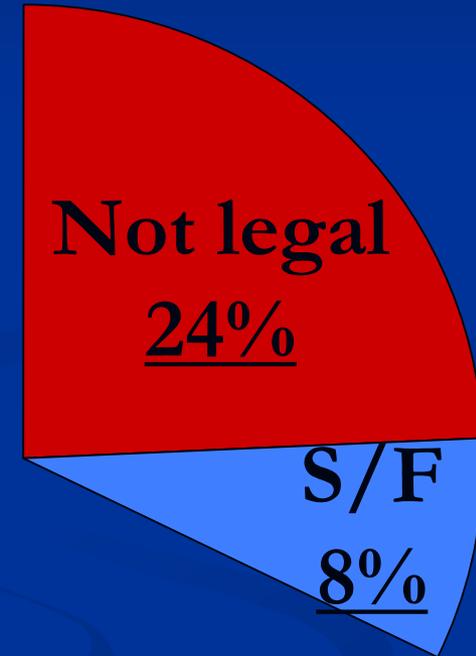
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



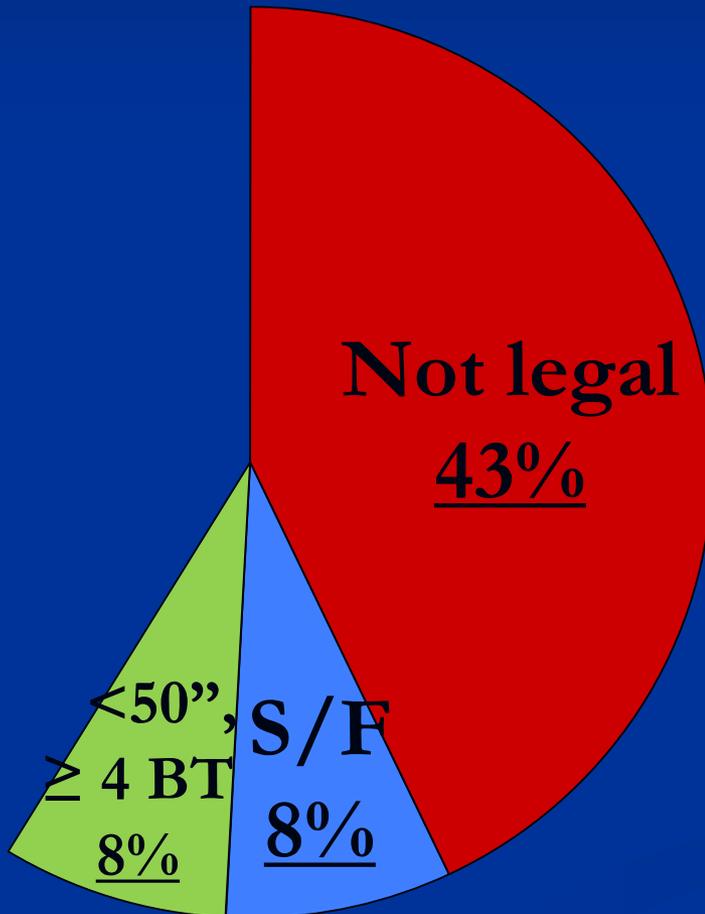
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

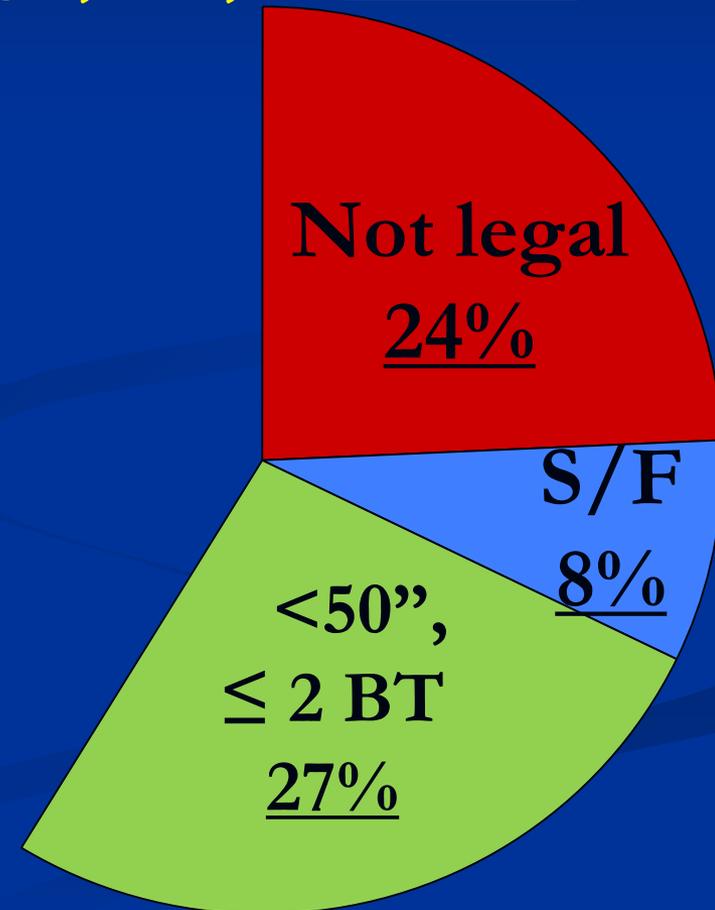
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



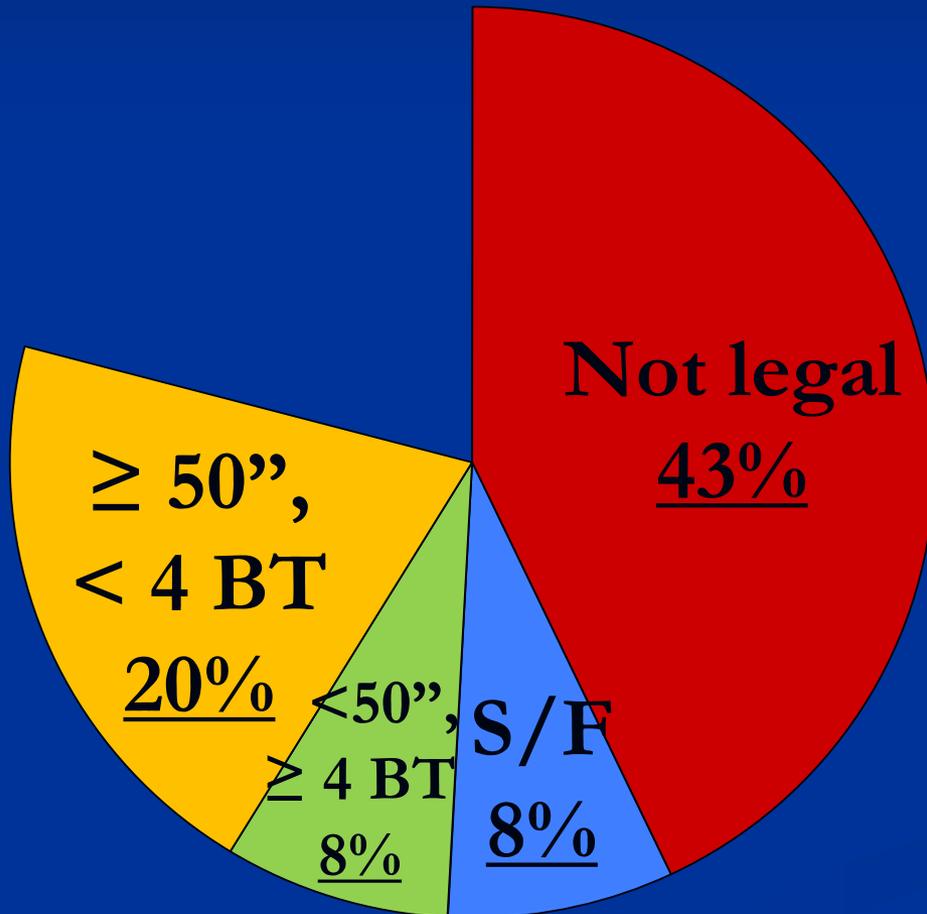
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

