

Game Management Unit 4



Stephen Bethune



1



1

Chris Watt – Program Tech



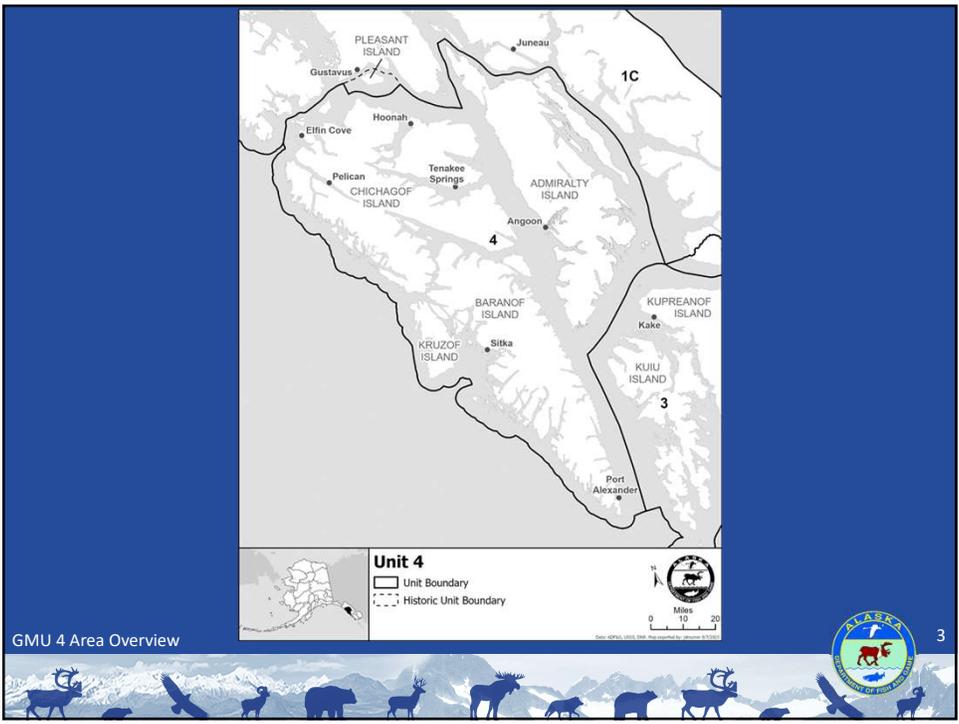
GMU 4 Area Overview



2



2



3

Major Industry

- **Tourism**
 - 600K Visitors in Sitka
 - 400K in Hoonah
 - Charter Operators
 - Guide/Outfitters
- **Commercial Fishing**
~435 Permit Holders
- **Health Care (SEARHC)**
~ 500 employees
- **Non-Profits (100)**




