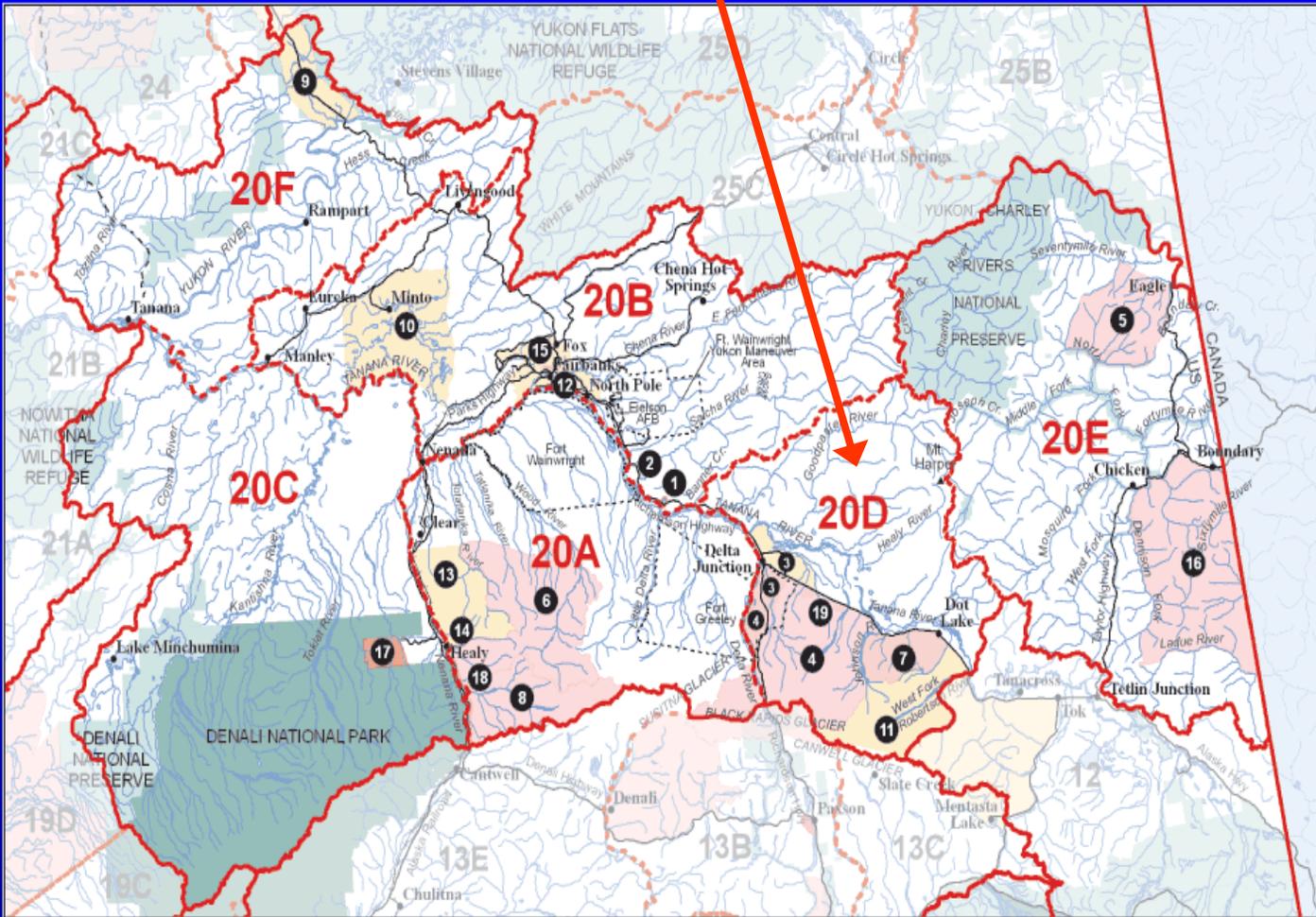


2017 Unit 20D



Delta Area Overview

Unit 20D



Unit 20
Fairbanks - Central Tanana



- Game Management Units / Special Management Areas
- Good Area
 - Controlled Use Areas
 - Management Area
 - State Reserves, Sanctuaries, & Other National Areas
 - Other State Lands
 - National Parks
 - National Preserves & Other Federal Lands
 - Unit Boundaries
 - Unit Sub-Boundaries
 - Roads
 - Railroads