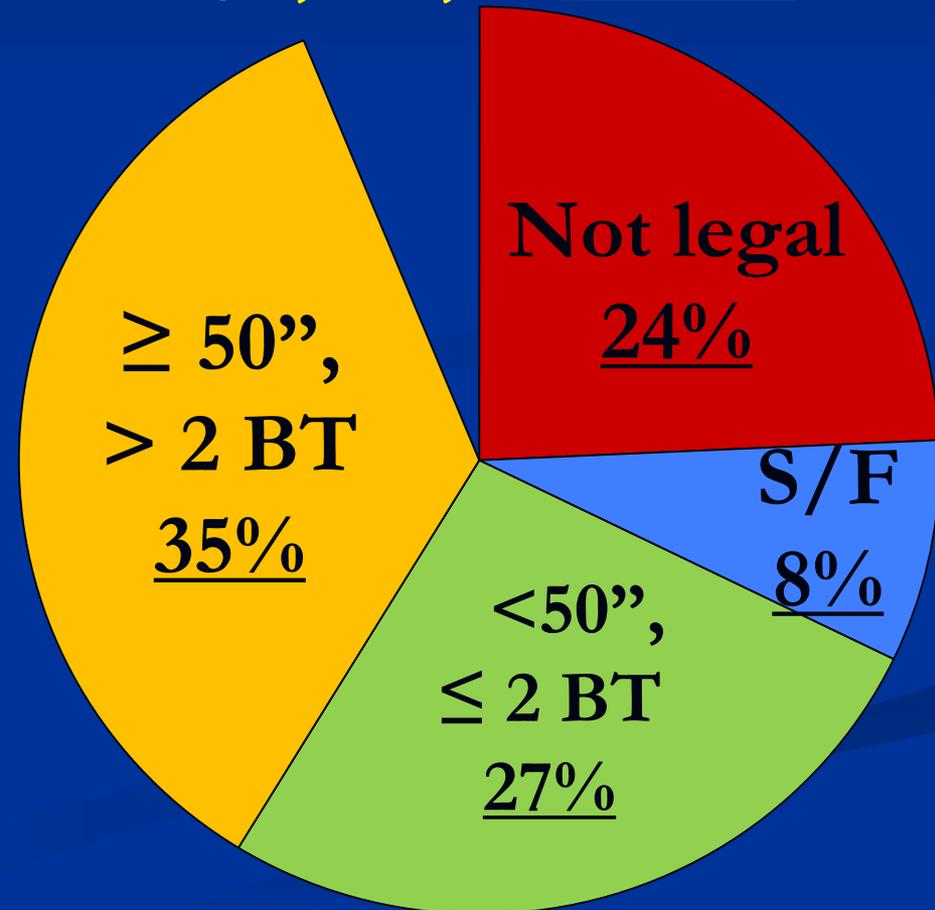
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



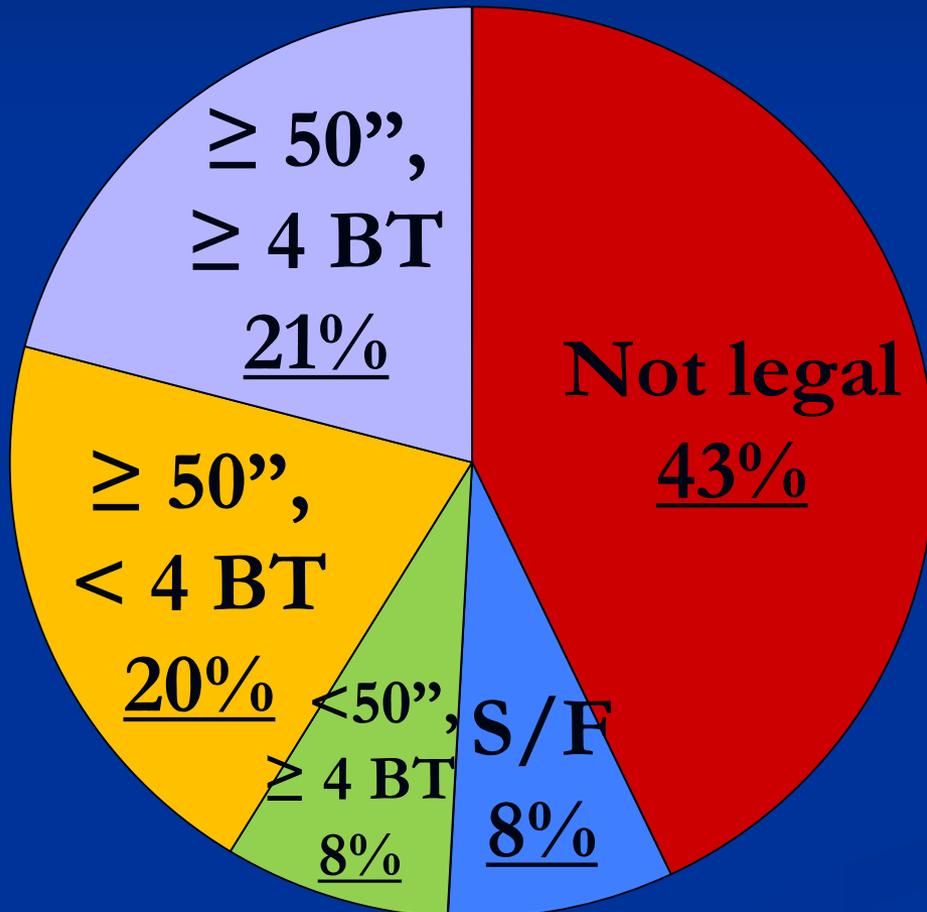
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

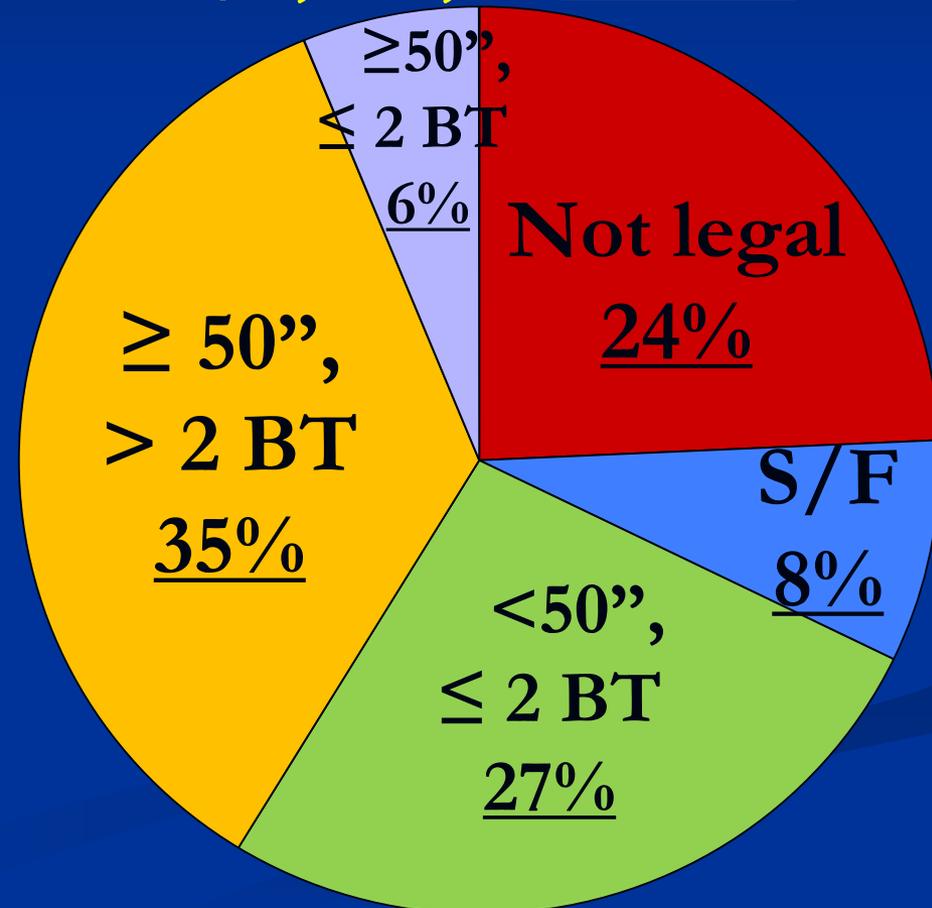
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



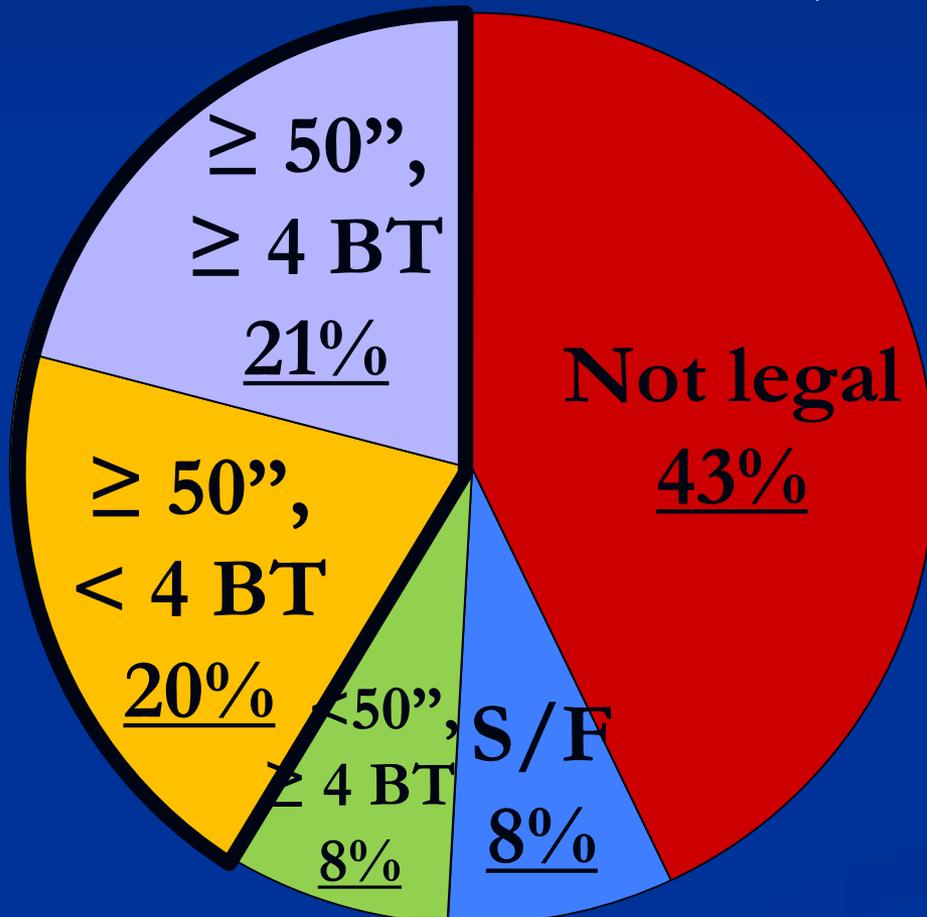
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

What would be available for harvest?

