Palmer Management Area
Overview
2025

1

Palmer Area Staff
Chris Brockman – Area Biologist
Gerrit Van Diest – Asst. Area Biologist
2

2

Palmer Area Office

- Wildlife management of Units 14A, 14B, 16A, and 16B
- High development in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley
- High public service, front office, and sealing demand
- Vehicle collisions with moose on road and railroad represent a public safety concern

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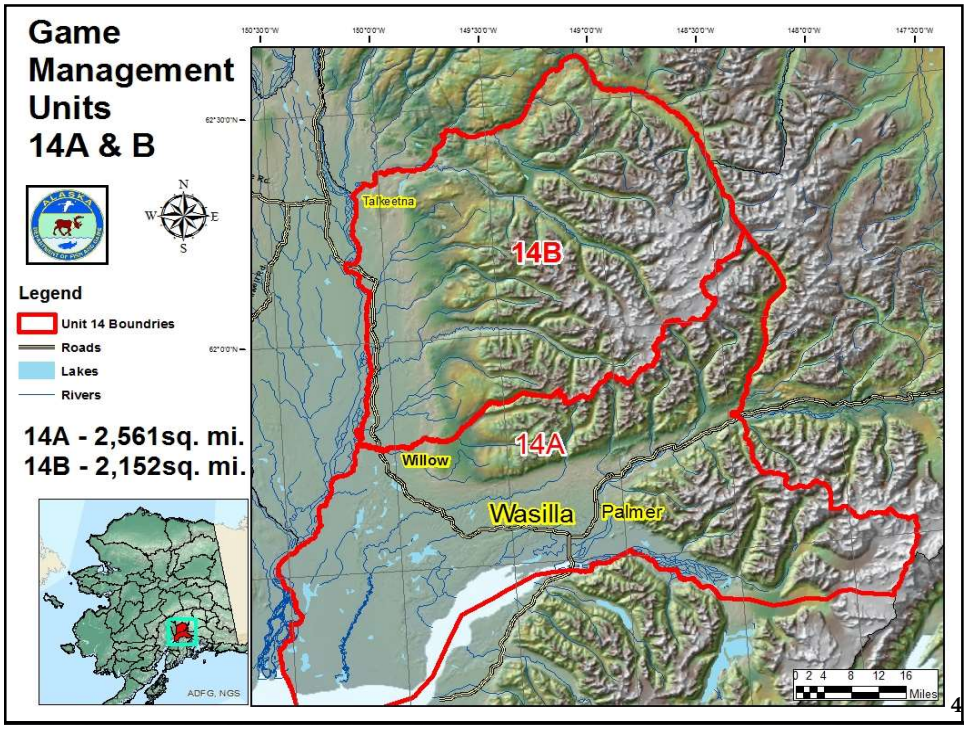

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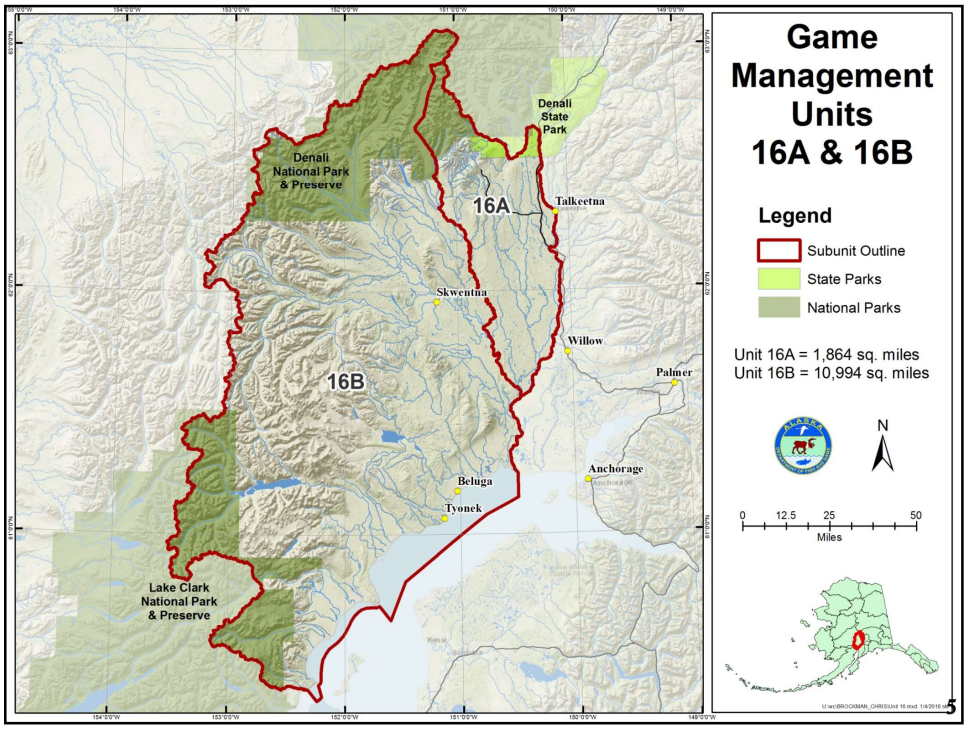