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4

2024-11-18 16:23:59 H 171 -1°C
HF2 PRO COVERT

2024-08-18 18:05:02 H 171 20°C
HF2 PRO COVERT

2024-08-20 17:05:18 H 171 0-10°C
HF2 PRO COVERT

2024-10-29 08:20:18 H 171 4°C
HF2 PRO COVERT

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7

7

Brown Bears

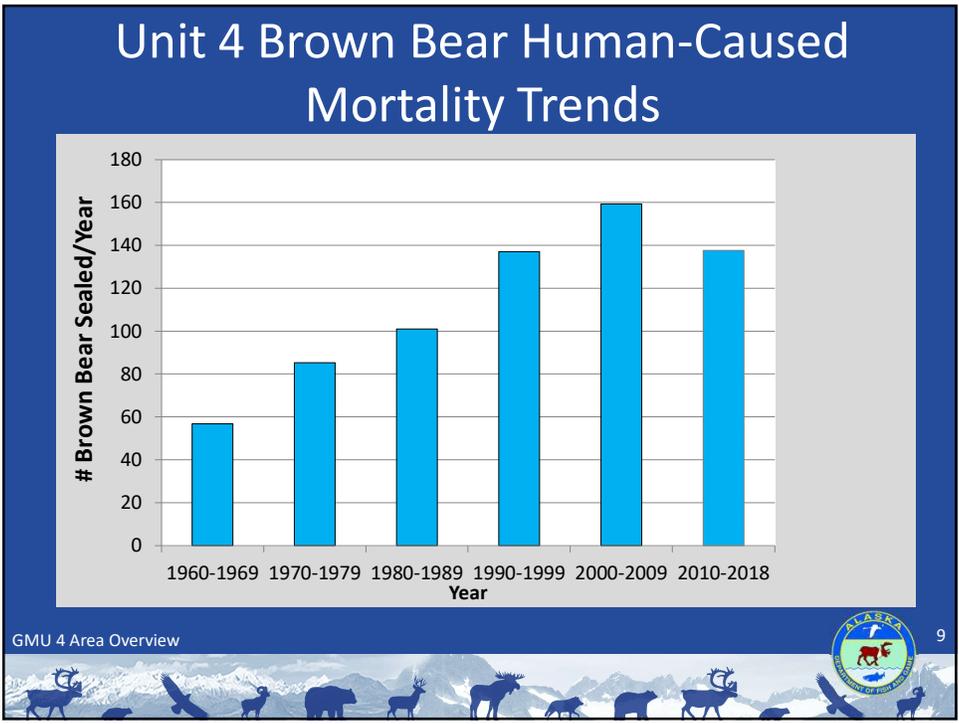
Four Brown Bear Proposals (#19-22)

Positive C&T, ANS 5-10

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8

8



9

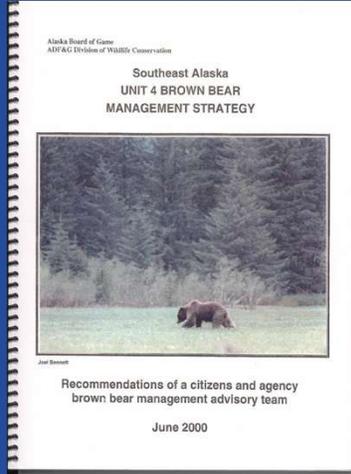
Brown Bears of Unit 4 Past, Present and Future: A Status Report and Issues Paper

Increasing comments and complaints regarding:

- Harvest Levels
- Growing Tourism Industry
- Increasing Number of Guides & Illegal Guiding
- Crowding in Specific Areas
- Land Management practices

10

Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy



BBMT & BBMS

- Team composed of 15 individuals nominated by organizations representing various landowners/ resource agencies, special interest groups, BOG and other diverse entities
- At the request of the BOG the charge was to develop comprehensive mgmt recommendations for brown bears in Unit 4

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11

11

BBMS Goals

- Promote the long-term conservation and health of GMU 4 brown bears and their habitats
- Develop recommendations to provide for a broad spectrum of public enjoyment and uses, (hunting and nonhunting), of Unit 4 brown bears that is sustainable
- Improve communication among the public and agencies involved in brown bear management

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12

12

BBMS Hunt Management Guidelines

- Cap Guides at 20 (currently 19)
- Max NR Hunts 148 (currently 137, incl. 7 2DK)
- Limit 2nd Degree Kindred hunts at 7 (Draw Hunt implemented in 2014)
- Set recommended annual nonresident hunts per guide use area (GUA)
- GHL = 4% Total, 1.5% Female
- Three year running average



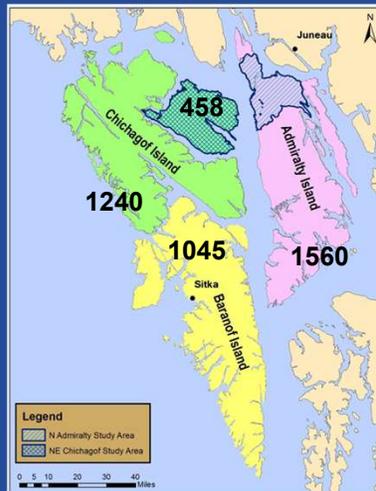
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13