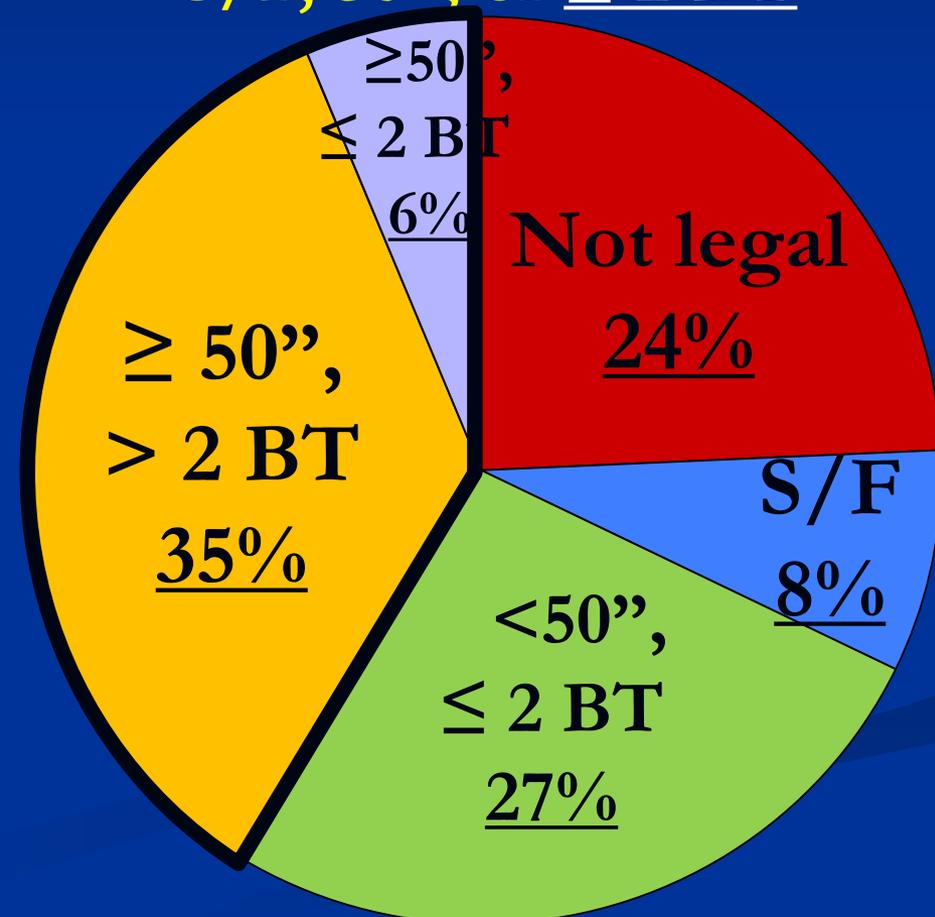
Current:

S/F, 50", or 4 brow tine (BT)



Proposed

S/F, 50", or ≤ 2 BT



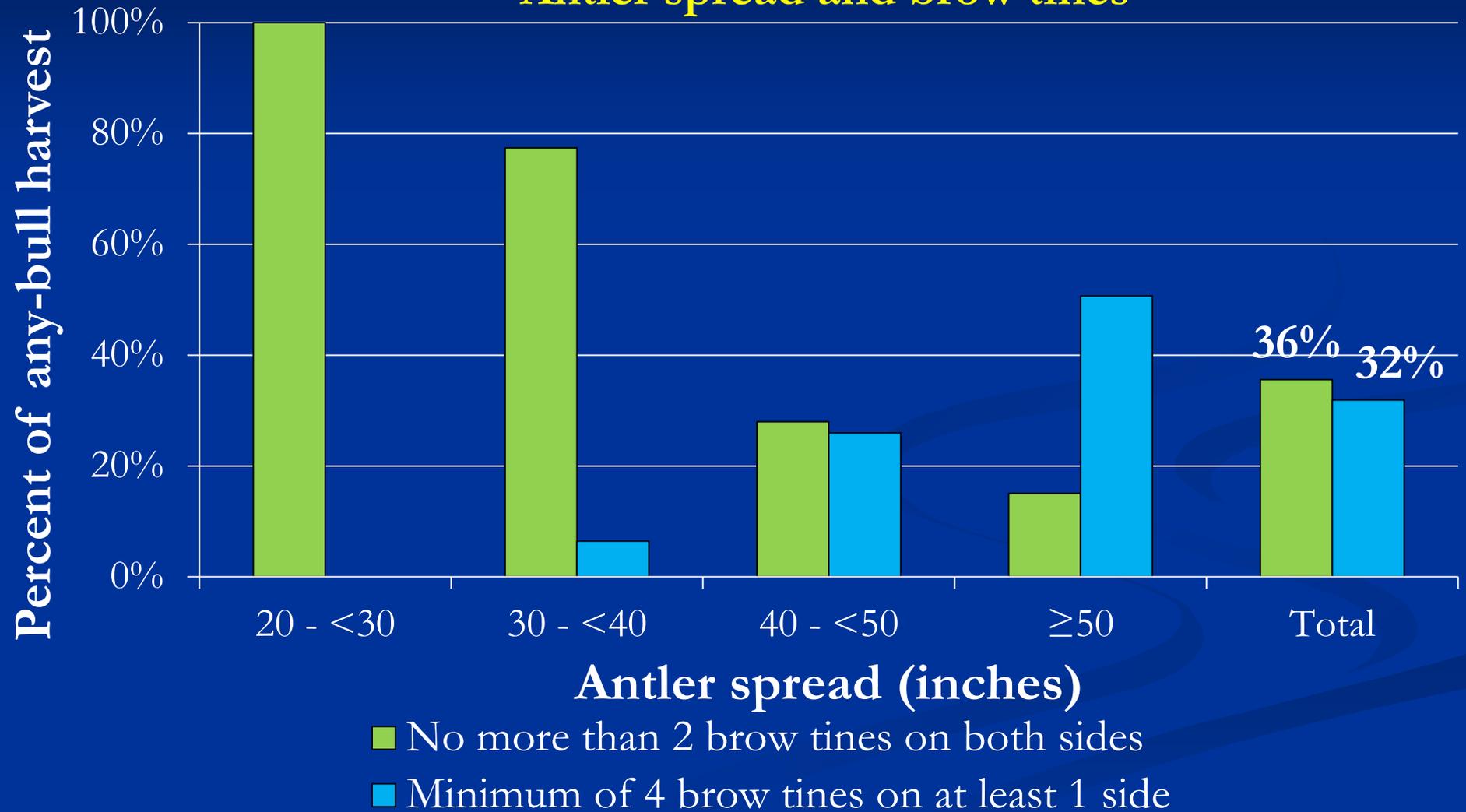
Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = 177$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposal 89 - 25

What would be available for harvest?

Antler spread and brow tines



Based off of 2013-2015 Unit 12 any-bull harvest ($n = \underline{177}$)

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Proposal 89 - 26

Estimated harvest pressure by age

Proposed antler restrictions:

- <40” antler spread – most legal
 - Mostly 1-3 year olds

Effect:



Estimated harvest pressure by age

Proposed antler restrictions:

- <40” antler spread – most legal
 - Mostly 1-3 year olds

- 40-50” antler spread – most not legal
 - Mostly 4-5 year olds

Effect:



Estimated harvest pressure by age

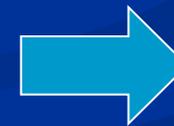
Proposed antler restrictions:

Effect:

- <40” antler spread – most legal
 - Mostly 1-3 year olds

- 40-50” antler spread – most not legal
 - Mostly 4-5 year olds

- ≥50” antler spread
 - All legal by antler spread
 - Mostly ≥6 years old
 - Few legal by brow tines



OR

Estimated harvest pressure by age

Proposed antler restrictions:

Effect:

- <40” antler spread – most legal
 - Mostly 1-3 year olds
- 40-50” antler spread – most not legal
 - Mostly 4-5 year olds
- ≥50” antler spread
 - All legal by antler spread
 - Mostly ≥6 years old
 - Few legal by brow tines



Summary

Potential effect of proposal on harvest

Current:



Proposed:

Spike/fork legal in some areas

Spike/fork legal in all areas

Few moose $<50''$ legal

Higher proportion $<50''$ legal

All moose $\geq 50''$ legal

All moose $\geq 50''$ legal

~1/2 legal by brow tines

Few legal by brow tines

Likely will result in initial overall increase in harvest

- Particularly of younger/smaller ($<40''$) bulls

Harvest of large bulls ($>50''$) could decrease

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusions

1. Bull:cow ratios above objectives
2. Harvest below estimated harvestable surplus
3. Proposal would likely result in increased harvest
4. Estimate harvest will remain within harvestable surplus
5. Estimate bull:cow ratios will remain within objectives

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusions – Tok River

	2001-2005 (mostly any-bull)	2006-present (4 BT antler restriction)	Proposed (2 BT antler restriction)
<u>Bull:cow ratio</u> (objective = 25:100)			
<u>Harvest</u> (estimated harvestable surplus = 40)			
<u>Estimated proportion of bulls legal</u>			

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusions – Tok River

	2001-2005 (mostly any-bull)	2006-present (4 BT antler restriction)	Proposed (2 BT antler restriction)
<u>Bull:cow ratio</u> (objective = 25:100)	Low of 25:100	Mean = 38:100 Most recent = 41:100	
<u>Harvest</u> (estimated harvestable surplus = 40)	High of ~40	Mean = 24	
<u>Estimated proportion of bulls legal</u>	~100%	57%	76%

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusions – Tok River

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Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusions – Tok River

	2001-2005 (mostly any-bull)	2006-present (4 BT antler restriction)	Proposed (2 BT antler restriction)
<u>Bull:cow ratio</u> (objective = 25:100)	Low of 25:100	Mean = 38:100 Most recent = 41:100	?
<u>Harvest</u> (estimated harvestable surplus = 40)	High of ~40	Mean = 24	32
<u>Estimated proportion of bulls legal</u>	~100%	57%	76%

Note: Red arrows indicate a 33% increase in both the Mean Harvest and the Estimated proportion of bulls legal from the 2006-present period to the Proposed period.