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Moose

- Moose are the species of greatest public interest
- Combined 5-year average harvest from Units 14A, 14B, 16A& 16B: 1,186 moose per year
- Moose mortality from vehicles & trains averages above 300 annually
- Reports of winter killed moose and nuisance moose were down in the spring of 2023

Proposals 64 – 69

6

6

Moose (continued)

- Most Units are within or near the population objectives
  - 16A&B are at the lower end of their objectives
  - 14B is below its objective
  - 14A is slightly above its objective
- Bull to cow ratios are good in all units except 16B-middle which is low
- Harvest in 2023 was within objective in 14A and below in 14B, 16A, & 16B

7

7

Moose (continued)

- Unit 14A Population: 6,657 (± 810)
  - Objective 6,000–6,500 moose
- Unit 14B Population: 1648 (± 156)
  - Objective 2,500–2,800 moose
- Unit 16A Population: 3,595 (± 287)
  - Objective 3,500–4,000 moose
- Unit 16B Population: 6,789 (± 852)
  Objective 6,500–7,500 moose

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8

Dall Sheep

Unit 14A Chugach

- 2023 Minimum Count
  - 482 Sheep = 267 ewes, 72 lambs,& 142 rams (13 full-curl)
- Approx. 200 fewer than 2020
- Draw hunt (full-curl ram)
- Permits reduced from 53 to 14, now to 22
- 5-year average harvest = 10 rams

Proposals 73 – 74

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9

Dall Sheep (continued)

Units 14A & 14B - Talkeetna Mtns.

- Stable at low density
- General Season (full-curl)
- 5-year average harvest = 9 rams

Unit 16 - Alaska Range

- Stable at low density
- General Season (full-curl)
- 5-year average harvest = 9 rams

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Mountain Goat

Unit 14A and 14B Talkeetna Population: (≤ 50)

- **No hunting season**

Chugach Population: peaked in 2020

- **Draw and registration hunts**

No proposals

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11

Caribou

16B Rainy Pass Herd

- **General Season (1 Bull)**

14A&B Western Talkeetna Population

- **DC590 Draw Permit (1 caribou)**

No proposals

12

12

Black Bear

- **Stable/increasing in Units 14A&B**
  - **5-year average harvest of 92 bears**
- **Stable/increasing in Units 16A&B**
  - **5-year average harvest of 251 bears**

Proposal 72

13

13

Brown Bear

- **Stable/increasing in Units 14A&B**
  - **5-year average harvest of 18 bears**
- **Stable/increasing in Units 16A&B**
  - **5-year average harvest of 98 bears**

Proposals 70, 71, 76 – 77

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Wolf

- Unit 14A&B harvest indicates stable or increasing population
- SDA Wolf Control in Unit 16B 2004–2015
- SDA reimplemented in Unit 16 in January 2024