Delta Area ADF&G

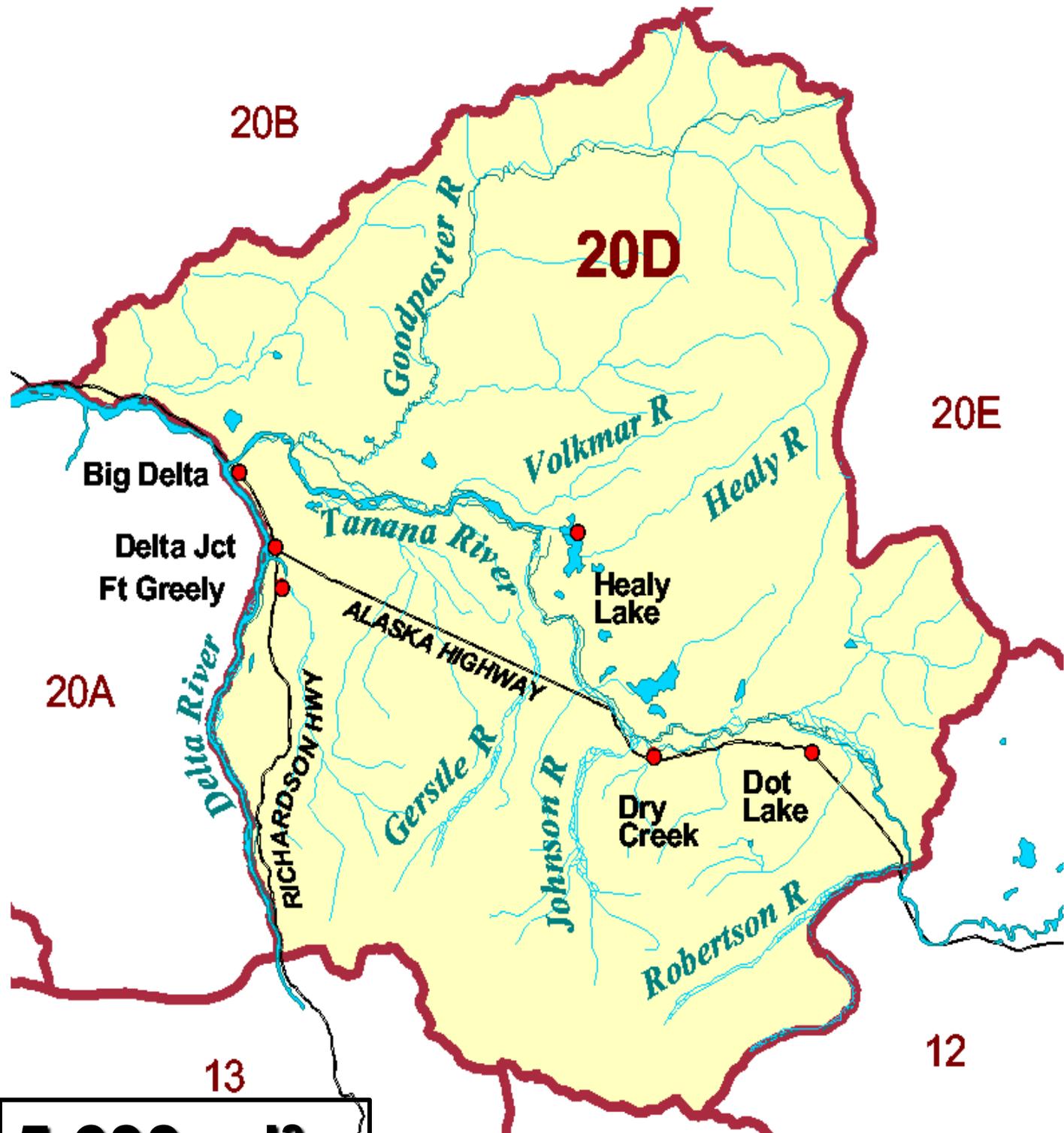


Robert W. Schmidt
Area Biologist



Ellie Mason
FWT III

Game Management Unit 20D



5,633 mi²

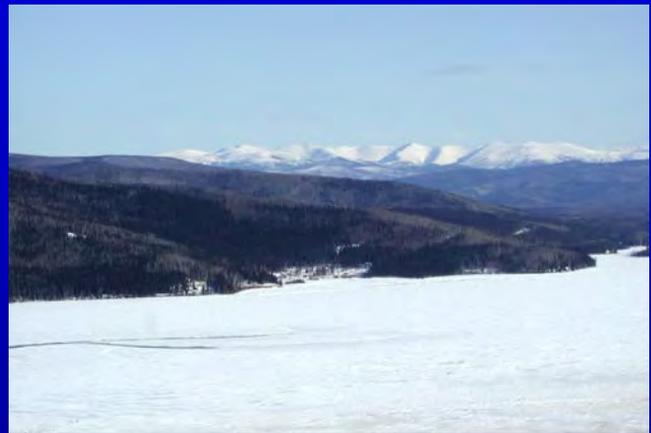
Unit 20D Communities

Dot Lake, pop.~80

Ft. Greely, Pop.~500



Healy Lake, pop.~25



Delta Jct., Big Delta, Deltana, pop.~3,200



Dry Creek, pop.~100



Southern Unit 20D



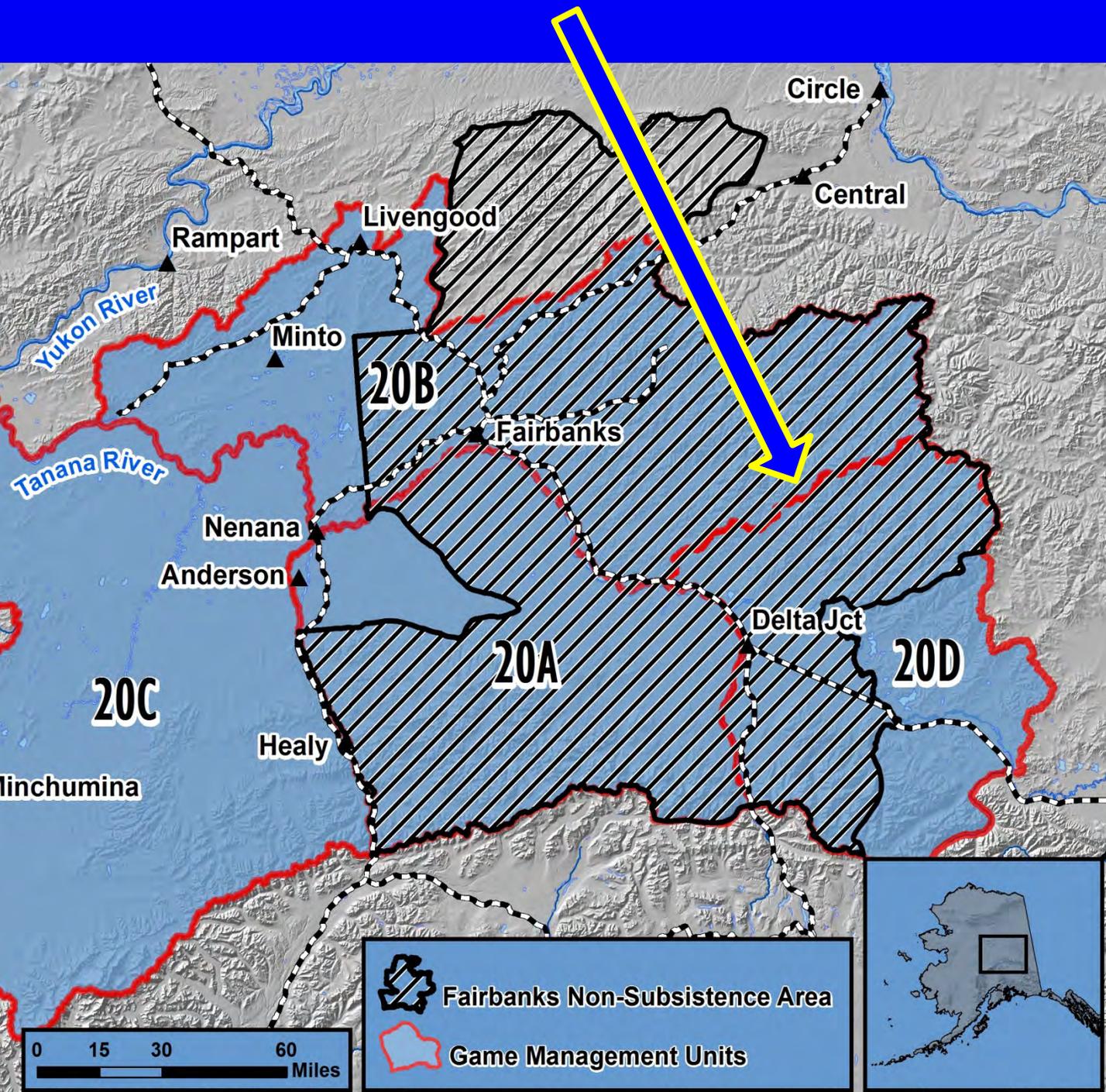
- **Mountains of eastern Alaska Range**
- **Lowlands of Tanana River valley**
- **Private Agricultural Land~100,000 acres**