Proposal 89 – Unit 12 Moose

Conclusion

Proposal 89: Change the antler-restriction for moose in portions of Unit 12 for residents and nonresidents to spike/fork, 50”, or 2 or less brow tines on each side

Recommendation: Neutral

No biological concerns

Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

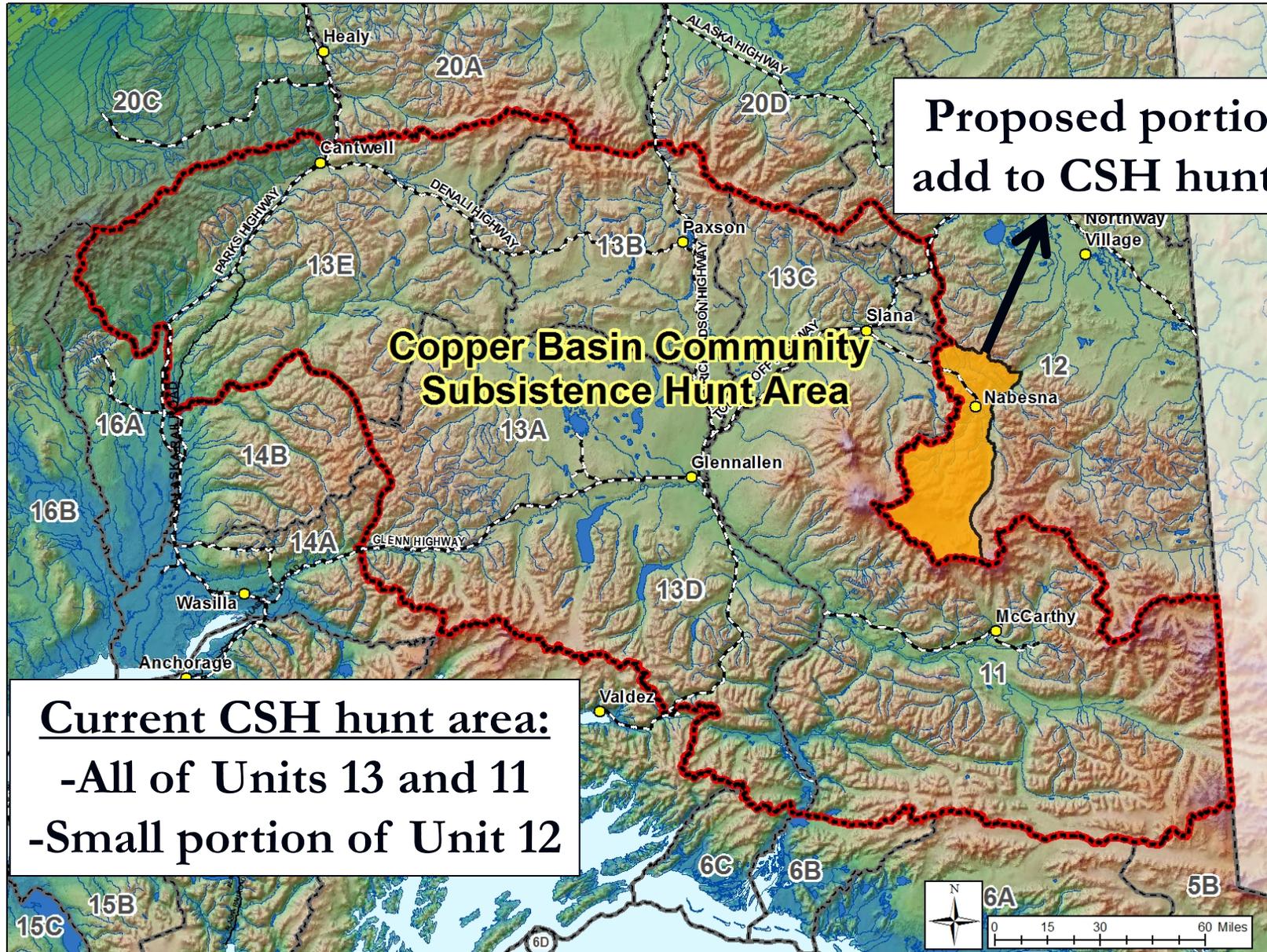
Submitted by: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary and Traditional Use Committee

Effect of the proposal: Expand the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH) hunt area by adding a portion of Unit 12

Recommendation: DEFER to the March meeting on Copper Basin hunting and subsistence

- **NEUTRAL** – expanding area
- **NEUTRAL** – establishing CSH moose season
- **OPPOSED** – establishing CSH caribou season

Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



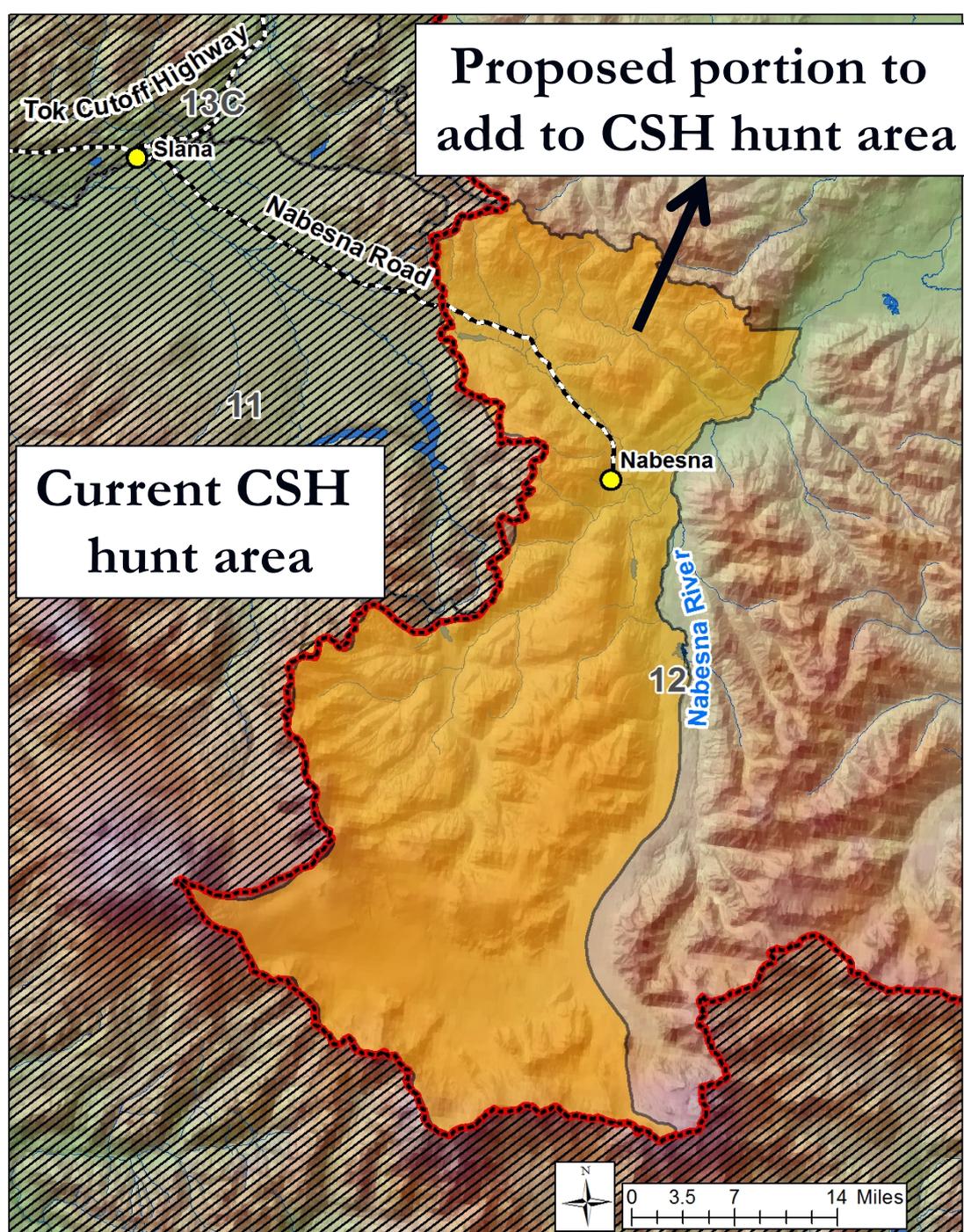
Proposed portion to add to CSH hunt area