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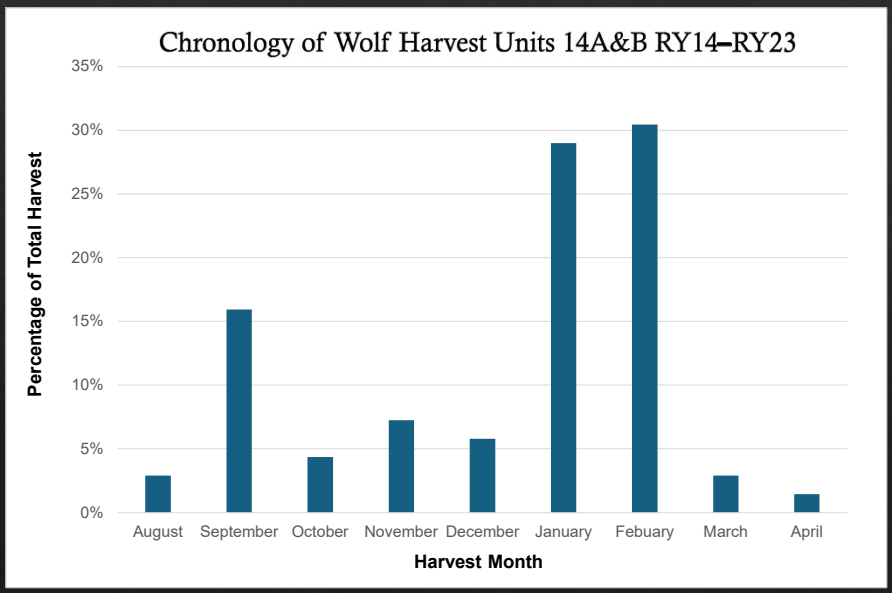
Wolf (continued)



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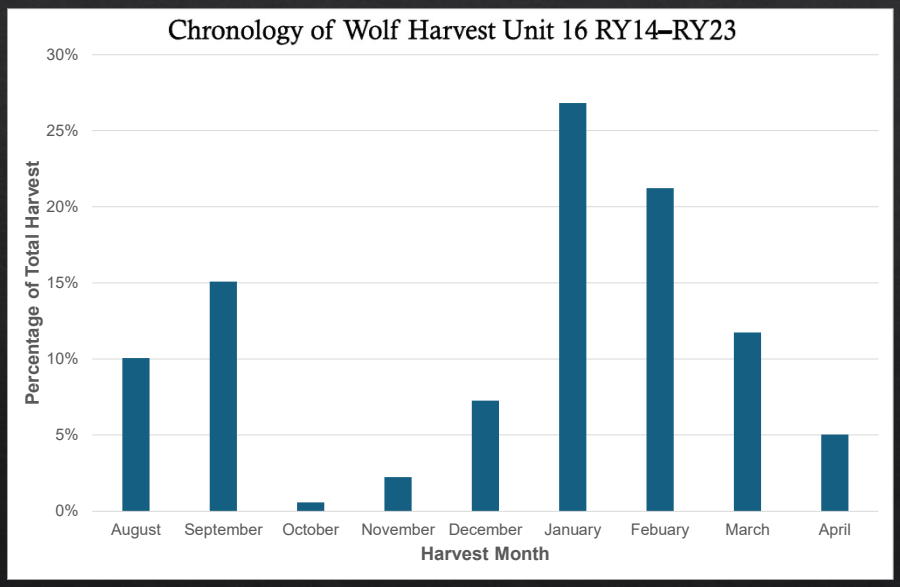
Wolf (continued)



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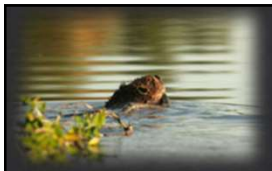

Furbearers

Species	Abundance	Change
Marten	Scarce	None
Mink		
Muskrat		
Lynx		
Wolverine		
Coyote	Common	
Ermine		
Red Fox		
River Otter		
Beaver		
Wolf		Increasing

