

Division of Wildlife Conservation

An Overview



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Division Mission

**To conserve and enhance
Alaska's wildlife and
habitats and provide for a
wide range of public uses
and benefits.**

The Division's Primary Goals

Responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to: (1) protect, maintain, improve, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state.

Like many other agencies...



...we serve a wide range of users.

Organizational Overview

- One of Six Divisions Within ADF&G
- 242 authorized positions
- 178 fulltime and 64 part-time/seasonal
- Five Regions Around the State
- Regional Supervisors
- Management Coordinators
- Research Coordinators
- Area Biologists

Core Service Overview

- **Surveys and Inventories of Big Game**
- **Harvest Assessment**
- **Wildlife Research**
- **Intensive Management**
- **Special Areas Program**
- **Education and Outreach Program**
- **Wildlife Diversity Program**
- **Wildlife Viewing Program**

Wildlife Program Funding

- **Pittman – Robertson (Federal)**
- **Fish and Game Fund (State)**
- **State General Fund**
- **State Wildlife Grant Fund (Federal)**

Surveys and Inventories

- Population Estimates
- Age-sex counts
- Twinning Rates
- Habitat Inventories



Harvest Assessment

- **Mandatory Reporting**
- **Harvest Quantity/Quality & Hunter Effort**



Wildlife Research



Wildlife Research

- **Established in Each Region**
- **Multi-year Field Studies**
- **Data Collection and Analysis**
- **Big Game, Non-game, & Marine Mammals**
- **Waterfowl**
- **Small Game**