Current CSH hunt area:
-All of Units 13 and 11
-Small portion of Unit 12

Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

Add ~1,200 mi²

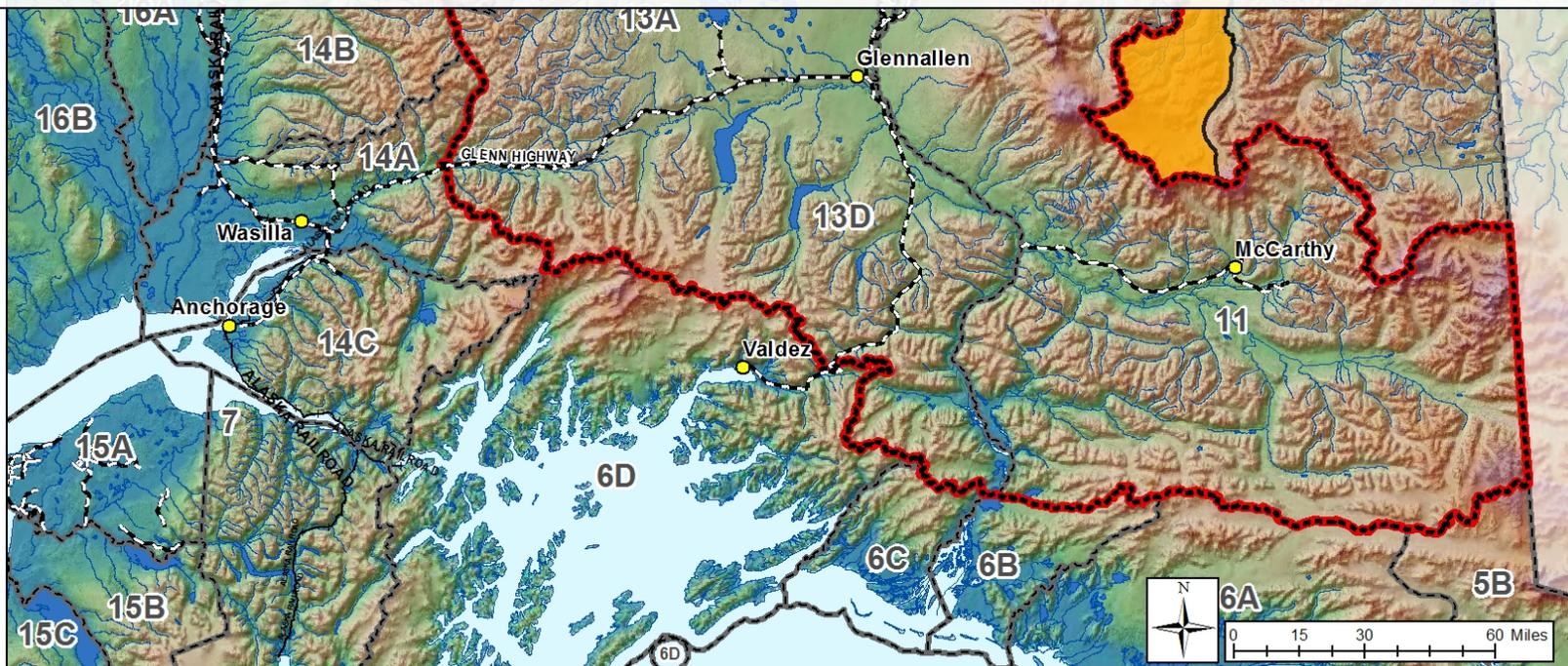
➤ ~65% of area
>5000 feet



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

Copper Basin CSH restrictions

- No moose or caribou permits (state or federal) outside of hunt area
- No moose or caribou harvest tickets
- Limited to hunting for caribou and moose only within hunt area



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

Copper Basin CSH restrictions

- No moose or caribou permits (state or federal) outside of hunt area
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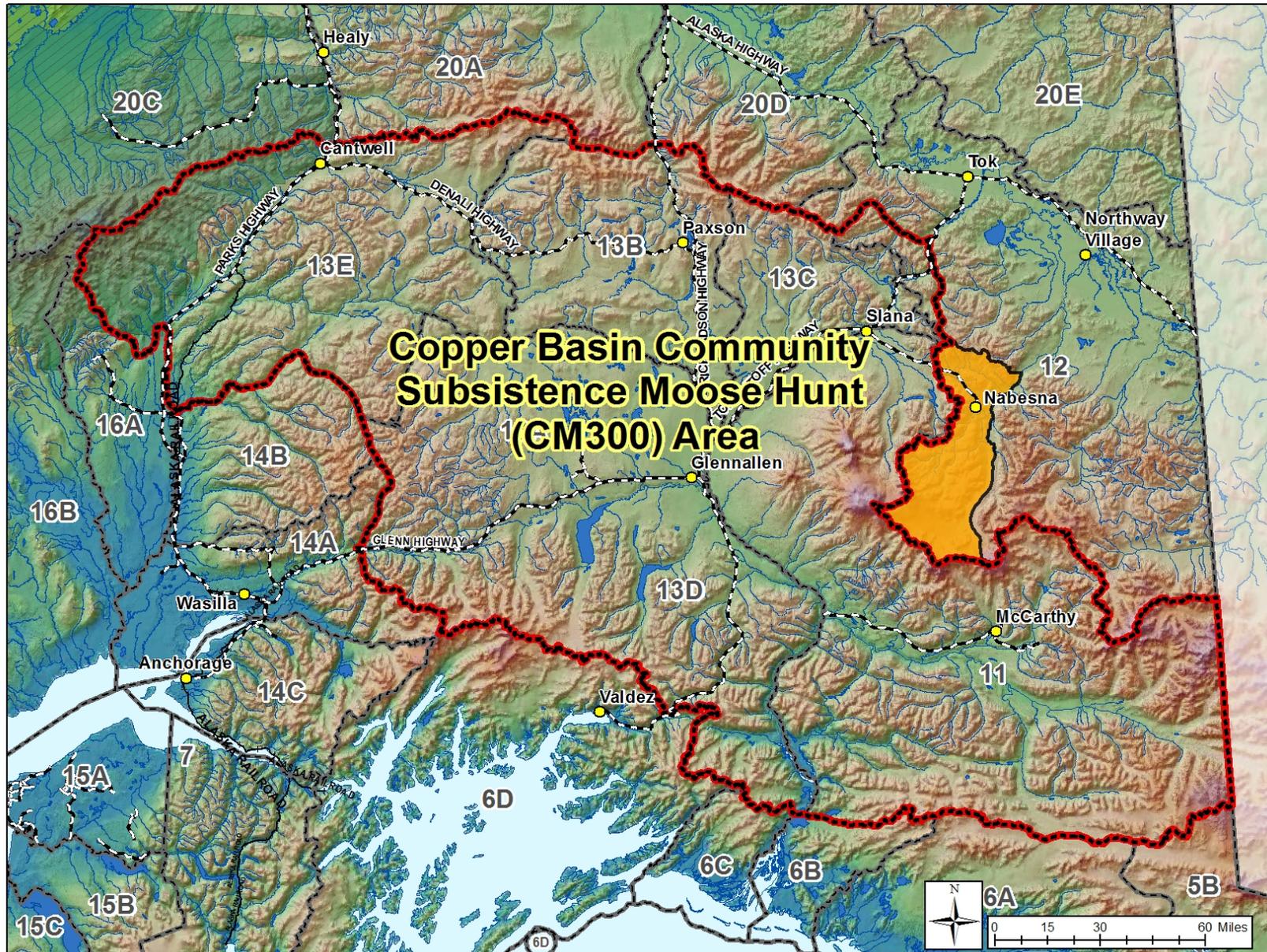


Household harvest surveys

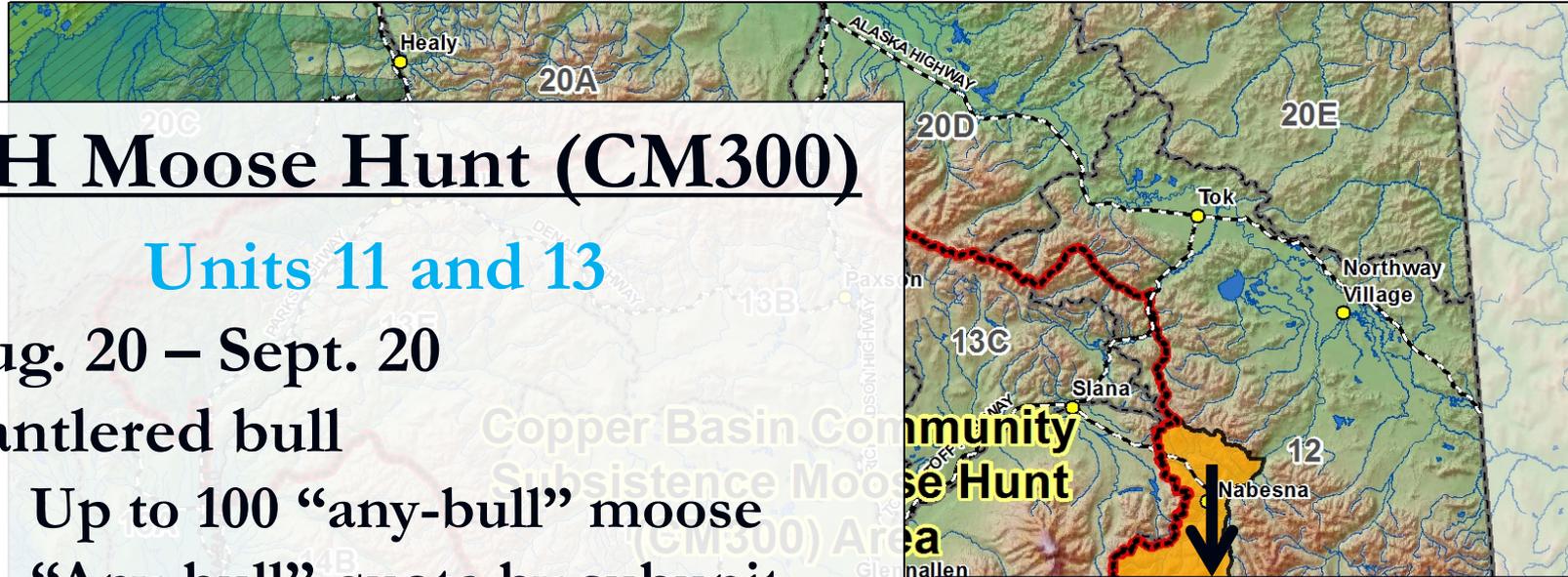
- 1980s and 2010s
- 21 Copper Basin communities
- Some showed use of proposed area



