

Fairbanks Area

Game Management Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C

Area Biologist Tony Hollis

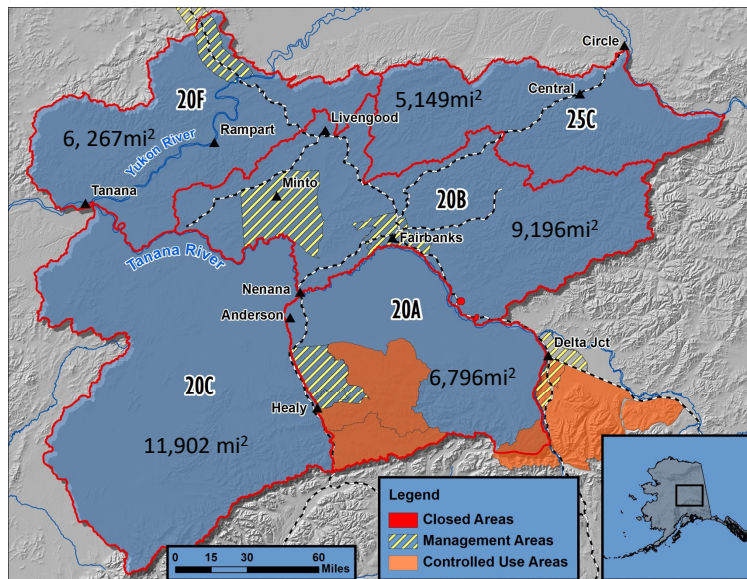
Asst. Area Biologist Mark Nelson



1

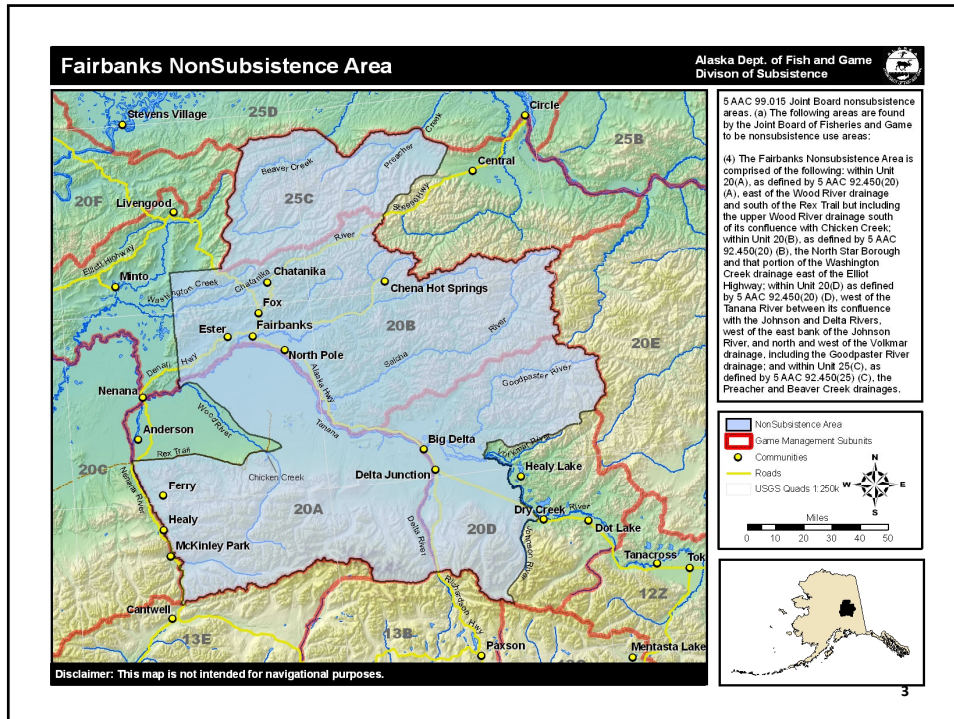
1

Fairbanks Area (39,310mi²)



2

2



3



4

Fairbanks Advisory Committees

7 Advisory Committees

- Fairbanks AC- meet monthly
- Middle Nenana AC- meet twice a year
- Minto/Nenana AC- meet once or twice/yr
- Tanana Rampart Manley AC- meet once /year
- Delta AC- attend one meeting per year
- Central AC- meet once per year
- Minchumina AC- just starting back up

5

5

Fairbanks Area Overview

36 proposals for this BOG meeting

- Unit 20A = 5 moose proposals, 1 caribou
- Unit 20B = 10 moose proposals, 1 waterfowl, 1 IM plan
- Unit 20C = 2 moose
- Unit 20F = 1 wolverine proposal
- Unit 25C = 1 moose proposal
- Wolf = 2 proposals near Denali National Park
- Brown Bear = 3 proposals
- Management areas = 5 proposals for 20A
- Control Use areas = 4 proposals for 20A