13

Brown Bear Population Estimate



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14

14

Brown Bear Harvest

Island	BBMS Guideline Harvest Level		RY2015 – RY2024 Average	
	Total Bears	Female	Total Bears	Female
Admiralty	62	23	44	6
Baranof	42	16	37	11
NE Chichagof	18	7	13	3
Chichagof	50	19	36	5
Total	172	65	130	25

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15

Guided Harvest by GUA vs. BBMS Recommended Hunts

GUA	04-01	04-02	04-03	04-04	04-05	04-06	04-07	04-08
BBMS	10	7	4	12	15	17	6	2
CY22-24	9.3	2.3	2.0	5.3	8.3	6.7	5.3	0.0

GUA	04-09	04-10	04-11	04-12	04-13	04-14	04-15	04-16
BBMS	8	9	9	14	18	6	6	5
CY22-24	5.7	6.3	5.7	5.3	10.0	4.7	4.3	3.0

GMU 4 Area Overview 16

16

Baranof Island Bear Research

- GPS Collars
- Population Density & Abundance
- Demographics
- Denning



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17

17

Sitka Black-Tailed Deer



Two Deer Proposals (#23-24)

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Positive C&T, ANS 5,200 - 6,000



18

18

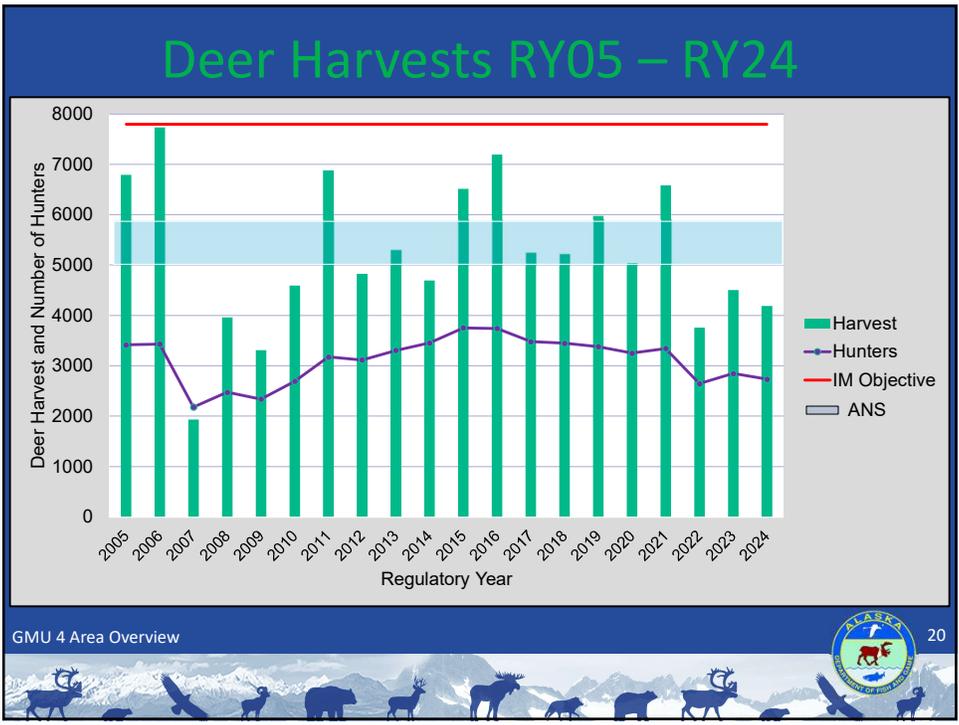
Deer Monitoring

- Buck:Doe = 44:100
- Fawn: Doe = 43:100
- Body Condition Index
- Mortality Surveys:
 - ~0.25/mile (3.8 in 2007)
- Aerial Alpine:
 - S. Admiralty = 337/hour
- Trail Camera Index
 - 3x other areas



GMU 4 Area Overview 19





Deer Population Estimate

So. Many.