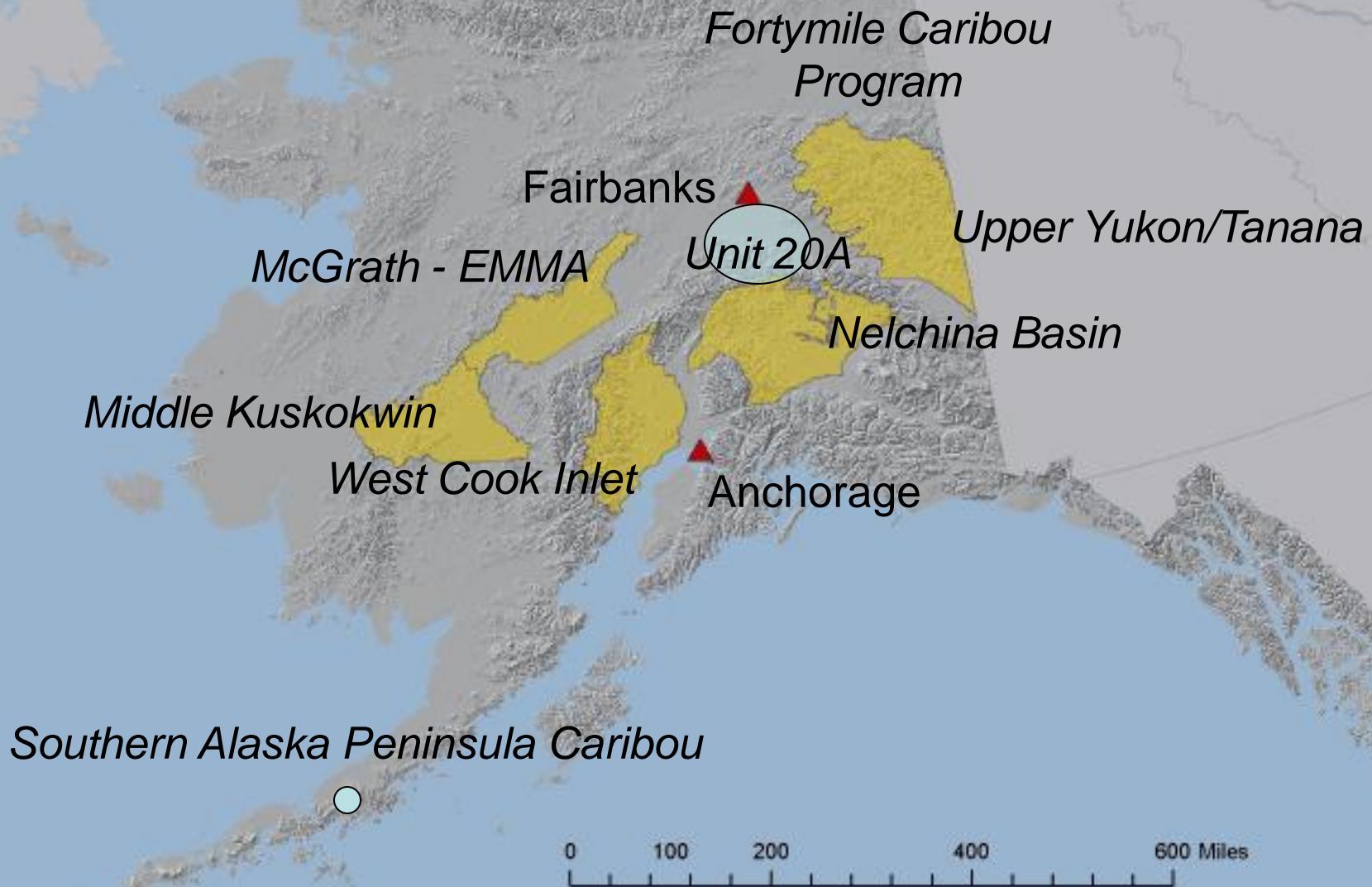
Intensive Management

- **Established in Alaska Statute**
- **Includes Habitat and Predators**
- **Involves Less than 10% of the State**
- **Each IM Area Has a Specific Plan**
- **Specific Objectives/Measures**
- **Reevaluated Periodically**

Intensive Management Law:

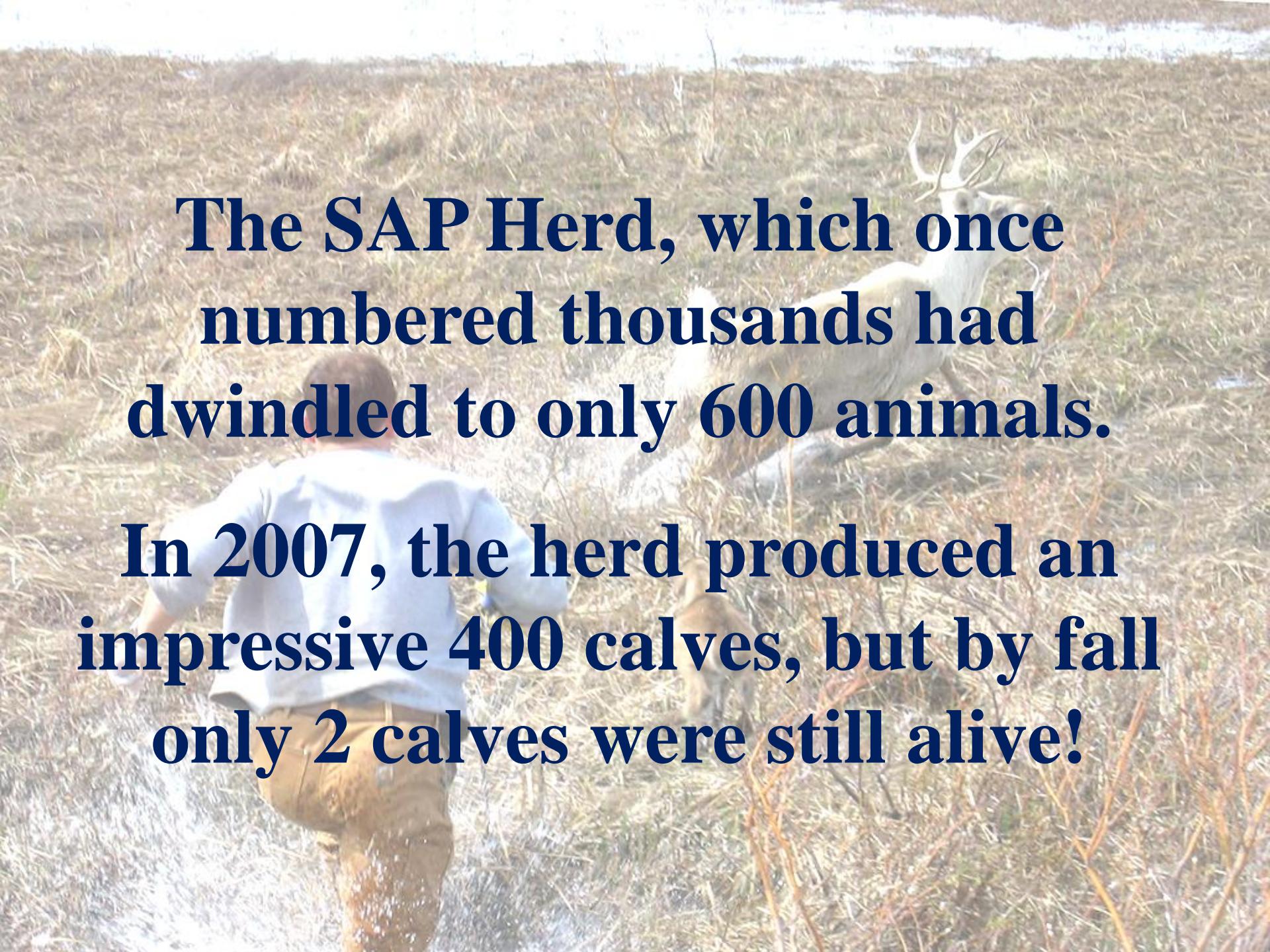
- mandates the production of human benefits from certain defined ungulate populations
- to enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest
- to achieve a high probability of success for human harvest of the game population