6

6

Furbearers



Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C harvest 2014-2018

- Lynx = 450 per year
- Otter = 28 per year
- Wolverine = 53 per year
- Marten, mink, ermine, fox, coyote, muskrat and beaver = limited harvest data.
- Species are common and we have no conservation concerns.
- 1 wolverine proposal

7

7

Black bears

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, 25C 2014-2018



- Population appears stable.
- Harvest = average 200 per year.
- Most of harvest occurs during springtime over bait stations
- Area wide = 796 bait stations per year
- Unit 20B most popular – average 104 bears per year

8

8

Brown Bears

- Average harvest of 65 bears per year 2014-2018. All units.
- No population estimates in the Fairbanks area units.
- Unit 20A
 - 2009-2013 = Harvest averaged 23 bears per year
 - 2014-2018 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 27 bears per year.
 - Average 4 bears harvested over bait

9

9

Brown Bears cont.

- Unit 20B
 - 2009-2013 = averaged 10 bears per year
 - 2014-2018 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 15 bears per year.
 - Average 9 bears harvested over bait
- Unit 20C
 - 2007-2011 = averaged 5 bears per year
 - 2014-2018 (w/ baiting) = averaged 15 bears per year
 - Average 8 bears harvested over bait

10

10

Brown Bears cont.

- Unit 20F, 2012-2016 (No Baiting) = 2 bears harvested per year
 - 2017 = 10 bears harvested, 7 at bait stations
 - 2018 = 3 bears harvested, 3 at bait stations
 - Unit 25C, 2014-2018 = 4 bears harvested per year (no baiting season)
- 3 proposals regarding brown bears

11

11

Caribou



- 3 herd in the Fairbanks area.
- Delta, Denali and White Mountains herd.
- Denali herd = not monitored
- Delta herd = stable at 2,000-3,000 animals
- White Mountains herd = Declining with less than 300 animals.

12

12

Caribou Cont.

Delta herd

- Issue 150 drawing permits annually
- 2015-2019 harvest = 59 bull caribou per year harvested.
- Not an IM herd

13

13

Caribou Cont.

Delta Herd

- Conduct annual composition surveys.
- Photocensus conducted when possible, but difficult.
- Delta herd often mixes with Nelchina herd.
- Emigration from Delta to Nelchina herds exist.

➤ 1 Caribou Proposal

14

14

Wolves



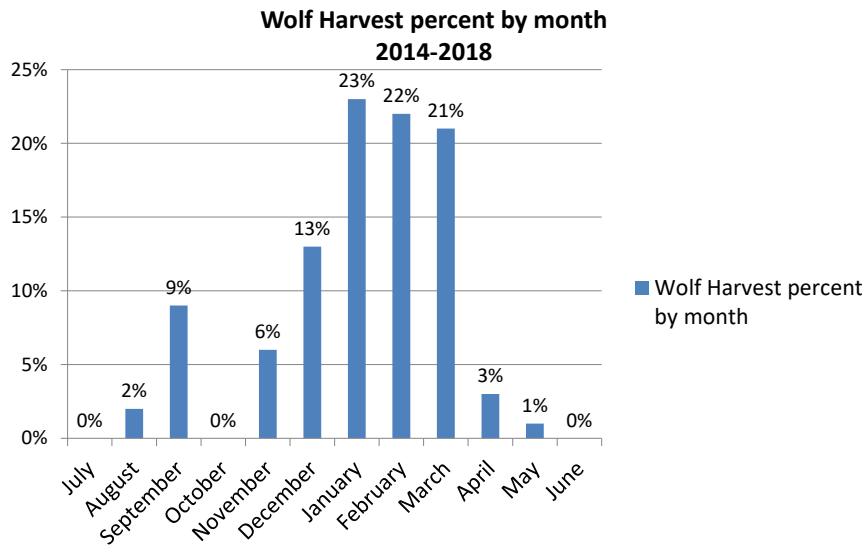
Average annual harvest by unit for 2014-2018

- 20A = 46 wolves
- 20B = 63 wolves
- 20C = 26 wolves
- 20F = 14 wolves
- 25C = 25 wolves

15

15

Fairbanks Area Wolf Harvest



16

16

Wolves

- Only have wolf density estimates in 20A and 20C. No surveys have been conducted in 20B, 20F or 25C.
- Unit 20A
 - 2015 estimate = 22.3 wolves/1000mi²
- Unit 20C
 - 2012 estimate = 10.7 wolves/ 1000mi²