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21

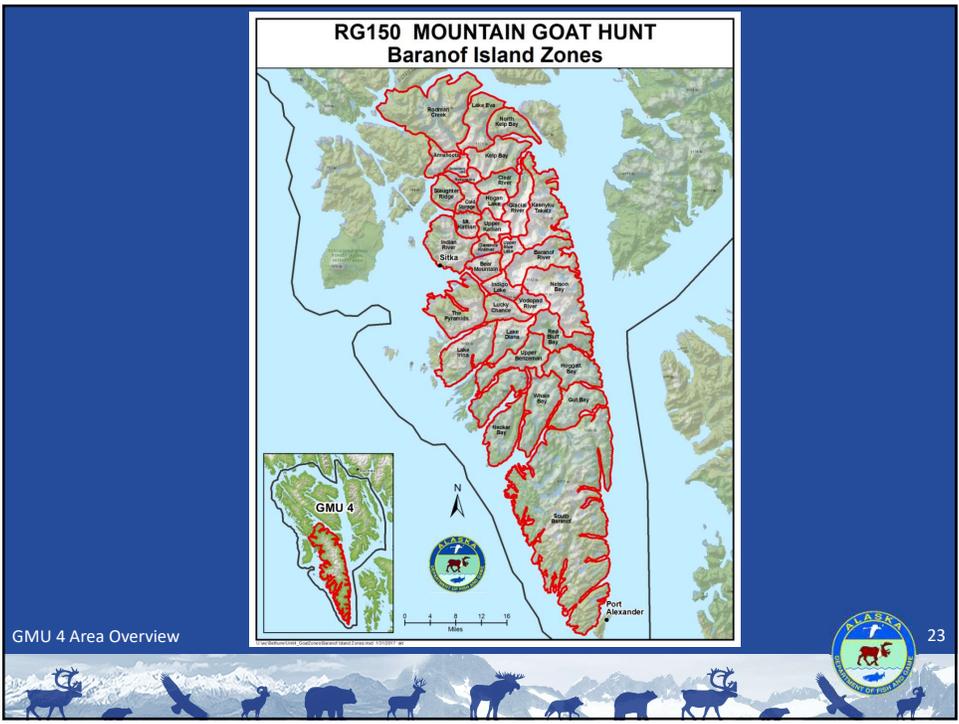
Mountain Goats

No Unit 4 Specific Proposals

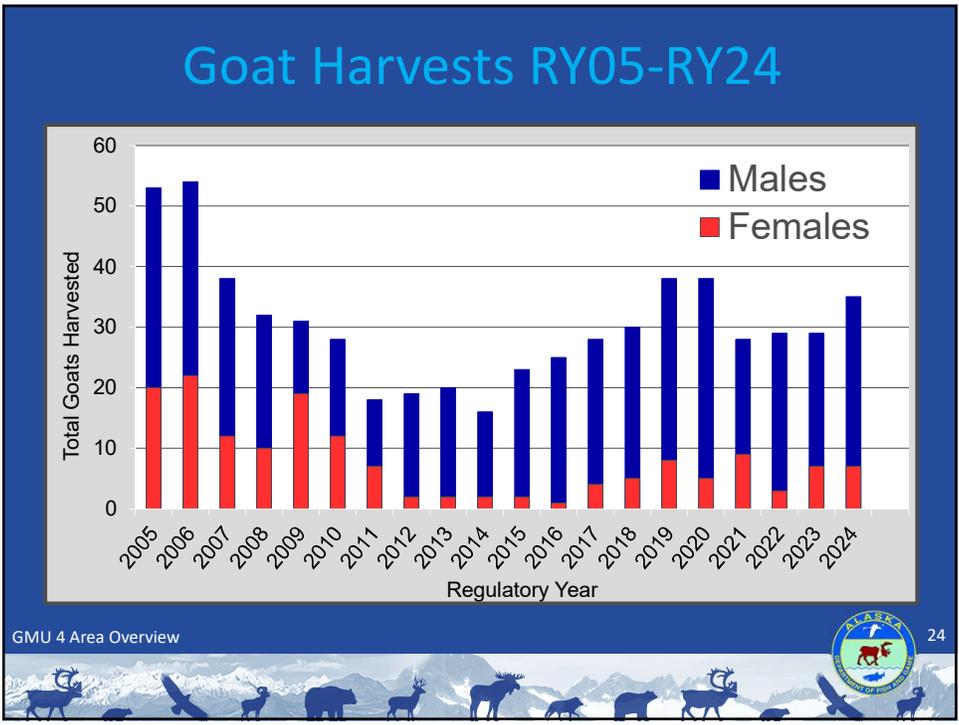
Negative C&T

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22



23



24

Furbearers RY20 – RY24

- Marten avg. = 580 (range 375-827)
- River Otter avg. = 83 (range 34-113)
- Beaver avg. = 18 (range 3-32)



