

---

---

**Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet,  
Black Bears, Game Management Units  
12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25 (Interior Alaska)**

**Prepared by**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game,**

**Division of Subsistence**

**for the February - March 2008 Fairbanks Board of Game meeting**

March 2008

---

---

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Subsistence



***SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. BOG 2008-04***

**CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE WORKSHEET, BLACK BEARS,  
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, AND 25  
(INTERIOR ALASKA)**

by

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Subsistence, Fairbanks

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Subsistence  
1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701-1599

March 2008

The Division of Subsistence Special Publications series was established for the publication of techniques and procedure manuals, informational pamphlets, special subject reports to decision-making bodies, symposia and workshop proceedings, application software documentation, in-house lectures, and other documents that do not fit in another publications series of the Division of Subsistence. Most Special Publications are intended for readers generally interested in fisheries, wildlife, and the social sciences; for natural resource technical professionals and managers; and for readers generally interested the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska.

Special Publications are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us>. This publication has undergone editorial and professional review.

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence,  
1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701-1599, USA*

*This document should be cited as:*

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2008. Customary and traditional use worksheet, black bears, Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25 (Interior Alaska). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. BOG 2008-04, Fairbanks.*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

**If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:**

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240

**The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:**

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

**For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:**

[www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES .....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ii
LIST OF APPENDIXES .....	ii
ABSTRACT .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
THE EIGHT CRITERIA .....	1
Criterion 1.....	1
Criterion 2.....	2
Criterion 3.....	2
Criterion 4.....	4
Criterion 5.....	5
Criterion 6.....	5
Criterion 7.....	6
Criterion 8.....	6
LITERATURE CITED.....	8
TABLES AND FIGURES .....	9
APPENDIXES.....	21

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Black bear harvests, Interior Region. ....	9

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Areas used for black bear hunting during the lifetimes of Stony River residents as reported in 1983 - 1984. ....	10
2. Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear prior to the use of snow machines. ....	11
3. Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear since the use of snow machines through 1983. ....	12
4. Areas used by Chuathbaluk residents for hunting bear since moving to Chuathbaluk through 1983. ....	13
5. Areas used by Nikolai, Telida, Takotna, and McGrath black and brown bear hunters, 1967-1983. ....	14
6. Minto bear hunting areas, 1960-1984. ....	15
7. Tok bear and caribou hunting areas, 1968-1988. ....	16
8. Tanacross bear and caribou hunting areas, 1968-1988. ....	17
9. Galena moose, black bear, waterfowl, and caribou hunting areas, 1971-1986. ....	18
10. Huslia moose, black bear, and caribou hunting areas, 1981-1983. ....	19
11. Areas used for moose and black bear hunting by residents of Allakaket and Alatna, January 1981-December 1982. ....	19
12. Areas used for moose hunting by residents of Hughes, January 1981-December 1982. ....	20

## LIST OF APPENDIXES

Appendix	Page
A. C&T Worksheet presented to the Alaska Board of Game in 1991. ....	22
B. C&T finding for black bears, GMU 25. ....	40

## ABSTRACT

This worksheet was prepared for the Alaska Board of Game (Board) as background for consideration of changes to the harvest regulations for black bears (*Ursus americanus*) in the Interior Region of Alaska. This worksheet presents the 8 criteria that the Board is required to consider under Joint Board of Fisheries and Game regulations (5 AAC 99.010) in order to identify wildlife stocks that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses.

Key words: Black bears, *Ursus americanus*, Interior Region, Board of Game.

## INTRODUCTION

At its meeting in February - March 2008, the Alaska Board of Game will consider Proposals 8, 56, 75, 78, 79, 83, 99, and 100, which address the harvest of black bears in Game Management Units (GMUs) 12, 19, 20, 21, and 24.

Under the Alaska subsistence law (AS 16.05.258(a)), the Board of Game is required to identify the game stocks or portions of stocks that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence (a "C&T finding"). This worksheet provides background information on noncommercial harvests and uses of black bears in the Interior Region. The information is organized according to the 8 criteria for identifying customary and traditional uses as defined in the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Subsistence Procedures (5 AAC 99.010). This information may be supplemented during public testimony and board deliberations.

Most of the harvest and use data reported in this worksheet derive from systematic household surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Subsistence.

**This worksheet is reprinted (with minor edits and style updates) from the worksheet presented to the Alaska Board of Game for its 1998 meeting in RC1. This information, as well as a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation was also included as RC2 Tab 10 for the Board's November 2007 meeting. This information includes the worksheet presented to the Board during its 1991 meeting as Appendix A, as well as the information presented to the Board during its March 1990, March 1991, and January 1993 meetings.**

**The Board made a positive C&T finding for black bears in Game Management Unit 25 and established an Amount Necessary for Subsistence at its March 2002 meeting (RC 160). The C&T worksheet adopted by the Board in 2002 is included in this report as Appendix B.**

## THE EIGHT CRITERIA

### CRITERION 1.

**A long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.**

Historically, black bears have been harvested by residents of the Interior of Alaska as an important source of meat, fat, and fur. Today, black bears remain an important subsistence resource. In several communities, over 1/3 of the households successfully harvested black bears (Table 1), according to recent Division of Subsistence surveys.

In communities within or near spruce woodlands, such as Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Chuathbaluk, Hughes, Huslia, Galena, Minto, and Tanacross, to name a few, hunting and use of black bears is a well-established pattern. In other communities, black bears are most often taken opportunistically when targeting other animals, such as moose or small game, but their use is common. Most residents familiar with the use of black bears report that they have harvested black bears in regularly-hunted areas as long as elders in their communities can recall, and can recount stories of uses by previous generations (e.g., Charnley 1984; Kari 1983, 1985). Historical sources from the 19<sup>th</sup> century mention use of bears by residents of this region.

## **CRITERION 2.**

### **A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.**

Black bears are hunted primarily in the spring, fall, and early winter. In areas within or near black bear habitat, black bear hunting commences after bears begin venturing from their dens in April, and extends through May, or when the salmon fishing season starts. Black bears are a notable resource in these areas, often being the only large animal reasonably available during late winter, when food stores are depleted.

In the fall, from late August through October, black bears are hunted in conjunction with or incidental to moose and caribou. The quality of black bear flesh is often mentioned as a factor in the timing of targeted hunting. The flesh of black bears is considered best, fat and palatable, in the fall and early winter, when the bears have been feeding primarily on berries. However, food stores are often diminished in the spring, and any fresh meat is welcome. Also, immediately after hibernation in the spring, black bears have some fat for a short period of time.

## **CRITERION 3.**

### **A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.**

Black bears are either specifically sought after, or harvested incidental to other activities such as fishing or hunting for moose or waterfowl. Hunters typically access hunting areas by river boat in the summer and fall, and by snowmachine in the winter. Near some communities, walking to harvest areas is common, such as in the Kuskokwim area where residents hike to the mountains for bear hunting. Black bears are often attracted to fish camps during the summer months, when fish are processed and stored. In the upper Kuskokwim (GMU 19D) area, fish scraps are sometimes placed on distant sand bars in an effort to divert bears from the fish processing area. Occasionally, these bears are intentionally taken, although such bears are considered less desirable for human consumption due to the flavor of their meat at that time of year.

Black bear hunting often occurs immediately after the moose hunting season, particularly if hunters were not successful in harvesting a moose. In some areas, notably the middle Kuskokwim communities, black bears were often hunted at the same time as berry picking or moose hunting activities.

Hunters take note of grass piles and other likely denning sites in the fall. In the winter, the dens are located by examining the areas for scratch marks and bits of fur on trees. Black bear hunters typically use large caliber rifles, such as a 30-06 or .270-caliber. In Chuathbaluk, Sleetmute, Lime Village, and Stony River, wire snares have been set in or near smokehouses in recent years to capture troublesome bears.

In the past, taking bears from dens was more common and was generally an activity in which several hunters participated. Taking bears from their dens (“denning”) is still commonly practiced today. Denning sites are checked for signs of occupancy in the late fall. Many hunters know from the size of the den and nearby bear signs if the den is occupied by a single animal or by a female with cubs; they then avoid taking the females. Once found, a bear is shot either through a hole in the top of the den, or through the entrance. Sometimes the bear is driven out of the den, by smoke or by prodding with a spear (Upper Tanana and Anvik), then shot. Occasionally, the entrance is blocked in order to slow the exit of the bear.

Historical accounts from the Anvik area describe hunters bracing the spear and allowing the animal to run into it. Knowledge of precisely where to strike the bear was essential. Osgood (1958) offers this perspective on the use of spears by Anvik residents:

The fundamental purpose of such bear hunting is to gain prestige. Probably only three or four men out of a hundred would dare to kill a bear with a lance.

Nelson (1983) describes the importance of den hunting to Native residents along the Koyukuk River (GMU 24):

Koyukon men are thoroughly dedicated to den hunting—it is the truest test of their outdoor skills and a fundamental part of their masculine identity. The hunt is often undertaken by pairs or groups; and if it is successful a ceremonial feast or “bear party” is held afterward, so it also has important social value for men (women are excluded by strict taboo). Den hunting is a significant source of food for the village—for example, men from Huslia take ten to thirty bears this way each fall.

In the Upper Tanana area, one variation on harvesting the bear after it exited the den was to have two strong men pinch the bear between two poles while their companions killed the bear with clubs or spears.

Kuskokwim (GMU 19D) hunters reported dragging the bear carcass away from the den before butchering it in an effort to maintain the productivity of the den. Stevens Village residents (GMU 25) also reported that they thoroughly cleaned the den to help ensure its use in the following year.

The harvest of bears that were found swimming in the water was described in the Kuskokwim area (GMU 19). A noose was looped around its neck and the animal pulled to shore. This method was reportedly used in the Lime Village area as late as the 1950s. It was also reported that bears that were in the water were also taken by spear in the Upper Tanana (GMU 12).

The practice of using bait stations to attract and harvest black bears was found among bear hunters in Tok. Other documented historical methods of harvest include using dead falls and snares. The use of snares was reported in several areas. For example, people in the Anvik area (GMU 21) set snares along a tree that was felled at an incline. Fish entrails and eggs were used as bait to attract the bears and were placed in a birch bark basket tied to the upper end of the tree. The name of this snaring method, *deoako'n*, literally means “fish guts up in the air.”



Other historical methods include shooting black bears with bows and arrows or lacing bait with coiled baleen, which expanded and ruptured their digestive tracts. Dogs were also sometimes used to track black bears or find dens.

#### **CRITERION 4.**

##### **The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock or game population has been established.**

Each community typically hunts black bears in areas known to be productive. In many cases, areas used to hunt black bears are similar to those used to hunt moose and both activities often occur together. Information specific to black bear hunting areas does not exist for most communities; depiction of black bear hunting areas is often combined with brown bear or moose hunting areas.

Lime Village residents hunt moose, caribou, and black bears in river flats throughout their land use area. They hunt moose intensively along the Stony River and its side streams, including the Stink River and Hungry Creek. They also use Caribou Snare Creek and other streams that drain into Tundra Lake. Can Creek is an important hunting ground for both moose and black bears (Kari 1983).

Stony River residents hunt black bears along the Kuskokwim River about 70 miles upstream and 20 miles downstream of the village, as well as along the Swift and Stony rivers and their tributaries, and along the Tatlawiksuk, Holitna, and Big rivers (Kari 1985). Chuathbaluk residents have hunted black bears along the Kuskokwim River from just downstream of their community upstream to McGrath. Areas along the Aniak, Holokuk and Oskawalik rivers, as well as the lower tributaries of the Holitna River also have been hunted (Charnley 1984).

Sleetmute hunters primarily use the Holitna drainage to hunt black bears, along with the lower reaches of the George River (Charnley 1984).

Kwethluk hunters (from GMU 18) have used the Holokuk River drainage, especially since the 1940s, to hunt black bears. Inclusive areas comprise the Kuskokwim River as far upstream as McGrath and the Holitna River upstream to its headwaters (Coffing 1991).

Tuluksak residents (from GMU 18) have hunted bears along the Kuskokwim River from the village upriver to the mouth of the Holitna River, as well as in a few areas near the Johnson River, between the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Tributaries of the Kuskokwim River between the village and the Holitna River have also been hunted for bears. These include the Tuluksak River drainage upstream to the Risher Dome area; Bogus and Ophir creeks and the area around Whitefish Lake; the Aniak River approximately 10 miles upstream of the Kolmakof and Holokuk rivers; the Holitna River upstream as far as Kasheglok; and the first 10 river miles of the Hoholitna River (Andrews and Peterson 1983).

Nunapitchuk residents (from GMU 18) hunt black bears at the same time as moose. They hunt north and east of their village, upstream to the headwaters of the Pikmiktalik, Kvichavak, and Johnson rivers, including adjacent lakes and tributaries. They sometimes portage from the Johnson River to the Yukon River and hunt along the Yukon River as far upstream as Paimiut Slough. They also hunt along the Kuskokwim River as far upriver as the Stony River, 320 miles distant (Andrews 1989).

Black bear hunting areas used by Russian Mission residents (from GMU 18) include the Yukon River corridor from Ohogamiut upstream to the outlet of the Bonasila River; the lower reaches of the Bonasila River; and the Innoko River upstream to its confluence with the Shageluk River. Northern and eastern hills along the north bank of the Yukon River were hunted as well. Areas along the lower Atchuelinguk River are recent additions to regular black bear hunting areas, with hunting in that area occurring while residents are at their fish camps.

#### **CRITERION 5.**

**A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game which has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.**

Black bears provide an important source of meat, fat, and fur. Depending on the particular custom, bear meat is eaten in the household in the context of community celebrations or during feasts for special occasions, such as the "bear party" practiced along the Koyukuk River. Valuable parts, such as the ribs and hind quarters, are saved for potlatches.

Butchering practices follow culturally-established beliefs and values. In many communities, the skull is left in the field, either buried, as is the practice along the Kuskokwim River, or hung upon a small tree near the kill, or burned in a clean fire, as is the practice along the Koyukuk River. In any case, it is not brought back to the village in order to show proper respect toward the animal. The hunter cuts the eyes of the bear so that its spirit can not see a possible violation of butchering taboos.

Black bears are butchered in the field and processed like other large game. The meat is shared with relatives, especially if fresh meat has been scarce. Some sources report patterns of butchering and sharing that are dependent upon the number in the hunting party, who made the kill, and the age of the hunters. The meat is prepared in many ways: frozen, dried, smoked, or canned for later use, or cooked by boiling, frying, broiling, barbecuing, or roasting. In some communities, the fat is rendered so as to be used in cooking and in making "Native ice cream." The choicest parts, such as hindquarters or organs (heart, kidneys, and intestines) are often given to elders. If the meat has to be transported some distance, or if return to the village is not imminent, the meat may be dried in the field in order to decrease its weight and prevent spoilage.

Bear skins are used in the Tanana area (GMU 20) for ruffs, mukluks, and cabin bedding. Their use to insulate doors is described in the Yukon Flats area (GMU 25). In Koyukuk River communities, precautions are taken to ensure that bears hides do not come in contact with young women.

#### **CRITERION 6.**

**A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.**

Athabascan tradition attributes great spiritual power to the bear. There is an elaborate set of beliefs and values surrounding their harvest and use, and bear meat is often proscribed for women. For example, residents in Koyukuk River villages (GMU 24) follow proscriptions on who may eat bears, what portions may be eaten, how they are prepared, uses of the inedible parts, such as claws and skulls, and the ways to refer to bears.

An example is the "bear party" practiced along the Koyukuk River (GMU 24). It is held in the forest, away from the village, and may be attended only by men as a way of showing proper respect to the animal after its death. In Allakaket, bear parties include cooking meat from the head, neck, feet, and backbone; dancing; and singing special bear songs.

The knowledge of the medicinal uses of bear grease and other bear parts have been handed down, but are generally not in use today.

As with many subsistence activities, teaching young men how to track, hunt, and butcher black bears, and young women how to process and preserve bear meat and other products, is through participant observation. Children are included in many activities, and are expected to show interest and eventually participate in the activities depending upon their ages and skills. Most hunting is done in family-based groups, so learning and proficiency is observed and monitored.

### **CRITERION 7.**

**A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.**

Black bear meat is widely shared within and between communities, particularly when it is the only fresh meat available during lean times, such as late winter. Certain parts, such as the hindquarters, heart, and kidneys, are normally given to elders.

Bear meat is often considered a specialty food and served at funeral and memorial potlaches (e.g. Minto, where the backbone, ribs and brisket are served). The fat and meat from fall hunts is served at community-wide meals often held during Christmas Day and New Year's Eve (e.g. Minto).

The common pattern in the Native use of black bear meat is that only the men and the elder women should eat it. This pattern is perhaps less observed in the Kuskokwim area. In Minto, the limbs of harvested black bears apparently merit special attention as they are reportedly cut into three pieces and each piece given to a different household.

### **CRITERION 8.**

**A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide variety of the fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.**

Black bears are one of several large game species used for food by residents of these GMUs. Although the number harvested annually is less than those of moose or caribou, black bears are an important food source, particularly in late spring and early summer.

In some parts of these GMUs, nonlocal foods and equipment are often very costly, and the means of generating cash are not widely available. Residents of these communities harvest a large variety and considerable amounts of local fish and game resources, including all species of Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.); several species of whitefish (*Prosopium* or *Coregonus* spp.); northern pike (*Esox lucius*); burbot (*Lota lota*); Alaska blackfish (*Dallia pectoralis*); smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*); trout (*O. mykiss* or *Salvelinus* spp.); Arctic lampreys (*Lampetra japonica*); moose (*Alces alces*); caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*); black bears; brown bears (*U. arctos*); hares (*Lepus* spp.); ptarmigan (*Lagopus* spp.) porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*); grouse (various spp.); numerous species of waterfowl; furbearers, such as beavers (*Castor canadensis*), mink (*Mustela vison*), river otters (*Lutra canadensis*), muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*), wolverines

(*Gulo gulo*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and martens (*Martes americana*); as well as many plants and berries.

Much of the wild resources harvested are salmon and freshwater fish. However, communities further inland depend more heavily on land mammals, such as black bears. Kari (1983) reported that Lime Village residents prefer fresh animal meat as a staple over fish and birds. Caribou, moose, and beaver provided the most meat for Lime Village residents; in some years, black bears may have equaled beavers in pounds consumed.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Andrews, E. F. 1989. *The Akulmiut*: Territorial dimensions of a Yup'ik Eskimo society. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 177, Juneau.
- Andrews, E. and R. Peterson. 1983. Wild resource use of the Tuluksak River drainage by residents of Tuluksak, 1980-1983. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 87, Juneau.
- Charnley, S. 1984. Human ecology of two Central Kuskokwim communities: Chuathbaluk and Sleetmute. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 81, Juneau.
- Coffing, M. 1991. Kwethluk subsistence: Contemporary land use patterns, wild resource harvest and use, and the subsistence economy of a Lower Kuskokwim River area community. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 157, Juneau.
- Kari, P. R. 1983. Land use and economy of Lime Village. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No 80, Juneau.
- Kari, P. R. 1985. Wild resource use and economy of Stony River Village. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 108, Juneau.
- Nelson, E. W. 1983. *The Eskimo about Bering Strait*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Osgood, C. 1958. Ingalik social culture. No. 22 in Yale University Publications in Anthropology, New Haven. Reprinted 1970 by Human Relations Area Files Press, New Haven.

## TABLES AND FIGURES

**Table 1.** – Black bear harvests, Interior Region.

Community	Year	Percentage of households harvesting	Estimated total number harvested	Per capita harvest (lbs.)
Allakaket	1982	37	23	9
Anderson	1987	7	10	4
Beaver	1985	10	10	4
Bettles	1982	25	3	5
Dot Lake	1987	8	1	1
Fort Yukon	1987	31	150	7
Galena	1985	18	36	5
Healy	1987	2	7	1
Hughes	1982	53	17	11
Huslia	1983	37	41	32
McGrath	1984	n/a	15	2
McKinley Park	1987	2	1	0.8
Minto	1984	20	16	16
Nikolai	1984	n/a	6	3
Northway	1987	9	10	2
Stevens Village	1984	40	17	19
Tanacross	1987	4	3	1
Tanana	1987	14	38	28
Tok	1987	8	40	2

Source: ADF&G Division of Subsistence survey data.



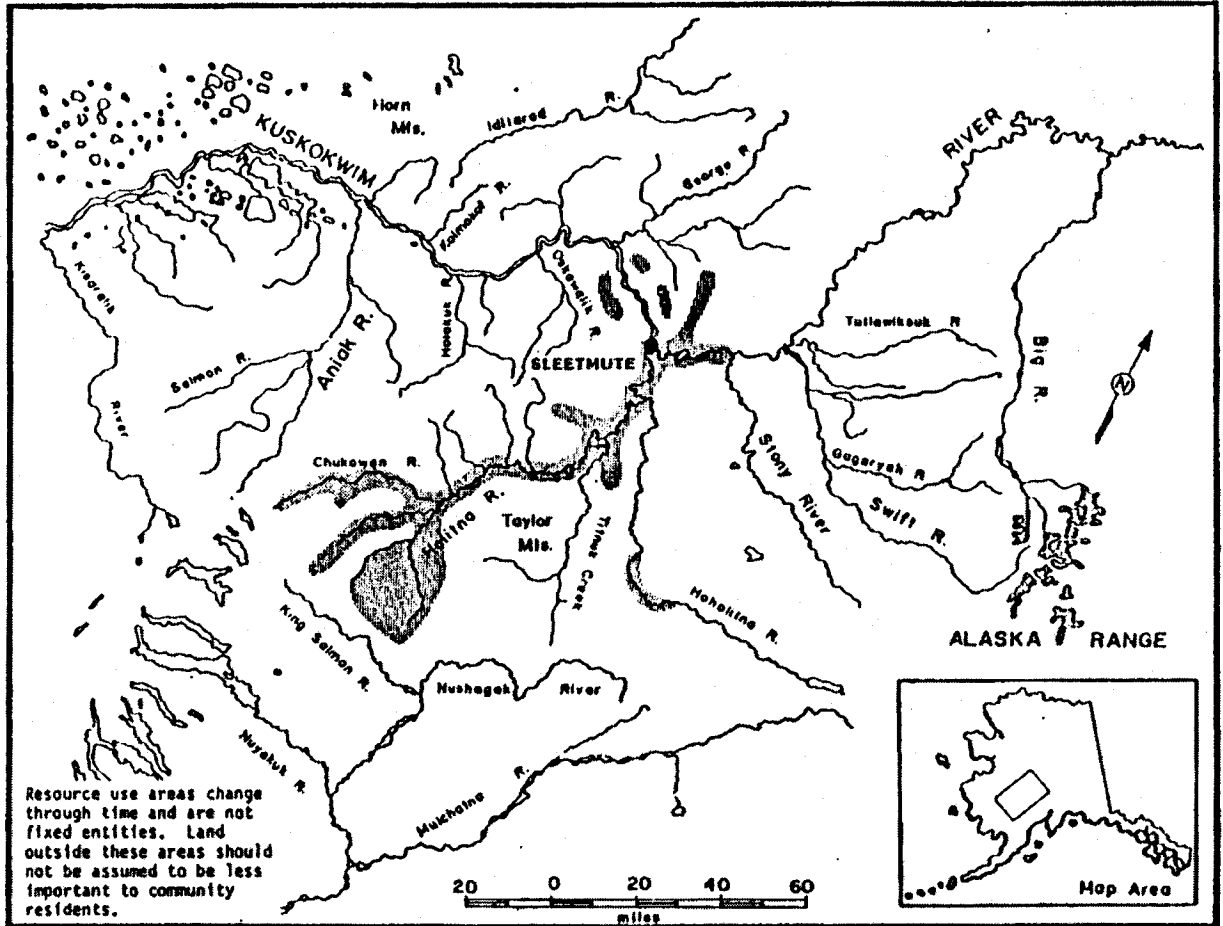


Figure 2. – Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear prior to the use of snow machines.



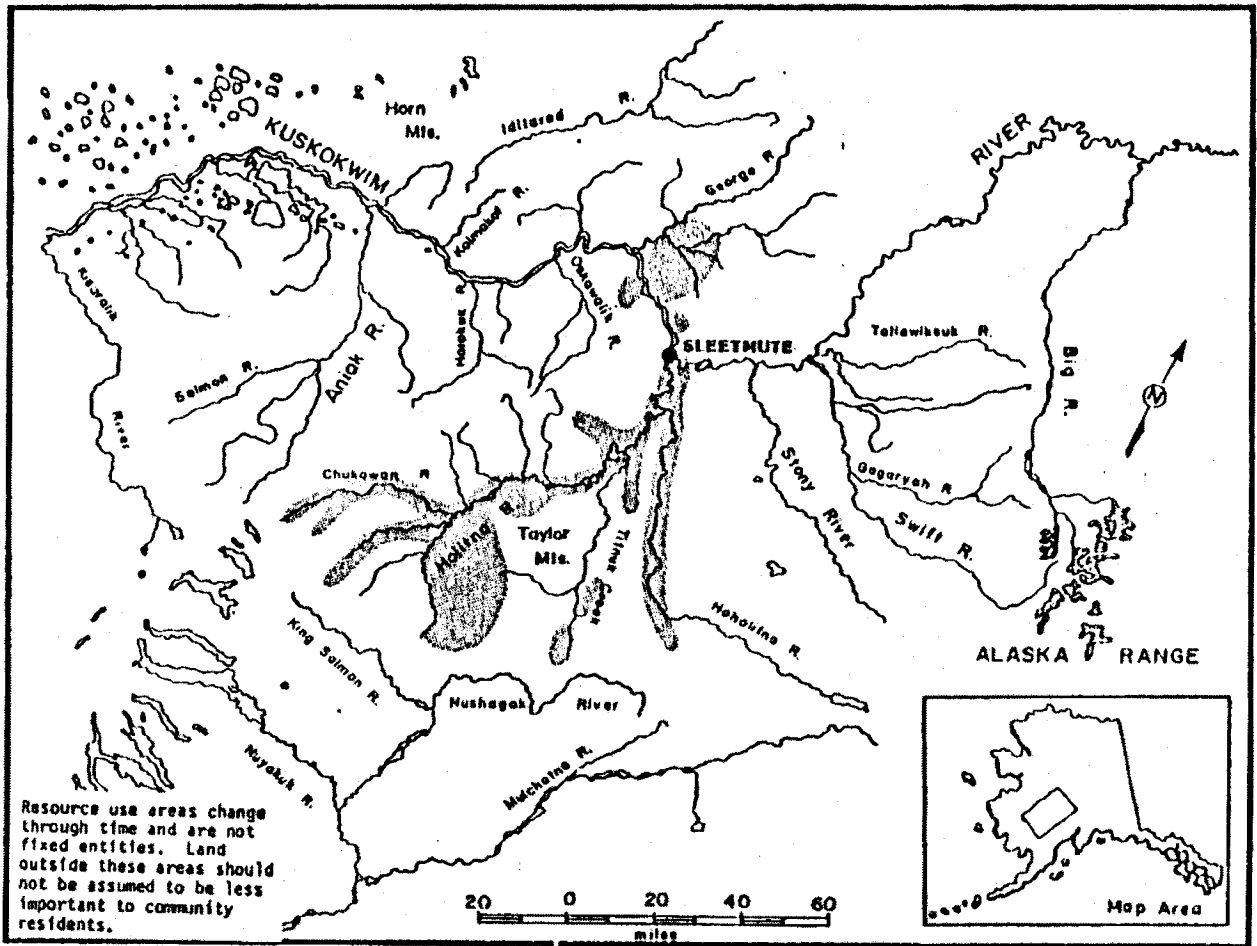


Figure 3. – Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear since the use of snow machines through 1983.