➤ 2 Wolf Proposals

17

17

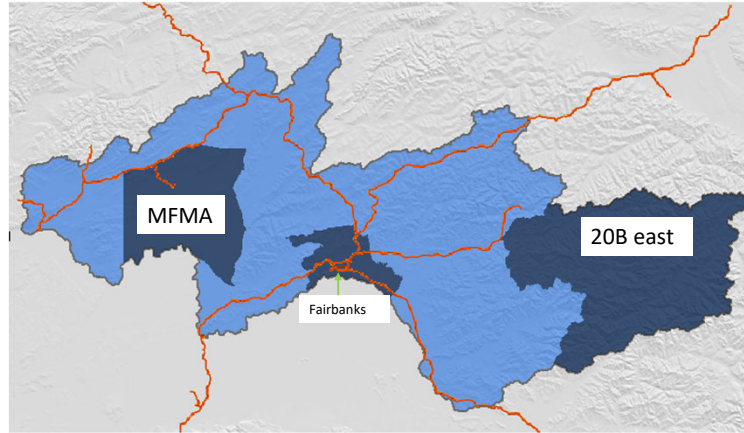
Minto Flats Wolf project

- Winter 2018 trappers reported catching multiple wolves infested with lice
- Lice had not been confirmed in Minto Flats
- Minto Flats had long history of Follicular Dysplasia
- Began a project in March 2018
- Initial stages were to determine how many wolves in area and how widespread lice was.
- Investigate Follicular Dysplasia

18

18

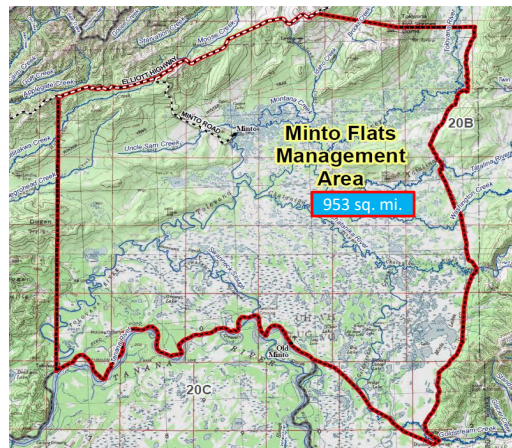
Unit 20B



19

19

Minto Flats Wolf project



20

20

Lousy – *Trichodectes canis*

- Broken guard hair especially along top line
- Yellow diamond patch between shoulder blades
- Hair matting
- Guard hairs present, underfur sparse
- Redness or irritation of skin
- Malodorous
- Lice present (all over, but especially in groin area)



21

21

Follicular Dysplasia

- Long guard hairs, unbroken along the top
- No matting of the hair
- Loss of guard hair on sides, bilaterally symmetrical, fuzzy underfur present
- Sometimes tail and under neck also affected
- Underfur may be kinked, poodle-ish
- No redness or irritation of the skin
- No malodor and no lice present



22

22

Results

- 2018
 - Found 9 packs = 82+ wolves
 - 2 packs over 20 wolves
 - deployed 9 collars in 5 packs
 - 4 packs confirmed to have lice, 4 packs looked to have lice from air, 1 unknown pack
 - Most packs have FD
- 2019
 - Found 10 packs = approx. 47 wolves
 - Total of 20 radio collars in 9 packs
 - 1 pack confirmed to have lice, 1 shows possible signs of lice, 6 packs show no signs of lice, 2 unknown packs
 - FD in most packs
- 2020
 - Found 9 packs with 59 wolves
 - Total 20 radio collars in 8 packs
 - Only 1 pack has signs of lice
 - Most packs have FD

23

23

What's happening now

- Continue to monitor the wolf population and the lice prevalence
 - Decide if any actions need to be taken
 - Are lice cyclic in wolf populations?
- Trying to determine what causes the FD and why
 - Working with ADF&G and CSU vet staff
 - Collecting lots of biological samples

24

24

Small Game

- Snowshoe Hare populations are near peak or maybe just past
 - Very unusual hare cycle
- Grouse populations are currently low
- Ptarmigan populations appear to be stable

➤ **1 proposal regarding waterfowl**

25

25

Sheep

- Alaska Range (20A) - Populations appear to be stable
- 2014-2018 Harvest = Average 107 rams per year
- 2014-2018 Hunters = Average 280 sheep hunters per year

26

26

Sheep Cont.

- Units 25C (White Mountains) and 20B (Tanana Hills) – Population Declining/low–effort and harvest relatively low
- 2014-2018 Harvest = 8 rams per year
- 2014-2018 Hunters = 41 per year
- **0 sheep proposals this cycle**

27

27

Moose

- Fairbanks area units continue to have high effort and high harvest.
- 2014-2018 = 31,330 hunters harvested 7,352 moose.
- 6,266 hunters per year harvest 1,470 moose per year.
- Fairbanks area has a lot of access and a large population of people.

28

28

Moose Cont.

Game Units 20C, 20F, 25C

- Lower density moose populations
- For the most part don't get surveyed.
- Harvest and effort is monitored in these units.
- No antlerless moose hunts.