Northern Unit 20D



- **Hills of Tanana uplands**
- **Lowlands of major river valleys**

Unit 20D – Partially Within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area



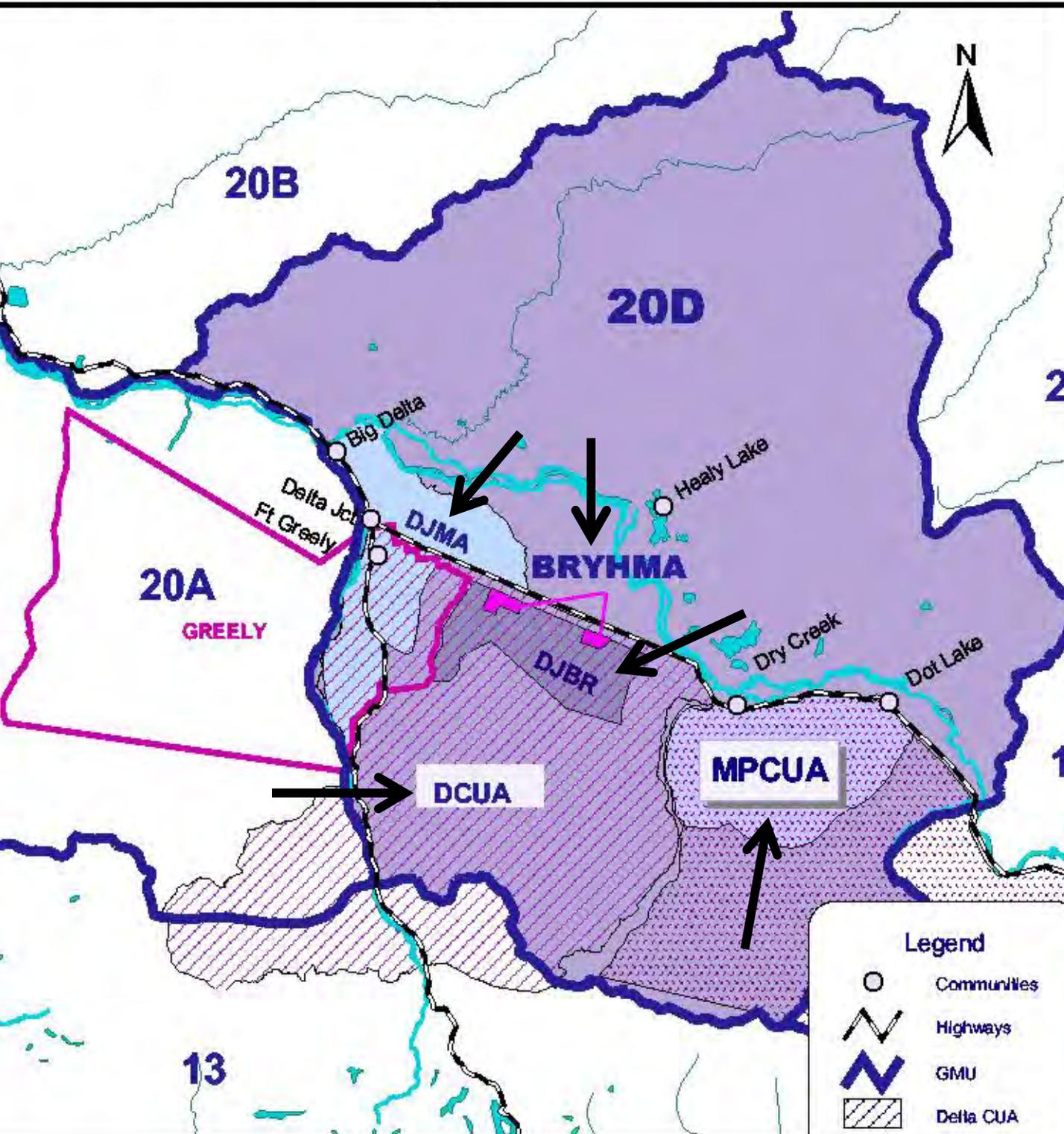
Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee