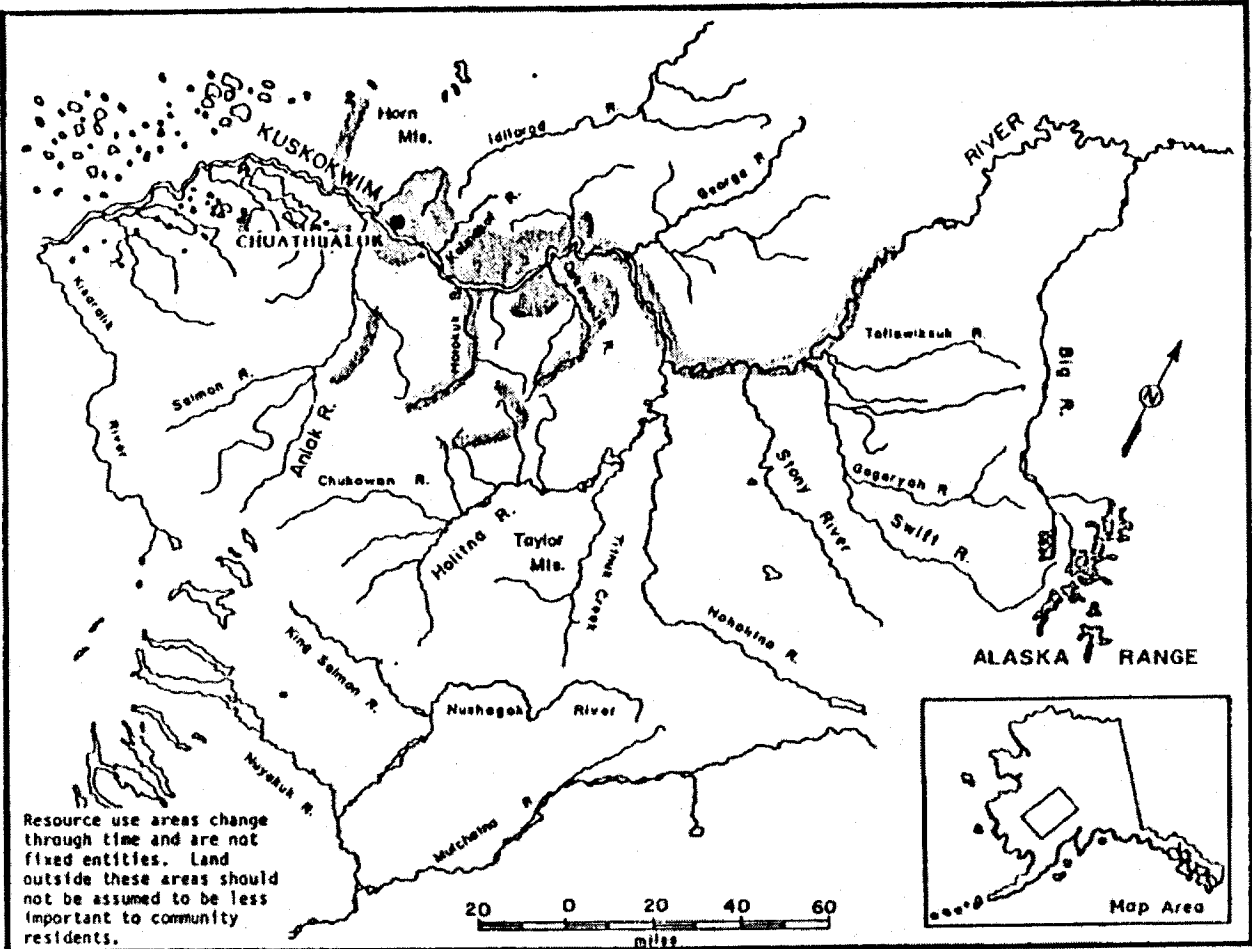


Figure 4. - Areas used by Chuathbaluk residents for hunting bear since moving to Chuathbaluk through 1983.

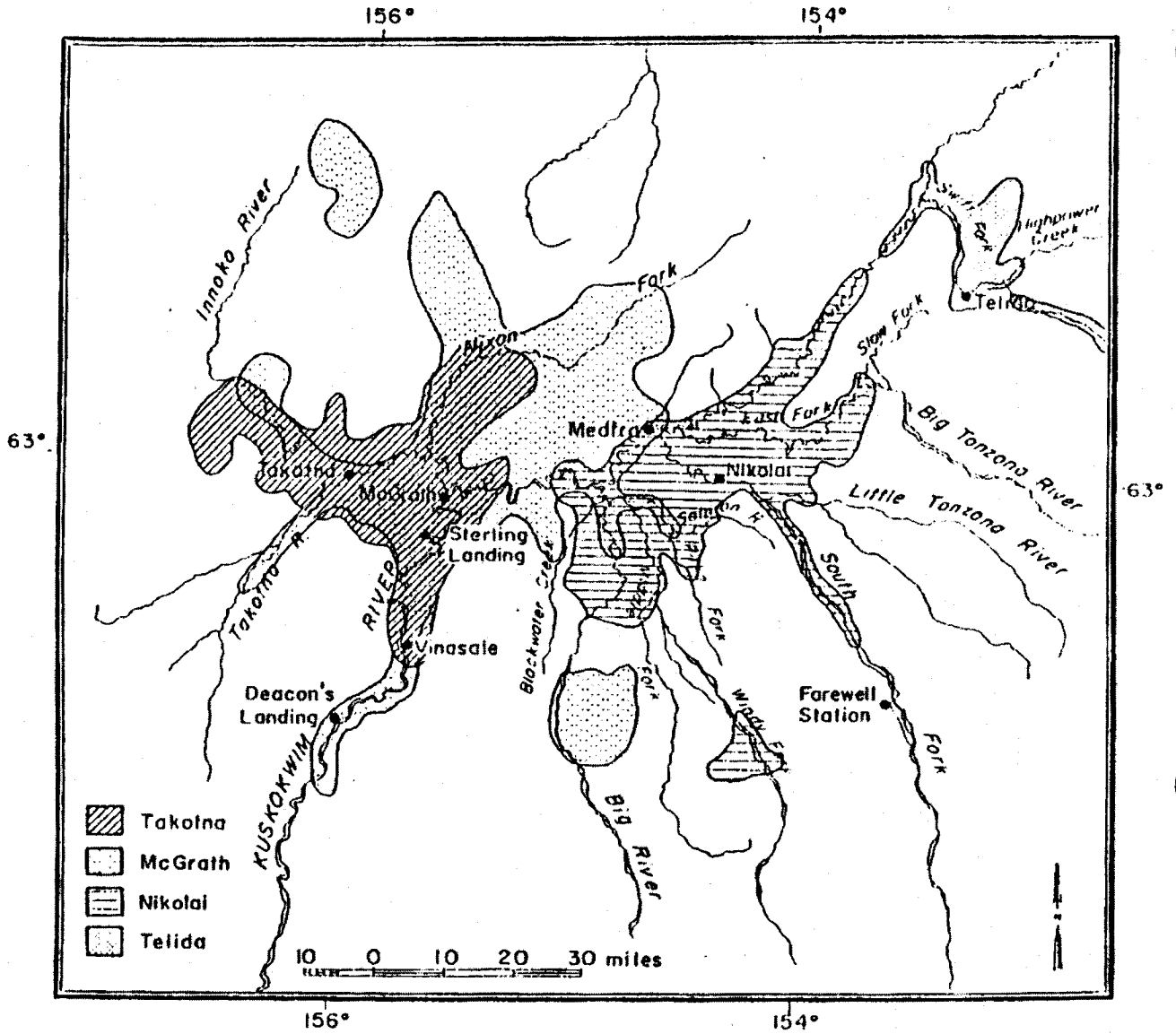


Figure 5. – Areas used by Nikolai, Telida, Takotna, and McGrath black and brown bear hunters, 1967-1983.

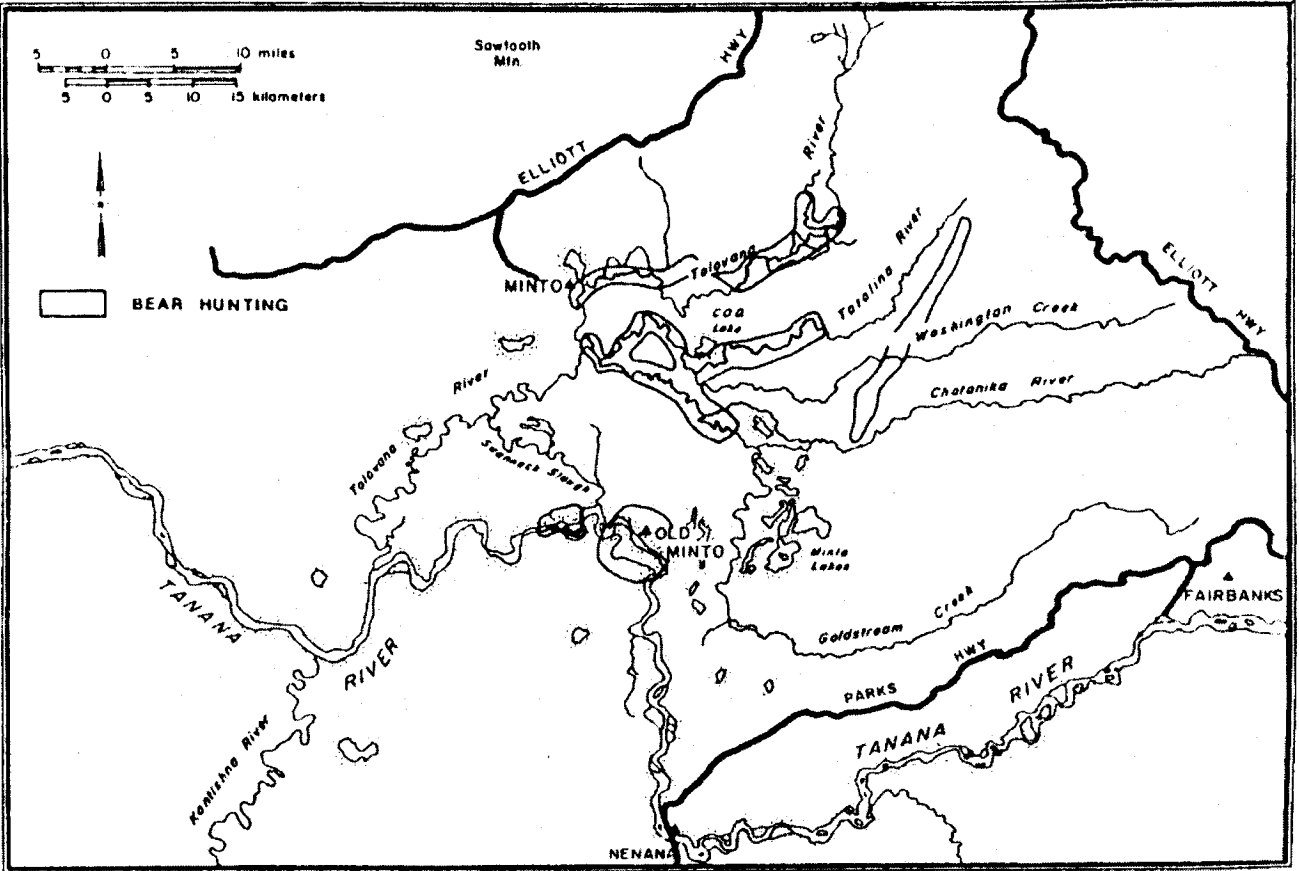


Figure 6. – Minto bear hunting areas, 1960-1984.



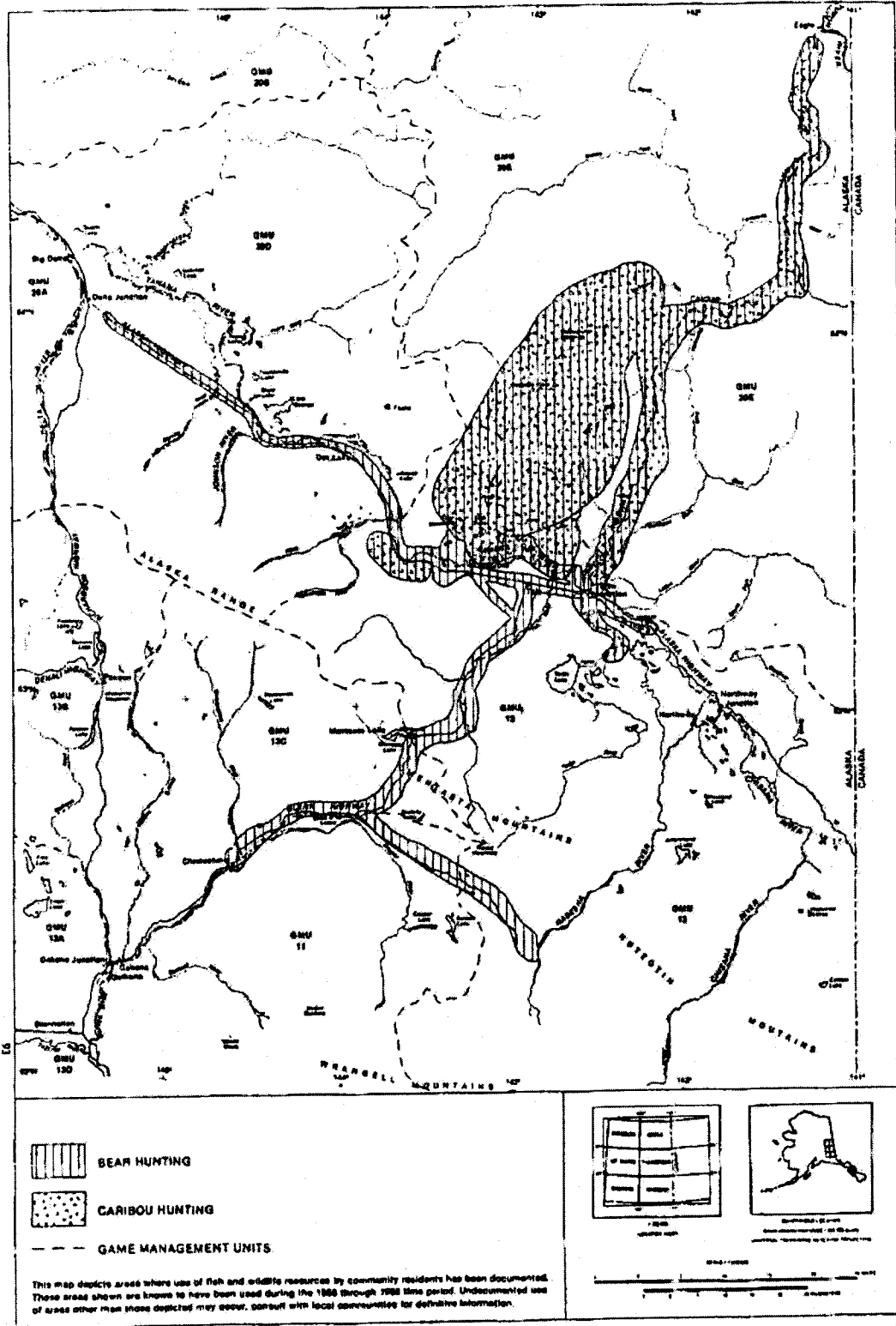


Figure 8. – Tanacross bear and caribou hunting areas, 1968-1988.

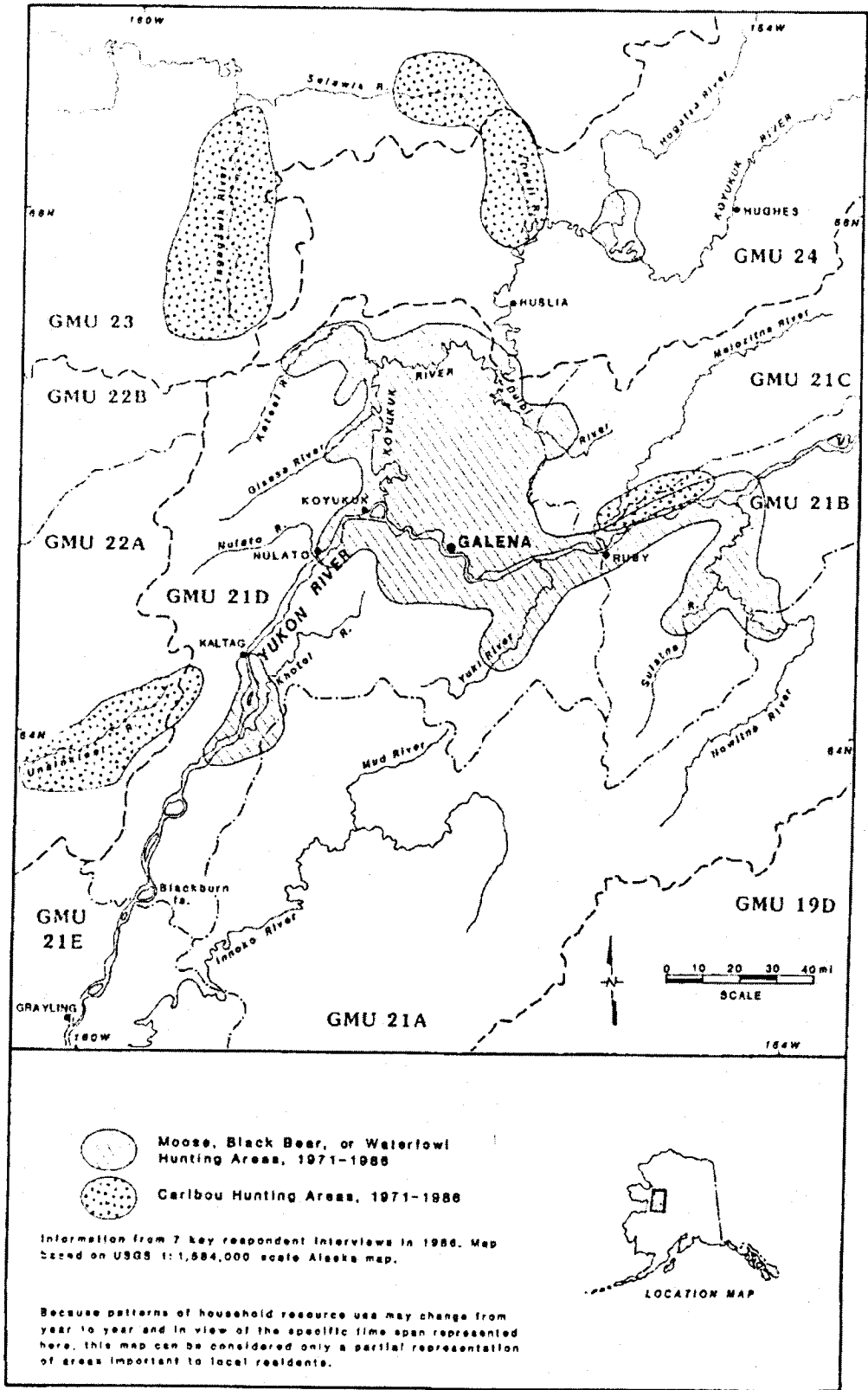


Figure 9. – Galena moose, black bear, waterfowl, and caribou hunting areas, 1971-1986.

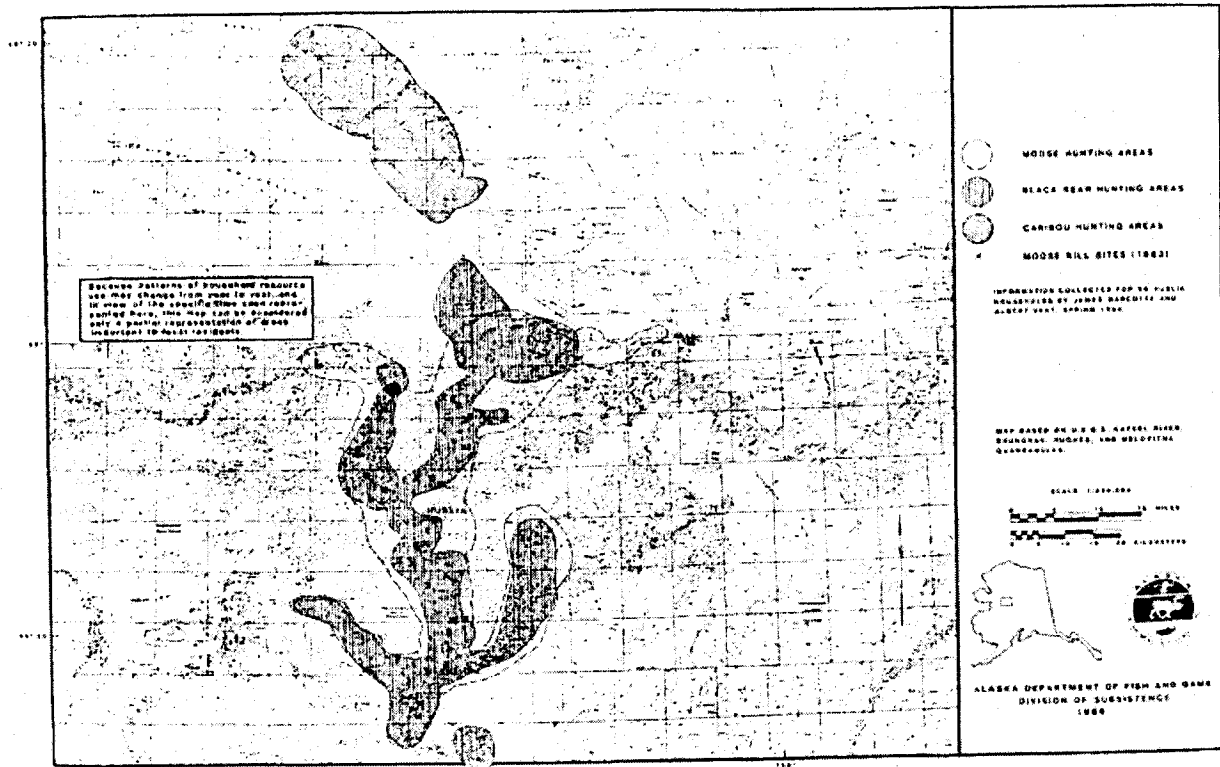


Figure 10. – Huslia moose, black bear, and caribou hunting areas, 1981-1983.

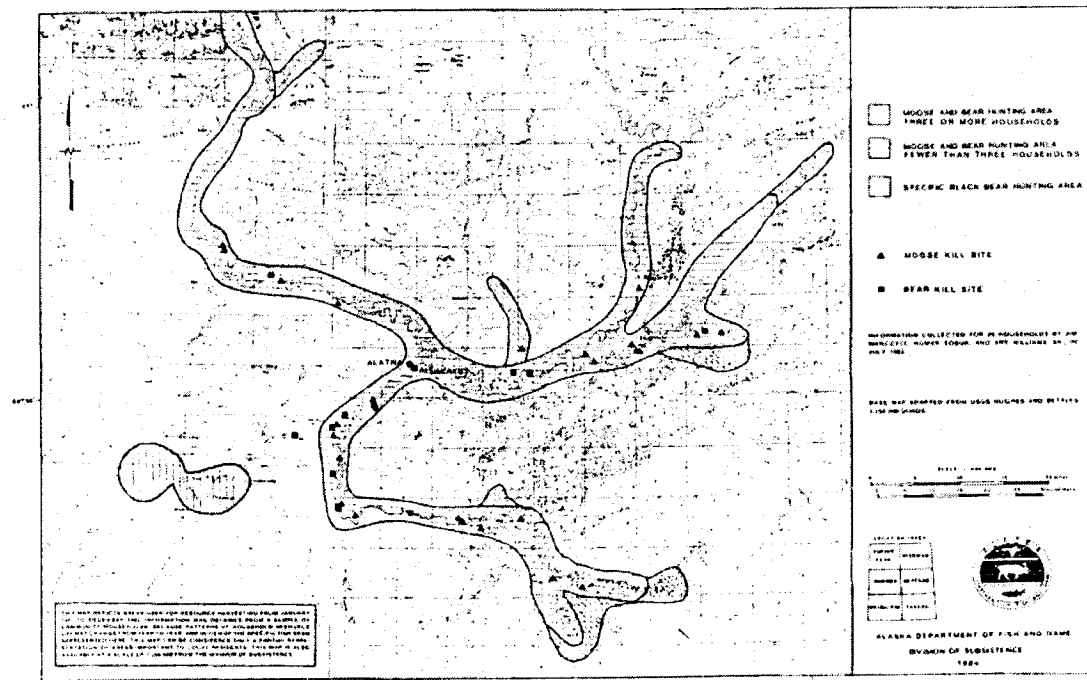


Figure 11. – Areas used for moose and black bear hunting by residents of Allakaket and Alatna, January 1981-December 1982.