Six Active Intensive Management Areas



**Southern Alaska Peninsula (SAP)
Caribou Herd is a recent example of
how effective responsible predator
management can be.**



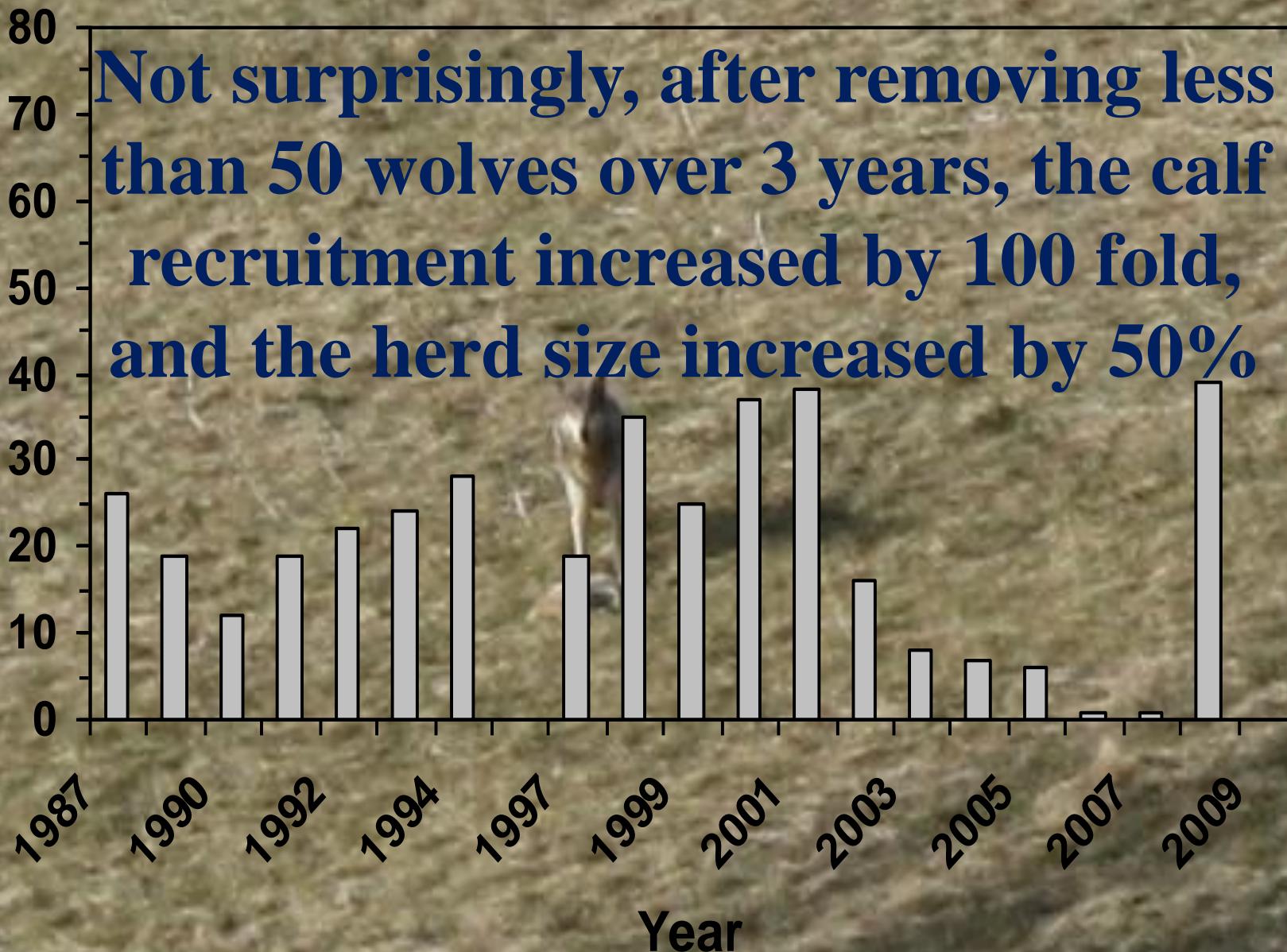
A large white moose with a large rack of antlers stands in a field of tall, dry grass. The moose is facing towards the right of the frame. The background shows a flat landscape with more grass and a few small trees or shrubs in the distance.