Delta AC serves Delta Jct., Ft. Greely, & Dry Creek

Upper Tanana-Fortymile AC serves Dot Lake & Healy Lake

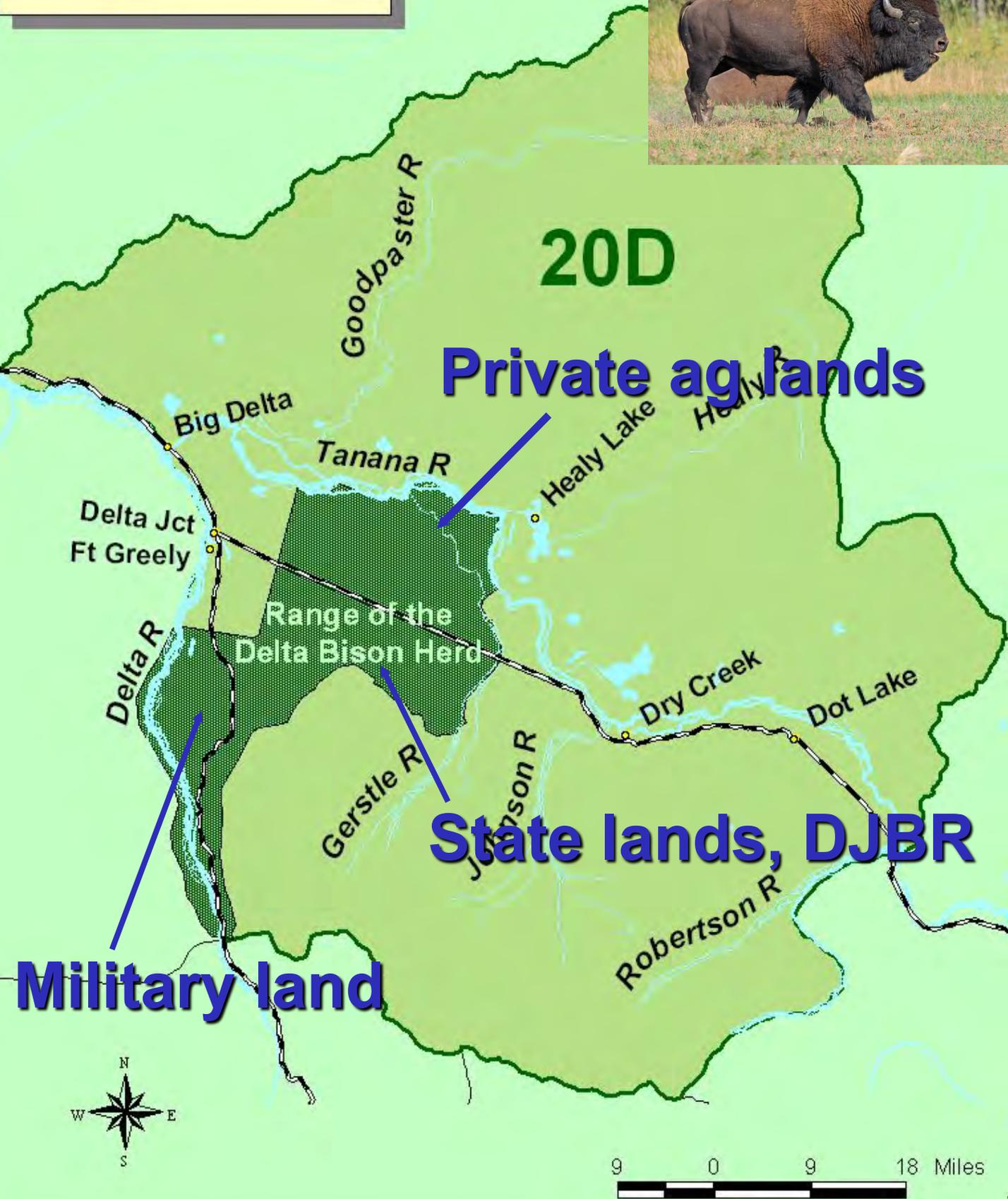
GMU 20D Special Use Areas



Legend	
	Communities
	Highways
	GMU
	Delta CUA
	Delta Jct. Bison Range
	Delta Jct. MA
	Macomb CUA
	Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area

10 0 10 20 Miles

Delta Bison



20D

Private ag lands

Range of the Delta Bison Herd

State lands, DJBR

Military land

9 0 9 18 Miles

Delta Bison

- **Mgmt. based on plan developed with Delta Bison Working Group; Interim mgmt. plan completed in 2012**
- **Herd size managed by drawing hunt**
- **Population objective of 360 animals (pre-calving)**
- **18,000+ applications per year**
- **80-120 permits per year**



Delta Bison

- **Avg. hunter success for past 15 years = 70%**
- **No Proposals regarding Delta Bison**

Bison Issues

- **Conflict with private Ag. Lands on the Delta Agricultural Project**
- **Exposure to domestic bison & other livestock**
- **Military training on bison calving range**

Delta Bison

- **Management Activities**
 - **Aerial surveys**
 - **Sex-age composition counts**
 - **Radio collars**
 - **Disease surveillance**
 - **Manage bison forage on DJBR**
 - **Administer drawing permit hunt**
 - **Genetics investigations**
 - **Working with Delta Ag community**