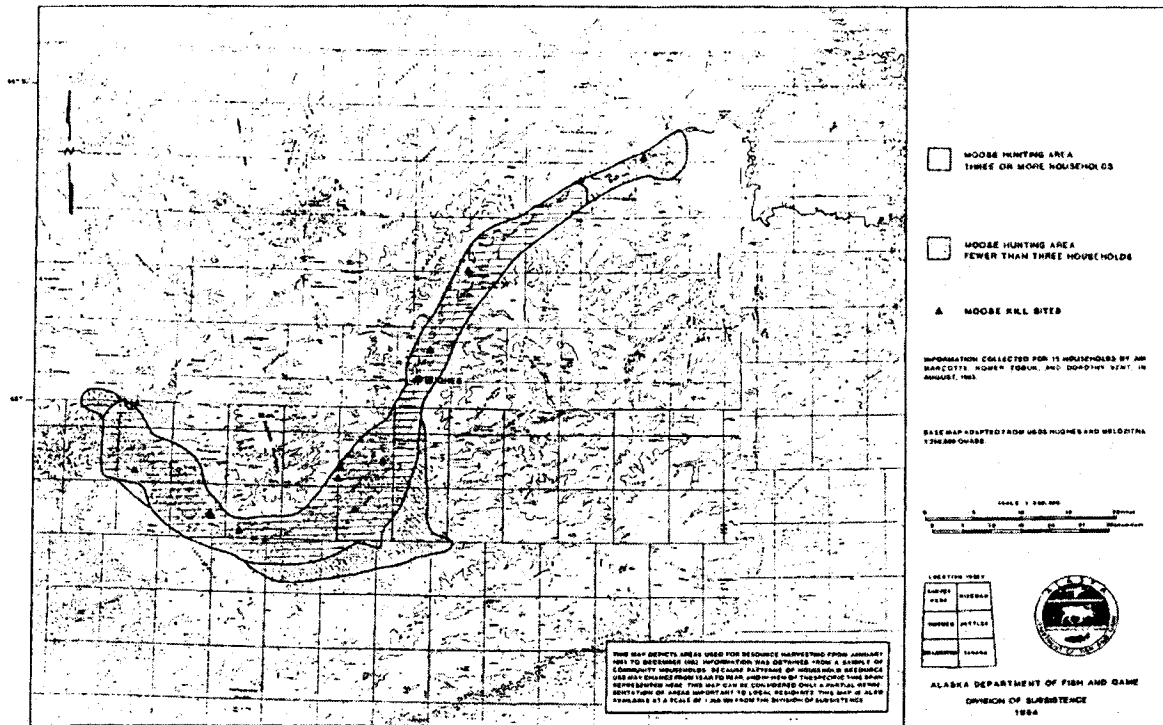


Figure 12. – Areas used for moose hunting by residents of Hughes, January 1981-December 1982.

EIGHT CRITERIA WORKSHEET, BOARD OF GAME, MARCH 1991

SPECIES: BLACK BEAR

GMU/SUBUNIT: GMUs 18, 19, 21E

**RURAL COMMUNITIES USING THE SPECIES**

Akiakchak, Akiak, Aniak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Kwethluk, Lime Village, Lower Kalskag, Marshall, Mountain Village, Nunapitchuk, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Quinhagak, Red Devil, Russian Mission, Sleetmute, Stony River, St. Mary's, Tuluksak, and Upper Kalskag. Possible uses by Alakanuk, Emmonak, Goodnews Bay, Kasigluk, Kotik, Napaskiak, Oscarville, Platinum, and Sheldon Point.

**1. LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE (long-term, consistent, excluding interruptions by circumstances beyond the user's control)**

In communities with or near spruce woodlands, such as Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Chuathbaluk, Kwethluk, Russian Mission, Marshall, and St. Mary's, to name a few, hunting and use of black bear is a well established pattern. In other communities, black bear are most often taken opportunistically when targeting other animals, such as moose, or small game, but its use is common. Most residents familiar with the use of black bear report that they have caught black bear in regularly hunted areas as long as elders in their communities can recall, and can recount stories of uses by previous generations (cf. Coffing, in prep.; Chamley 1984; Kari 1983, 1987). Historical sources from the 18th century mention use of bear by residents of this region.

**2. SEASONALITY (recurring in specific seasons of each year)**

Black bear are hunted primarily in the spring, fall, and early winter. In areas with or near black bear habitat, black bear hunting commences after bear begin venturing from their dens, in April and extends through May, until fishing season starts. They are a notable resource in these areas, often being the only large animal reasonably available when food stores are depleted, in late winter. In the fall, from late August through October, black bear are hunted in conjunction with or incidental to moose and caribou hunting. The quality of black bear flesh is often mentioned as a factor in time of targeted hunting. Immediately after hibernation in the spring, black bear have some fat for a short period of time. However, food stores are often diminished at this time of year, and any fresh meat is welcome. The flesh of black bear is considered best in the fall and early winter, when they have been feeding primarily on berries. It is fat and tasty then.

Communities near good black bear habitat, such as Russian Mission, Lime Village, Stony River, Chuathbaluk, and Sleetmute occasionally employ den-hunting throughout the winter, particularly when food supplies run low. Although this is more common reason for brown bear kills, defense-of-life-and-property kills of black bear do occur, especially throughout fish camp season.

### **3. MEANS AND METHODS OF HARVEST (efficient, economic, conditioned by local circumstances)**

Black bear are hunted by snowmachine or dog team in late winter and early spring, and by boat in the fall, typically with large caliber rifles (30'06, .270). In some areas, notably the middle Kuskokwim communities, black bear were hunted on foot, often in conjunction with berry picking. Hunters note grass piles in the fall to determine where dens may be. In the winter, the area is searched for scratch marks and bits of fur on trees to locate dens, if the bear is to be dispatched while still in the den. It is either shot while still in the den or aggravated until it charges out, and then is shot. Otherwise, hunters canvass the area in late winter to track and hunt newly emerged bears. In the fall, black bear hunting often occurs along with moose hunting or immediately after moose season, particularly if they were not successful in harvesting a moose. In Chuathbaluk, Sleetmute, Lime Village, and Stony River, wire snares have been set in or near smokehouses in recent years to capture troublesome bears.

Other means of catching black bear which are no longer practiced, include spearing or shooting them with bows and arrows, smoking them out of dens, snaring them or capturing them in deadfall traps, lassoing and drowning them while they swam, or baiting them with coiled baleen which ruptured their innards. Dogs were sometimes used to track black bear or find dens.

### **4. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS (near or reasonably accessible from the user's residence)**

Each community typically hunts black bear in usually productive areas. In many cases, areas used to hunt black bear are similar to those used to hunt moose, since both activities often occur together. Detailed information on black bear hunting areas does not exist for most communities; depiction of black bear hunting areas is often combined with brown bear or moose hunting areas."

Lime Village residents hunt "moose, caribou, and black bear in flats throughout their land use area. They hunt moose intensively along the Stony River and its side streams including Stink River and Hungry Creek. They also use Caribou Snare Creek and other streams that drain into Tundra Lake. Can Creek is an important hunting ground for both moose and black bear." (Kari 1983:32).

Stony River residents hunt black bear about 70 miles along the Kuskokwim River above and 20 miles below the village, as well as along the Swift and Stony River, their tributaries, and along the Tattawiksuk, Holitna, and Big rivers (Kari 1985:80). Chuathbaluk residents have hunted black bear along the Kuskokwim River from just below their community up almost to McGrath. Areas along the Aniak, Holokuk, Oskawalik rivers, as well as the lower tributaries of the Holitna River have also been hunted (Charnley 1984:235-238).

Sleetmute hunters primarily use the Holitna drainage to hunt black bears, along with the lower reaches of the George River (Charnley 1984:235, 240).

Kwethluk hunters have gone along the Holokuk River drainage, especially since the 1940s to hunt black bears. Inclusive areas extend up the Kuskokwim River as far as McGrath and up the Holitna River to its headwaters (Coffing, in prep).

Tuluksak residents have hunted bear along the Kuskokwim River from the village upriver to the mouth of the Holitna River, as well as a few areas in the upper Johnson River, between the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Tributaries of the Kuskokwim River between the village and the Holitna River have also been hunted for bear. These include the Tuluksak River drainage up to the Risher, Dome area; Bogus and Ophir Creeks and the area around Whitefish Lake; the Aniak River; approximately 10 miles up the Kolmakof and Holokuk rivers; the Holitna River up to Kashegelok, and roughly 10 miles up the Hoholitna River (Andrews and Peterson 1987).

Nunapitchuk residents hunt black bear incidentally to moose hunting. They hunt north and east of their village up the Pikmiktalik, Kvichavak, and Johnson rivers to their headwaters and adjacent lakes and tributaries. They sometimes portage from the Johnson River to the Yukon River and hunted along the Yukon River up to Paimiut Slough. They also hunt along the Kuskokwim River as far upriver as Stony River, which is 320 miles distant (Andrews 1989: 327-329).

Areas used by Russian Mission residents to hunt black bear include the Yukon River corridor from Ohogamiut up to the outlet of the Bonasila River; the lower reaches of the Bonasila River; and the Innoko River up to its confluence with the Shageluk River. Hills along the north bank of the Yukon River to the north and east of the village were hunted as well. Areas along the lower Atchuelinguk River were recent additions to regular black bear hunting areas; hunting in that area occurred while at fish camp.

#### **5. MEANS OF HANDLING, PREPARING, PRESERVING, AND STORING (traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances)**

Many sources report traditional respectful behavior toward bears in general. The skull is buried in the field, rather than taken back to risk disrespectful treatment, such as dogs gnawing on it, or someone sitting on it. First kills are distributed throughout the community for good luck.

Black bear is commonly butchered in the field and processed like other large game. The meat is shared with relatives, especially if fresh meat has been scarce, frozen, dried and smoked, or canned for later use, and cooked by boiling, frying, broiling, barbecuing, or roasting. Some sources report patterns of butchering and sharing depending upon the number in the hunting party, who made the kill, the age of the hunters. Choicest parts, such as hind quarters, or organs (heart, kidneys, and intestines) often are given to elders. If the meat has to be transported some distance by packing, or return to the village is not imminent, the meat may be dried in the field to decrease its weight and prevent spoilage. In some communities, the fat is rendered to be used in cooking and making "native ice cream".

Black bear hides are used for rugs, mattresses, boot uppers or soles, mittens, caps, and trimmings on boots. Dried black bear gall is steeped in hot water to make a medicinal drink by Lime Village residents.

Bear hides were traditionally used as door covers, and bear gut used to make raincoats, and summer coats, as well as stretched to make drums heads. These uses are no longer common.

#### **6. INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, VALUES AND LORE (handed down between generations)**

As with many subsistence activities, teaching young men how to track, hunt, and butcher black bear, and young women how to process and preserve bear meat and handle its products, is through participant observation. Children are included in many activities, and are expected to show interest and eventually participate in the activities depending upon their age and acquired skill. Most hunting is done in family-based groups, so learning and proficiency is observed and monitored.

#### **7. DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE (customary trade, barter, and gift giving within a definable community of persons)**

As mentioned above, first kills are distributed throughout the community to ensure future good luck. Black bear meat is shared widely within and between communities, particularly if it is the only fresh meat in typically lean times, such as late winter. Certain parts, such as hindquarters, heart, and kidneys, are normally given to elders.

#### **8. DIVERSITY OF RESOURCES IN AN AREA; ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND NUTRITIONAL ELEMENTS (wide diversity, substantial elements of a subsistence user's life)**

In this region, imported foods and equipment are often very costly and means of generating cash are not widely available. Residents of these communities harvest a large variety and considerable amounts of local fish and game resources, including all species of Pacific salmon; several species of whitefish, pike, burbot, blackfish, smelt, trout, and Arctic lamprey; moose, caribou, black and brown bear, hare, ptarmigan, porcupine, grouse, and numerous species of waterfowl; furbearers, such as beaver, mink, otter, muskrat, wolverine, wolf, fox, lynx, and marten; as well as many plants and berries. Much of the wild resources harvested is comprised of salmon and freshwater fish. However, communities further inland depend more heavily on land mammals, such as black bear. Kari (1983) reported that Lime Village residents prefer fresh animal meat as a staple over fish and birds. Caribou, moose, and beaver provided the most meat for Lime Village residents; in some years, black bear may have equalled beaver in pounds consumed.

#### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

Technical Paper No. 50. Resource Use Areas in the Aniak and Oskawalik River Drainages. (1982) Susan Charnley.

Technical Paper No. 53. Middle Kuskokwim Food Survey II. (1981) Alice Stickney.

Technical Paper No. 80. Land Use and Economy of Lime Village. (1983) Priscilla R. Kari.

Technical Paper No. 81. Human Ecology of Two Central Kuskokwim Communities: Chuathbaluk and Sleetmute. (1984) Susan Charnley.

Technical Paper No. 87. Wild Resource Use of the Tuluksak River Drainage by Residents of Tuluksak, 1980-1983. Elizabeth Andrews and Raymond Peterson.

Technical Paper No. 89. Subsistence-Based Economies in Coastal Communities of Southwest Alaska. (1984) Robert J. Wolfe, et al.

Technical Paper No. 108. Wild Resource Use and Economy of Stony River village. (1985) Priscilla R. Kari.

Technical Paper No. 127. Contemporary Patterns of Wild Resource Use by Residents of Russian Mission (In prep). Mary C. Pete.

Technical Paper No. 141. An Overview of Resource Use Patterns in the Central Kuskokwim: Aniak, Crooked Creek, and Red Devil. (1986) Taylor Breisford, Raymond Peterson, and Terry L. Haynes.

Technical Paper No. 157. Subsistence Harvest and Utilization of Wild Resources in Kwethluk (in prep.). Michael Coffing.

Technical Paper No. 177. The Akulmiut: Territorial Dimensions of a Yup'ik Eskimo Society. (1989) Elizabeth F. Andrews.

Subsistence Study (on file): Atmautluak, Marshall, and Lower Kaiskag (1984) Nunam Kitlutsisti.

The Eskimo About Bering Strait (1979) Edward Nelson.

L. A. Zagoskin (1967) Lt. Zagoskin's Travels in Russian America: 1842-1844.

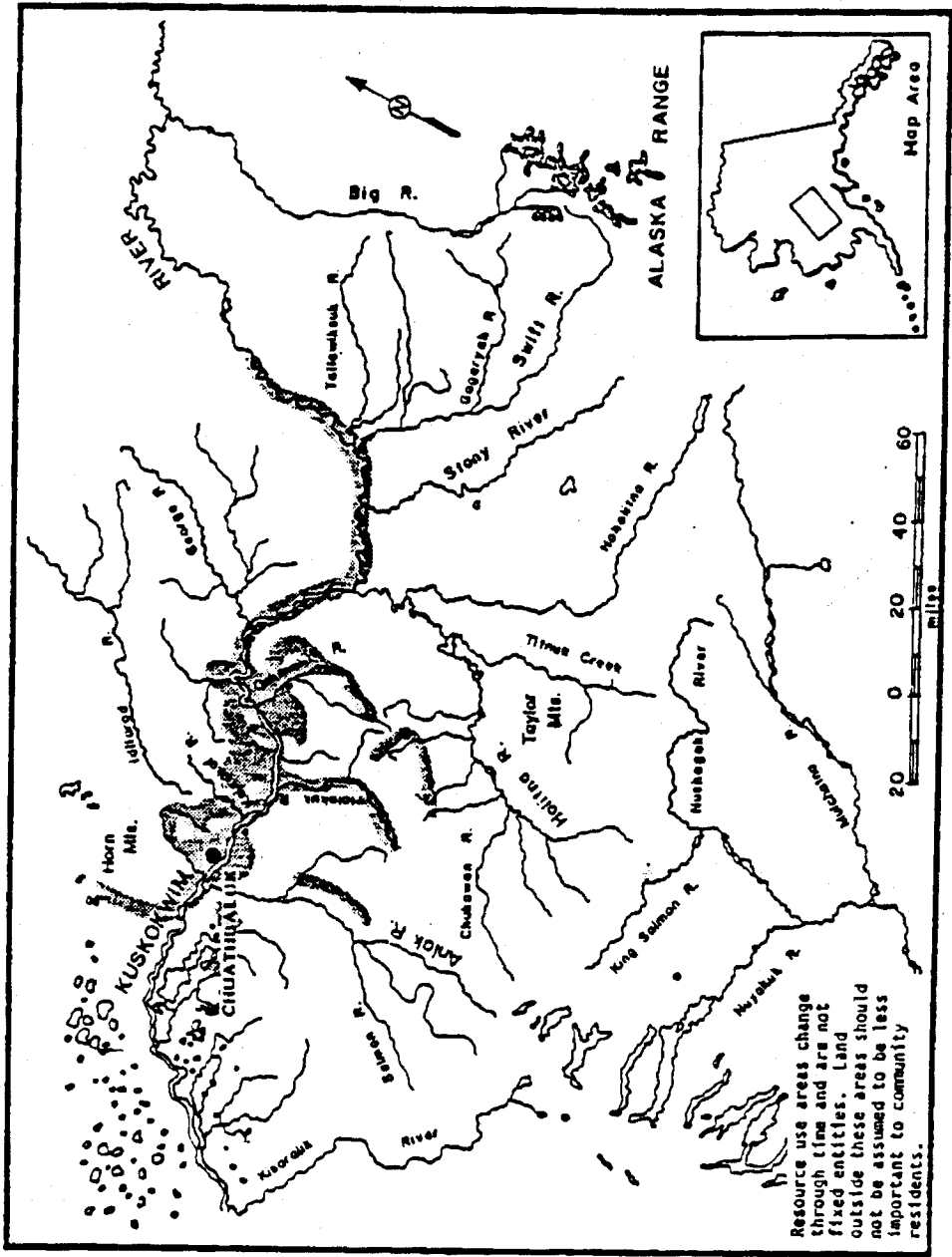
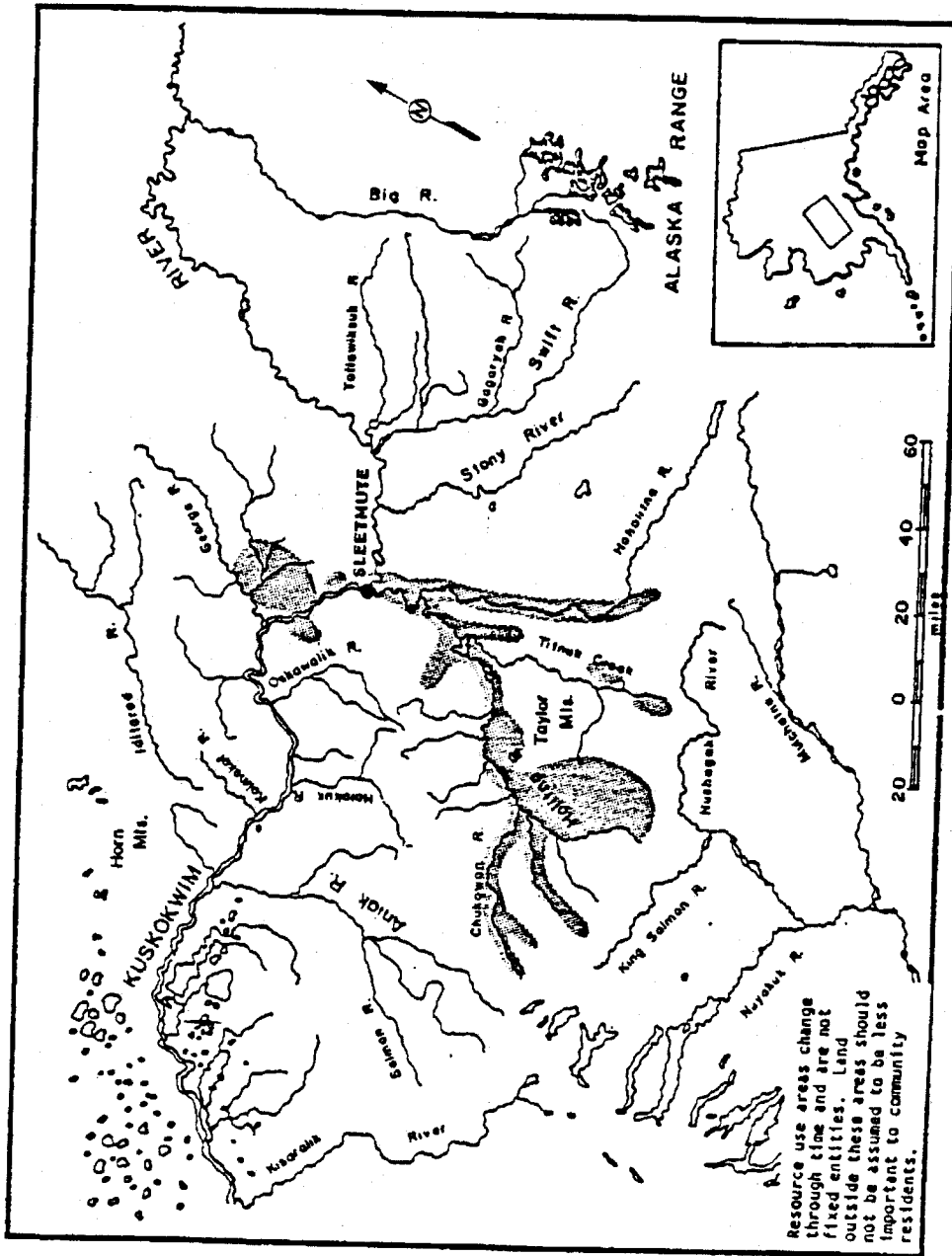


Fig. 64. Areas used by Chuathbaluk residents for hunting bear since moving to Chuathbaluk through 1983.



Resource use areas change through time and are not fixed entities. Land outside these areas should not be assumed to be less important to community residents.

Fig. 66. Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear since the use of snowmachines through 1983.