No Unit 4 Specific Proposals

Positive C&T, ANS 90% of the harvestable portion

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25

Upland Birds/Waterfowl



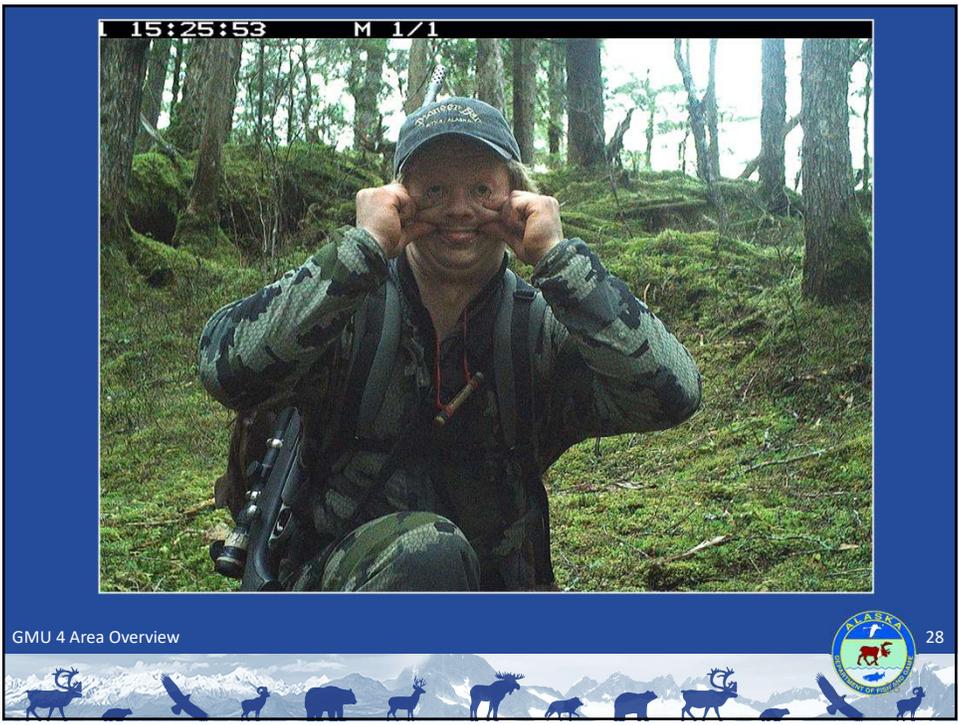