Black Bear

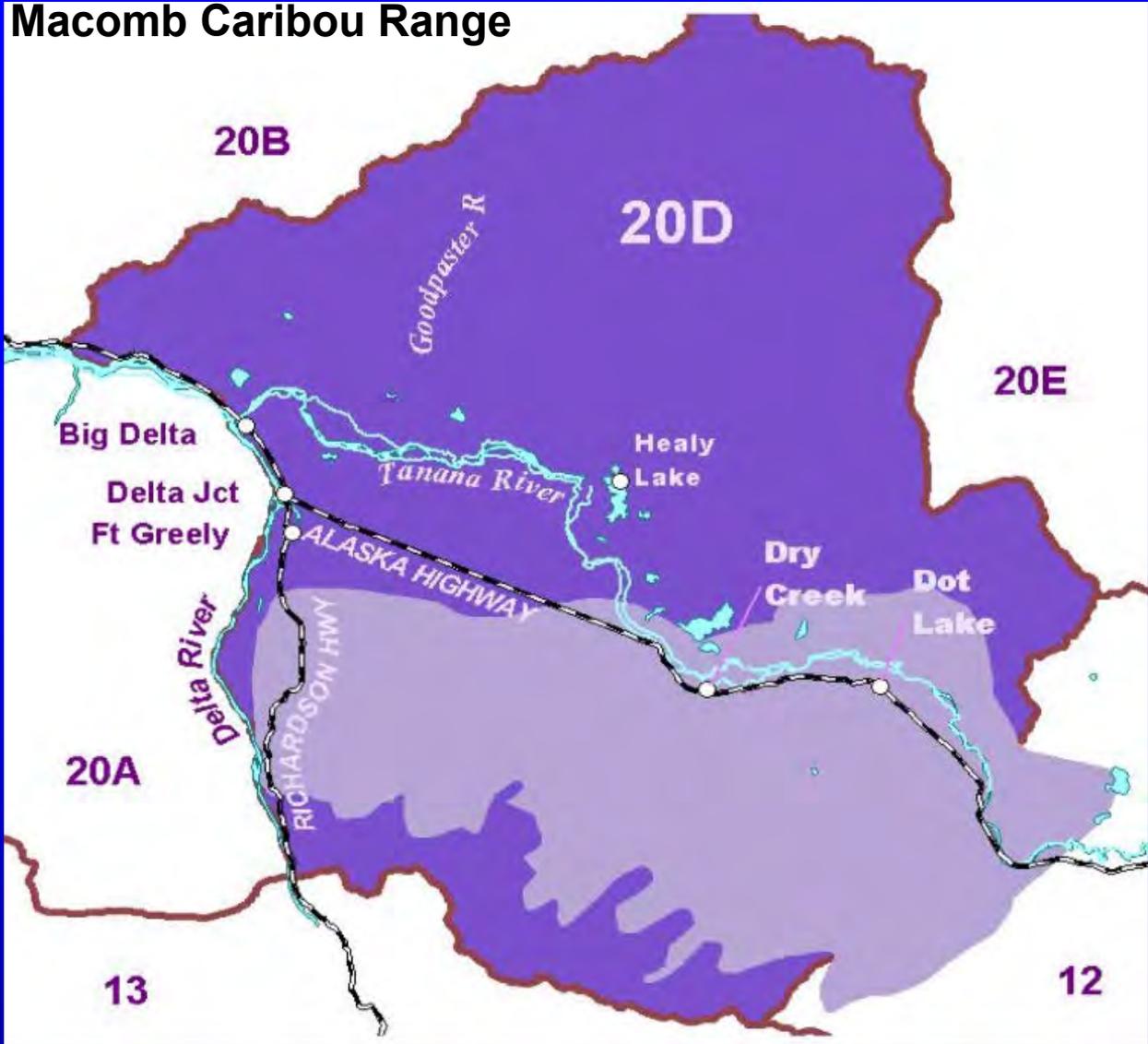
- Accurate pop. est. not available, extrapolated to 750
- Harvest objective; not to exceed 15 bears south of the Tanana & 35 bears north of the Tanana
- 2015 Harvest = 35 bears
- Management activities include registering bait stations, issuing harvest tickets, and responding to nuisance bear complaints
- No proposals regarding black bears
- Issues include lack of biological data on population estimates

Brown Bear

- Extrapolated pop. est. of 181–210 bears
- Harvest objective = 5–15 per year
 - Harvest obj. is being met
- Current Regulations:
 - No resident tag fees
 - Season = Aug 10–Jun 30
 - Baiting not allowed
 - Bag limit = 1 per year
- Management activities include sealing bears and responding to nuisance bear complaints
- 5 similar proposals regarding brown bear baiting in Unit 20D
- Issues include lack of biological data on population estimates