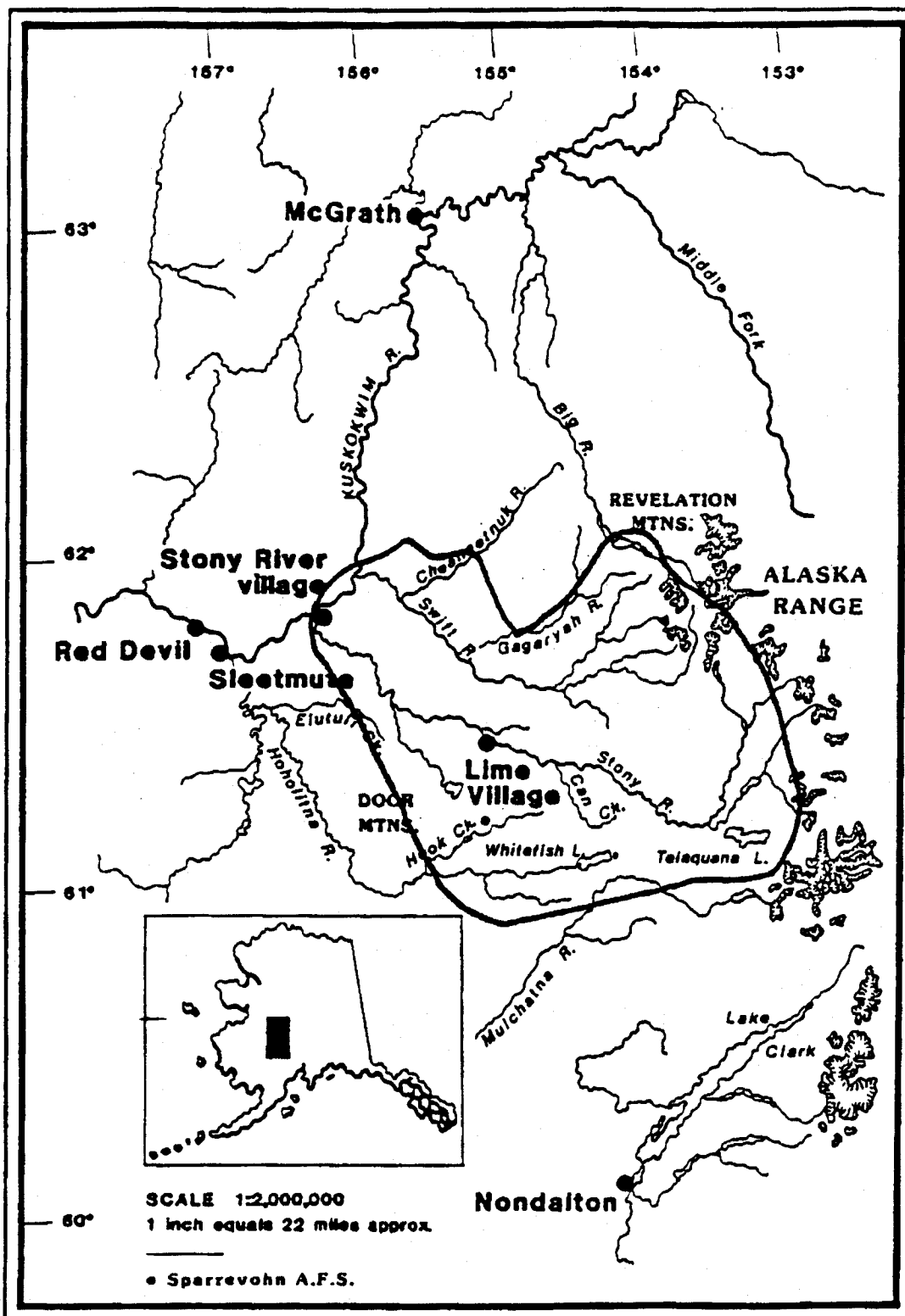


Figure 1. Lime Village: the local and regional area

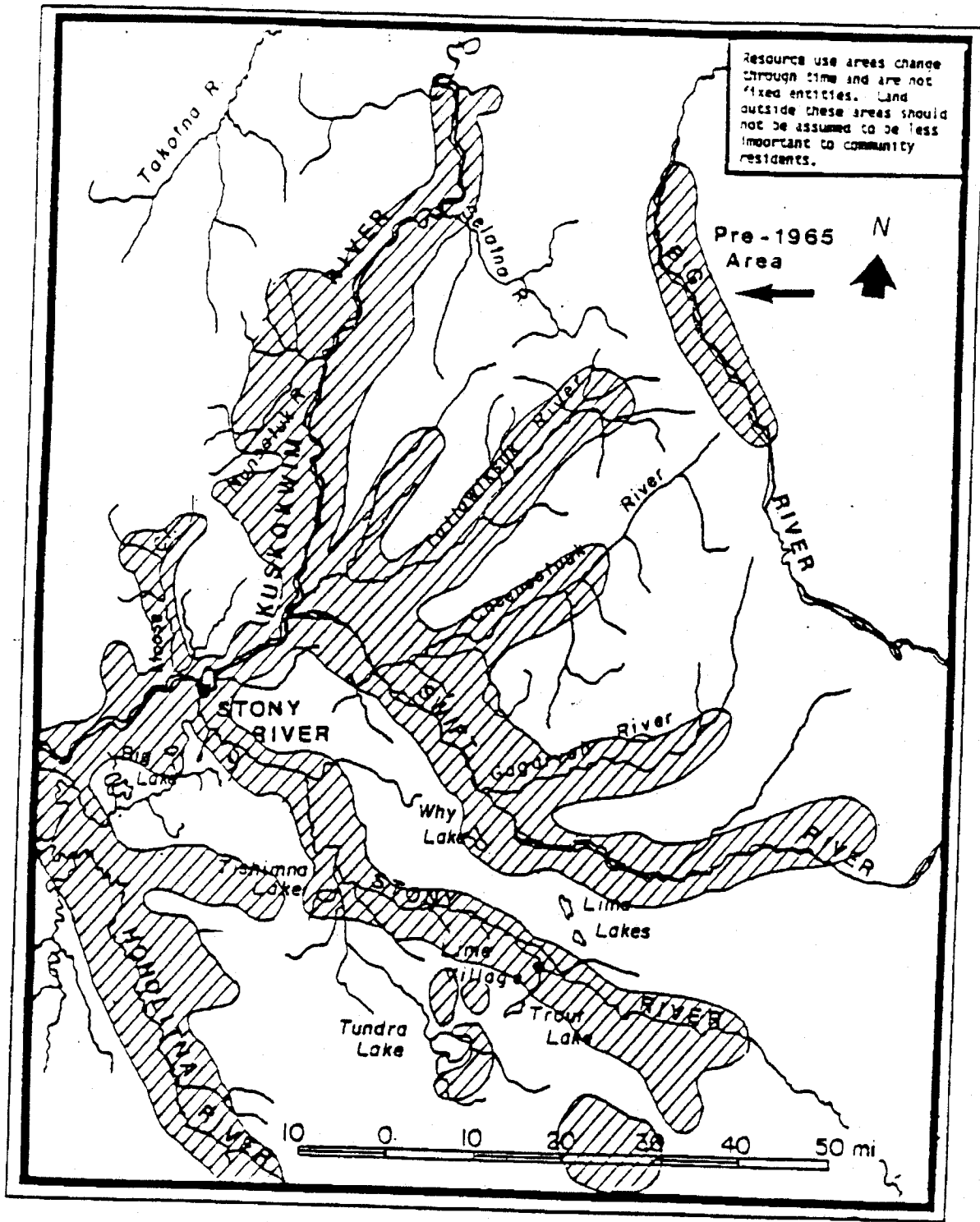
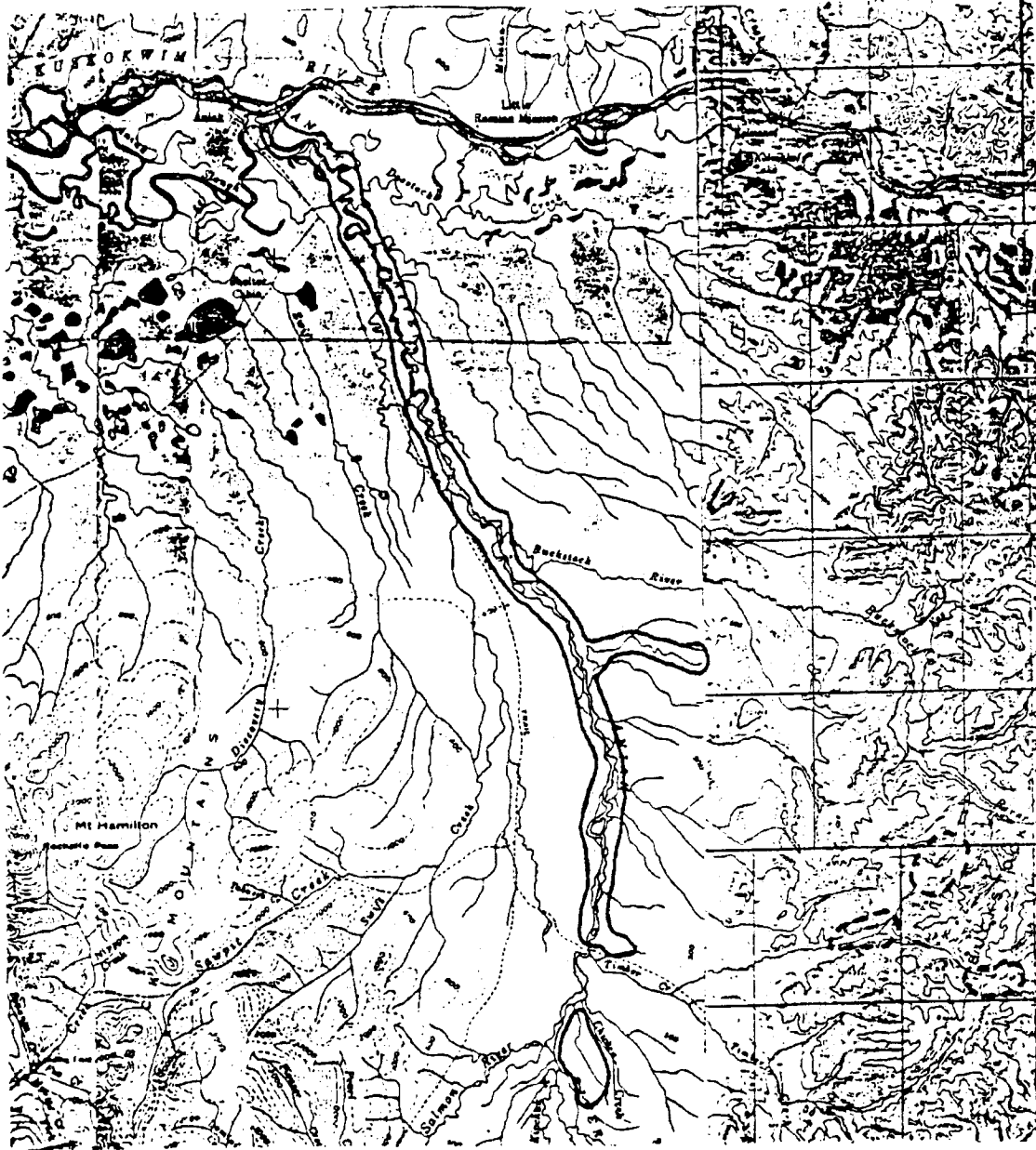




Fig. 5. Areas used for black bear hunting during the lifetimes of Stony River residents as reported in 1983-84.

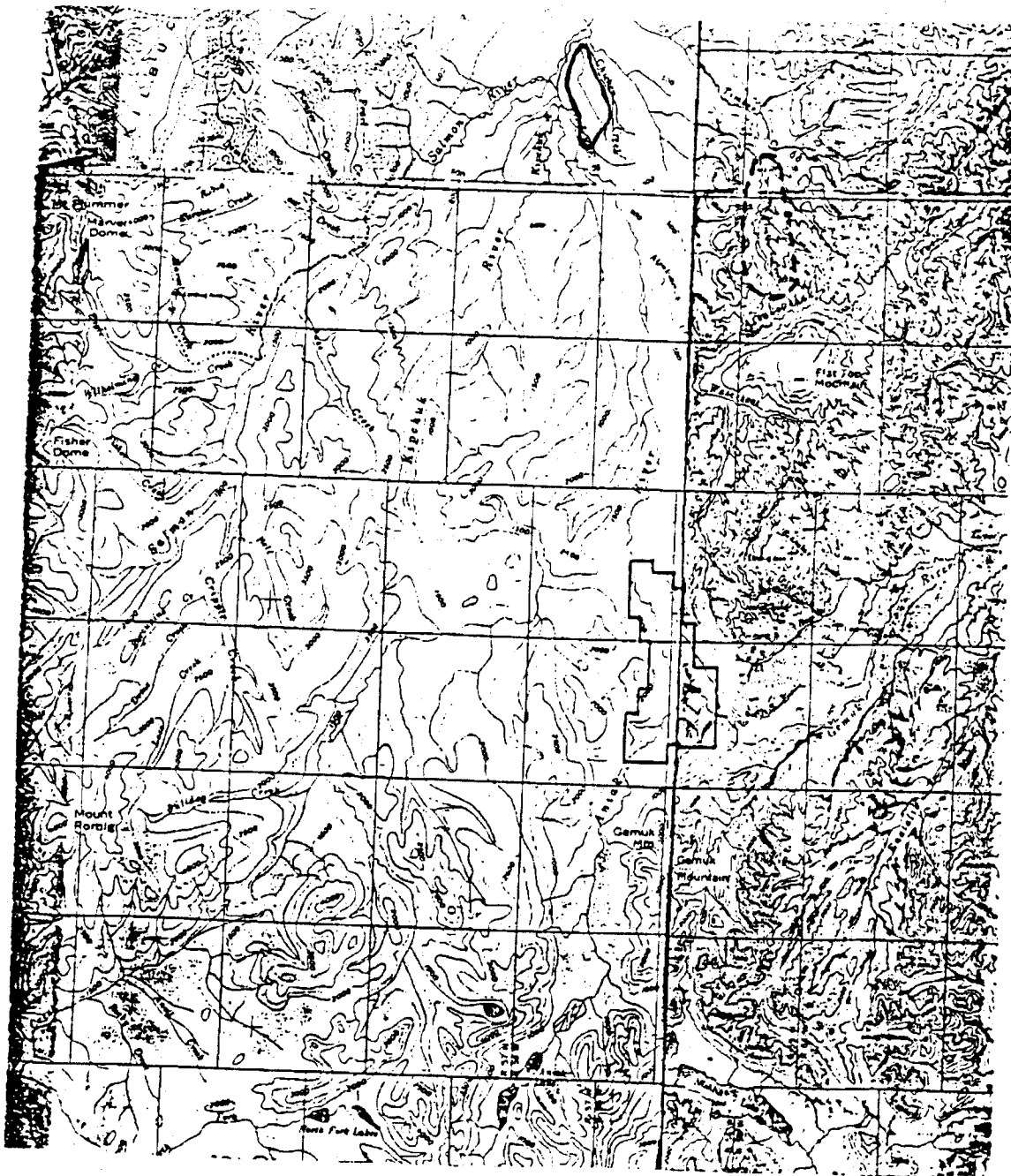
Note: This map was compiled during 1982 from a sample of community residents, so it may be a partial representation of areas used by community members for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. Use areas change through time and are not fixed entities. Land outside use areas should not be assumed to be of relative less importance to community members.





Map 6. Bear and Caribou Hunting Areas within the Aniuk River Drainage of Residents of Aniuk (n=17)

-  -- Bear Hunting Areas
-  -- Caribou Hunting Areas

Note: This map was compiled during 1982 from a sample of community residents, so it may be a partial representation of areas used by community members for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. Use areas change through time and are not fixed entities. Land outside use areas should not be assumed to be of relative less importance to community members.



Map 7. Bear and Caribou Hunting Areas Within the Aniak River Drainage of Residents of Aniak (n=17)

-  -- Bear Hunting Areas
-  -- Caribou Hunting Areas



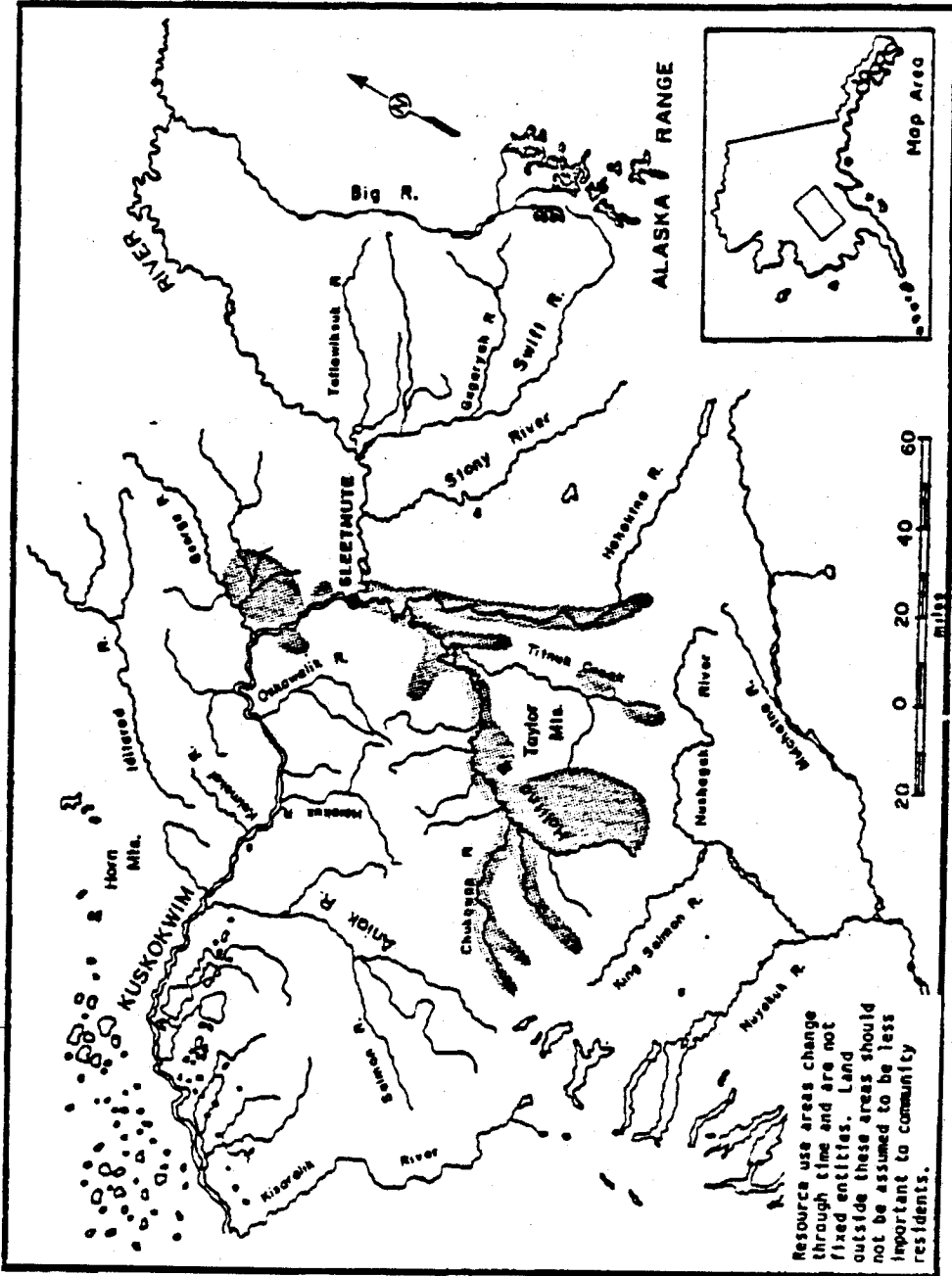


Fig. 66. Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear since the use of snowmachines through 1983.

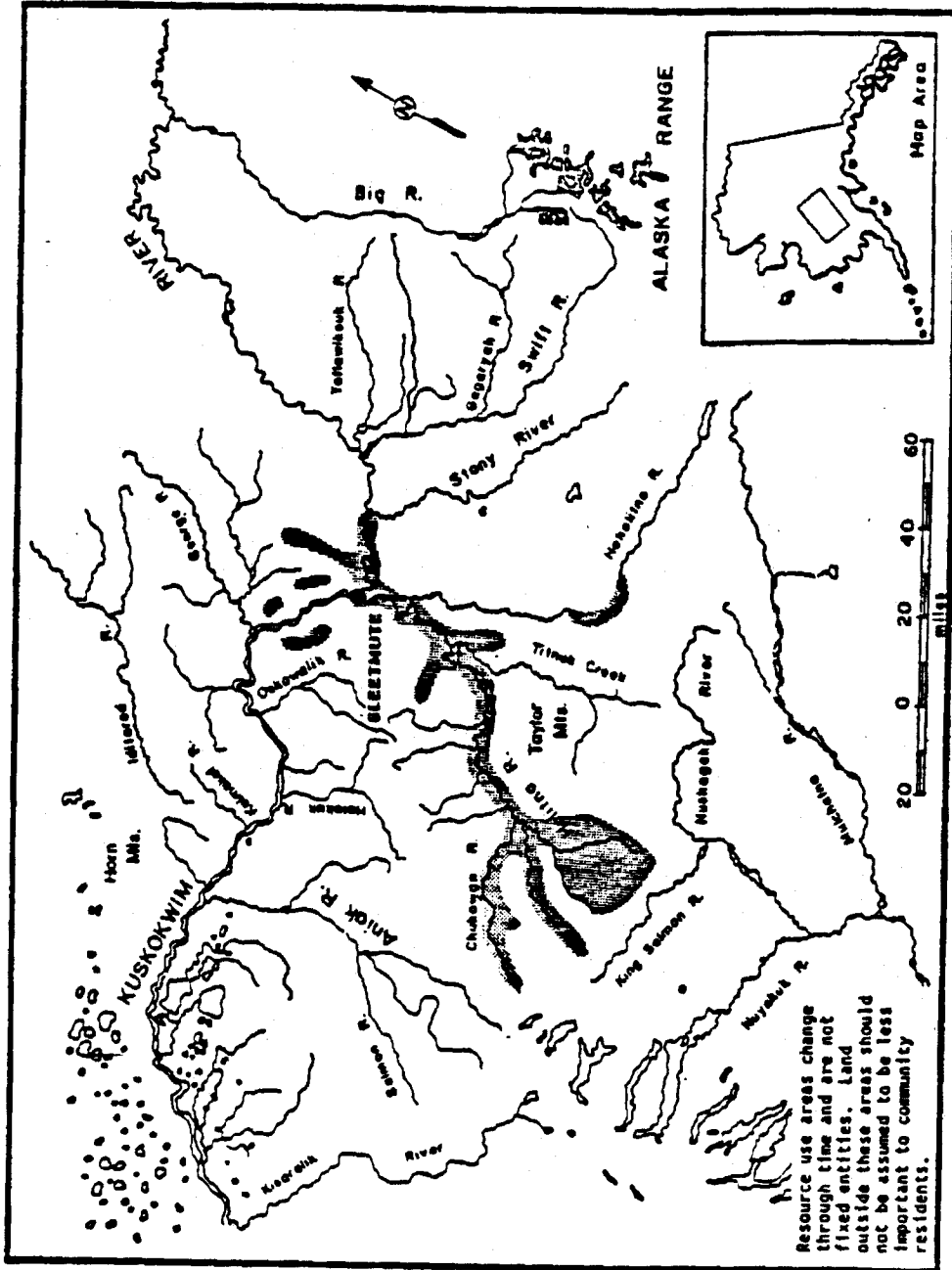


Fig. 65. Areas used by Sleetmute residents for hunting bear prior to the use of snowmachines.

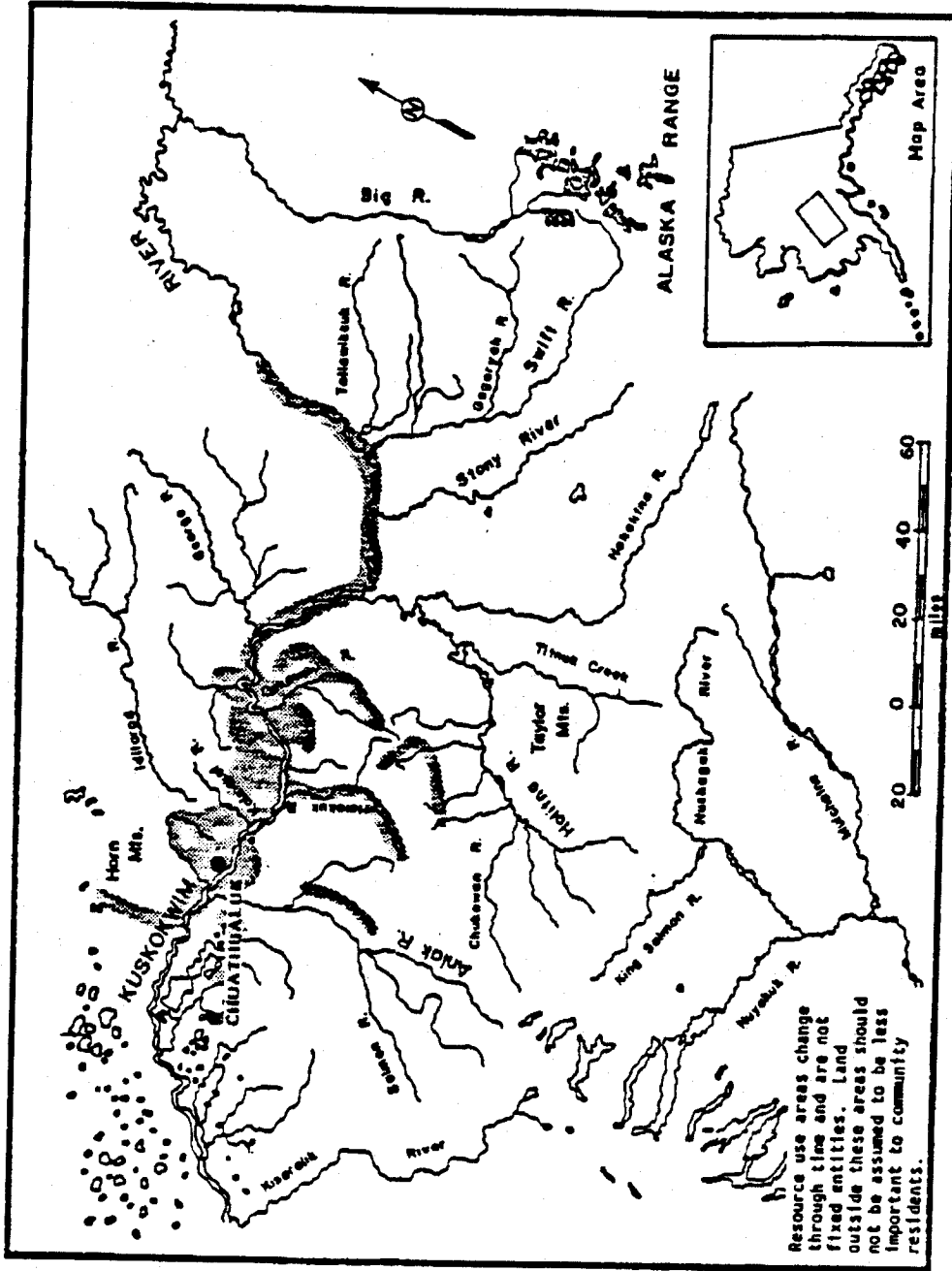


Fig. 64. Areas used by Chuathbaluk residents for hunting bear since moving to Chuathbaluk through 1983.



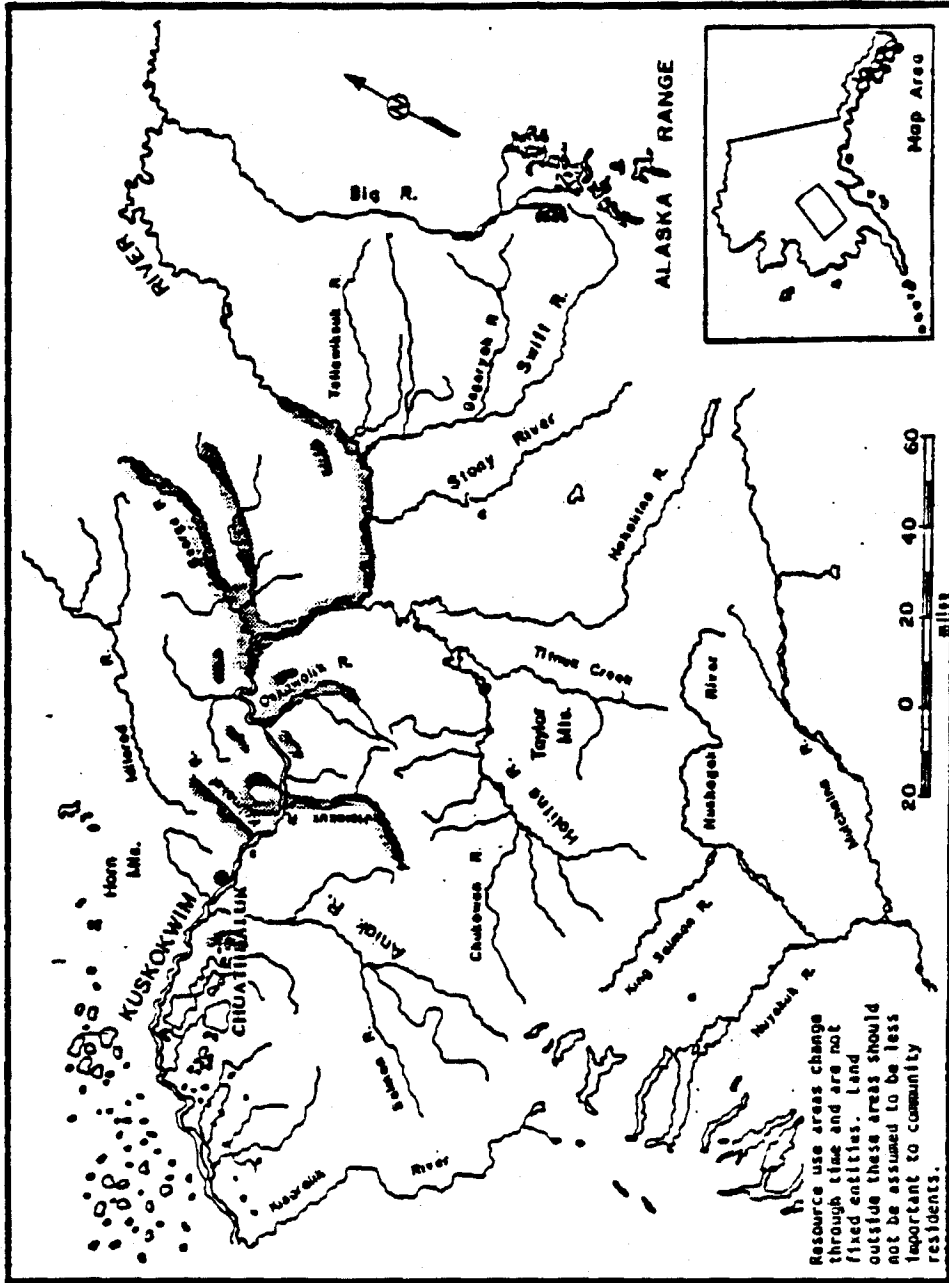
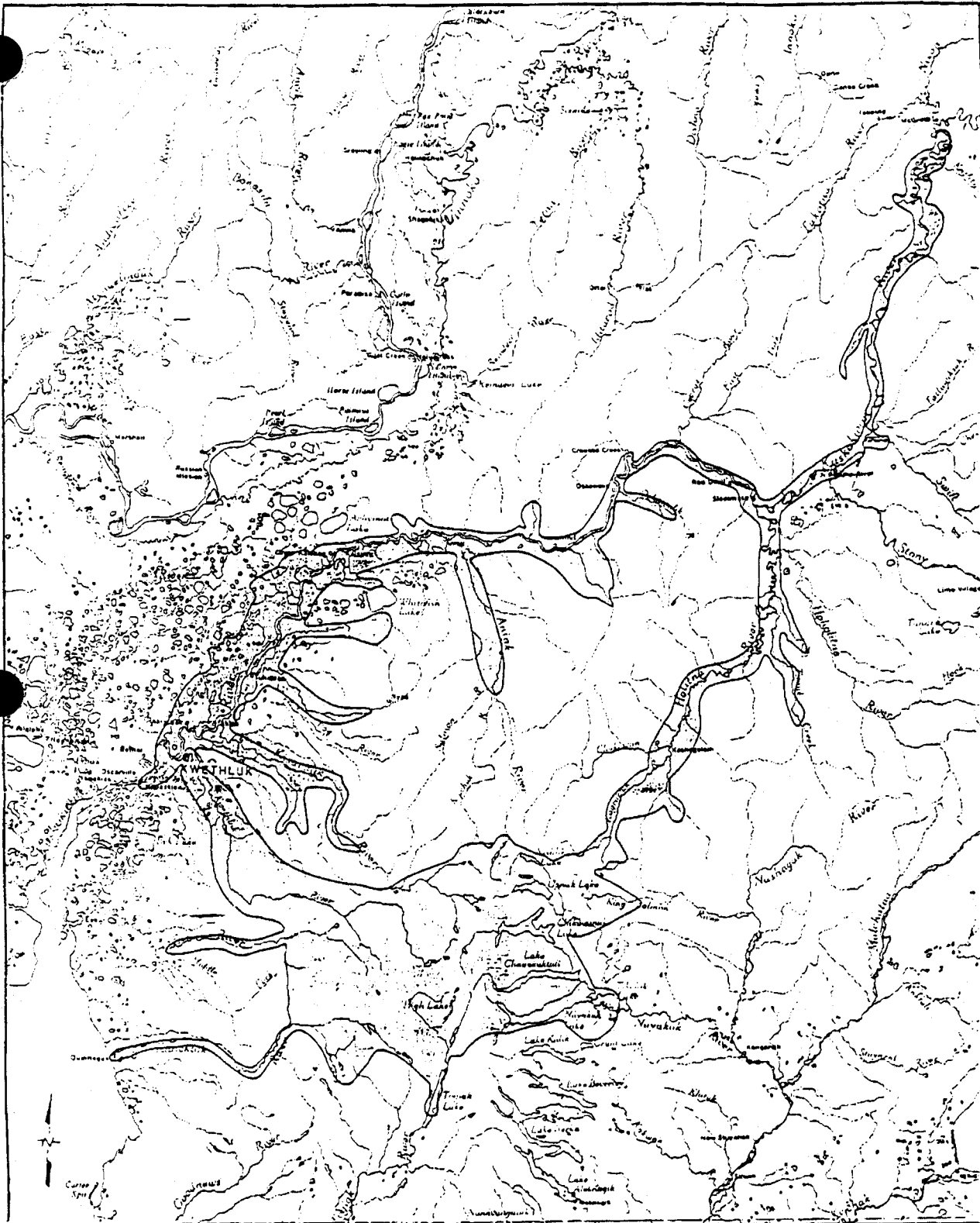


FIG. 63. Areas used by Chuathbaluk residents for hunting bear prior to moving to Chuathbaluk.