GMU 4 Area Overview



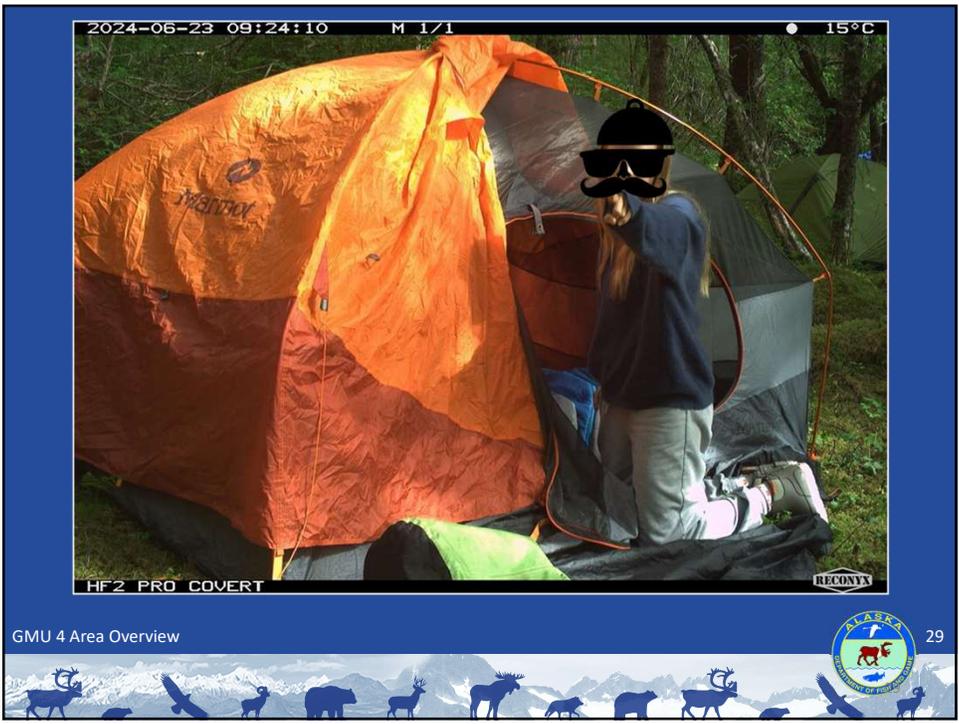
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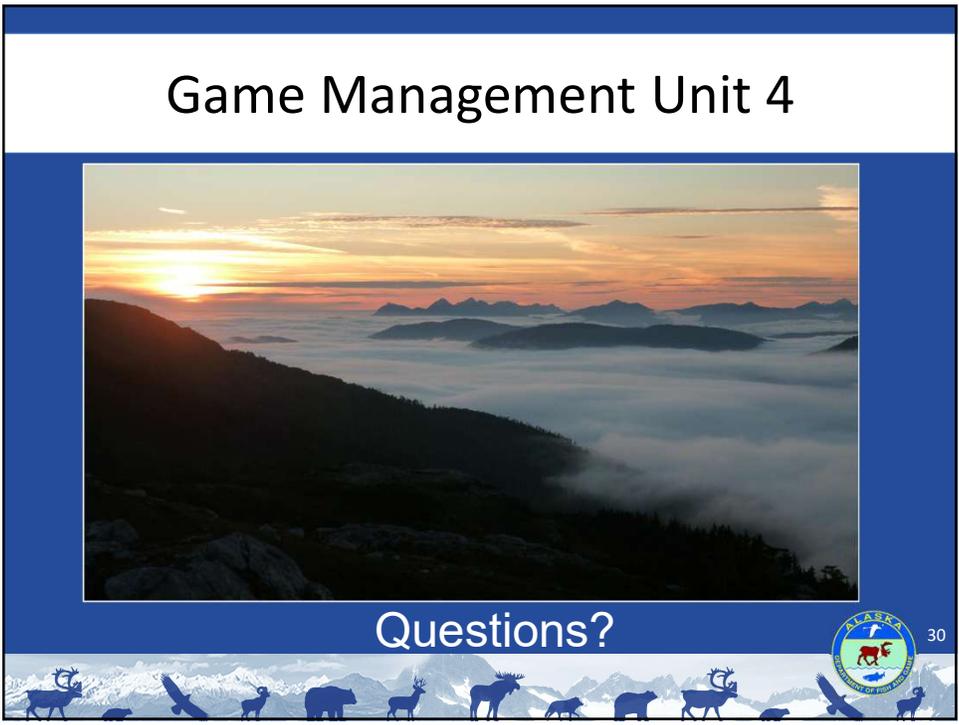
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28



29



30