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



CSH Moose Hunt (CM300)

Units 11 and 13

- Aug. 20 – Sept. 20
- 1 antlered bull
 - Up to 100 “any-bull” moose
 - “Any-bull” quota by subunit
 - Once reached – antler-restricted

Unit 12

- Aug. 24-28 and Sept. 8-17
- 1 bull with S/F, 50”, or 4 BT
- Same as harvest ticket season

Current moose season in proposed area

- Aug. 20 – Sept. 17
- 1 bull with S/F, 50”, or 3 BT
- Registration permit
- All of Nabesna Road



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

CSH Moose (CM300) hunt

Regulatory Year	Groups	# of participants that hunted	Harvest
2009	1	293	100 (70 any bulls)
2010	-	-	-
2011	9	311	91 (64 any bulls)
2012	19	358	101 (76 any bulls)
2013	45	842	162 (88 any bulls)
2014	43	599	148 (76 any bulls)
2015	43	593	171 (92 any bulls)
2016	73	-	201 (114 any bulls)

Along Nabesna Road in Unit 11:
3 reported hunting; 1 bull harvested

Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

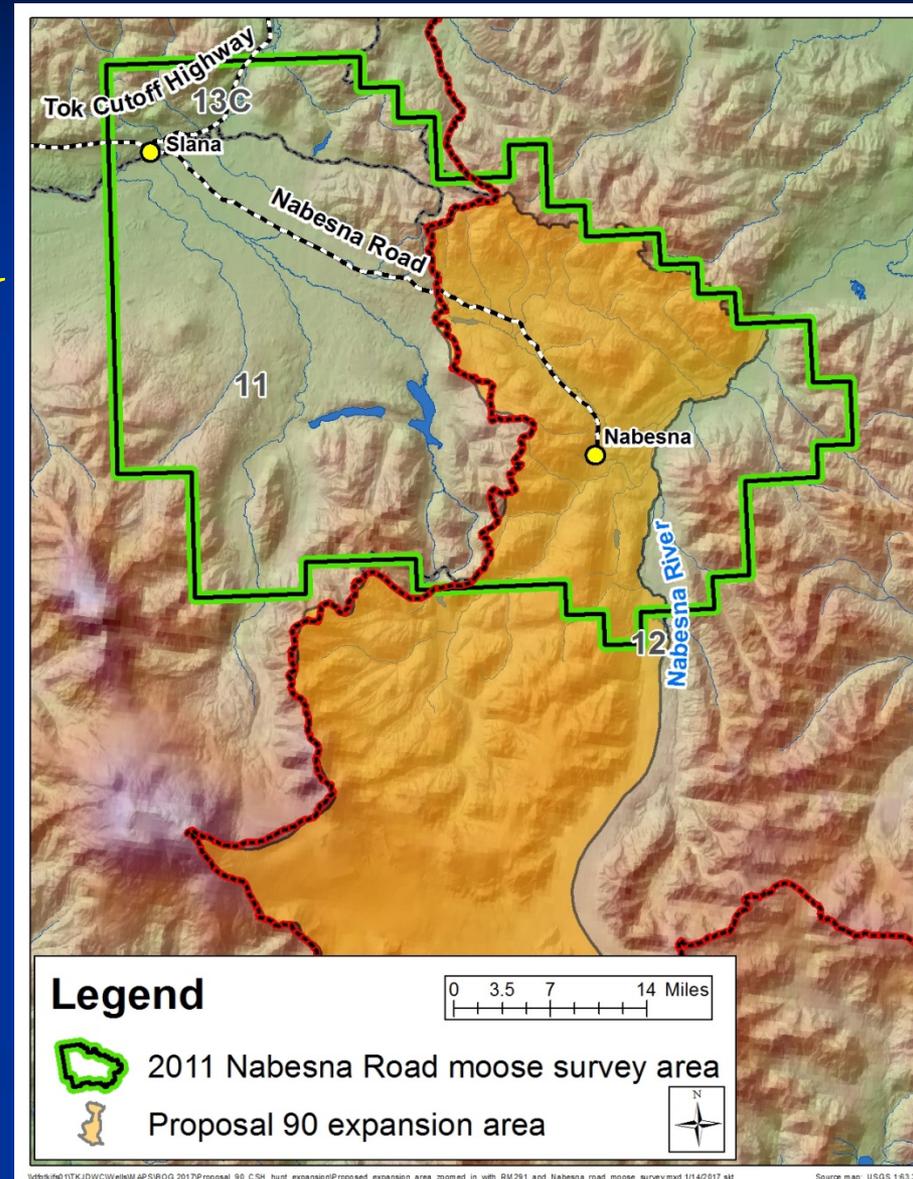
Moose population and harvest data

2011 Nabesna Road survey

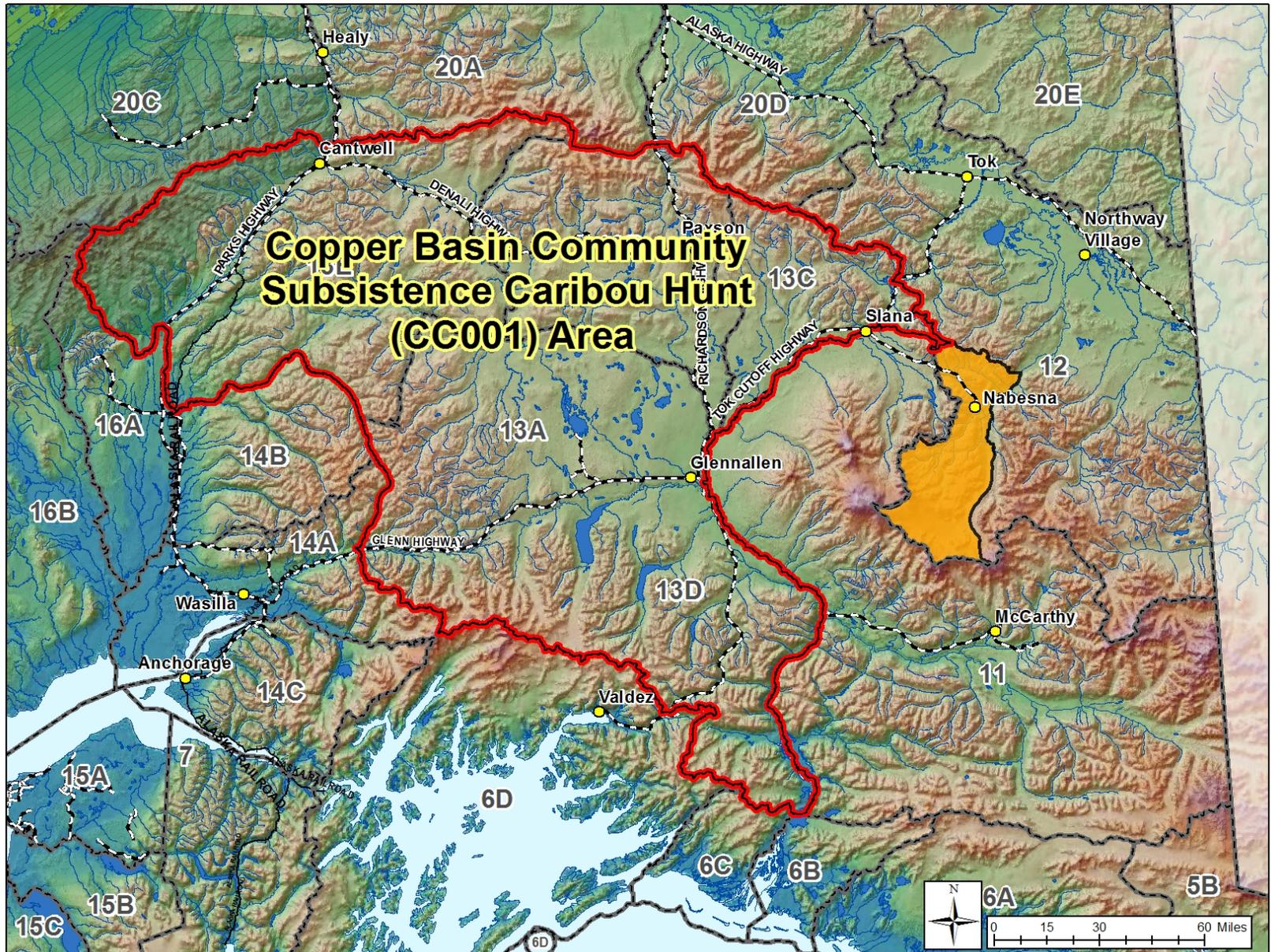
- Bull:cow ratio = 35:100
(objective = 25:100)
- Density = 0.8 moose/mi²