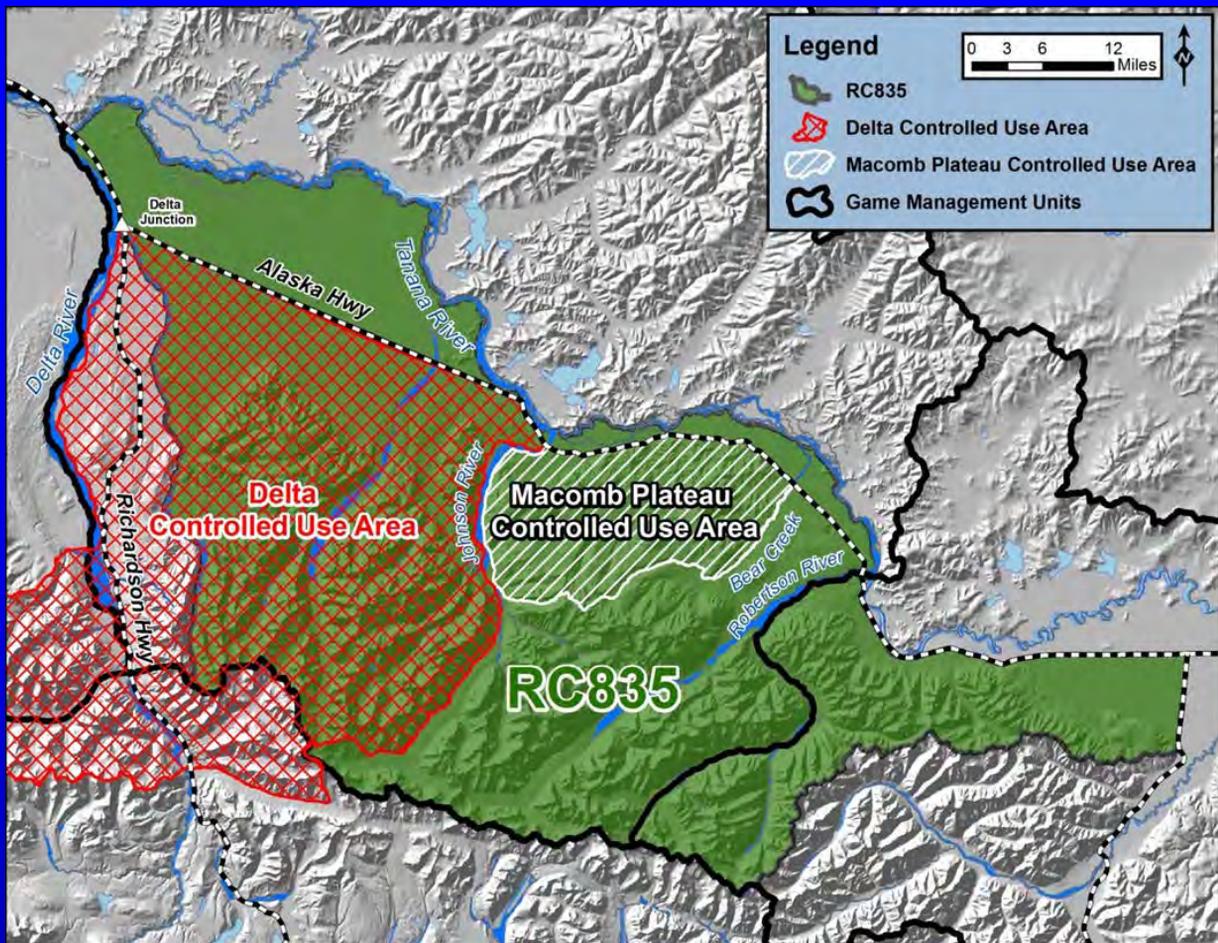
Macomb Caribou Herd

Macomb Caribou Range



- **IM Pop. Obj. = 600 – 800 caribou**
 - 2010 = 1,800
 - 2013 = 1,500
 - 2015 = 800
 - 2016 = 1,300
- **ANS = 10 – 40**

Macomb Caribou



- IM Harvest obj. = 30–50 per year
- Hunt by registration permit (RC 835)
 - Overlaps DCUA & MPCUA access restrictions
 - Last two days of hunt allows motorized access within the DCUA
- Harvest quota has ranged from 30–70 over past 10 years

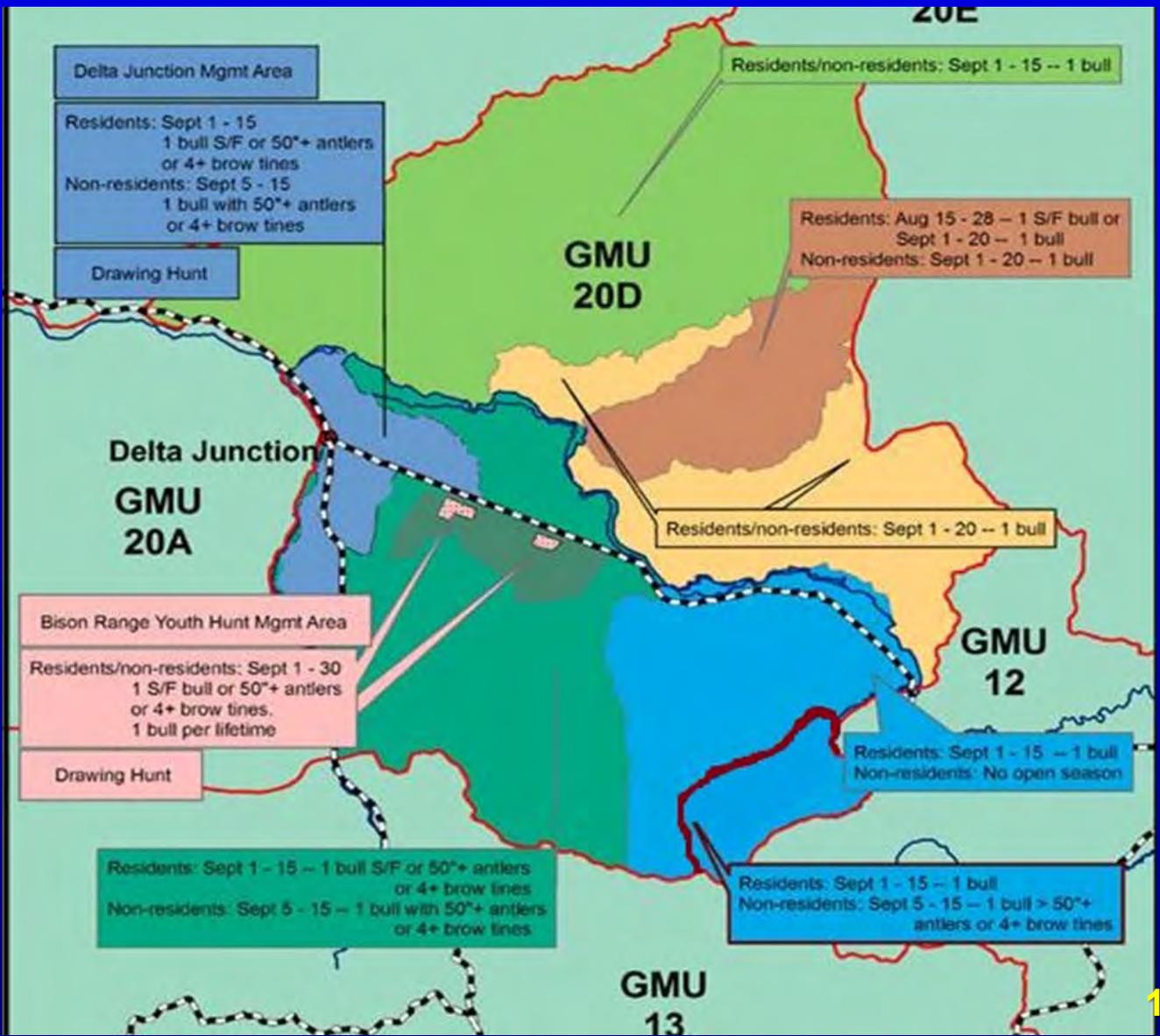
Macomb Caribou

- **Management Activities**
 - **Aerial population & composition surveys**
 - **Hunting season distribution survey**
 - **Radio collars**
 - **Registration permits**
- **No proposals regarding Macomb Caribou**
- **Issues include avoiding overharvest of a small, road accessible herd & protecting habitat**