Proposals 79 – 82

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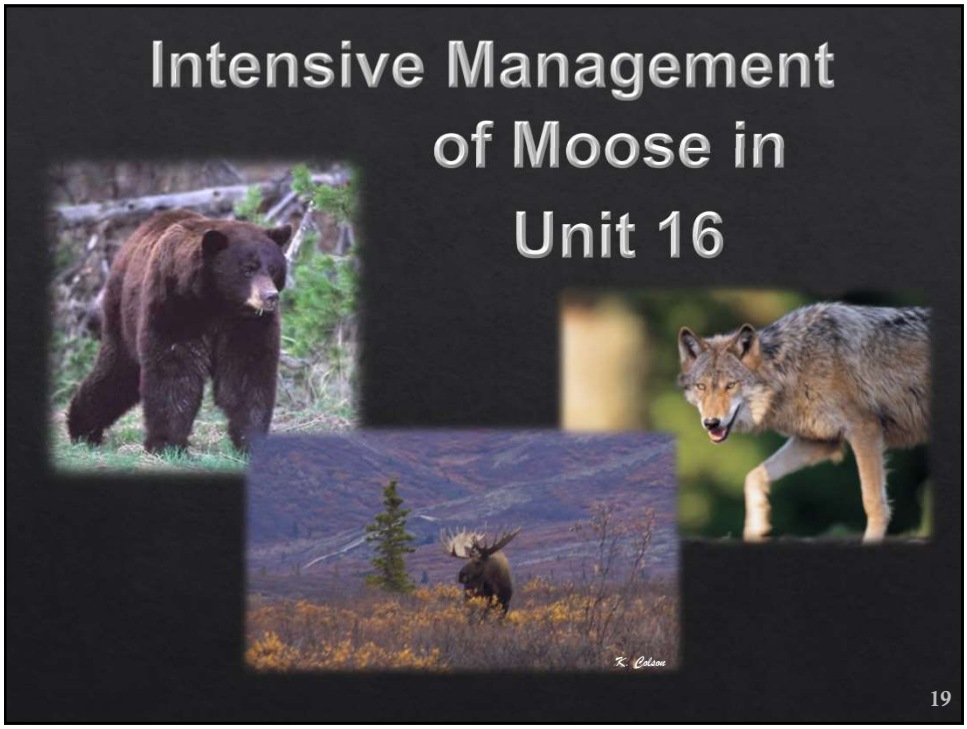
Intensive Management
of Moose in
Unit 16
K. Colson
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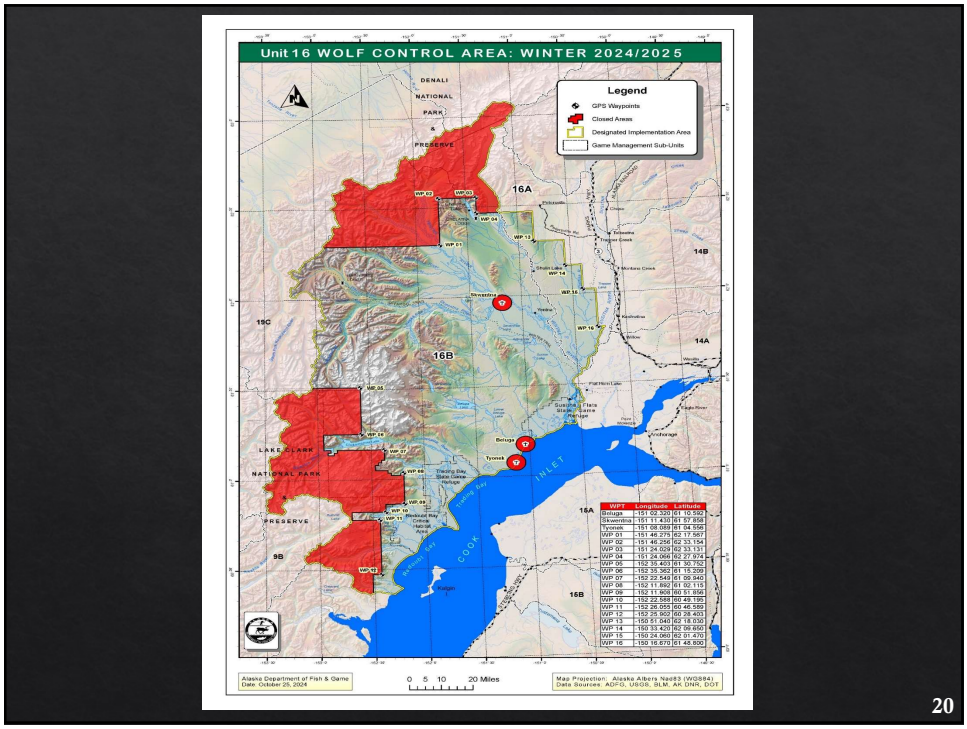
Unit 16 WOLF CONTROL AREA: WINTER 2024/2025
Legend
GPS Waypoints
Closed Areas
Designated Implementation Area
Game Management Sub-Units
DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
16A
16B
14B
14A
19C
LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK PRESERVE
9B
COOK INLET
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Date: October 25, 2024
0 5 10 20 Miles
Map Projection: Alaska Albers Nad83 (WGS84)
Data Sources: ADFG, USGS, BLM, AK DNR, DOT
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Intensive Management Objectives for Wolves In Unit 16B