## Customary & Traditional Use Summary

### GMU 25

Prepared by Division of Subsistence  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
**MARCH 17, 2002 (RECORD COPY 160)**

C&T Finding: Positive (March 17, 2002 finding; ANS: 150 – 250 black bears)

#### **Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use**

**A long-term consistent pattern of non-commercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.**

Black bear have been a valued source of food and fur in interior Alaska from the prehistoric period to present (Hosley 1981; Osgood 1970). Among Gwich'in<sup>1</sup> Athabascans residing in the Upper Yukon-Porcupine river area of Alaska (GMU 25), various longstanding cultural traditions and beliefs surrounding the proper use and treatment of harvested bears speaks to the length and consistency of black bear use (Caulfield 1983; Cruikshank 1986; Nelson 1973; Peter 1981; Slobodin 1981). Historical sources from the early contact period in the 19<sup>th</sup> century mention use of bears by residents of the region (Schwatka 1900). Today, black bear continue to be an important and commonly harvested subsistence resource in all Yukon Flats communities with the exception of Arctic Village (where they are rarely found). Subsistence studies show that it is not uncommon for 30 to 40% of the households in Yukon Flats communities to be involved in the hunting and harvesting of black bears (ADF&G 2000; Sumida 1988, 1989; Sumida and Andersen 1990).

#### **Criterion 2: Seasonality**

**A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.**

In GMU 25, black bear are hunted primarily in the spring, fall and early winter (cf. Caulfield 1983; Nelson 1973; Sumida 1988, 1989; Sumida and Andersen 1990). In areas within or near black bear habitat, black bear hunting commences after bears begin to emerge from their dens in April and extends through May. They are a notable resource in this area, often being the only large animal available at a time when winter food stores have been depleted and fresh meat is welcome. In the fall, from late August through October, black bear are hunted in conjunction with or incidental to moose and caribou hunting. The quality of black bear flesh is often mentioned as a factor in the timing of the harvest. Immediately after emerging from dens in the spring, black bear have some fat for a short period of time. The flesh of

---

<sup>1</sup> Gwich'in is now the commonly accepted spelling, replacing Kutchin.

black bear is considered best in the fall and early winter when they have been feeding primarily on berries and when they have built up a thick layer of fat in preparation for the winter hibernation. Den hunting ("denning") of black bears is still practiced; using this method, the harvest of bears continues through October into November (Caulfield 1983; Nelson 1973; Sumida 1988, 1989; Sumida and Andersen 1990).

### **Criterion 3: Means and Method of Harvest**

**A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.**

Traditional and historic methods of taking black bear include the use of spears, bow and arrow, deadfalls, snares, rifles, and the use of nooses to take swimming bears (Hadleigh-West 1959, 1963; McKennan 1965; Nelson 1973; Osgood 1970; VanStone 1974). Dogs were sometimes used to track bears or locate dens. Today, bears are commonly taken with large caliber rifles, or sometimes with snares (Nelson 1973).

Black bears are either specifically sought or harvested in conjunction with other harvesting activities (i.e. moose or caribou hunting). Bears are often taken along river's edge after breakup near muskrat and fish camps. Hunters typically access hunting areas by riverboat, ATVs, snowmobiles, or on foot. Black bears are also harvested by taking bears from the den. Known denning sites are checked for signs of occupancy in the late fall. Many hunters know from the size of the den and signs around it if a single animal or a female with cubs occupies it. Once an occupied den is located, the bear is either shot through a hole in the top of the den or through the entrance. Sometimes the bear is disturbed and shot upon exiting the den. Occasionally the entrance is blocked to slow the bears exit. Bears taken in their den are typically butchered away from the den site to maintain the productivity of the den and ensure its use by bear the following year (Nelson 1973; Sumida 1988, 1989).

Black bears are often attracted to fish camps during the summer months when fish are being processed and stored. In major fishing areas fish scraps are sometimes placed on sand bars away from the fish cutting site in an effort to divert bears away from the processing area. Occasionally these bears are intentionally taken, although such bears are considered less desirable for human consumption due to the flavor of the meat at that time of year (Nelson 1973; Sumida 1988, 1989).

### **Criterion 4: Geographic Areas**

**The area in which the non-commercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock and game population has been established.**

Community use areas for black bear tend to fall into two categories; 1) specific near-community areas where black bear hunting is known to be productive at specific times of year, and 2) river corridor areas where fishing and moose hunting activities take place and black bear are hunted in conjunction with or incidental to these other activities. Residents familiar with the use of black bear report that they have caught black bear in regularly hunted areas as long as elders in their communities can recall and can recount stories of uses by previous generations. Hunting areas for black bear have been mapped for many individual communities (Caulfield 1983; Sumida 1988, 1989; Sumida and Andersen 1990).

### **Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving, and Storing**

**A means of handling, preparing, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.**

Black bear provides an important source of meat, fat, and fur. Depending on particular customs, bear meat is eaten in the household, in the context of community gatherings, or in special celebrations.

Black bear are commonly butchered in the field and processed like other large game. The meat is shared with relatives, especially if fresh meat has been scarce. The meat is frozen, dried, smoked, or canned for

later use. The meat is also made into dry-meat, by cutting thin strips of meat and allowing it to air dry. Preparation is typically by boiling, frying, broiling, barbecuing, or roasting. Black bear fat is highly valued, and is often rendered into bear grease or tallow. The grease is then used for cooking, making "Native ice cream" (a mixture of berries, sugar and fat, and sometimes dried fish). Bear fat is also eaten with dry meat or dried fish. Bear fat is often shared with other households, and especially elders.

Some sources report patterns of butchering and sharing depending upon the number in the hunting party, who made the kill, and the age of the hunters. Choicest parts such as hindquarters, or organs (heart, kidneys, and intestines) often are given to elders. If the meat has to be transported some distance by packing, or return to the village is not imminent, the meat may be dried in the field to decrease its weight and prevent spoilage.

Bear skins are sometimes used for ruffs, mukluks, mitts, and camp or cabin bedding. The furs are also used as insulation around doors (cf. Nelson 1973). Black bear is considered the most waterproof of skins (Sumida 1988, 1989).

### **Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Lore**

**A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.**

Gwich'in Athabascan tradition attributed great spiritual power to the bear; there is an elaborate set of beliefs and values surrounding their harvest and use (Caulfield 1983; Cruikshank 1986; Mishler 1995; Nelson 1973; Peter 1981). For example, residents in some villages follow rules that prescribe who may eat bear, what portions may be eaten how it is prepared, what should be done with the inedible parts such as the claws and skull, and proper ways of referring to or speaking about bears (Nelson 1973).

As with many subsistence activities, teaching young men how to track, hunt, and butcher black bear, and young women how to process and preserve bear meat and handle its products is accomplished through participation in these activities with those more experienced. Children are included in many activities and are expected to show interest and eventually participate in the activities depending upon their age and acquired skill. Most hunting is done in family-based groups, so the learning and proficiency of younger participants is observed and monitored.

### **Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange**

**A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.**

Black bear meat is typically shared widely within hunting parties, families, communities, and even between communities. It is often a small number of select hunters that are involved in the hunting of bear and provide bear meat to a large proportion of the households in the community. Bear fat is highly prized, and commonly shared between households.

Certain prized black bear parts such as hindquarters, and organ meats are often given to elders, as is fat. Bear is often considered a specialty food and served at special communal gatherings. Traditional beliefs in some interior regions restrict the eating of bear meat to men and elderly women and these beliefs tend to limit or structure the sharing and distribution practices for this resource.

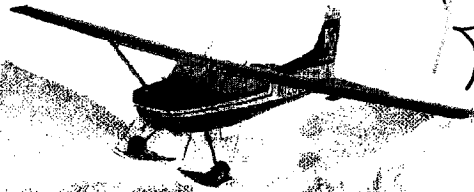
### **Criterion 8: Diversity of Resources in an Area; Economic, Cultural, Social, and Nutritional Elements**

**A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.**

Black bear is just one of a whole list of wild resources that are typically harvested for subsistence uses by GMU 25 residents. As a large game animal that is widely distributed throughout the interior and has relatively liberal hunting seasons and bag limits, it often ranks among the top resources harvested by hunters in terms of pounds of meat per household. Other major resources harvested for subsistence in the interior include salmon, moose, caribou, whitefish, pike, burbot, a variety of small game, waterfowl, plants and berries (ADF&G 2000).

## Sources

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Community Profile Database: Volume 6 Interior Region. Division of Subsistence. Juneau.
- Caulfield, R. A. Subsistence Land Use in Upper Yukon – Porcupine Communities, Alaska. Technical Paper No. 16. Fairbanks: Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Cruikshank, Moses. The Life I've Been Living. Recorded and Compiled by William Schneider. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.
- Hadleigh-West, Frederic. On the Distribution of the Territories of the Western Kutchin Tribes. *In* Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Volume F, No. 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Netsi Kutchin: An Essay in Human Ecology. Ph.D. Dissertation. Anthropology Department. Louisiana State University.
- Hosley, E. H. 1981. Environment and Culture in the Alaska Plateau. *In* Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 6: Subarctic. J. Helm, ed. Pp. 533-545. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- McKenna, Robert F. The Chandalar Kutchin. Arctic Institute of North America. Technical Paper Number 17. Mishler, Craig (Editor)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Neerhiinjik: We traveled From Place to Place. The Gwich'in Stories of Johnny and Sarah Frank. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.
- Nelson, R. K. 1973. Hunters of the Northern Forest: Designs for Survival Among the Alaskan Kutchin. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Osgood, Cornelius. 1970 [1936]. Contributions to the Ethnography of the Kutchin. Yale University Publications in Anthropology Number 14. New Haven: Human Relations Area files Press.
- Peter, Katherine. Neets'aiti Gwiindaii: Living in the Chandalar Country. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.
- Schwatka, F. Report of Military Reconnaissance Made in 1883. *In* Compilations of Narratives of Explorations in Alaska. Washington D.C: Senate Committee on Military Affairs. Pp. 323-362.
- Slobodin, Richard. 1981. Kutchin. *In* Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 6: Subarctic. Ed. J. Helm. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- Sumida, V. A. 1988. Land and Resource Use Patterns in Stevens Village, Alaska. Technical Paper No. 129. Juneau: Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989. Patterns of Fish and Wildlife Harvest and Use in Beaver, Alaska. Technical Paper No. 140. Fairbanks: Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Sumida, V. A. and D. B. Andersen. 1900. Patterns of Fish and Wildlife Use for Subsistence in Fort Yukon Alaska. Technical Paper No. 179. Fairbanks: Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- VanStone, James W. Athapaskan Adaptations: Hunters and fishermen of the Subarctic Forests. Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc.



February 25, 2007

Alaska Board of Game  
Attn: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section

Re: Proposal Number 3 - 5 AAC 85.015

Dear Board of Game:

As the Marketing Director of Rust's Flying Service, I ask that you support this proposal. Bear viewing is a large part of our summer business. This proposal affects not only my job but also that of the pilots, mechanics, dock boys and office help who depend on flights going to the Wolverine Creek area for bear viewing.

It is important to us that there be a healthy sustainable brown and black bear population available for viewing as there has been for the past fifteen year. The last two summers have seen diminished numbers of brown bear and there has not been a adequate explanation. In addition to consideration of the black bear hunting season, I ask that you also consider making the immediate shore area of Redoubt Bay be subject to game management procedures so that we know exactly what is happening to this vital resource. Additionally, we would like to see this area managed so that the number of viewable bears remains high and that our company as well as many others can benefit from this resource.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hansen  
Director, Sales and Marketing



Proposals

89

90

RC5

} Opening up the  
Wood River Controlled use  
area for motorized vehicles.

AGAINST The PROPOSALS.

Reason: The area outside the Wood River  
Controlled use area is getting  
turned up by 4 wheelers and Big  
trigs; - opening up the area for  
motorized use will do the same to  
the Wood River Controlled use area.

I have hunted moose in the Wood River  
Controlled use area for 15 years and  
I enjoy having an area without motorized  
use. ~~with the house up in the forest~~

~~in Sept.~~ ~~Pat~~

Proposed by AUGUST ENDESTAD

WINTERLAKE LODGE  
Latitude: 61° 59' North  
Longitude: 152° 04' West



RC6  
REDOUBT BAY LODGE  
Latitude: 60° 49' North  
Longitude: 152° 17' West

To: Board of Game Members  
From: Carl Dixon  
Date: February 27, 2008  
Subject: This is testimony in support of Proposal #3.

WITHIN THE WILD  
ALASKAN ADVENTURE LODGES

Last fall, the Wolverine Creek Management Committee, Rust's Flying Service, and others submitted proposals to the Board of Game to address the alarming decrease in bears sighted at the bear viewing location known as Wolverine Creek in the Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area, and incidences of black bear harvest in the presence of bear viewing public. These proposals, notably #23, suggested moving the opening of the black and brown bear season to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to assure no bear viewers would be present during the hunting season, and extending the range of the closure to a 3-mile radius around the mouth of Wolverine Creek to represent the true area of bear viewing activity. The board chose not to address this proposal and made no action on it despite wide based support for #23 from all the user groups of the Wolverine Creek area; Anchorage and Kenai air taxis, fishing and hunting guides, bear viewing guides, ATIA, lodges, bear viewing public, and the state-sanctioned Wolverine Creek Management Committee. In response, the Board has proposed their own Proposal #3.

Although addressing the inclusion of black bears into the season opening adjustment, no mention is in Proposal #3 about increasing the radius of the hunting area to three miles from the Wolverine Creek mouth, nor changing the opening date to Nov. 15. In the BOG proposal, the following questions were answered the following questions: Who will benefit? *The proposal says that only those bear viewers who don't want to see bears killed will benefit.* I respectfully request the Board to consider that this is not just an issue about separation of bear viewers who don't want to see bears shot but more about the killing of bears to the detriment and future of this important and growing Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula industry. As far as what will happen? *Conflicts will resolve* - The multi-million dollar Wolverine Creek bear viewing industry will have a future. Who will suffer? *No comment* - We have not heard from anyone who objects. Other solutions considered? *No comment* - The user groups of the Wolverine Creek have submitted several proposals.

I regret that I am unable to attend the meetings due to work commitments. My lodge serves as an Iditarod checkpoint. But I am writing to express my support for the proposal #3 submitted by the Board of Game. This proposal appears to be a compromise in the right direction responding positively to some degree the concerns and letters sent from the Wolverine Creek Management Committee, Rust's Flying Service, and others. I appreciate the Board making this effort. The inclusion of black bears in this proposal goes a long way towards resolving conflicts. Wolverine Creek bear viewing continues to grow year to year and the growing economic importance to Kenai Borough, and Anchorage residents is well documented. I feel the Game Board recognizes this and has made a step forward by this proposal to help insure that there will continue to be bears to view!

Sincerely,

Carl Dixon

RC 7

February 26, 2008

TO: Alaska Board of Fish and Game

February-March 2008 Meeting In Anchorage

FR: Orville H. Huntington

*Orville H. Huntington*  
Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Member

Others and affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

SE: Comments to Proposal 94

At the February 2008 meeting of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee they discussed this proposal at length. However, after the meeting the KRAC members from Huslia admitted that they were not comfortable arguing against this proposal, as the maker of the proposal was also the man with whom the department had chartered the flight home. They did not want the confrontation and then get on a plane with him.

And we argue here that this proposal does not meet needs of hunters who use the resources in the Koyukuk River drainage in Game Management Unit (GMU) 24. Because of the huge area of GMU 24 that our committee represents, we find increasing the number of hunters into areas where no hunting now occurs significantly weakens population dynamics and the natural and healthy status of the moose herds in the Koyukuk River Controlled Use Area (KRCA).

As a wildlife biologist who worked extensively in this area and who has lived here my entire life, I find there is significant reason to not support this proposal. The moose herds in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KRCA) source population, where the genetic diversity of the herd comes from, is the area away from the Koyukuk River not specifically targeted or hunted by any hunters during the fall moose hunt. By opening this remote area to hunting with aircraft will significantly alter the genetic diversity of the herd by targeting large Bull Moose where they have never been historically hunted before. Furthermore, the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working Group found that by working together, all the hunters would benefit by managing the Koyukuk River moose population proactively with respect to all hunters. This means by respecting all land owners, which we have done. This proposal never identifies all the Doyon and

K'oyit'ots'ina, and Native Allotments where the proposed hunting is to take place, and where there are specific no trespass policies in place. This proposal will allow blatant trespass on these Native owned lands.

And the maker of the proposal argues that the Constitution of the State of Alaska is violated by no equal access to these source moose populations in remote areas away from the river. Yet, these new airplane hunters will have exclusive rights to hunt these moose, many on privately owned Native lands, because they are the only ones who will access them by aircraft. The use of aircraft is not a historically used way to hunt moose on the Koyukuk River. This proposal does nothing to improve equal access, in fact it takes away from many poor people and others hunting with expensive gas along the river, who rely on the current healthy dynamics and genetics of the moose herd, so that the few that are making their way out to the river actually get harvested. And within the KCUA lies the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge.

Many local resident hunters rely on these lands in the KCUA, and those many users of the resources are protected by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA 1980). Any decrease in the number of harvestable moose under federal wildlife management efforts will only hurt our wise decisions on game management. And the tribes along the Koyukuk River will propose a federal Koyukuk Controlled Use Area on all federal lands along the Koyukuk River Valley where we are entitled a subsistence opportunity to hunt and feed our families. There is much support to keep the current plan developed by the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working Group, since federal efforts directed by rural residents will only do a disservice to the hunters who are currently hunting in the Koyukuk River Valley.

Furthermore, the Huslia Tribe knows the State of Alaska is out of compliance with the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. The tribes choose to work with the State of Alaska at this time, but we as tribes reserve the right to change our position if our interests are violated by mis-management of resources. And as a Native Elder from Huslia I must explain the western scientific methods into words our Native Elders can understand and we can live with.

Therefore, the KRAC does not support this proposal and we want the KCUA left as it is.

**Minutes of Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee  
Nenana Community Hall, Nenana AK  
February 22, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Silas at 12:45 pm

Roll Call: Present were Victor Lord, William Lord, Henry Ketzler, Steve Ketzler and ?? from Nenana

Ron Silas, Knowland Silas, Philip Titus, Freddy Titus, Jeremy Charlie from Minto  
Quorum Established

It was Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Unanimous approval of minutes from last meeting

Introduction of Guests: Fred Bue, Audra Brase, David James, Rita St. Louis, Tom Seaton, Don Young, ADF&G

Wayne Walters (later John Basile) from Middle Nenana AC

Mike Smith, TCC

Miles Martin

Old Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers

Ron Silas, and Victor Lord were re-elected unanimously to be co-chairs

Tim McManus was re-elected to be secretary.

**Comments on Proposals to the Board of Game**

**#17 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Amend: Must include an emergency closure authority in case there becomes a shortage of lynx. Supported (with amendment) 10-0**

**Discussion:**

- It is good to have it standard everywhere.
- It is hard to over trap if there are not many trappers for lynx around.
- The department recommended "Amend and adopt" (Amendment would be to leave the Tok area as it is now).
- Geep: We don't want to eliminate lynx if the numbers are too low (reason for our amendment).
- Knowland: Into February is too long a season.
- Tom: This would eliminate emergency openings and closures. Every summer, under present regs, we determine how long a season to have the following year. If this is adopted, there would be the same season every year. A negative effect would be if the numbers are high there would be a wide open season, and a lot of lynx would be taken.

**#19 No action**

**#24 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Amend: Re-evaluate and raise the ANS Supported (with amendment) 10-0**

**Discussion:**

- Mike Smith: Every year people would not have to stand in line in their own communities. In Unit 13 they separated the populations, they should do the same here. The Board of Game is being hypocritical by having it both ways.
- Question: Will this increase # of permit holders?
- Mike: The board could raise the ANS amounts, as the current ANS is not realistic. The old way of having Tier II kept the peace. Technically, it was not correct, but it was a good system that people got used to.
- Question: Are you deluded into thinking this will pass?
- Mike: No, but it will open dialog.
- Ron: There are too many moose to go back to Tier II.
- Tom: The department has "no recommendation" since this is an allocation issue. There are more moose than Tier II will allow. Also, look at who gets the permits. In this system Minto and Nenana get about twice as many as they did under Tier II.
- Mike: in unit 13 they have a drawing and a Tier II.
- David J. Unit 13 is divided between moose and caribou. With caribou, you get 100% of the allowable harvest. ?? for moose is 600, and the allowable harvest is lower than that.

We are frustrated by the system. We will get a moose anyway, but it makes people criminals.

**#23 No Action**

**#25 #26 #27 deferred because of #130 and #131**

**#130 , Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0 with conditions.**

**Discussion:**

- Wayne Walter told Middle Nenana AC's point of view, to shut down all antlerless hunts except Zone 5 and 6.
  - There is a severe social problem on the Rex Trail.
  - We have flown our own surveys and seen pockets of moose, but we suggest closing for 1 or 2 years then ascertain where the pockets are. We did some helicopter flying and found some pockets. We saw some herds of up to 30 some 40-50 All together we saw 500 to 800 moose.

- We have to represent the people. Ahtna, Anderson, Denali Borough, city of Nenana don't want the hunt. We need to go from ownership to stewardship.
- Victor: Wayne has done a lot of work. 20 permits were issued; only 2 people got a cow. I support that hunt; we do not support the boundaries offered by Middle Nenana.. support that hunt. Aug 25 Feb 28.
- Someone asked, "What do the troopers think about that. Burn is taking care of 10 miles of road. But when the moose increase there will be more road kills."
- Victor: We want to keep from the airport upriver, and on river system is where everyone hunts. The boundary needs to go from the airport to the south side of the Tanana, upriver to the Wood River, then a boundary all the way out to the Rex Trail. The boundary of zone 1B has to be closer to the road.
- We want 20 permits.

### **#131 Move, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

#### Discussion:

- Ron stated that the people in Minto did not want the cow hunt, but wanted to hear from the biologists.
- Tom: the antlerless hunt includes hunts other than those around Minto. For example the Fairbanks Management around Fairbanks.
  - His people are concerned about these seasons drawing more people into the management area. They do not want more people coming around. You need to go down to Minto to explain.
  - Ron: Can we close our area?
    - Tom: We need to look after the traditional subsistence use. That's why we've had the hunt in Minto Flats. If you don't authorize the hunt, then we cannot have those drawing hunts.

○

- We should not bother with permits. Let people hunt wherever they want to.
- Knowland: There is a problem with needing the hunt and having too many people come in. We should authorize the hunt on the basis that it is "sound management."
- Ron: Telling the council about that will be hard. Sound management also has a social problem.

**#92 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

Discussion: Airboats should not be used to hunt moose. We want the old area reinstated. You are still allowed to travel in 20C.

**#83 Don't support**

**#103 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

Discussion: That was traditional, now there are other ways. Other options have not been working. This is customary and traditional, therefore we support this proposal.

---

David James gave short wood bison update.

Adjourned: 3:30



RC 8

2-22-08

State of Alaska Board of Game:

In regards to the City of Delta Junction's Proposal 45-5 AAC 92.510 Areas closed to hunting.  
Close the city limits of Delta Junction to big game hunting.

The City asks that you seriously consider honoring this proposal that the City Council has adopted.  
The populated city boundaries are small in comparison to the hunt area DM 799.

It would seem logical to implement a policy that other populated areas of the state have in place.  
We understand the local Advisory Council could support the Department's discretionary authority to  
modify the hunt to exclude the area within the city limits.

The City of Delta Junction is puzzled why our local advisory council would not recommend this action.  
Could a few antlerless moose living amongst schools, parks and neighborhoods negatively impact the  
plan of the Board of Game management?

Mike Tvenge  
City Administrator  
Delta Junction  
907-895-4656



RC 9

## Minutes of GASH Advisory Committee Teleconference February 25, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Chase at approximately 11:15 am  
Roll call: Gabe Nicholi, Ken Chase, Jay Jensen, Arnold Hamilton, Kathy Chase, LeRoy Peters  
Absent were: Harry Maillele, Roger Hamilton , Marlene Madrose, Peter Walker  
Quorum Established  
Guests: Rita St. Louis, Josh Peirce (later) ADF&G, Darrell and Mary Walker, Hillary Kund.  
Agenda (To discuss proposals) approved  
Approval of minutes of last meeting were deferred until next face-to-face meeting.

Ken Chase commented that the Big Game Commercial Services Board would be meeting 11-12-13 March. One of the items they would be discussing would be to reinstate exclusive guiding areas.