Harvest within proposed area (2012-2016)

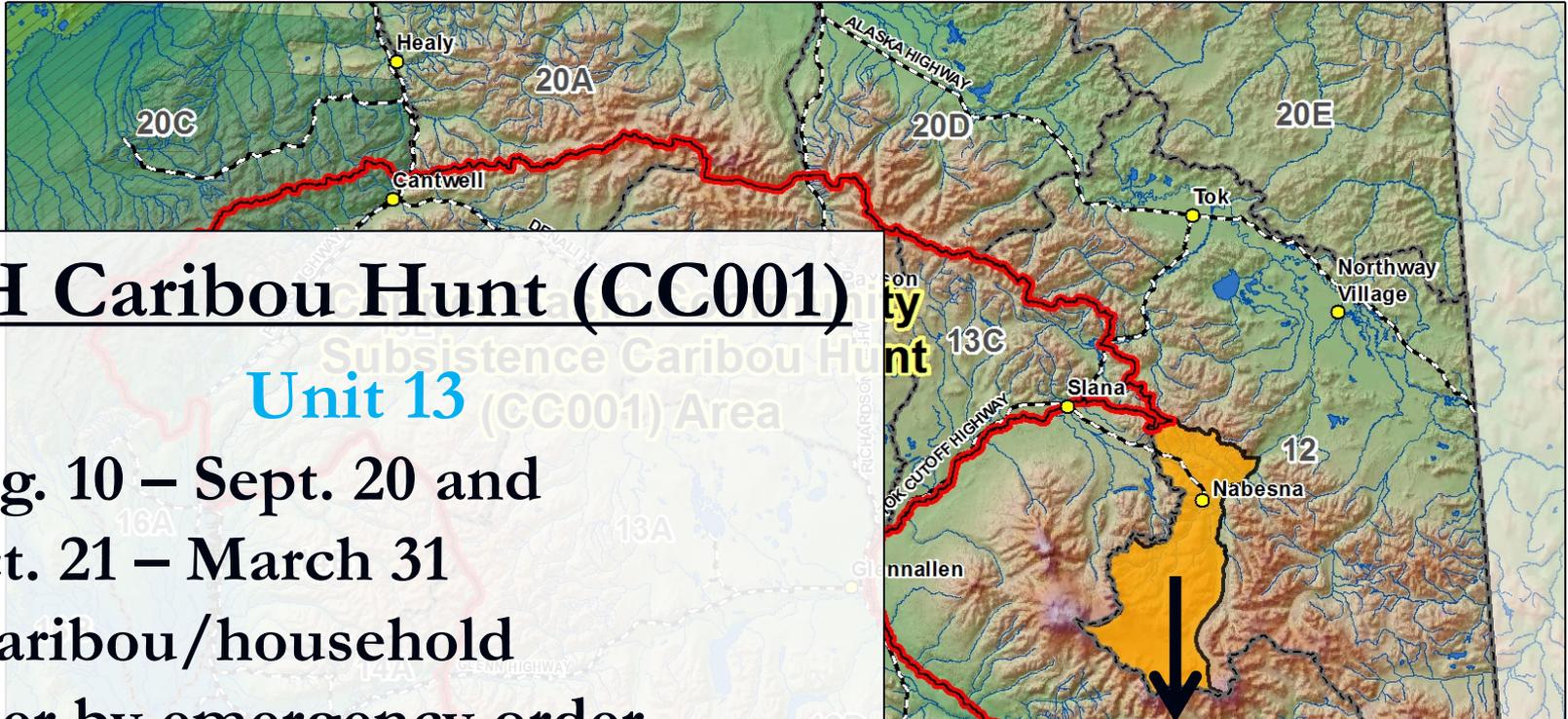
- Mean = 8 bulls per year
- Harvestable surplus estimate = 12–16 bulls



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



CSH Caribou Hunt (CC001)

Unit 13

- Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 and Oct. 21 – March 31
- 1 caribou/household
- Alter by emergency order