- **Objective: reduce the spring wolf population to 35–55 wolves**

Wolf Population Estimates

- **2003 estimate: 175–180 wolves**
- **2017 estimate: ≥ 35**
- **2023 estimate: 150–180 wolves**

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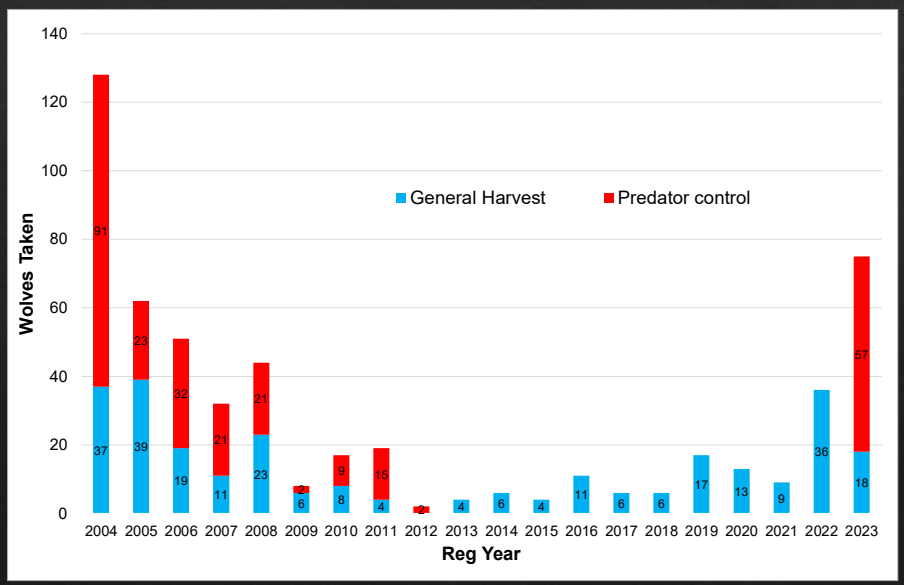
Take of Wolves in Unit 16 by Permit Type RY2004–2023



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Brown Bear IM Population Objective

- Reduce the population by 60% to 375 bears

Population Estimate:

2007 16B: 625 – 1,250

No current estimate

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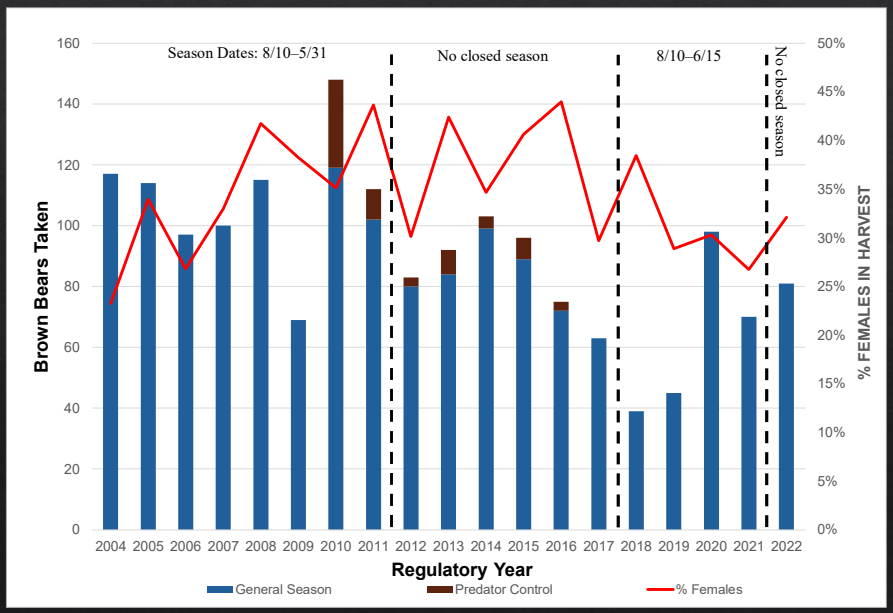
Unit 16B Brown Bear Harvest RY2003–22