### Comments to the Board of Game on Region III Proposals

All of the proposals commented on here were brought to the table. Below is a summary of actions and discussions:

#### #7 Opposed 0-6

##### Discussion:

- There is suspicion that this proposal would somehow include 21E as their hunting area to fill their annual needs.
- Perhaps ANS should go down. If their needs go over into 21, it defeats what our people here need.
- This proposal could have long-reaching effects, especially if ANS in our area gets changed as a result of it.
- **We recommend that the board defers this proposal again so that the citizens in 17, 19, and 21 can become more informed on the ramifications of how changing ANS in any GMU will affect the others.**

#### #46 Vote: 1 in favor, 5- no action

Comment in favor: It will perhaps help take a few more bears.

#### #47 Opposed 0-6

Discussion: We don't support, because if hunters are not successful in 21A then they will move into 21E.

#### #48 Vote: 1 in favor, 2 against, the rest no comment

Discussion:

Comments in favor.

- Anything to make it harder for out of state hunters to hunt, is a plus for us.
- This might reduce wanton waste.

Comments against.

- Some hunters have come here for a long time, they should not have to take a course.
- Causes a lot more paperwork for the state.
- There are better ways to deal with waste and injury, for example to make sure the caliber of the rifle is adequate to take a moose.
- Use GPS on game bags, that way hunters can be tracked better.

### **#51 Opposed 0-6**

Discussion:

- It's not a good idea to open an area which has such low numbers. No tracks have been seen near Kaltag. There are lots of wolves up there taking moose.
- We don't support until a survey shows better ratios and numbers.
- It doesn't make sense to have a winter hunt in a depressed population.
- Josh: The population has stabilized, but has not recovered.

### **#52 Opposed 1-5.**

Discussion: Changing the regs in different areas make it harder to keep track of when/where you can get wolves, and how many

Discussion in favor: This is an extreme look at all the moose that would not be killed by wolves.

### **#54 No Comment**

### **#56 Opposed 0-5-1 no comment**

Discussion:

- This is too many bears per person. No one can utilize that many bears. People don't eat as much as they used to.
- Nuisance bears are the main one killed these days. You kill to eat or to protect property.
- You can keep some and sell some parts, but don't go along with hunting just to get parts to sell.

### **#57 Opposed 0-5-1**

Discussion:

This would be a burden. We don't want to have to apply for a permit. It would cost money.

#58 No Comment

#75 Opposed 0-5-1

Discussion: Snares do not discriminate. You could catch non-targeted species like moose. Also if you caught a grizzly bear, how would you let it loose?

#83 No Comment

#85 1 Support , rest no comment

Discussion in support: It would give some more opportunity to in state sheep hunters. Also, it would support our brothers up north.

#112 Support With Amendment. 5-0-1

**Amendment: Change wording to “wolf management” from wolf control in section on What will Happen if nothing is done?”**

**Amendment: Bears should be included in management plan. Also some incentives to get people to take more bears such as selling parts and having an income source.**

Discussion:

Josh reported that this is a two-step process. IM plan (this will happen in the very near future) and then a “predator control implementation plan.” This a legal document that takes some time, and it is predicated on moose and predator counts. Therefore the department will recommend deferring for one year.

Committee members stated they do not want to wait another year. They want to be on the record that they want the plan now. The longer we wait, the more moose there are going to be eaten by predators.

We would like to switch places with the people who do not depend on the moose. We need more days to eat what we live on.

#137 Support 5-0-1

Discussion:

This is housekeeping. We favor it.

Ken reported that he and Jay are going to the Board of Game meeting. We need to get more of the young folks involved.

1:25 Adjourned

**Minutes of Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee  
Nenana Community Hall, Nenana AK  
February 22, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Silas at 12:45 pm

Roll Call: Present were Victor Lord, William Lord, Henry Ketzler, Steve Ketzler and ?? from Nenana

Ron Silas, Knowland Silas, Philip Titus, Freddy Titus, Jeremy Charlie from Minto

Quorum Established

It was Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Unanimous approval of minutes from last meeting

Introduction of Guests: Fred Bue, Audra Brase, David James, Rita St. Louis, Tom Seaton, Don Young, ADF&G

Wayne Walters (later John Basile) from Middle Nenana AC

Mike Smith, TCC

Miles Martin

Old Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers

Ron Silas, and Victor Lord were re-elected unanimously to be co-chairs

Tim McManus was re-elected to be secretary.

**Comments on Proposals to the Board of Game**

**#17 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Amend: Must include an emergency closure authority in case there becomes a shortage of lynx. Supported (with amendment) 10-0**

**Discussion:**

- It is good to have it standard everywhere.
- It is hard to over trap if there are not many trappers for lynx around.
- The department recommended "Amend and adopt" (Amendment would be to leave the Tok area as it is now).
- Geep: We don't want to eliminate lynx if the numbers are too low (reason for our amendment).
- Knowland: Into February is too long a season.
- Tom: This would eliminate emergency openings and closures. Every summer, under present regs, we determine how long a season to have the following year. If this is adopted, there would be the same season every year. A negative effect would be if the numbers are high there would be a wide open season, and a lot of lynx would be taken.

**#19 No action**

**#24 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Amend: Re-evaluate and raise the ANS Supported (with amendment) 10-0**

**Discussion:**

- Mike Smith: Every year people would not have to stand in line in their own communities. In Unit 13 they separated the populations, they should do the same here. The Board of Game is being hypocritical by having it both ways.
- Question: Will this increase # of permit holders?
- Mike: The board could raise the ANS amounts, as the current ANS is not realistic. The old way of having Tier II kept the peace. Technically, it was not correct, but it was a good system that people got used to.
- Question: Are you deluded into thinking this will pass?
- Mike: No, but it will open dialog.
- Ron: There are too many moose to go back to Tier II.
- Tom: The department has "no recommendation" since this is an allocation issue. There are more moose than Tier II will allow. Also, look at who gets the permits. In this system Minto and Nenana get about twice as many as they did under Tier II.
- Mike: in unit 13 they have a drawing and a Tier II.
- David J. Unit 13 is divided between moose and caribou. With caribou, you get 100% of the allowable harvest. ?? for moose is 600, and the allowable harvest is lower than that.

We are frustrated by the system. We will get a moose anyway, but it makes people criminals.

**#23 No Action**

**#25 #26 #27 deferred because of #130 and #131**

**#130 , Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0 with conditions.**

**Discussion:**

- Wayne Walter told Middle Nenana AC's point of view, to shut down all antlerless hunts except Zone 5 and 6.
  - There is a severe social problem on the Rex Trail.
  - We have flown our own surveys and seen pockets of moose, but we suggest closing for 1 or 2 years then ascertain where the pockets are. We did some helicopter flying and found some pockets. We saw some herds of up to 30 some 40-50 All together we saw 500 to 800 moose.

- We have to represent the people. Ahtna, Anderson, Denali Borough, city of Nenana don't want the hunt. We need to go from ownership to stewardship.
- Victor: Wayne has done a lot of work. 20 permits were issued; only 2 people got a cow. I support that hunt; we do not support the boundaries offered by Middle Nenana.. support that hunt. Aug 25 Feb 28.
- Someone asked, "What do the troopers think about that. Burn is taking care of 10 miles of road. But when the moose increase there will be more road kills."
- Victor: We want to keep from the airport upriver, and on river system is where everyone hunts. The boundary needs to go from the airport to the south side of the Tanana, upriver to the Wood River, then a boundary all the way out to the Rex Trail. The boundary of zone 1B has to be closer to the road.
- We want 20 permits.

### **#131 Move, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

#### Discussion:

- Ron stated that the people in Minto did not want the cow hunt, but wanted to hear from the biologists.
- Tom: the antlerless hunt includes hunts other than those around Minto. For example the Fairbanks Management around Fairbanks.
  - His people are concerned about these seasons drawing more people into the management area. They do not want more people coming around. You need to go down to Minto to explain.
  - Ron: Can we close our area?
    - Tom: We need to look after the traditional subsistence use. That's why we've had the hunt in Minto Flats. If you don't authorize the hunt, then we cannot have those drawing hunts.

o

- We should not bother with permits. Let people hunt wherever they want to.
- Knowland: There is a problem with needing the hunt and having too many people come in. We should authorize the hunt on the basis that it is "sound management."
- Ron: Telling the council about that will be hard. Sound management also has a social problem.



**#92 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

Discussion: Airboats should not be used to hunt moose. We want the old area reinstated. You are still allowed to travel in 20C.

**#83 Don't support**

**#103 Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Support 10-0**

Discussion: That was traditional, now there are other ways. Other options have not been working. This is customary and traditional, therefore we support this proposal.

---

David James gave short wood bison update.

Adjourned: 3:30

Karl Romig, Chairman Cooper Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee,  
February 27, 2008

RC 11

To: Alaska Board of Game

Subject: Reauthorization of antlerless moose proposals

The following are the results from our Cooper Landing AC vote on proposals 121, 127, 128 and 129 from the Board of Game spring 2008 proposal book. Nine members participated by phone, and the vote was unanimous in support of proposals 121, 127, 128 and 129 reauthorization antlerless of moose seasons.

The following is a list of the Cooper Landing AC members those who participated  
Karl Romig, Chairman, Andy Szczesny, V.C., John Pearson Secretary,  
Robert Gibson, James Givens, Colin Lowe, Kyle Kolodziejcki, Ray Wilkes,  
George Hiem

Please let me know if you need more information.  
Thank you, Karl Romig, Chairman. CLAC

C.C. Jeff Selinger, Sherry Wright

RECEIVED  
FEB 28 2008  
BOARDS  
ANCHORAGE

Attn: Rita/Scott

Please include this  
for the BOG Interior  
meeting AC comments.

RC 12

John Graham  
1401 S Pioneer  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Via Fax: 907-465-6094

Attn: BOG Comments

Re. Proposal 38- Delta Creek Controlled Use Area.

I disagree with the proposal to limit ATV access to this area. I have hunted in this area a number of years and can not imagine attempting without the aid of an ATV. This is an extremely large area that simply would not get hunted (moose) because it would be insane to attempt on foot, unless you own a super cub or have the money to hire a flight service which few people do or don't prefer to go that route. The ATV impact on the environment is very minimal. It is hundreds of acres of old burn w/ solid ground between lots of small lakes. The ATV tracks can be hard to follow let alone tearing anything up. The moose population is in good health and does not appear to have a wolf problem.

Is this proposal being driven by commercial interests? Please do not let such a proposal pass regardless, it makes no sense.

Sincerely,

John Graham

RC 13

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF GOODNEWS BAY  
TRADITIONAL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 138  
GOODNEWS BAY, ALASKA 99589**

PHONE NO. 907-967-8929 FAX NO. 907-967-8330  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: GOODNEWS907@HOTMAIL.COM

February 22, 2008

Board of Game  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Board Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
RE: Goodnews River Drainage

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We are writing to request that the Board of Game consider in opening Goodnews River Drainage for Moose Fall hunt.

The reason behind our request is that we had signed a moratorium agreement to stop hunting until either of two happen. No hunting for three years (until 2009) or One hundred (100) moose are counted within Goodnews River Drainage.

Last week on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, U.S. Fish & Wildlife personnel out of Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR) did a survey count of moose population within Goodnews River Drainage and they counted One hundred thirteen (113).

The community of Goodnews Bay have patiently abided to the moratorium agreement that was signed (officially) in 2005 and now that one of the stipulations have occurred we are asking the regulators to meet their end of the bargain and that is to open Goodnews River Drainage to Fall Moose hunt since the lower portion of Goodnews River is considered as State and local village corporation lands.

We know for sure that the moose population will continue to grow and by the time fall comes around we know for sure that there will be more, exceeding well over 113.

We would appreciate your consideration and if you have any questions or need more information you can call us at 907-967-8930 or e-mail us at the address above.

Sincerely,  
NATIVE VILLAGE OF GOODNEWS BAY

~~GEORGE BRIGHT, SR., PRESIDENT~~

~~Peter R. Julius, Tribal Administrator~~

CC: files

ADF&G-Bethel

TNWR-Dillingham

YKDNWR-Bethel

Joe Cythlook, Reg. Coord.-Dillingham

Kuitsarak, Inc.,-Goodnews Bay

RC14

City of Goodnews Bay  
P. O. Box 139  
Goodnews Bay, AK 99589  
Phone: (907) 967- 8614  
Fax: (907) 967-8124

February 21, 2008

Board of Game  
P.O. Box 255-26  
Juneau, AK 99802

To the Board of Game:

There was an aerial survey count on the moose population in the Goodnews Bay area on February 15, 2008 and the moose population count was at 113. A resolution was made to have the moose seasons be closed to increase the moose population and the number is over 100 so we are requesting a moose hunting season this coming fall in both the State and Federal Lands for the Goodnews Bay and Platinum residents.

Sincerely,



Daniel Schouten, Mayor

Feb 15, 2008

RC15

BOG Comments for Board of Game  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Bx 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

Members of the Board of Game:


I am a long-time Alaskan resident (since 1961) and have used the Tangle Lakes area since 1962. It was my uncle Charles Keim who first introduced me to this unique mountain and valley region. He had hunted and fished and canoed there since the 1950's. He used to call the headwaters of the Delta River that begin in the Tangle Lakes as his hidden valley. Since the 1960's I've floated that river almost every other year, not to mention the countless mountains I've climbed in the area, and the numerous hunting and fishing trips I've taken there with many friends.

It is high time this region was protected from mining and other extractive interests. I am therefore in full support of Proposal 86, asking you to establish the Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge in that area. This refuge would not only protect the critical winter habitat of the Nelchina caribou herd, but the habitat of all wildlife species living in the area.

I recently visited the Fort Knox gold mine in Fairbanks, and saw the immense damage that especially open pit mining can do to habitat, essentially destroying it forever. By establishing the Tangle Lakes Wildlife Refuge, this could not happen in this much beloved part of Alaska.

Thank you for your action on this most important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Frank J. Keim  
2220 Penrose Lane  
Fairbanks, 99709

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2008

BOARDS

RC16



Environment  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

RECEIVED  
FEB 25 2008  
BOARDS

February 15, 2008

**FAXED**

Cliff Judkins, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game  
P.O. Box 11526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Judkins:

**RE: Comments on Proposal 1 for the Spring 2008 Alaska Board of Game Meeting**

We recently became aware of a proposal by the Upper Tanana / Fortymile Advisory Committee to open a limited harvest of the Chisana Caribou Herd in Unit 12, and that this proposal (Proposal 1) will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at the Spring 2008 meeting.

The Chisana Caribou Herd is a transboundary herd that ranges in both eastern Alaska and western Yukon. Inevitably, management activities on either side of the border of a shared population are going to impact users on both sides. As the management agency responsible for caribou populations in the Yukon, including, in part, the Chisana Caribou Herd, we would like to acknowledge that we were not consulted on this proposal by the proponent and at this time we are not in support of opening a harvest of this herd. The key reasons for our opposition to Proposal 1 are as follows:


- In the Yukon, concerns by White River First Nation, the local big game outfitter, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and ourselves, lead to the Chisana Caribou Herd being legally-listed as a Specially Protected Population under the Yukon *Wildlife Act*. As such, licensed hunting is prohibited. In addition, White River First Nation in Beaver Creek, Yukon has instituted a voluntary ban on hunting the Chisana Caribou Herd which has resulted in no subsistence harvest. Opening a harvest in Alaska may undermine conservation efforts resulting in a multiplicative effect with First Nation and resident hunters in Yukon finding little reason to support a continued harvest restriction here.
- This herd was the focus of a 4-year long intensive recovery program between 2003 and 2006. Much goodwill and significant resources from both sides of the border was invested into ensuring the long-term persistence of this herd. It is not yet clear what effect the recovery project has had on the herd and to introduce a harvest this early after the cessation of the intensive recovery work will limit our ability to evaluate the success of our efforts over the next few critical years.



- To facilitate the recovery project, a multi-agency recovery team was developed, which included wildlife management agencies and local users in both Alaska and Yukon. This pivotal group was also not consulted on the proposal by the proponent. At their last meeting in July 2007, the decision was made to develop a management plan for the herd. The plan has not yet been developed and we would suggest that initiating a harvest prior to the development of that plan would be premature and may undermine much of the goodwill that was necessary to work towards ensuring the well-being of this herd. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch has set aside funds in the 08/09 fiscal year to go towards completing this plan.
- Genetic evidence suggests that this is a herd that is genetically distinct, and most closely aligned with other populations of woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), not Alaskan caribou (*Rangifer tarandus granti*) as found elsewhere in the state. The implication being that this may be the only herd of woodland caribou in Alaska.
- In northwestern Canada, all woodland caribou are legally listed under our federal *Species at Risk Act* as a species of Special Concern. Harvest is not prohibited under this designation, but there is the legal requirement that a management plan be prepared, with the goal of keeping the population from becoming Threatened or Endangered. A national (Canada) management plan is forthcoming.
- Sustainable harvest rates recommended for caribou are 2-3% of the herd, the rate selected being dependent on the management objectives. With smaller, recovering herds, a lower rate is recognized as a safe or cautionary approach to re-introducing hunting, providing for growth to the herd. Proposal 1 allocation of 20 bull caribou from this herd represents an approximate harvest rate of 2.6% for the overall herd, and about 9.1% of the bulls in the herd. This is from the Alaska side alone. If hunting was re-introduced in Yukon, it would add to the percent of the herd harvested.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me at 867-667-5715 or email [Harvey.jessup@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Harvey.jessup@gov.yk.ca) should you have any questions regarding our opposition to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Harvey Jessup  
Director  
Fish and Wildlife Branch

cc Dan McDiarmid, Chair, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
David Johnny, Chief, White River First Nation  
Doug Larsen, Director, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mason Reid, Biologist, US National Parks Service, Mason Reid  
Brian Pelchat, A/Manager, Whitehorse Office, Canadian Wildlife Service

RC 17



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/AEA

FEB 14 2008

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2008, requesting a review of the authorization for the use of poison for taking rodents issued by the Board of Game (Board) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). It is important for the Board to be informed and the Service is pleased to have the opportunity to provide you the requested information.

As I understand from conversations with Larry Bell following your January Board meeting, there are several areas to cover. Larry Bell is working with Will Meeks, the Deputy Refuge Manager for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR). They will both be in attendance at the February 29 – March 10, 2008, Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. They are working on a presentation that clearly describes our past use and benefit of poison to eradicate rats within the AMNWR and an explanation of our future plans for further application. Along with the presentation, they will provide our best data regarding impact to non-target species.

As you know, the Service recently completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the future application of poison on Rat Island. The decision on the (EA) will be made later this month or in early March. The options available to the Service are to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or to develop an Environmental Impact Statement. The Service will continue to work with the Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to notify you of the decision and for any follow up approvals required by the Board.

I look forward to our continued work to deliver the best conservation possible in Alaska. If you have additional concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or Larry Bell at (907) 786-3309.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Melius  
Regional Director

cc: Greg Siekaniec, Alaska Maritime NWR

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2008

BOARDS



RC18

Ben Barclay  
6745 Paula Pl.  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Via Fax: 907-465-6094

Attn: BOG Comments

Re. Proposal 38- Delta Creek Controlled Use Area.

Gentlemen;

As one of the users of the area proposed for controlled use, I would like to register my extreme objection to this proposal for the following reasons.

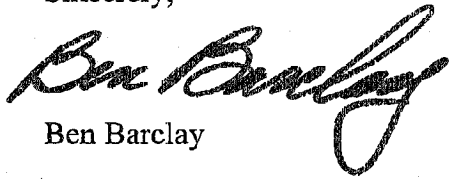
First, a general description of the area would be useful. The area between the two drainages is primarily high country near or above timberline that has been partially cleared by wildfires years ago. It is approximately 28 miles from North to South and up to 12 miles East to West. This amounts to 250 - 300 square miles plus or minus. The only access by air would be to the gravel bars on Delta Creek or one private strip (no access) near the headwaters of 100 Mile Creek. The people accessing the area by air most likely would never get more than a mile east of the Delta Creek Drainage. The area goes from the confluence of the two drainages to about twelve miles wide in the middle of the area. This makes the majority of the area inaccessible to sane people hunting for moose on foot. Part of the area is also part of Ft. Greely.

The majority of the users in this area are concentrated in the southeastern third of the area and the tracks made by ATV's are very limited and low impact due to the well drained and dry, firm soils. Most of the traffic stays east of the 100 Mile Creek drainage and is mostly limited to one main trail down the ridge tops. There are 4 or 5 large "swamp buggies" using the area with very large low ground pressure tires that use the same area I have been going into and it is near impossible to follow their tracks a day or two after they pass. There is almost zero impact from ATV's in the area proposed for closure. I have never witnessed any hunter or game harassment or unsportsmanlike conduct in the area and fully expect any such actions would be policed by the other hunters in the area. The competition among hunters referred to has never been a problem in this area as it is extremely difficult to get to and everyone spreads out to avoid bumping into each other. There is a large area even outside the proposed closed area to hunt and it seems to attract an ethical group of hunters. So far, there is no evidence that ATV's are venturing anywhere near the area that could be accessed by airplanes landing on Delta Creek.

With regard to the "widespread destructive and unsightly nature of ATV trails carved into the pristine landscape", there is no legitimate argument that the trails do any significant harm to the area. Without the trails, most of the area would not be used at all. The few people with planes would hunt near Delta Creek only. Either the goal is to eliminate hunting entirely or make a private hunting preserve for a very select few (guides?). As far as the pristine nature of the area, some of it was used for military exercises in the past and could be used again in the future. That hasn't had a detrimental effect on the hunting in the area for sure.

In conclusion, I would encourage the board to reject this proposal. It is no more than a thinly veiled attempt to eliminate access and subsequently hunting in an area or to set up a nice hunting preserve for a few selfish individuals.

Sincerely,



Ben Barclay

RC19

Mark Graham  
17415 Baronoff  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Via Fax: 907-465-6094

Attn: BOG Comments

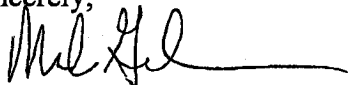
Re. Proposal 38- Delta Creek Controlled Use Area.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to limit ATV access to this area. I have hunted in this area and do not see the problems stated in the proposal. The access to this area is already limited by terrain.

This proposal strikes me as an attempt to limit access to those few individuals with access to an airplane or guide service.

Please reject this proposal.

Sincerely,



Mark Graham

RC 20

## Dael A. Devenport

2280 Black Spruce Ct., Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

(907) 374-9758

12 February 2008

RECEIVED  
FEB 19 2008  
BOARD

ATTN: BOG Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

**Re: Proposal 86: Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge**

Dear BOG:

I am writing this letter in support of the creation of the Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge. I was raised in Glennallen and lived there until 2005 when I moved to Fairbanks to attend graduate school. The Tangle Lakes area is an important area for my family and other Glennallen residents to fill their subsistence needs and recreate. It is also a significant archeological area. The creation of a wildlife refuge for this area will help protect the significant biological, natural and archeological resources of this area. Thank you for support.

Sincerely,



Dael A. Devenport

Cc: Sarah Palin, Governor  
675 7th Avenue, Suite H5  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4596

Senator Gary Wilken  
State Capitol, Room 7  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Mike Kelly  
1292 Sadler Wy Ste 323  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

AK Dept of Fish & Game  
Juneau

TO Whom It May Concern

RECEIVED  
FEB 19 2008  
BOARD

alaska.com @alaska.com

907-424-5445

I ardently support Proposal 86.  
I graduated from Glennallen High School in '61, and attended U of A f-  
We often visited Stan Brown at Paxson, as I lived in Yakona. We went to the Tangle Lakes area on many occasions. The magnificent sense of grandeur of that landscape is priceless, and I would hate to think of it despoiled. It is a stunningly beautiful part of Alaska, and deserves protection. Please consider future generations who deserve to see and appreciate the Tangle Lakes area as much as I have.

Mark Stee  
Box 1310  
CORDOVA, ALASKA 99574

# RUST'S FLYING SERVICE

Alaska's Most Experienced Scaphne Service - Est. 1963

RC22

RECEIVED

February 28, 2008

FEB 28 2008

Alaska Board of Game  
Attn: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section

BOARDS

Re: Proposal #3 - 5AAC 85.015

To: Board of Game Members

**This is my testimony in support of Proposal #3 - 5 AAC 85.015**

Last fall, the Wolverine Creek Management Committee and my company submitted proposals to the BOG to address the precipitous decrease in bear sightings at Wolverine Creek in the Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area, by number of visitors the third most popular bear viewing location in the state. Also addressed were incidences of black bear harvest in the presence of the bear viewing public. These proposals, notably #23, suggested moving the opening of the black and brown bear season to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to assure no bear viewers would be present during the hunting season, and extending the radius of the closed area to a 3-mile "safe area" around the mouth of Wolverine Creek, which represents the present concentrated area of bear viewing activity. The board did not address this proposal and made no action on it despite wide based support for #23 from all the user groups of the Wolverine Creek area: Anchorage and Kenai air taxis, fishing and hunting guides, bear viewing guides, the ATIA, lodges, the bear viewing public, and the state-sanctioned Wolverine Creek Management Committee. In response, the Board has offered their own Proposal #3.

Although including black bears in the season opening adjustment, there is no mention in Proposal #3 of increasing the radius of the no hunting area to three miles from the Wolverine Creek mouth, nor changing the opening date to Nov. 15. In the BOG proposal, the following questions were answered:

1. Who will benefit? *The proposal says that only those bear viewers who don't want to see bears killed will benefit.*

I respectfully request the Board to consider that this is not just an issue about separation of bear viewers who don't want to see bears shot, but more about protecting the less than one dozen habituated local bears upon which the whole \$4M industry depends.



2. As far as what will happen? *Conflicts will resolve.*

Therefore, the multi-million dollar Wolverine Creek bear viewing industry will have a future.

3. Who will suffer? *No comment.*

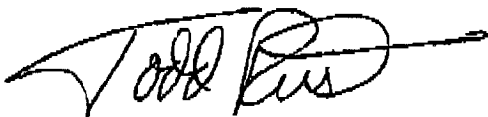
We have not heard from anyone who objects.

4. Other solutions considered? *No comment.*

The user groups of the Wolverine Creek have submitted several proposals.

There is a probability that I will be unable to attend the Fairbanks meeting. I am writing to express my support for the proposal #3 submitted by the BOG. This proposal appears to be a compromise in the right direction, responding positively to some degree to the concerns expressed by the Wolverine Creek Management Committee, my company, and others. I appreciate the Board making this effort. The inclusion of black bears in this proposal goes a long way towards resolving conflicts. Wolverine Creek bear viewing, already third most popular in the state and constituting a \$4M dollar industry, continues to grow each year. The growing economic importance to Kenai and Anchorage residents is well documented. I feel the Game Board recognizes this and has made a step forward with this proposal to ensure that there are bears to view.