The SAP Herd, which once numbered thousands had dwindled to only 600 animals.

In 2007, the herd produced an impressive 400 calves, but by fall only 2 calves were still alive!

Not surprisingly, after removing less than 50 wolves over 3 years, the calf recruitment increased by 100 fold, and the herd size increased by 50%

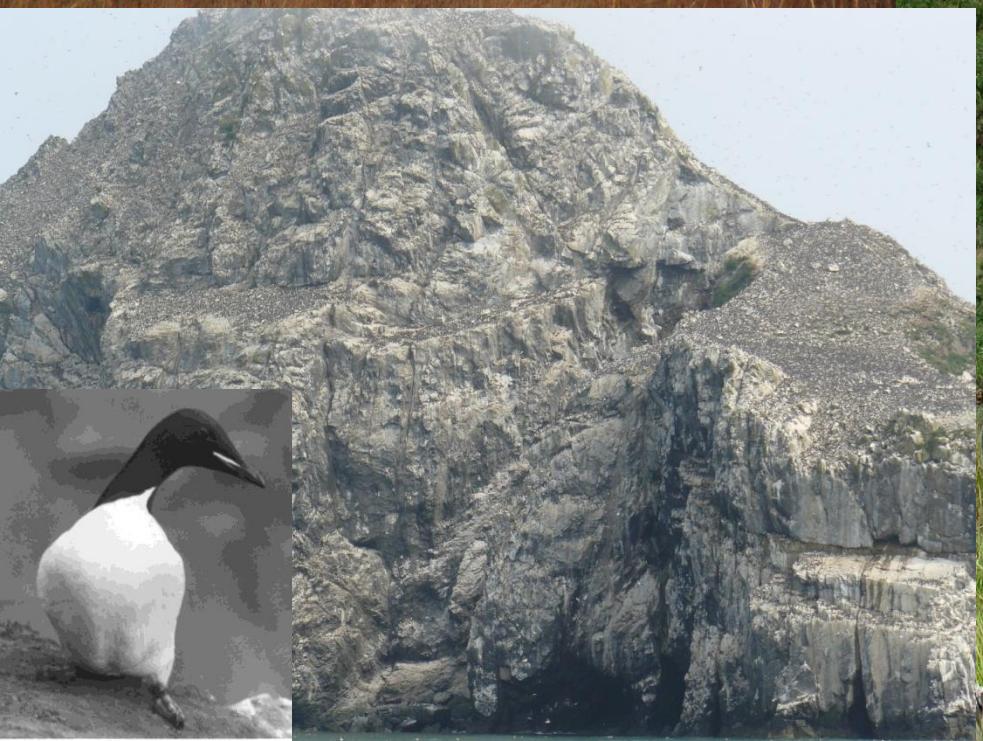
Calves : 100 Cows



Special Areas Program

- **32 Special Areas**
- **3.2 Million Acres**
- **Refuges**
- **Critical Habitat Areas**
- **Sanctuaries**





Land Management Designations

- **Refuges (12)**: to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game populations.
- **Critical Habitat Areas (17)**: to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.
- **Sanctuaries (3)**: give asylum to important featured wildlife populations.