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Black Bear IM Population Objective

- Reduce the population to 700 bears

Population Estimate:

- 2007 16B: 3,200–3,800

No Current Estimate

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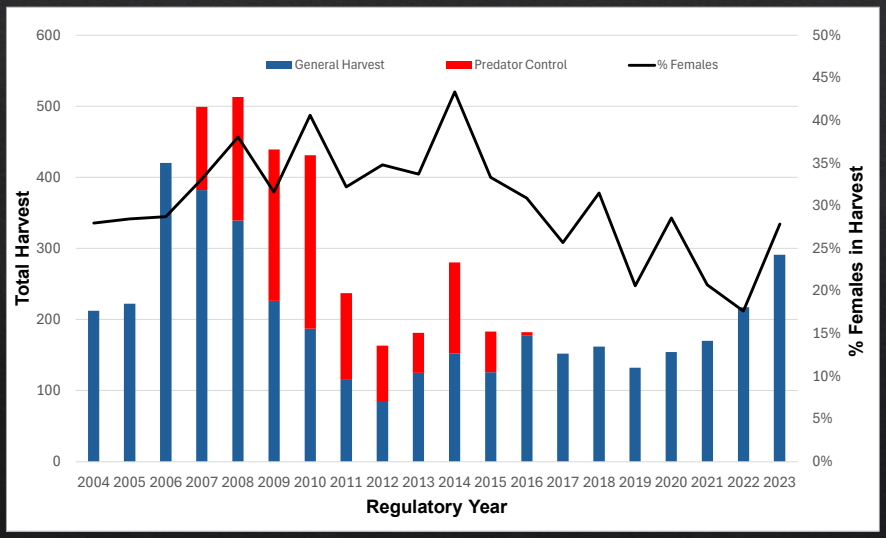
Unit 16B Black Bear Take RY2004–2023



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16B Moose Population Status

Population Objective: 6,500–7,500

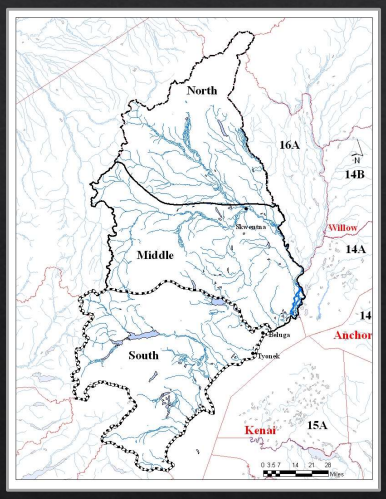
Estimate: 6,789 ±1,191

Calf/100 Cows: 10

Bull/100 Cows: 25

Harvest Objective: 310–600

2023 Harvest: 206



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27

Moose Population Estimates by Assessment Area

Survey Unit	IM Population Objective proportional to area (midpoint)	Recent Moose Population Estimate (and year of survey)	Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint	Bull: 100 Cow Ratio (and year of est.)
16B-North	1,820–2,100 (1,960)	1,686 (2022)	86%	33 (2022)
16B-Middle	3,120–3,600 (3,360)	3,153 (2022)	94%	14 (2022)
16B-South	1,560–1,800 (1,680)	1,950 (2022)	116%	35 (2022)
Unit 16B	6,500–7,500 (7,000)	6,789	97%	25(2022)