Sincerely,



Todd Rust, President  
Rust's Flying Service, Inc.

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 28. 10:34AM  
NO. 7041 P. 2

F&G BOARD SUPPORT

FEB. 28. 2008 1:53PM

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2008

RC 23

BOARDS

# Bureau of Land Management

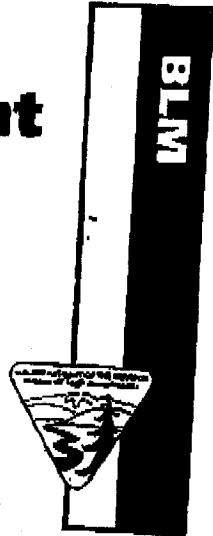
Fairbanks District Office

1150 University Avenue

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844

Phone: 907-474-2200

Fax: 907-474-2282



## Fax Cover Sheet

To: Kristin Kibble

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: 465-6094

Office: Board of Game

From: Shelly Jacobson, Central Yukon Field Manager

Phone: 474-2356

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

Remarks: Will these be part of the "notebook" referred to on the web site? Thank you for agreeing to distribute them to Board of Game members. We may not be available at the meeting to provide these comments orally, but if there are any questions regarding BLM's comments feel free to have folks contact me at the above address or phone.

- Shelly

**BLM RECOMMENDS THAT PROPOSALS 95 AND 96 NOT BE ADOPTED. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE CURRENT REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN ORV USE OFF THE DALTON HIGHWAY IN THE UTILITY CORRIDOR AND THE EFFECTS OF PROPOSALS 95 AND 96**

- The State of Alaska prohibits the use of ORVs on land within five miles of the Dalton Highway right-of-way. Alaska Statute (AS) 19.40.210 provides:

Off-road vehicles are prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway. However, this prohibition does not apply to 1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or transportation; 2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway and who must use land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway to gain access to the mining claim; or 3) the use of snow machine to travel across the highway corridor from land outside the corridor to access land outside the other side of the corridor; this paragraph does not permit the use of a snow machine for any purpose within the corridor if the use begins or ends within the corridor or within the right-of-way of the highway or if the use is for travel within the corridor that is parallel to the right-of-way of the highway; in this paragraph "highway corridor" means land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway.

- BLM's regulations at 43 CFR, Part 8340, regulates the use of ORVs on public lands. Part of BLM's regulatory scheme is the adoption of state laws and regulations governing off-road vehicles where those laws and regulations are more restrictive than BLM's regulations.

Subpart 8341 (d) says "It is prohibited to operate an off-road vehicle in violation of State laws and regulations relating to use, standards, registration, operation, and inspection of off-road vehicles. To the extent that State laws and regulations do not exist or are less stringent than the regulations in this part, the regulations in this part are minimum standards and are controlling.

BLM defines off-road vehicles as *any* motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding:

- (1) Any nonamphibious registered motorboat;
- (2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
- (3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved;
- (4) Vehicles in official use; and
- (5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

- The Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) did not consider use of mining roads and trails by ORVs (remember, our definition of an ORV includes

licensed highway vehicles if they are driven off the road) during the snow-free season of the year. Therefore, Proposals 95 and 96 are in conflict with current management of federal lands in the Utility Corridor and their accommodation would require an amendment to the RMP. An amendment to the RMP would require public participation that is national in scope. In addition, since proposed federal actions in Alaska require an analysis of the effects of the proposal on subsistence uses (this is called a section 810 analysis) this amendment would have to undergo a section 810 review. Both of these processes would take a great deal of time and money.

- In addition to the conflicts these proposals have with the RMP, Proposals 95 and 96 would present another source of confusion for recreational hunters. Several of the mining roads in the Utility Corridor were built to active mining operations. These roads were intended for use by the miners, the miners maintain the roads, and they have "bonded" them. It is questionable whether the general public could use these roads.
- In short, recreational use of mining roads and trails in the Utility Corridor was not considered when management decisions were made in the Corridor over the past 30 years. Therefore, Proposals 95 and 96, conflict with current management of federal lands in the Utility Corridor. Adopting the proposals would require BLM to revisit many of these decisions, engage the general public in the discussion of the proposed changes, and, until the process is complete, would cause great confusion for the public.
- The Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan is due to be rewritten beginning in 2009. Changes to Federal management of ORVs in the Corridor could be entertained at that time.

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 27. 1:21PM

NO. 7041 P. 5

FEB. 28. 2008 1:53PM  
F&G BOARDS SUPPORT

RC 24



# Chickaloon Village

Traditional Council

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2003

BOARDS

Katherine Wade,  
Clan Grandmother

Gary Harrison,  
Traditional Chief

Doug Wade,  
Chairman/Elder

Rick Harrison,  
Vice-Chairman

Penny Westing,  
Secretary

Burt Shaginoff,  
Elder Member

Jess Laaman,  
Elder Member

Larry Wade,  
Elder Member

Albert Harrison,  
Elder Member

Jennifer Harrison,  
Executive Director

## RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSAL 38 – 5 AAC 99.015. JOINT BOARD NONSUSTINENCE AREAS FOR UNIT 13

### RESOLUTION 080220-02

**WHEREAS, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council is an Indigenous Government with full power and authority to act for the Chickaloon Native Village, Chickaloon Traditional Village, and/or Chickaloon Village (Nay'dini'aa Na'); and**

**WHEREAS, Chickaloon Village is part of the Athabaskan Nation and is a distinct, independent political community, and as such is qualified and exercises powers of self-government by reason of its original Tribal sovereignty as passed down from its ancestors since time immemorial; and nothing in this resolution shall be in conflict therewith; and**

**WHEREAS, Chickaloon Native Village is a Federally-recognized Tribal Government in Alaska (Federal Register, Volume 67, Number 134, Friday, July 12, 2002, Notices, page 46332), with full power and authority to negotiate with the Federal Government; and**

**WHEREAS, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council did not cede, terminate, extinguish, or relinquish their original, possessory and aboriginal rights; and**

**WHEREAS, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council is the governing body of Chickaloon Village as recognized by the Chickaloon Tribal citizens; and has a responsibility to provide a government for the good health and welfare of its Tribal citizens, address any needs in its community; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council has identified a need to continue the subsistence area designation for Unit 13;**

**WHEREAS, the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council has identified that Tribal citizens' access to subsistence resources is vital to the general health and welfare of the Tribe and its economic and social development; and**

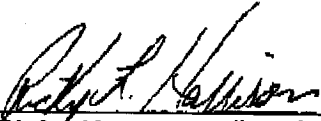
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickaloon Village Traditional Council hereby requests the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game to**

P.O. Box 1105 Chickaloon, Alaska 99674  
e-mail: cvadmin@chickaloon.org

Phone (907) 745-0749 Fax (907) 745-0709  
Home Page: www.chickaloon.org

oppose Proposal 38 – 5 AAC 99.015. Joint Board Non-subsistence Areas for Unit 13.

It is hereby certified that this resolution was duly considered and approved this 20th of February 2008 with a majority vote of 7 affirmative; 0 negative; 0 abstention, and/or 1 absent votes.

  
Ricky Harrison, Vice-Chairman

  
Penny Westing, Secretary

  
Gary Harrison, Traditional Chief

## CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US

Reference: to Proposal #44

Alaskans have been and are starving for access to our vast country. ATVs have provided a way for many to do just that. However, this new method of access is not without compromise.

A Serious risk is growing amongst hunters and threatening to destroy **FAIR CHASE** and **HUNTING ETHICS** as we know them.

It's been growing unchecked since the mid 1980's,---- it's the new hunting technique spawned by the invention of ATV/ORV's.

A modern ATV with aggressive tires is nearly unstoppable. They are capable of scaling steep foothills and placing the rider in an amazing observation position from which they can spot game at considerable distances. They then transport the rider to an advantageous position from which to shoot the animal. This is just as effective, if not more so, than **same day airborne hunting**, which was banned decades ago. Airplanes simply can not land in most places where game is seen from the air.

Riders on ATV's are easily **out running hunters on foot or horseback** who are practicing the old technique of "**spot and stalk**" hunting. This is actually **harassment** which occurs not only toward other hunters but the game animals as well. The new generation of hunters is learning to hunt in this "running and gunning" fashion and readily accept it. "This is the way we do it".

In addition to hunting ethics and Fair Chase, ATV's are also **destroying the habitat** and the **scenic value** of this country by scarring up the alpine areas with erosive trails. AS stewards of the land, we should be **very concerned** about this as well.

Many horror stories exist of ATV hunters compromising the "**Quality of the hunt**" for other hunters, even to the point where some folks are giving up hunting.

I'm not saying that all ATV hunters practice these aggressive activities but enough are that some action needs to be taken. One needs to look no farther than **GMU 20A** along the Rex Trail on the west and 100 mile creek on the east; **GMU 20D** south and east of Delta, **GMU 13** from Paxon to Eureka or **GMU 20E** near Chicken. New hunters that learn to use these tactics just assume that this is standard practice. Essentially, they're creating a new definition of Fair Chase and Hunting Ethics.

In the past, any hint at regulating these activities has been met with the recognition that they would be **difficult to enforce** and I agree with that. However, that's a lame excuse because many, if not **most of the hunting violations are currently reported by law abiding hunters who have witnessed the event**. The vast majority of hunters want to obey all laws.

I realize that not all hunters share the same Values and what is acceptable to some may not be for others. But this is not an acceptable excuse to ignore the problem and look the other way as we have been doing for two decades. **There has to be an acceptable compromise to this situation and it is our challenge to help find it.**

The BOG, ADFG and Advisory Committees should take a lead role in finding an equitable solution to this problem. It will also entail cooperating with AK DIV OF LANDS plus BLM and USFS to include all Public Land Managers, as hunters are not the only ones that are destroying the country through unrestricted access on ATV/ORVs.

Let me be the first to volunteer in this effort, and for the record I own two ATV's.

Thank You!

Don Quarberg  
Delta AC member



RC26

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Restoring Native Biodiversity on Alaska Maritime NWR

Alaska Board of Game - Fairbanks  
February 29, 2008

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AMNWR: 2,500 islands & headlands scattered along 6,000 miles (10,000 km) of coastline (total = 4.9 million acres)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Management of non-native species has been a focus for four decades

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Rats cause both direct and indirect impacts to island ecosystems

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Introduction of exotics on islands is a world-wide problem

No Rats

After Rat Invasion

Rats have been responsible for about half of all bird and reptile extinctions, world-wide (King 1985)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### The Rat Prevention Program

#### Shore-based Prevention

RC26

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## The Rat Prevention Program

*Shipwreck Response*



*Oil spills vs. rat spills*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## The Rat Prevention Program

*Partnerships and Outreach*




*Stoprats.org*



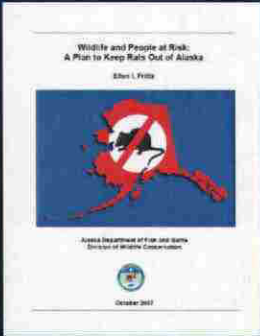
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## The Rat Prevention Program

*Alaska State leadership and the new "rat" law*



*Prevention, eradication, control*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Bay of Islands – testing eradication

2006 Field Season


- *Mimic aerial application*
- *Rat uptake of bait*
- *Bait in Aleutian environment*
- *Secondary effects (88% underground)*
- *Non-target issues*
  - *Radio transmitters on song sparrows*
  - *Species persisted on all islands*
- *Toxicological analyses (National Wildlife Research Center)*
  - *Below detectable limits in both water and blue mussel samples*






U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## How to deal with existing rats?

### DISTRIBUTION OF INTRODUCED RATS



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service






- *Rats introduced about 1780 from a shipwreck*
- *Island is ~ 6900 acres*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## NEPA: Environmental Assessment

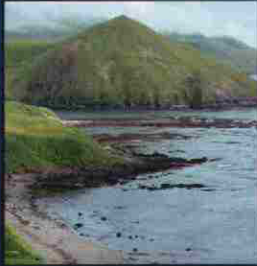
- Public Comment closed Jan. 11, 2008
- Thirty-eight Comments
- Majority - Supportive
- Review comments & Final Determination Mid-March



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Why Rat Island?

- No inhabitants
- Actually a small island - Kiska 10x's larger
- Reinvasion of rats low
- Ecologically less complex
- Benefits of restoration



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Rodenticide Selected



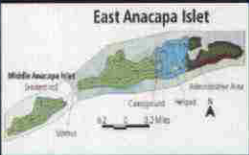
- Diphacinone and brodifacoum
- Brodifacoum is proven worldwide (200 times)
- Diphacinone has not been used in an aerial broadcast
- Compressed grain pellet
- Active ingredient at 25 ppm



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Aerial Application


Due to size of Rat Island - deliver rodenticide bait to every rat territory on Rat Island in sufficient quantities to insure every rat will consume the baits

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Non-target concerns


- Largely mitigated by timing of application
- Low bird densities
- Song sparrows (none surveyed in 2007)
- Winter wrens, gray-crowned rosy finches, snow buntings
- Common ravens
  - 2 individuals
  - Curious
  - Secondary concern



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Non-target concerns

- Rock ptarmigan
  - Age, location, diet habits
  - Rat Island not endemic
- Bald Eagle
  - 4-5 pair
  - Secondary concern



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Potential for recovery

- *Burrow nesting seabirds*
- *Crevice nesting seabirds*
- *Land birds*
- *Waterfowl*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Next steps . . .

- *Cooperation and Collaborators*
- *Permits*
- *Registrations*
- *Communication Plan*
- *Operations Plan*





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Restoring Alaska's Islands

## Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's Invasive Species Program

### 50 Years of Righting the Wrongs

Storm tossed, mist shrouded islands of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge are scattered along Alaska's coast and the 1000 mile long Aleutian chain, a vast archipelago reaching from mainland Alaska nearly to Russia. Forty million seabirds swirl around the cliffs and volcanic slopes of the 2500 refuge islands and islets. The Refuge was established to conserve these seabirds as well as marine mammals, other migratory birds and the marine resources on which they rely.

One would think such far away, rugged islands would be pristine wilderness and indeed 2.7 million acres of the refuge are included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. But beginning in the 1700's, human accidents and actions changed the nature of many of these islands when non-native species were introduced to this seabird paradise. For over 50 years, the Refuge has been undoing this damage by removing the introduced animals, restoring the native ecosystems and bringing the birds back.

### Accidents and Bad Ideas

Shipwrecks, stowaways, trappers, government agencies, and homesteaders all introduced non-native animals to the wild islands of the Refuge. The Refuge itself permitted and encouraged some introductions until the 1950's. Over the past two centuries, rats, foxes, ground squirrels, rabbits, mice, cattle, horses, sheep, reindeer, caribou and bison have been introduced to some islands within the Refuge. Plants, invertebrates and fish have also been introduced.



Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

Seabirds have flourished on Big Konuiji Island since foxes were eliminated.

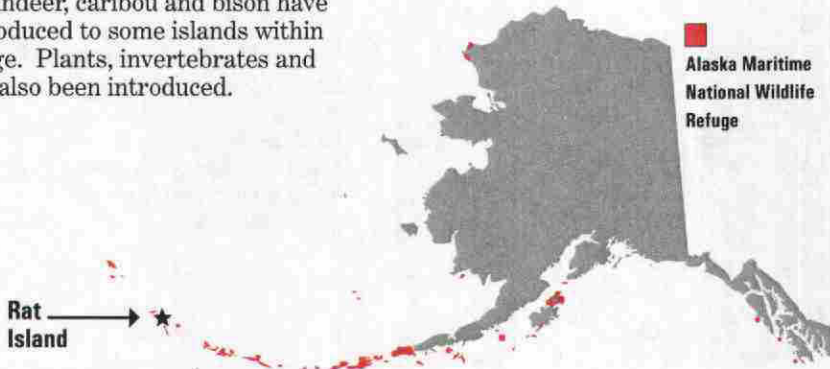
### Islands Are Different

Island ecosystems are limited to the species that can swim, fly or drift there. Birds flourish without mammal predators or competitors. Such was the case on Refuge islands before human intervention. But with the arrival of the introduced animals, many bird populations crashed. These island dwelling species had no adaptations to cope with newcomers. In addition, on the tree-less Alaskan islands, birds nest on the ground, on cliffs or in burrows, often accessible to predators.

### Success with Foxes

Foxes were the most widespread invasive species on the Refuge. Russians and later the Americans brought foxes to hundreds of islands for the fur trade. Trappers dropped foxes on islands returning later to harvest the offspring. The fox fur trade flourished until World War II brought an end to the industry. Fox fur was no longer worth the cost of trapping.

Foxes decimated ground nesting birds and drove the Aleutian cackling goose nearly to extinction. The only way to undo the damage and restore the natural biodiversity was to remove the non-native foxes. Pioneering Refuge Manger Bob "Sea Otter" Jones began doing just that after World War II when he initiated fox removal on Amchitka Island. This program gained steam in the 1980's until foxes were removed from over 40 islands, restoring more than one million acres of habitat.





Once rare, whiskered auklets have increased dramatically since Refuge islands were cleared of foxes.

### "Making Birds"

#### Good news from our restoration work

- The Aleutian cackling goose was brought back from the brink of extinction once foxes were removed from its former nesting habitat. A rare exception for an endangered species, this bird came off the Endangered Species List as fully recovered in 2001. This bird's population has gone from less than 1000 to over 115,000.
- The Evermann's rock ptarmigan survived the fox farming era only on rugged Attu Island. Now with foxes removed, the ptarmigan has been successfully reintroduced and is nesting once again on nearby Agattu Island.
- Puffins, whiskered auklets, and oystercatchers are among the 25 species that have flourished since fox removal. Bird populations have already increased by more than a quarter million birds.

#### Rats Are Next

Of the remaining introduced species on the refuge, rats are the most immediate threat to Aleutian biodiversity. Rats are voracious predators on birds, chicks and eggs. Worldwide, rats have caused about half of all recorded bird extinctions.

In the 1780's, a Japanese ship brought the first rats to Alaska when it wrecked on an island that would become known as Rat Island. Rats spread as ship traffic increased and harbors were established. World War II led to rat infestation of other Refuge islands as troop ships and landing craft moved throughout the Aleutians. Rats have become established on about ten large islands and several small islets in the Refuge greatly diminishing the native birds and altering the plant life and intertidal communities.

*Evermann's rock ptarmigan, a unique Aleutian sub-species, is being re-established on fox free islands.*

#### Rats Still Leave Sinking Ships

Nearly 3000 ships a year pass through the Refuge on the great circle shipping route between Asia and North America putting the Refuge at risk for "rat spills". With an average of two shipping mishaps a year, the Refuge has prepared by assembling ship wreck response kits and training rat spill responders. Although oil spills are bad for wildlife, oil degrades over time while rats multiply.

#### Partners to the Rescue

The Refuge is not alone in its work to turn the tide on rats. Others, including the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon, World Wildlife Fund, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Kayumixtax, Alaska Sea Grant, and Marine Conservation Alliance, have banded together to halt the spread of rats in Alaska. The Nature Conservancy and Island Conservation have also partnered with the Refuge to restore seabird breeding habitat by removing rats.

#### Hope For the Future

Rodents have been successfully removed from over 300 islands worldwide, resulting in the explosive recovery of bird populations. Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands off California, Langara off British Columbia, and Campbell Island in New Zealand are a few examples. The Refuge and its partners, The Nature Conservancy and Island Conservation, are committed to applying the lessons learned from these successes to restore Refuge islands. The first step in this partnership is the restoration of Rat Island (see box).

The goal of the island restoration program is to protect and restore the natural diversity of Refuge islands. The results have been dramatic over the last 50 years. By preventing new introductions of invasive species and removing existing infestations, the Refuge will maintain its trust responsibility of protecting native wildlife and plants for generations to come.

### Restoring Rat Island



Art Soule/USFWS



#### Rat Island Facts

- Rats arrived in 1780's. Alaska's first rats
- Located in the Aleutian Islands, 1300 miles west of Anchorage
- Became part of the Refuge in 1913; designated Wilderness in 1980
- 6,861 acres of cliffs, mountains, and tundra
- Virtually no remaining seabirds; few land birds
- No native land mammals

#### Rat Eradication

- Environmental Assessment, map, photos and Q & As available on-line at <http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov/news.html> or call (907) 235-6546
- Assessment analyzes impacts on refuge resources of no action or rat eradication
- Public comment period open through January 11, 2008
- Comments can be e-mailed to [rat\\_island@fws.gov](mailto:rat_island@fws.gov) or mailed to address below



Brad Bentler/USFWS

**Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**  
 95 Sterling Highway, Suite #1  
 Homer, Alaska 99603  
 907/235-6546 (phone)  
<http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov/>  
[alaskamaritime@fws.gov](mailto:alaskamaritime@fws.gov)  
[www.StopRats.org](http://www.StopRats.org)

December 2007

RC 28

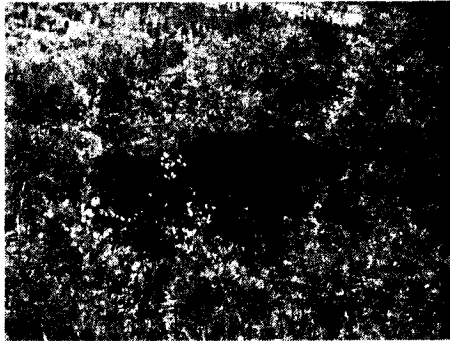
**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
Interior Region Meeting  
February 29 – March 10, 2008  
Pike's Waterfront Inn  
Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Staff Reports:**

Friday, February 29, 2008

1. Wood Bison Project Update by Randy Rogers and Bob Stephenson
2. Unit 19D East Research by Mark Keech
3. Analysis of Weather Patterns by Tom Paragi
4. Intensive Management by Tom Paragi and Randy Rogers
5. Unit 20E Bear Population Estimate by Craig Gardner
6. Vulnerability of Moose to Wolf Snares and Management Solutions  
by Craig Gardner
7. Population Status of Musk Oxen in Northeastern Alaska by Steven Arthur
8. Update on the use of poison to eradicate rats on the Alaska Maritime National  
Wildlife Refuge by Will Meeks, US Fish and Wildlife Service

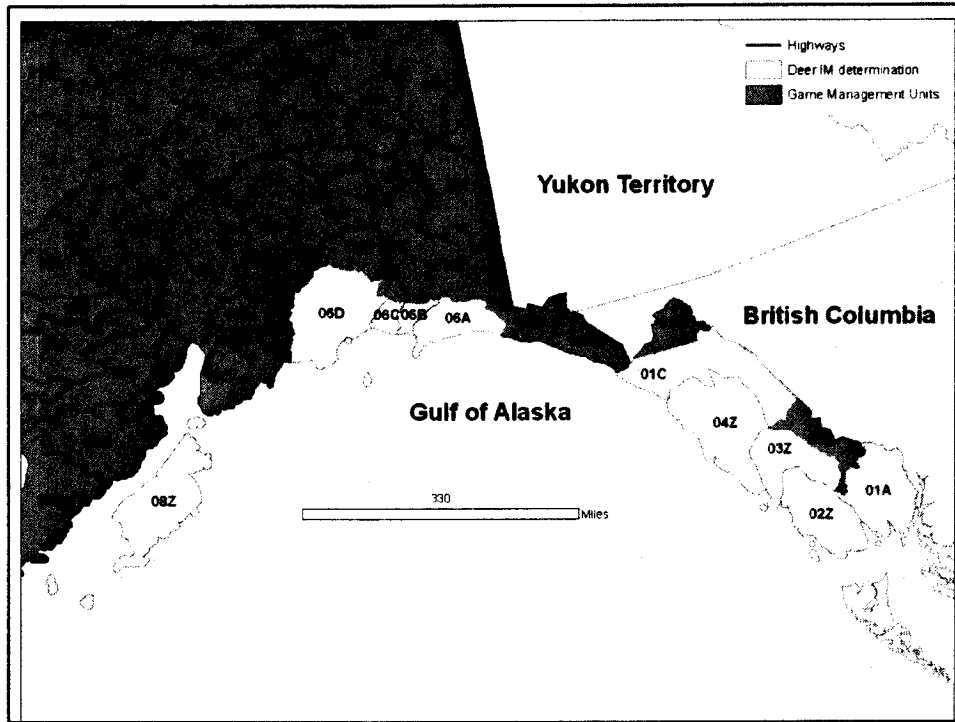
**Overview of Intensive Management  
with emphasis on Region III moose**



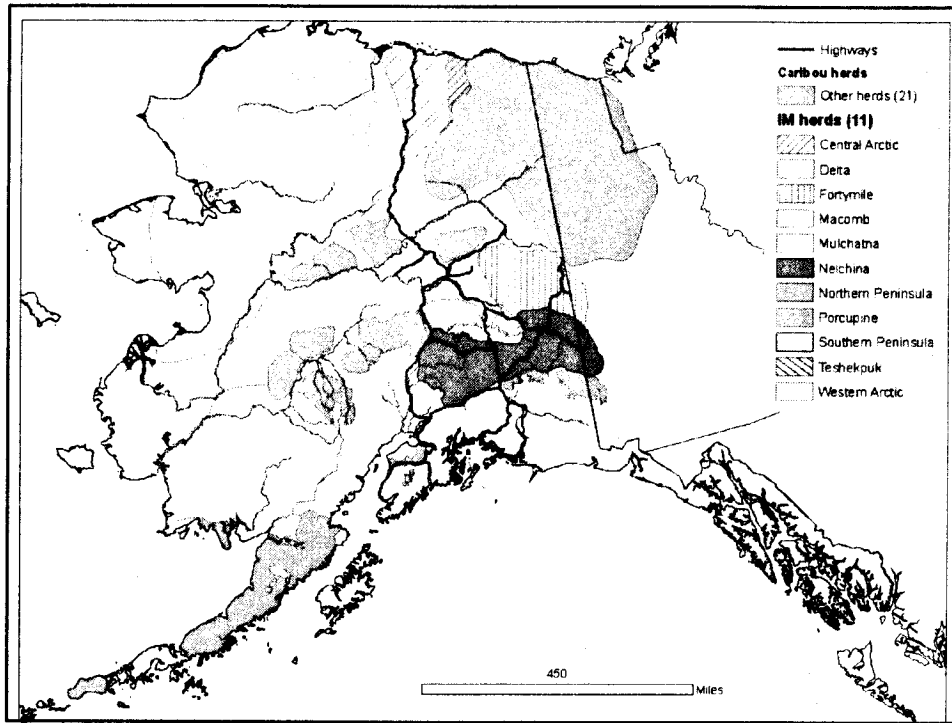
**Tom Paragi  
Intensive Management Coordinator  
ADF&G, Fairbanks**

- **Harvest of deer, caribou, and moose relative to Intensive Management (IM) objectives statewide**
- **Moose management in Region III**
- **IM objectives in a broader context**