Moose

Hunt structure:

- Harvest Ticket
 - Any bull (north), SF/50 (south)
- DM 790 - DJMA
- DM 795 - Purple heart / disabled vet.
- YM 792 - Bison Range Youth Hunt
- DM 791 - Antlerless



Moose

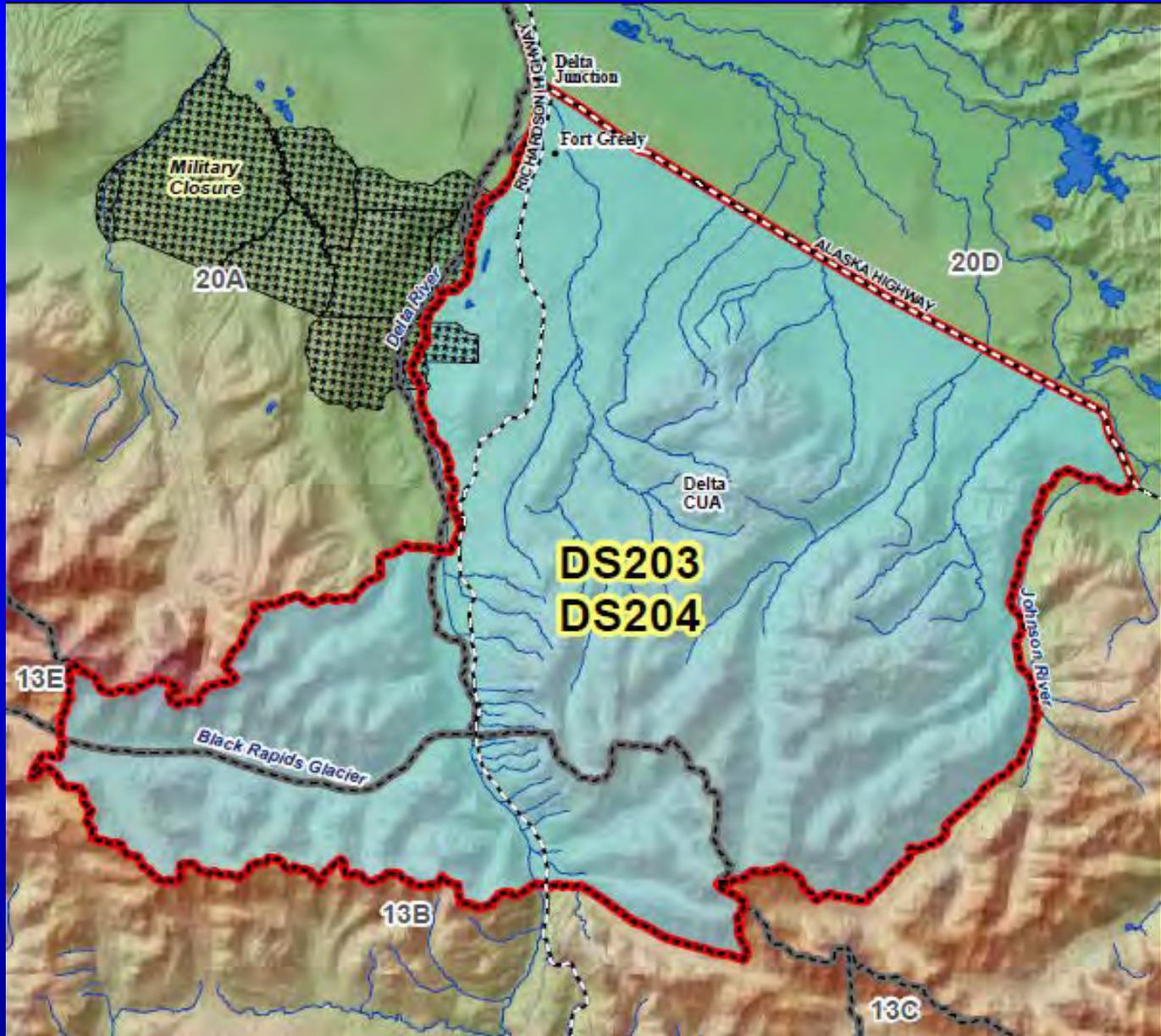
- Human consumption identified as highest use
- Intensive Mgmt adopted 1995
- Pop. objective = 8,000-10,000
 - 8,916 estimated moose in Unit 20D
- Harvest obj. = 500-700 moose
 - 248 avg. harvest (25% success)



Moose

- **Management Activities**
 - General hunting, drawing & registration permit hunts
 - Annual GSPE population estimates
 - Annual aerial twinning surveys
 - Periodic browse surveys
 - Disease surveillance
 - Public meetings
- **3 proposals regarding moose**
- **Moose Issues**
 - Balancing high moose population densities with high hunting pressure & controversial antler restrictions
 - Developing new survey techniques
 - Exposure to livestock diseases
 - Nuisance moose

Dall Sheep in DCUA



- Divided into 2 permit hunts, DS203 & DS204
- Average harvest = 38 per year
- 2015 minimum count = 1,328 sheep
- 2016 minimum count = 1,260 sheep

Dall Sheep – Mt. Harper



- Portions of northern Unit 20D, 20B, and 20E
- ~240 mi² of sheep habitat
- 2016 minimum count = 104 sheep
- 4 drawing permits for full-curl ram
- 2016 Harvest = 4; 100% success, avg. 50%

Dall Sheep

- **Management Activities**
 - Seal horns
 - Conduct aerial surveys
 - Disease surveillance
- **No proposals regarding sheep**
- **Issues**
 - Protecting habitat
 - Disease concern between domestic goats and sheep and Dall Sheep

Small Game

- **Species:**
 - Ruffed grouse
 - Sharp-tailed grouse
 - Spruce grouse
 - Snowshoe hares
 - Ptarmigan
- **Popular hunting area for hunters from across the state**