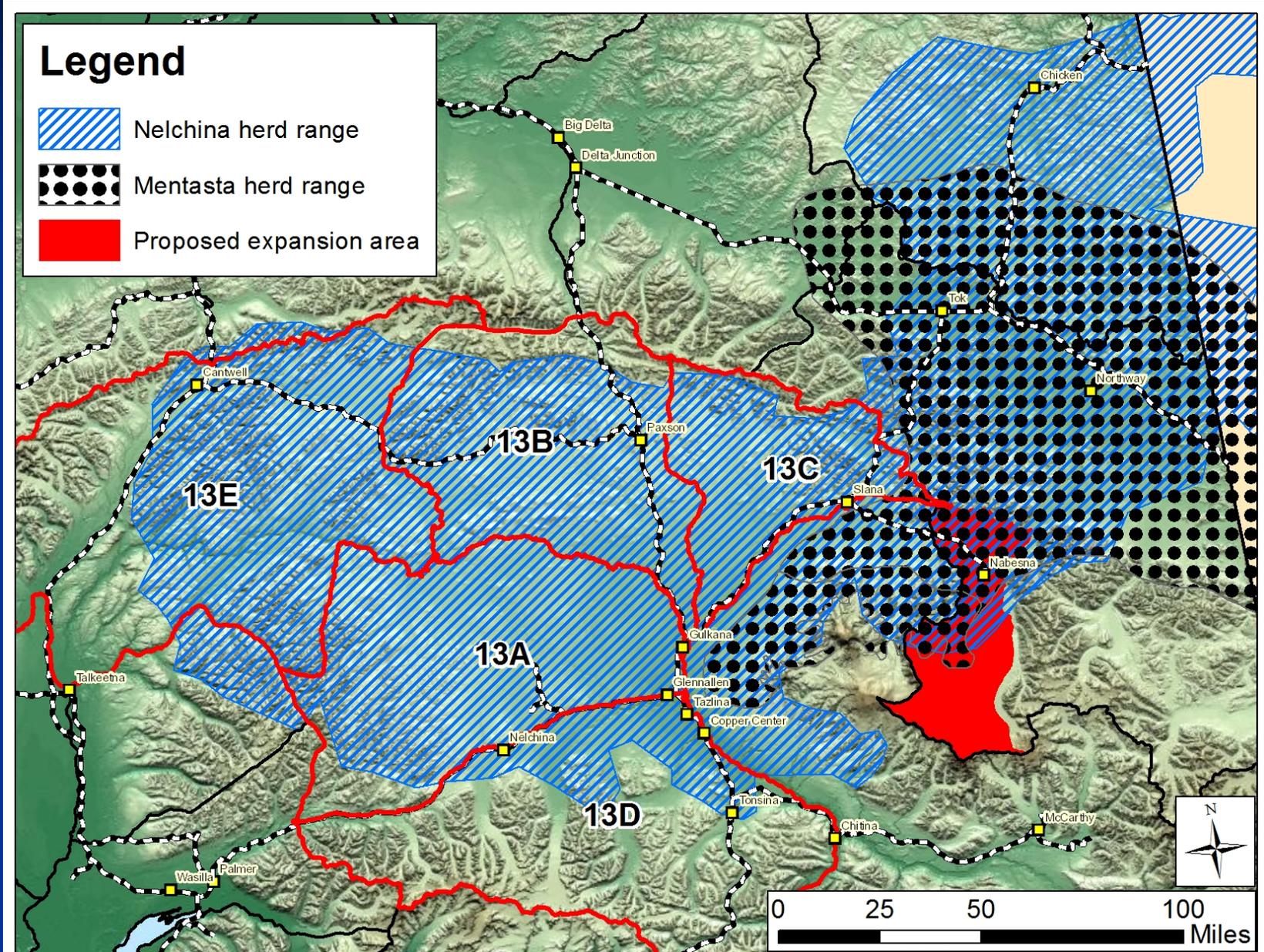
Units 11 and 12

- No open season

No current caribou season in proposed area



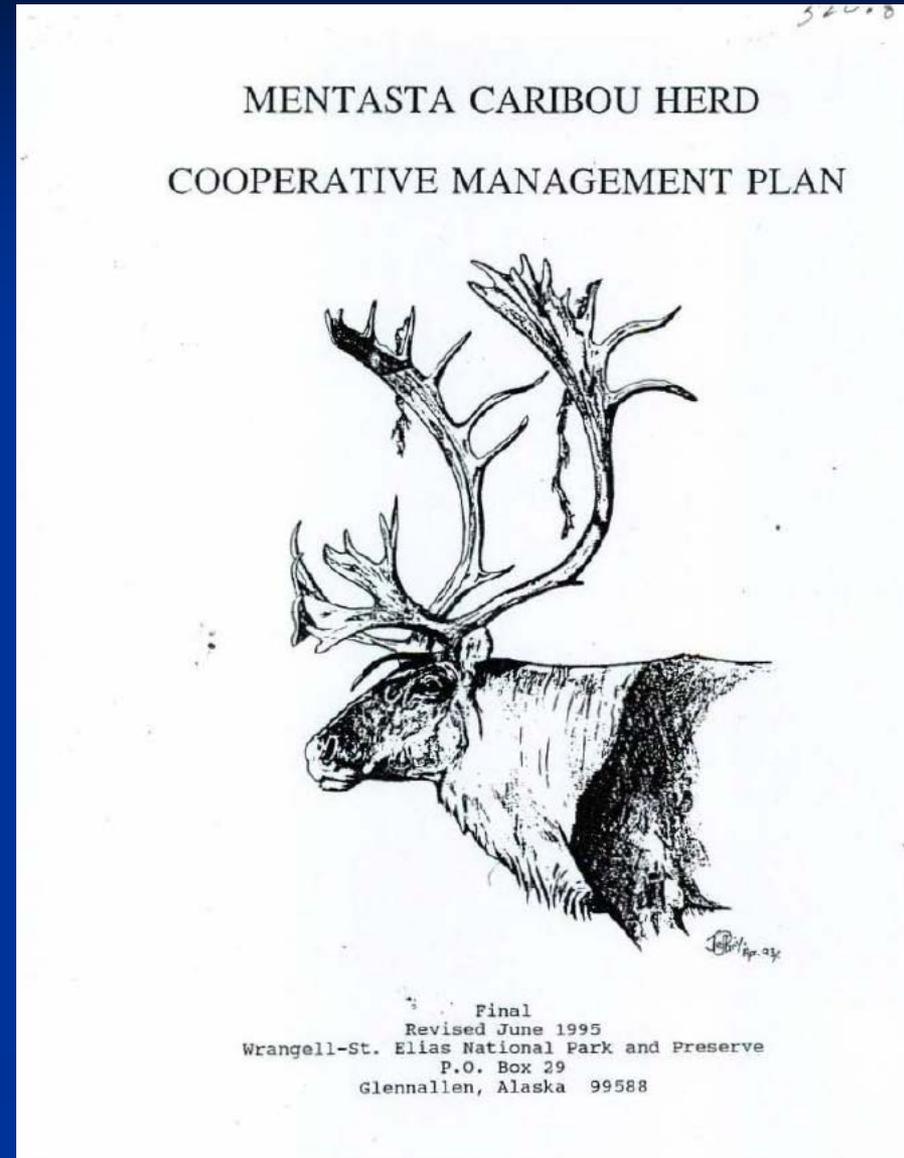
Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

Mentasta Caribou Herd

- No hunting since 1992
- 1995 plan specifies harvest strategy
- Recent population estimates: 300–500 caribou



Proposal 90 – Unit 12 Moose and Caribou

Conclusion

Proposal 90: Expand the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest hunt area by adding a portion of Unit 12

Recommendation: DEFER to March meeting on Copper Basin hunting and subsistence

- **NEUTRAL** – expanding area
- **NEUTRAL** – establishing moose season
 - No biological concerns
- **OPPOSED** – establishing caribou season
 - Biological concerns

Proposal 91 – Unit 12 Grouse

Submitted by: Public

Effect of the proposal: Reduce the bag limit and season length for grouse in Unit 12

Recommendation: Neutral



Proposal 91 – Unit 12 Grouse

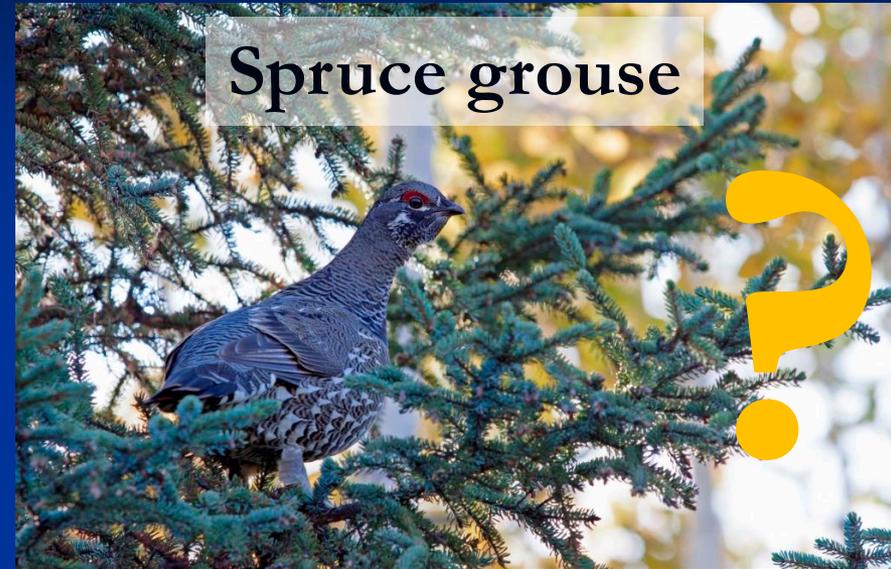
Current	Proposed
<p>August 10 – March 31</p> <p>15 per day, 30 in possession</p>	<p>August 20 – November 10</p> <p>5 per day, 10 in possession, of which no more than 2 per day and 4 in possession could be ruffed grouse.</p>

Unit 12 grouse: positive customary and traditional use finding;
amount necessary for subsistence uses not defined

Proposal 91 – Unit 12 Grouse Population status

Surveys – small number

Anecdotal observations



Spruce grouse

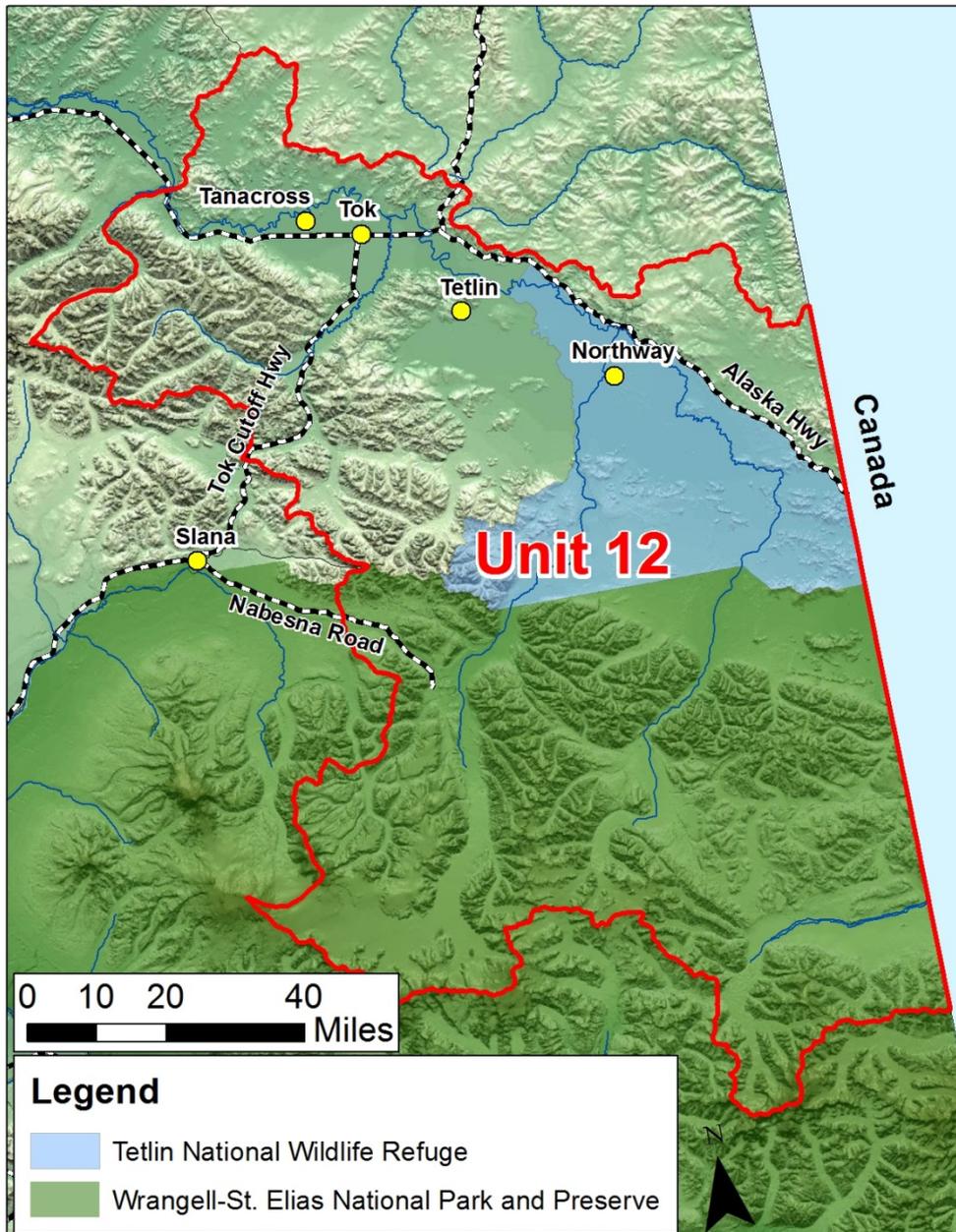


Ruffed grouse



Sharp-tailed grouse

Proposal 91 – Unit 12 Grouse



- Limited access
- Harvest likely low
- Localized higher harvest
- Statewide, 95% harvest during August – October

Proposal 91 – Unit 12 Grouse

Conclusion

Proposal 91: Reduce the bag limit and season length for grouse in Unit 12

Recommendation: Neutral

No biological concerns with current season dates/bag limit