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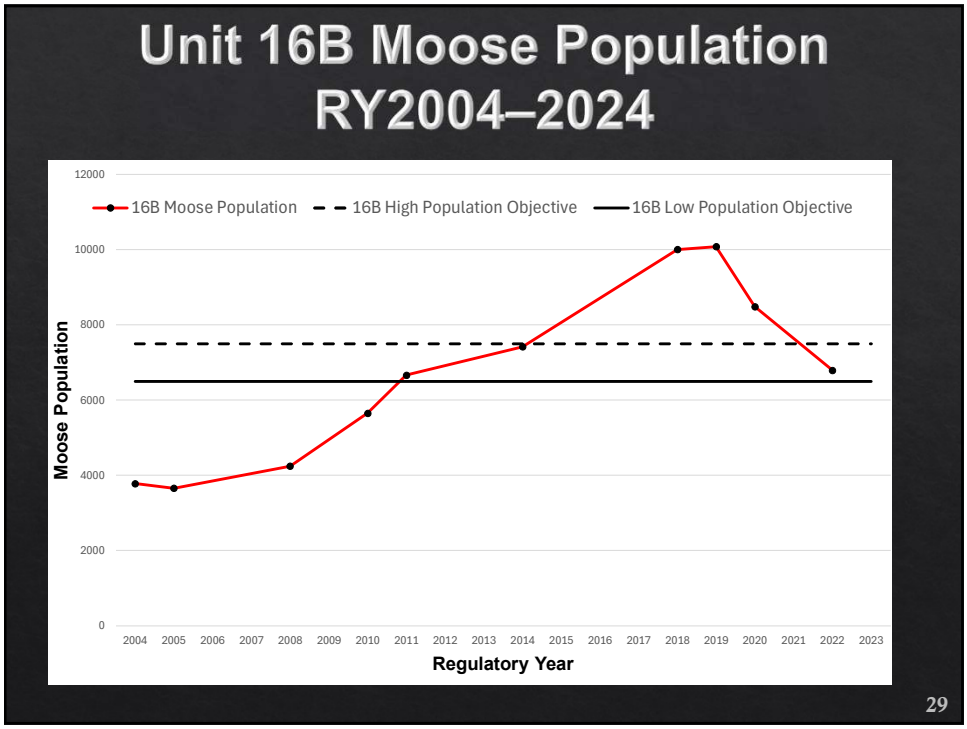
Unit 16B Moose Population
RY2004–2024
16B Moose Population
16B High Population Objective
16B Low Population Objective
Moose Population
Regulatory Year
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023
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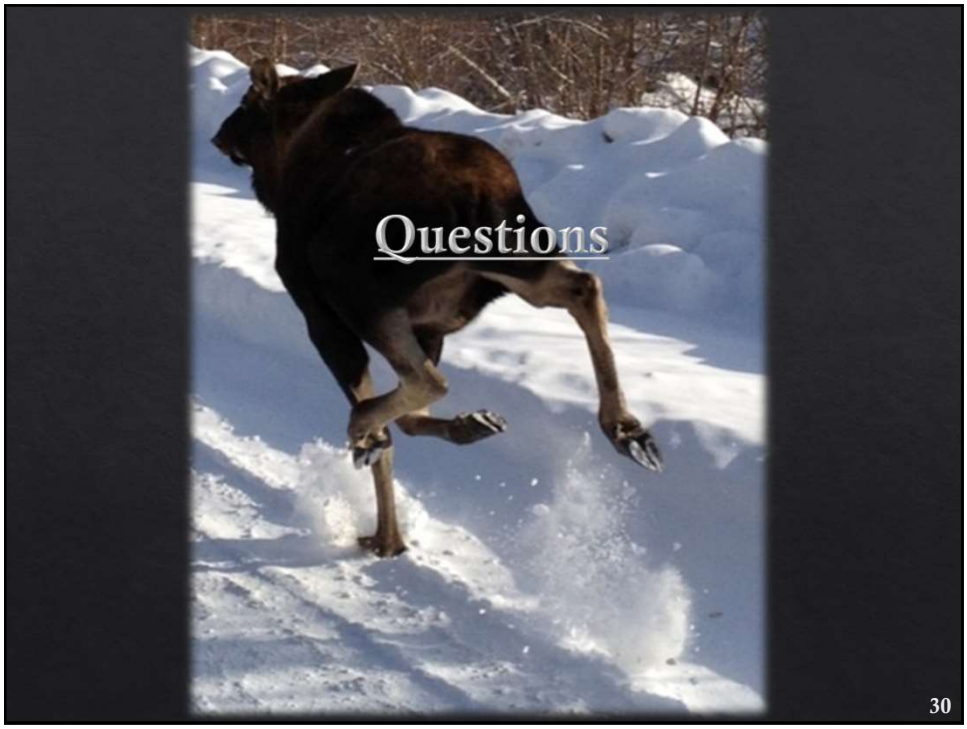
Questions
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30