Game Units 20A and 20B

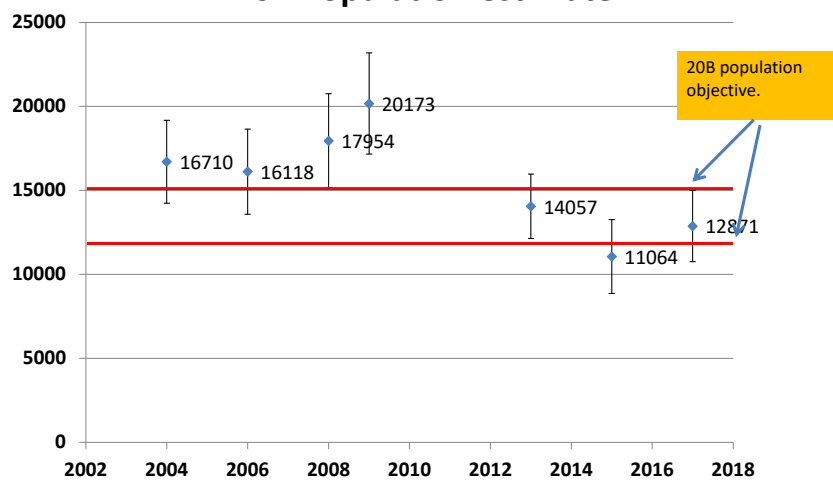
- High density moose populations.
- Survey moose regularly
- Population estimates and twinning surveys.
- Research conducted.
- Antlerless hunts exist.

29

29

Fairbanks Area Overview

20B Population estimate



30

30

Unit 20B Moose

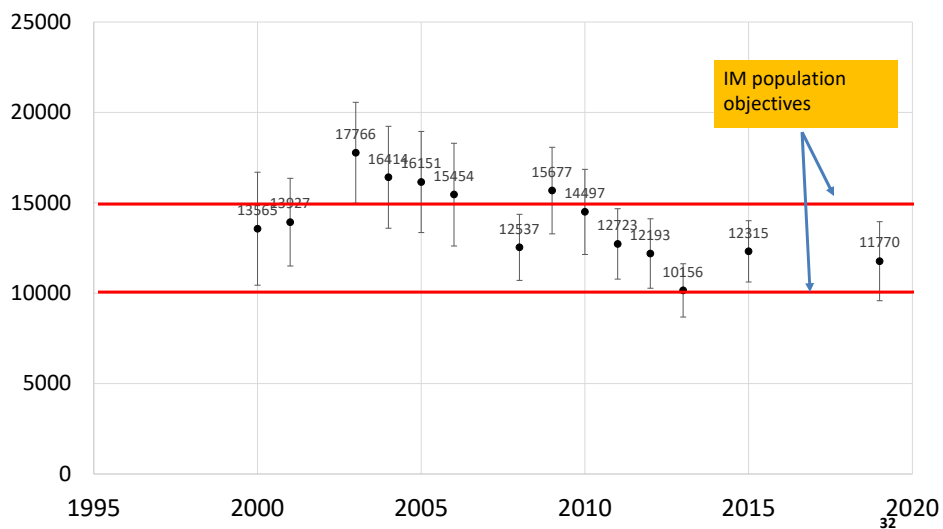
- IM Population Objective = 12,000-15,000
- IM Harvest Objective = 600-1,500
- 2014-2018 = 3,435 hunters annually
- 2014-2018 = 539 bulls and 110 cows harvested annually
- Unit wide Bull:Cow ratio= 17:100
- Unit wide Calf:cow ratio = 38:100
- 10 Proposals

31

31

Fairbanks Area Overview

Unit 20A moose population estimates 2000 to 2019



32

20A Moose

- IM Population Objective = 10,000-15,000
 - IM Harvest Objective = 600-900
 - 2014-2018 = 1695 hunters annually
 - 2014-2018 = 536 moose harvested annually
 - Unit wide Bull:cow ratio = 36:100
 - Unit wide Calf:cow ratio = 35:100
- 5 proposals

33

33

20C Moose

- 2011 population estimate = 3800 moose
 - 2011 bull:cow ratio = 49:100
 - The IM population objective = 3,000-4,000 moose
 - The IM harvest objective = 150-400 moose
 - 2014-2018 average harvest = 163 moose
 - The harvestable surplus = 190 moose
- 2 proposals

34

34

Fairbanks Area Moose Issues

- Ceremonial harvest of moose
 - Allocation
 - Subsistence hunts or ceremonial harvest?
 - Reported harvest
- Survey data seems to be getting harder to get
 - Lack of snow in the fall
 - Influences antlerless moose harvest
 - Results in more conservative harvest

35

35

Fairbanks Area

Questions?

36

36