Education and Outreach

- Hunter Info, Education, and Outreach
- School-based Programs
- Outdoor Skills
- Moose and Bear Awareness
- Shooter Safety

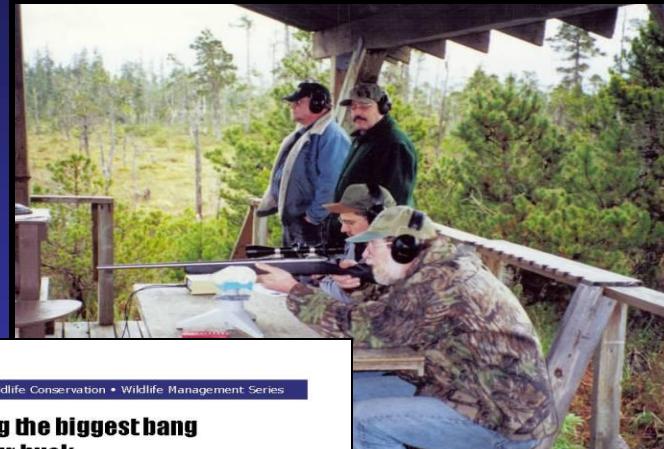


Hunter Info, Education & Training

Bison Identification Guide and Quiz



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
2009



ADF&G • Division of Wildlife Conservation • Wildlife Management Series

Getting the biggest bang for your buck

Or...how your hunting license helps wildlife

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money you spend on your hunting license? Where it goes? What it's spent on? And do you know how the money you pay benefits you and the wildlife you want to hunt?

To maximize hunting opportunity while conserving enough animals for the future, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) biologists need information about wildlife populations and the habitat they depend on. Gathering this information costs money—and your hunting license and tag fees help pay for it.

Your hunting license helps pay for:

- Population estimates of game species**
ADF&G biologists try to estimate the overall size of a game population so they can set sustainable harvest levels. This often means capturing and placing radio or satellite collars on individual animals so biologists can locate and track the animals. Planes, helicopters, boats and other methods are needed for the capture work as well as the follow-up population counts. And these counts need to be repeated regularly so that any changes in the population can be detected.
- Monitoring of wildlife & habitat**
ADF&G biologists also regularly survey the ratio of male to female animals, and young to adult animals, as a way to assess the status and dynamics of a population. This often requires the use of planes, boats or other forms of transportation, and needs to be repeated regularly to document trends or changes over time. Biologists also measure the amount and the quality of available food and habitat needed by game species, and in some cases undertake habitat improvement.

\$25 is a good deal for Alaskans
Alaskan residents are able to hunt up to 10 big game species for \$25, and low income licensees are only \$5. A non-resident who comes to Alaska to hunt all these species would have to pay over \$2,500!

Most western states charge their residents yearly license fees for a species hunted, which adds up to hundreds of dollars for nonresident hunters.

Compare with other states, and to what nonresident hunters pay to hunt in Alaska, an Alaskan resident hunting license is a good deal!

Cow Moose Hunts When, Where, & Why



From the
Division of Wildlife Conservation
of the
Alaska Department of
Fish & Game

Connecting Children With Nature



Wildlife Diversity Program

- **Steadily Growing Program**
- **Initiated in 2002**
- **Implements Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan**
- **3 Biologists Covering 5 Regions**
- **1 Program Coordinator in HQ**
- **Funded by State Wildlife Grant Program**

Works with Traditionally Nongame Species



Wildlife Diversity Program Goals

- Keep Common Species Common
- Recover Species at Greatest Risk (listed species)
- Conserve Habitats & Ecosystem Function
- Expand Knowledge Base for Conservation
- Engage People in Conservation
- Increase the Power of International Partnerships



Wildlife Diversity Partner Program

- 130 projects with partners to date
 - Federal agencies
 - Native organizations
 - Nonprofits
 - Universities
 - Corporations
- Partners provide match
- Leverage funding, expertise and resources



Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan

http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/ngplan/NG_outline.cfm

- Good Summary of Existing Information
- Identifies/Captures Many Data Gaps
- Includes Climate Change
- 74 Action Plans for Species/Groups
 - Specific Goals, Measures, Actions



Wildlife Viewing Program



- **Encourage safe enjoyment and learning about Alaska's wildlife in natural settings**
- **Create and promote opportunities for wildlife viewing in communities**
- **Assess current viewing sites and develop new ones**
- **Look for creative ways to fund program**

Who watches wildlife?



- **496,000 people participated in wildlife viewing in Alaska in 2006**
- **208,000 Alaskans enjoyed wildlife viewing in 2006**

Wildlife watchers spent \$581 million in Alaska in 2006.

(numbers from FWS 2006 survey)

Questions???