Small Game

- **Sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse populations monitored annually**
 - **RUGR Near peak of 10-year cycle**
- **RUGR habitat management on DJBR; more planned in other areas**
- **Small populations of willow and rock ptarmigan monitored annually**
- **Hare numbers are in upward trend of there cycle**
- **1 proposal regarding ruffed grouse**
- **Issues include high hunting pressure coupled with ease of access**

Wolf

- Unit 20D pop. objective = 15-125
- 2011 pop. est. ~ 115 in 12 packs
- Harvest average = 29 per year
 - Hunting season = Aug 10 – May 31; average of 4 wolves
 - Trapping season = Oct 15 – Apr 30; average of 25 wolves
- Portions of northern 20D in current Upper Yukon –Tanana wolf control area

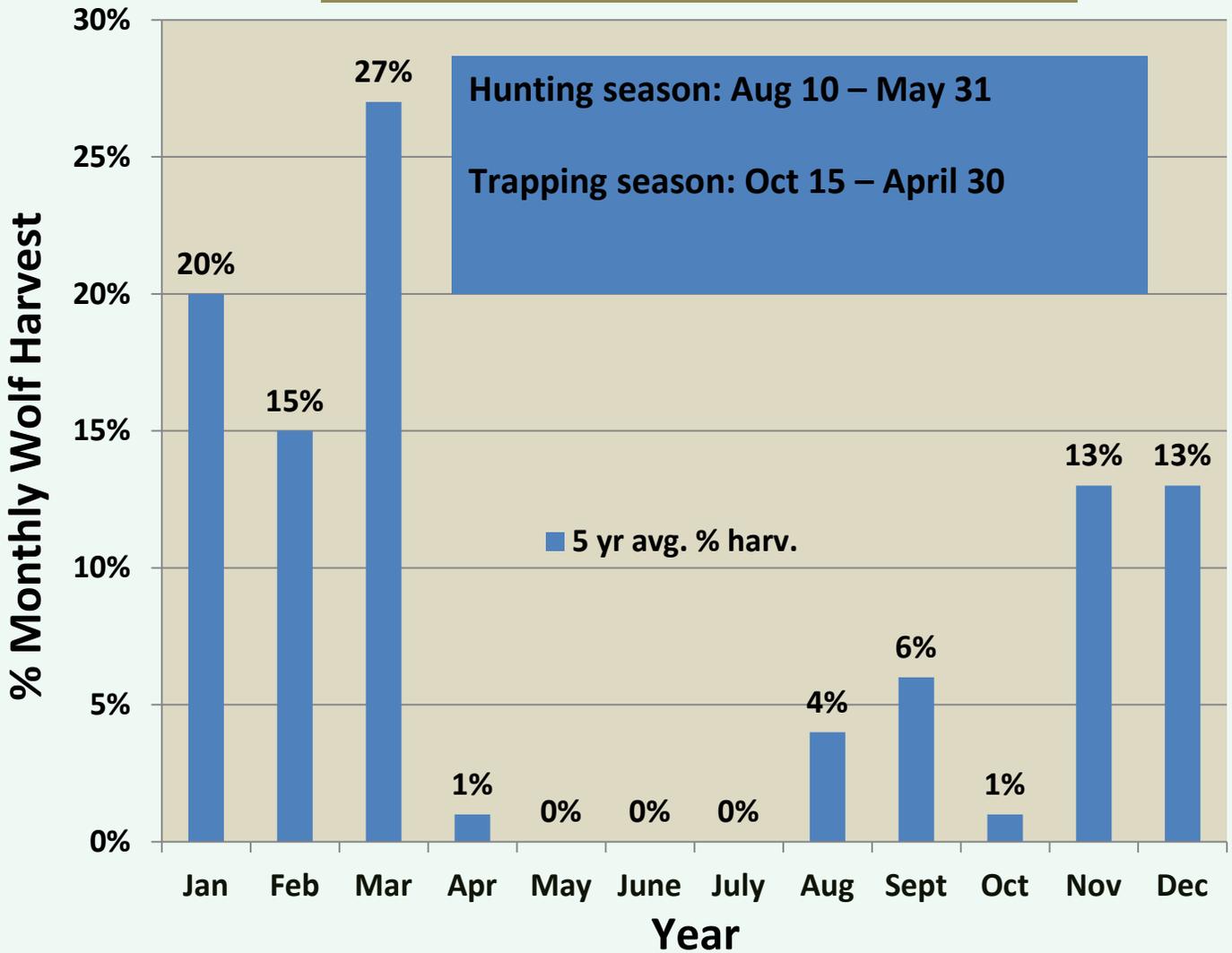


Wolf

- **Management Activities**
 - Seal pelts
 - Annual aerial surveys
 - Trapper interviews to estimate population size & distribution
- **No proposals regarding wolves**
- **Issues**
 - Role of wolves in Unit 20D intensive management

Unit 20D Wolf Harvest

Wolf Harvest Percent by Month



Furbearers

- **Emphasized species in fur harvest: beaver, coyote, lynx, marten, red fox, & wolverine**
- **Management Activities**
 - **sealing furs**
 - **trapper questionnaire**
 - **responding to nuisance furbearers (beaver)**
- **1 regional proposal regarding coyotes**
- **No issues regarding furbearers**

Unit 20D Summary

- **Bison**
 - Slightly above population objective
 - Continue to work with Ag producers to address concerns
 - Delta Junction Bison Range
- **Caribou**
 - Population and harvest objectives met
- **Moose**
 - Low end of population objective
 - Below harvest objective
- **Dall Sheep**
 - Harvest objectives met or slightly below (horn size and age)

Unit 20D Summary

- **Bears**
 - Harvest objective met for brown bears
 - Harvest slightly below objective for black bears
 - High public interest for brown bear baiting
 - Over-harvest likely if baiting is allowed because of developed access
 - Limited data on bear populations
- **Wolf**
 - Population and harvest objectives met
- **Furbearers**
 - Populations are stable to increasing
- **Small game**
 - Populations are stable to increasing

The End



Questions?