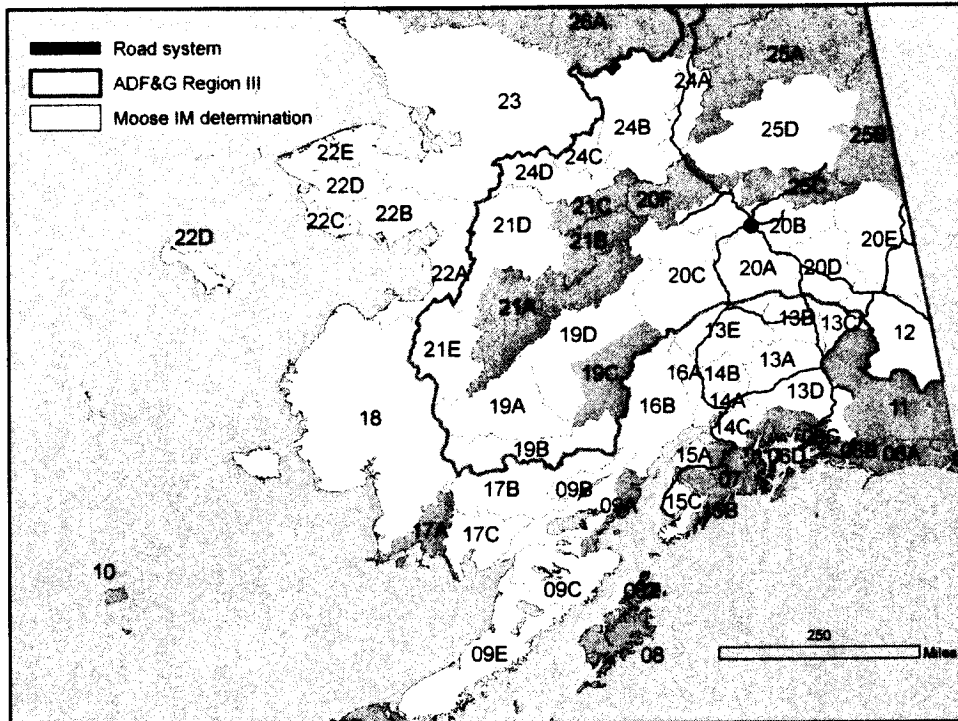




Sitka black-tailed deer Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)								
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1A	700	268	367	250	212	391	268	509
1C	450	241	380	358	<u>467</u>	352	<u>506</u>	<u>641</u>
2	2700	<u>3028</u>	<u>2865</u>	2169	1823	2147	<u>2820</u>	<u>3027</u>
3	900	<u>1024</u>	858	624	<u>938</u>	<u>921</u>	718	681
4	7800	5912	7456	5115	7622	6797	6983	7741
6	2200	2121	<u>3301</u>	<u>2389</u>	<u>3759</u>	--	<u>3370</u>	<u>3011</u>
8	8000	2,491	2,899	3,143	4,984	--	6,471	5,428



Barren ground caribou								
Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)								
Herd	Objective	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central Arctic	1400	743	765	673	669	876	910	--
Delta	300	28	39	44	39	54	41	29
Fortymile	1000	150	708	903	839	880	759	868
Macomb	30	22	43	25	29	7	18	21
Mulchatna	6000	<u>9000</u>	<u>6330</u>	5037	5682	4236	3675	1921
Nelchina	3000	1140	1550	1394	1137	1311	2866	<u>3140</u>
N. AK Pen	800	120	120	110	200	60	0	10
Porcupine	1500	372	514	376	628	267	542	--
N. AK Pen	200	100	90	100	80	110	90	90
Teshekpuk	900	<u>2766</u>	<u>2805</u>	<u>4463</u>	<u>3307</u>	<u>3996</u>	<u>4129</u>	<u>2766</u>
Western Arctic	12,000	<u>15,678</u>	<u>14,905</u>	<u>14,689</u>	11,549	<u>15,799</u>	<u>14,762</u>	<u>14,714</u>
Liberalized predator harvest					Predator control			



Moose Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)									
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
13A	210	125	132	179	185	<u>224</u>	197	<u>235</u>	185
13B	310	158	135	173	189	139	158	183	163
13C	155	106	68	85	76	67	66	62	68
13D	75	<u>87</u>	69	72	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>78</u>	72
13E	300	111	101	105	132	135	136	170	132
14A	360	<u>402</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>683</u>	<u>582</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>445</u>
14B	100	82	94	94	82	83	72	83	73
14C	90	<u>108</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>130</u>
15A	180	171	<u>268</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>216</u>	171	163	170	142
15C	200	<u>238</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>332</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>221</u>
Antlerless harvest		Liberalized predator harvest				Predator control			

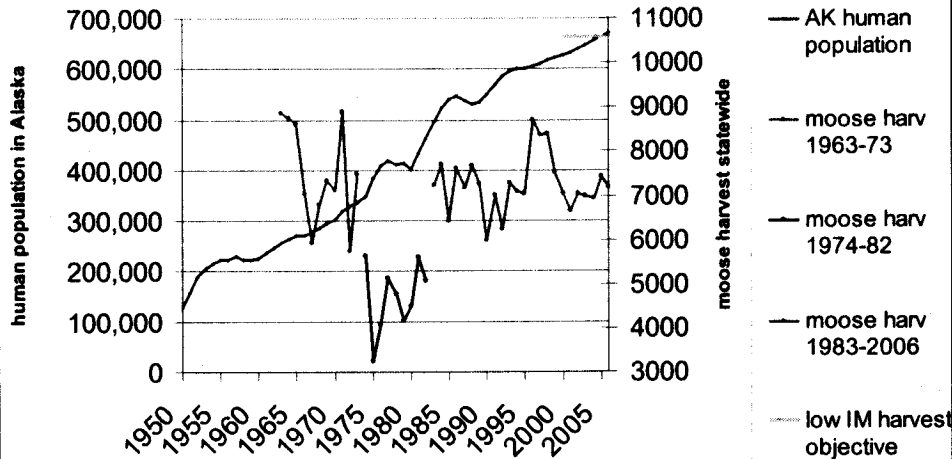
Moose Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)									
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
9B	100	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	90	90	90	90	80	80
9C	165	<u>180</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>170</u>	150	120
16A	190	175	189	<u>191</u>	<u>205</u>	174	141	147	107
16B	310	287	157	107	203	204	173	144	--
17B	200	<u>226</u>	186	183	163	168	117	113	--
17C	165	137	<u>224</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>233</u>	--
Liberalized predator harvest					Predator control				

Moose Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)									
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
18	60	<u>181</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>336</u>
22	300	<u>311</u>	217	262	288	286	189	201	202
23	210	<u>557</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>506</u>	--
19A/B	750	344	275	198	145	179	243	95	106
19D East	400	--	78	103	80	65	72	65	90
19D Rem.	250	--	26	22	21	15	28	25	26
Antlerless harvest					Predator control				

Moose Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)									
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
20A	1400	731	786	540	703	1187	1334	1246	964
20B	600	<u>842</u>	<u>731</u>	<u>974</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>917</u>	<u>793</u>
20C	150	<u>153</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>154</u>	124	118	<u>157</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>156</u>
20D	500	310	231	274	279	251	303	432	<u>925</u>
12	250	172	161	184	194	197	196	167	162
20E	500	150	153	185	144	109	153	145	154
		Antlerless harvest	Habitat enhancement	Antlerless + Habitat	Predator control				

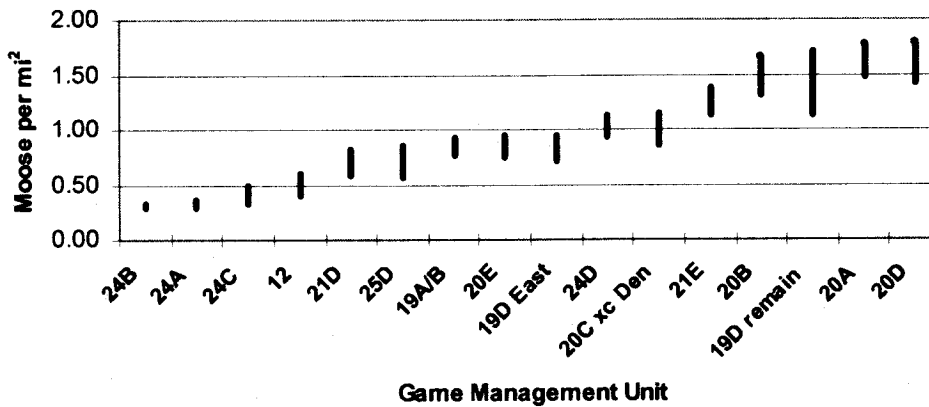
Moose Lower IM objective and estimated harvest (RY)									
GMU	Object	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
21D	450	<u>515</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>490</u>	<u>484</u>	389	377	377	371
21E	550	267	238	209	197	157	164	173	132
24A	75	--	--	--	--	--	--	30	--
24B	150	--	41	47	--	--	--	78	--
24C	50	--	<u>87</u>	<u>67</u>	--	--	--	44	--
24D	225	--	--	--	--	--	--	126	--
25D	600	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	--

### Historical perspective on "the good old days" (reported moose harvest statewide)



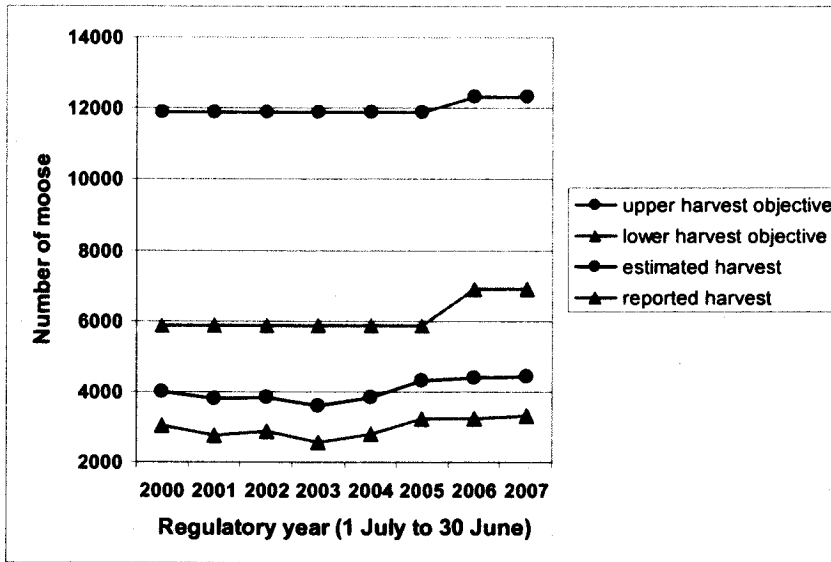
Since 1983 a steady average of about 53,000 moose hunters (including non-residents) have had a reported success rate of 23-30%

### Moose population objectives for interior Alaska GMUs under Intensive Management (density plot: low to high)



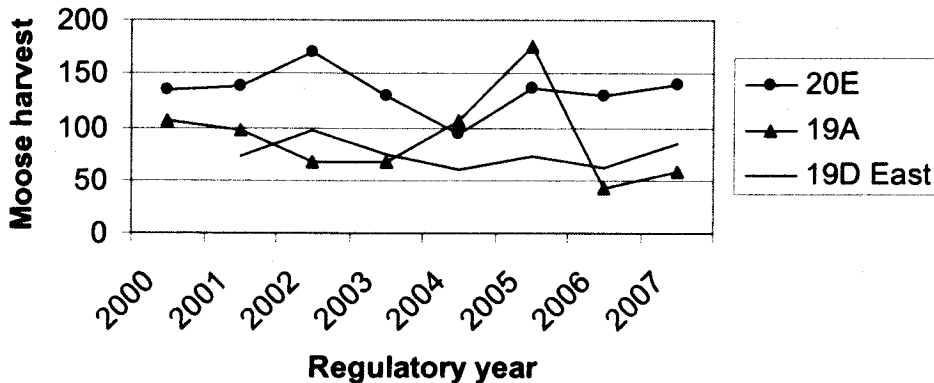
GMUs 20A, 20B, 20D now provide about one third of statewide reported harvest

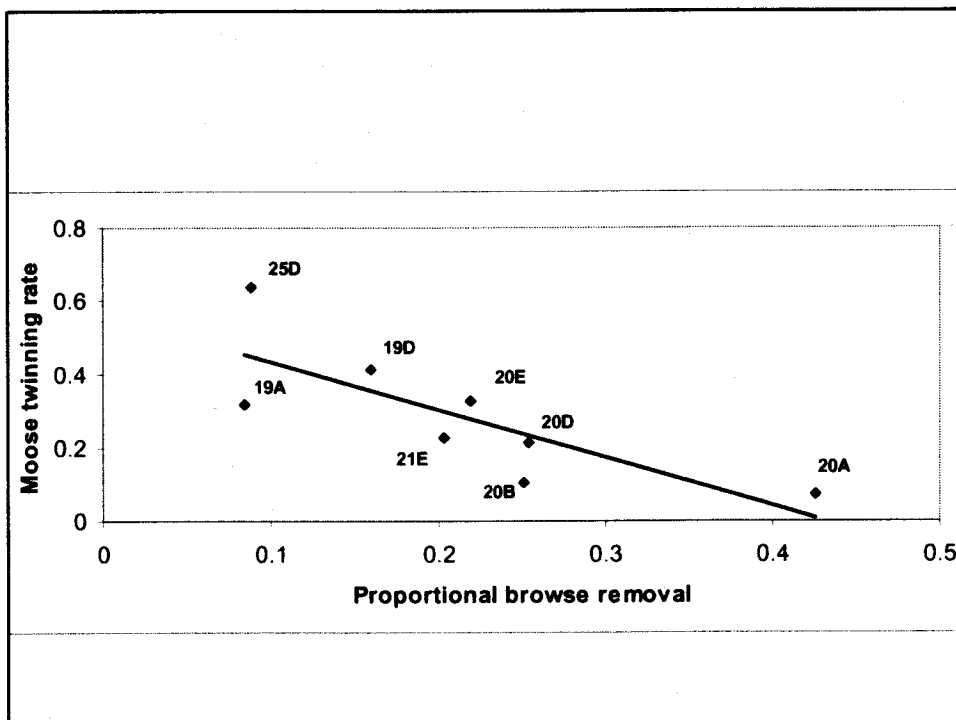
**Sum of upper and lower IM harvest objectives and the reported and estimated moose harvest in 16 GMU subunits under Intensive Management in Region III**



**19A—Central Kuskokwim AC (eastern closed; western Tier II)  
19D East—McGrath AC (EMMA closed)**

**Reported moose harvest  
in Region III wolf control areas**







**Moderate to High density populations:**

**Challenges and potential solutions to increasing prey harvest**

- **Distributing hunters and harvest across large areas (hunter / landowner conflicts, moose reduction in high density areas)**
- **Public acceptance of antlerless harvest**
- **Enhancing winter range in remote areas (access for machinery, fire constraints)**
- **Involving hunters in data collection**

**Low density populations:**

**Challenges and potential solutions to increasing prey population size and harvest (or catch per unit effort)**

- **Harvest ticket reporting (sex, location)**
- **Variable definition of prey populations (movements, calving area, winter range)**
- **Limits to public ability to regulate predator populations following control programs (fuel cost, incentives)\***
- **Control methods are limited by policy**

**Putting IM factors into context for  
Department recommendations**

**IM plan for individual areas (RR)**

## **Intensive Management Plans**

The concept is to establish a consistent approach for preparing a plan that compiles the key biological, human use and legal information necessary for public understanding and Board of Game IM decision-making.

***Board of Game review and  
feedback on the utility of the  
proposed IM planning approach is  
welcomed.***

- An IM plan can be used to evaluate all options for managing a prey population to provide high levels of harvest.
- A recommendation for a predation control program may or may not be included in an IM plan.
- At the point where predator control is recommended it becomes necessary to develop a formal regulation under 5 AAC 92.125.
- An IM plan can provide much of the information needed for a regulatory proposal.

## **Contents of an IM Plan**

- Identify the prey species and population being considered for IM
- Goals and objectives for the IM program
- Biological and management situation analysis
  - Prey and predator population and harvest information
  - Condition of the habitat available to the prey population

## **Contents (cont.)**

- Analysis of options for increasing the prey population size and/or harvest
  - Public information and education
  - Reducing harvest of the prey species
  - Habitat restoration and enhancement
  - Increasing harvest of predator species through hunting and trapping
  - Possible use of predator control for wolves and/or bears.

## **Contents (cont.)**

- Recommended methods for achieving objectives specified in the plan and/or the IM population and harvest objectives.
- Recommended Board of Game actions.
- Implementation evaluation and modification of the plan.
- Appendix A: Review of the status of the prey population according to the IM laws (may need revision if the IM law is changed).

## **Key Considerations Involved in IM Plans**

- The IM plan format provides a basic template, however each plan must be designed to meet the needs of the specific situation.
- Preparing IM plans involves a considerable amount of staff work.
- IM plans need to incorporate adaptive management and should be revised when new information is gained or circumstances change.

## **IM Planning Process**

- No single approach will meet all needs; however, when possible keep it simple.
- An IM plan can be prepared by an Area Biologist in consultation with the local Advisory Committee and others.
- For more complex situations an IM plan could be developed through a collaborative process involving multiple ACs and other stakeholders.

## **IM Plans Underway in Region III (low density moose populations.)**

- IM Plan for Moose In Unit 21E
  - Draft plan to be presented to the Board during the McGrath Area briefing (first complete example for Board review – still a “work in progress.”)
- IM Plan for Moose In Unit 25D (Yukon Flats)
  - Concepts will be presented during the Northeast Alaska Area briefing
- IM Plan for Moose in Unit 24B/C (Koyukuk)

## **IM Plans Being Considered (high density moose populations)**

- IM Plan for Moose In Unit 20A
  - Concepts will be presented during the Fairbanks Area briefing
- IM for Moose In Unit 20D (Delta)
  - Concepts will be presented during the Delta Area briefing

## **IM for Abundant Prey Populations**

- In a situation of managing an abundant prey population an IM plan could:
  - Provide guidelines for harvest of various sex and age classes of moose.
  - Specify management actions to regulate or control predator populations.
  - Identify habitat enhancement measures.
  - Provide a mechanism to coordinate with other resource agencies.

## **Possible Statewide Use of IM Plans**

- If IM plans are shown to be a useful tool for IM decision-making it would be desirable to have a consistent approach in all DWC regions.
- Possible Region II IM Plans:
  - Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
  - Moose and caribou in Unit 17
- If use of IM plans is adopted statewide, plans can eventually be developed for other existing and proposed IM areas.

## Putting IM factors into context for Department recommendations

**IM plan for individual areas (RR)**

**Compare potential for harvest  
increase among IM areas**

Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<i>Negative factors:</i>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)					
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns					
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)					
<i>Variable factors:</i>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns					
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?					
<i>Positive factors:</i>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Estimated ATV trails (miles)					
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter					
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)					
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat					
<i>Current scenario under IM objectives:</i>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.					
Overall potential for increased harvest:					



Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<b>Negative factors:</b>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)	>50%	>50%	26-50%	<10%	<10%
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns	11	14	3	44	2
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)	\$5.35	\$5.58	\$5.73	\$5.52	\$3.49
<b>Variable factors:</b>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns					
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?					
<b>Positive factors:</b>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Estimated ATV trails (miles)					
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter					
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)					
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat					
<b>Current scenario under IM objectives:</b>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.					
Overall potential for increased harvest:					

Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<b>Negative factors:</b>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)	>50%	>50%	26-50%	<10%	<10%
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns	11	14	3	44	2
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)	\$5.35	\$5.58	\$5.73	\$5.52	\$3.49
<b>Variable factors:</b>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns	30	3	23	41	9
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?	Yes	Yes / No	Yes	Yes *	Yes
<b>Positive factors:</b>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Estimated ATV trails (miles)					
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter					
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)					
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)					
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat					
<b>Current scenario under IM objectives:</b>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.					
Overall potential for increased harvest:					

\* Access with qualifications

Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<i>Negative factors:</i>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)	>50%	>50%	26-50%	<10%	<10%
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns	11	14	3	44	2
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)	\$5.35	\$5.58	\$5.73	\$5.52	\$3.48
<i>Variable factors:</i>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns	30	3	23	41	9
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?	Yes	Yes / No	Yes	Yes *	Yes
<i>Positive factors:</i>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	<1	<1	1	<1	3
Estimated ATV trails (miles)	<25	<50	<75	<50	>250
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	10	7	7	9	14
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter	High	Hi E, Mod W	Mod	High	Mod
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)	10-30%	>30%	10-30%	10-30%	>30%
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat	24	12 (19A)	12	8	22
<i>Current scenario under IM objectives:</i>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )					
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.					
Overall potential for increased harvest:					

\* Access with qualifications

Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<i>Negative factors:</i>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)	>50%	>50%	26-50%	<10%	<10%
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns	11	14	3	44	2
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)	\$5.35	\$5.58	\$5.73	\$5.52	\$3.48
<i>Variable factors:</i>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns	30	3	23	41	9
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?	Yes	Yes / No	Yes	Yes *	Yes
<i>Positive factors:</i>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	<1	<1	1	<1	3
Estimated ATV trails (miles)	<25	<50	<75	<50	>250
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	10	7	7	9	14
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter	High	Hi E, Mod W	Mod	High	Mod
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)	10-30%	>30%	10-30%	10-30%	>30%
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat	24	12 (19A)	12	8	22
<i>Current scenario under IM objectives:</i>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.	233%	338% **	497% **	200%	268%
Overall potential for increased harvest:					

\* Access with qualifications      \*\* Portions of area closed to harvest

Existing and proposed IM programs by Area/GMU	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	NE AK	Tok
	21E	19A/B	19D East	25D	20E
<i>Negative factors:</i>					
Frequency winter snow >3 ft deep by spring (1977-2006)	>50%	>50%	26-50%	<10%	<10%
% ANILCA lands within 25 miles of towns	11	14	3	44	2
\$ per gallon unleaded gasoline (avg. among towns)	\$5.35	\$5.58	\$5.73	\$5.52	\$3.49
<i>Variable factors:</i>					
% Native corporation land within 25 miles of towns	30	3	23	41	9
Access for predator control allowed on Native lands?	Yes	Yes / No	Yes	Yes *	Yes
<i>Positive factors:</i>					
All-season roads within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	<1	<1	1	<1	3
Estimated ATV trails (miles)	<25	<50	<75	<50	>250
Navigable rivers within 25 miles of towns (mi/100 mi <sup>2</sup> )	10	7	7	9	14
Feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter	High	Hi E, Mod W	Mod	High	Mod
Estimated wolf harvest rate, fall population (RY04-06)	10-30%	>30%	10-30%	10-30%	>30%
Estimated grizzly bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
Estimated black bear harvest rate (RY04-06)	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%	<10%
% of GMU in tall shrub habitat	24	12 (19A)	12	8	22
<i>Current scenario under IM objectives:</i>					
Pop'n increase to reach lower objective (moose / mi <sup>2</sup> )	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2
Increase in estimated harvest (RY04-06) to reach lower obj.	233%	338% **	497% **	200%	268%
Overall potential for increased harvest:	Mod	High	High	Low-Mod	High

\* Access with qualifications    \*\* Some areas closed to harvest

## Putting IM factors into context for Department recommendations

- IM plan for individual areas (RR)
- Compare potential for harvest increase among areas
- Scientific evaluations
  - Define habitat (population objectives)
  - Define prey populations
  - Sustained yield from predator systems
  - EMMA concept

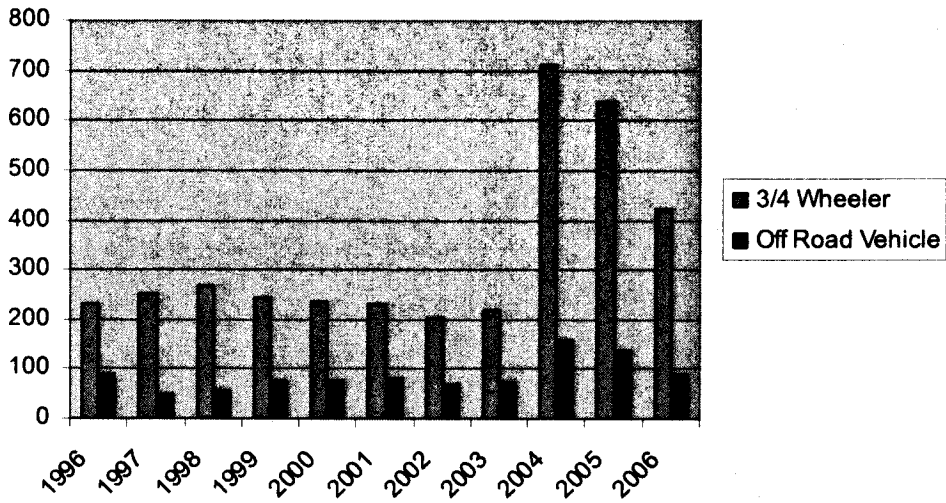
## **IM objectives in a broader context**



### **Future issues for Intensive Management at the statewide level**

- **Increases in fuel price will affect prices of imported domestic meat and cost of remote access for hunting by aircraft and boat**
- **Projected human population growth to 836,000 by 2030 (greatest increase MatSu)**
- **Suburban sprawl in MatSu hinders use of fire and forestry to enhance moose habitat, so hunters will continue to visit Interior**
- **Public conflicts over land management standards and uses (e.g., motorized hunting)**

### Hunter access adjacent to Rex Trail (Unit 20A)



**Vegetation damage on Rex Trail in violation of 11 AAC 96.025**



## **Food security in Alaska**

- **Most food is produced with fossil fuel and imported by air, highway, and barge**
- **Currently low levels of food inventory require reliable transportation**
- **Rural communities are an additional step removed from agricultural production (higher cost, sometimes lower nutrition)**
- **Wild meat is grown with solar energy and is considered “healthier” than domestic meat**

## **Per capita game harvest\* in Alaska (670,000 residents) based on average reported harvest, RYs 2001-2005 (\*conservative—includes non-resident)**

<b>Deer harvest</b>	<b>18,079 (2.7%)</b>
<b>Caribou harvest</b>	<b>27,679 (4.1%)</b>
<b>Moose harvest</b>	<b>6,902 (1.0%)</b>

**Swedish moose harvest ≈100,000  
(1.1%)**

**Sustainability of meat production systems:  
optimizing efficiency for where people live**

- **Unmanaged wild systems have negligible fossil fuel input (hunting costs)**
- **Managing wild systems requires more fossil fuel (predator control, habitat enhancement) but still has many factors beyond control**
- **Domestic livestock or non-native ranched game are far more reliable a source of meat but require private land, capital, and feed**
- **Diversity of meat sources may enable IM programs by temporarily reducing harvest needs in areas with low density prey**

**END**