Co-Chair Representative John Lincoln
Co-Chair Representative Geran Tarr
Vice-Chair Representative Grier Hopkins
Representative Sara Hannan
Representative Chris Tuck
Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Representative Dave Talerico
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Sara Rasmussen
Thank you for this opportunity to meet with you today.

My name is Alfred Thomas Harris and I am a candidate designee for the Landowners Seat of the Big Game Commercial Services Board. I am a Territorial Alaskan, born Alaska Native from the Alaska's deep south, the community of Saxman, Alaska. I am a descendent of the Tongass Tribe, as well as a descendent of Richard Harris, who was a co-founder of the city of Juneau, with Joe Juneau.

I have the honor and privilege of serving as CEO of Knikatnu, Inc. the ANCSA Village Corporation for the Knik/Wasilla area, whose land holdings begin at the head waters of the Susitna River and extend to Chinitna Bay in South Cook Inlet. I also serve as a Director for the Cape Fox Corporation, the ANCSA Village Corporation for the Saxman Community, near Ketchikan. I also have served as past President Alaska Village Initiatives, Inc., and past executive management for two other ANCSA Village Corporations whose lands ownership total nearly 800,000 acres in the Doyon and Cook Inlet Regions.

In my service as Past-President of Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI), we pursued community economic development goals of locally enhanced food security issues, identifying best practices and barriers to success. The goal of AVI as a federally created Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC), is to assist its membership, which included all ANCSA Corporations and Tribes, as the largest landowner group in the nation, to meet their goals of achieving food and energy security from their own lands.

We may all recall that Alaska was historically considered the wildlife treasure of America during territorial days. However, by 2004, Alaska was documented as the least productive wildlife hunter harvest state in the nation for hooved wildlife. From 2001 to 2008, Alaska recorded a loss in documented hooved wildlife harvest of 23%. This research further documented that more hooved wildlife was harvested by hunters within 50 miles of Washington DC, than was harvested by hunters in all of the 365 million acres of Alaska, in 2001 through 2008. This loss in harvest levels was confirmed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Games publication "Kenai Peninsula Moose News" Winter 2013-14, on page 3, documenting a Kenai Peninsula hunter harvest of 66 moose in 2012. This compares to an annual hunter harvest of 700 to 2400 Kenai Peninsula moose during the Hammond Administration. This represents a 90% to 97% reduction in moose harvest since Hammond was in office.

This unprecedented loss in Alaska's wildlife hunter harvest has become the primary barrier to 1) the survival of rural economies, 2) economic survival of rural families, 3) viable populations to support rural schools, and 4) a positive relationship between rural residents and visiting Big Game Commercial Guides and their hunting clients. This unprecedented loss in Alaska's wildlife hunter harvest is believed to be a primary contributing factor in 1) the increase in domestic violence in rural communities, 2) the increase in prison populations of Alaska's rural residents, 3) the increase in Alaska's homeless population, and 4) the increasing economic stress of Alaska's rural communities.

During AVI's research of what was working in other states and what was not working in Alaska, it was discovered that there were several identifiable best wildlife restoration practices, that were missing from Alaska and several identifiable barriers to success.

Under the heading of Best Practices in wildlife restoration, virtually in every state in the nation, with the sole exception of Alaska, private land owners were identified by the State, as critical partners and completing interests in promoting and sustaining exceptional wildlife populations, sufficient enough to meet the needs of not only the local communities, but also sufficient enough to welcome the Big Game Commercial Guiding industry.

Best Practices also confirmed that every state that identified the private land owners as critical partners and completing interests in promoting and sustaining wildlife populations, were also eligible for and readily accessing federal assistance (USDA NRCS) for the purpose of habitat protection and renewal of habitat critical to wildlife restoration. Today that national budget exceeds $5 billion dollars. AVI's research confirmed in 2001 that, in spite of the fact that Alaska is 19% of the land mass of America, Alaska's land owners received less than $1/10^{th}$ of 1% of the national average of this critical wildlife habitat funding.

Best Practices also confirmed that every state; that chose to formally document a critical partner and completing interest relationship with its private land owners, were consistently successful in sustaining wildlife hunter harvests rates many times the hunter harvest rates of Alaska. In five states that hunter harvest rate was documented at 100 times the harvest rate of Alaska.

Under the heading of Barriers to Success, Alaska appears to be the only State the nation that does not have any formal acknowledgement or programs that recognize its private landowners as critical partners and completing interests in promoting and sustaining exceptional wildlife populations.

Without that recognition, the relationship between the private land owners, the state and the Big Game Guiding Industry is relegated to the status quo of competing interests rather than completing interests; as well as the status of the lowest hunter harvest rate in the nation.

Another Barrier to Success is that, in regard to Best Practices, Alaska is geographically, economically, socially and intellectually isolated from every other state in the nation. As such, after nearly 20 years, the overwhelming majority of Alaskans are not aware, that they live in what has become the least productive wildlife hunter harvest state in the nation. Without a

solution to geographic, economic, social and intellectual isolation, this pattern of seeing each other as competing interests will inevitably continue. What is needed is a yearly publication, not unlike the Top 49er, made available to all Alaskans that provides an annual report on the statistics of Alaska's wildlife hunter harvest as compared not only to the previous year, but also to the rest of the nation. Without such an annual review there will appear to be no rhyme, reason or incentive for anyone to change status quo, even if status quo is staying at the bottom.

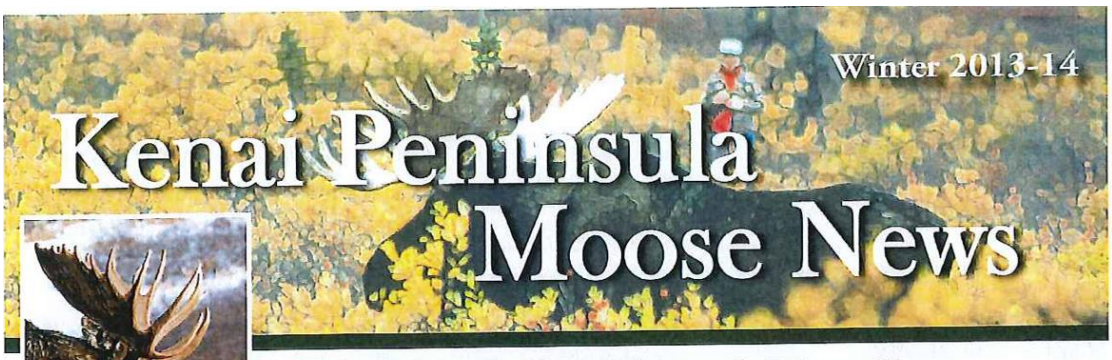
AVI, on behalf of its members, has made several attempts over the years, to bring this important issue to the attention of State. AVI brought this issue to the State's attention again on February 12th at the Annual Rural Small Business Conference.

As such, in order to meet the goals of supporting locally enhanced food security, AVI and its membership have taken action to proceed without the State's participation, in hopes that at some point in the future, the State may wish to reconsider. That action has been in the form of creating a statewide network of what is now 18 and soon will be 23 and more, Tribal Conservation Districts (TCD) approved by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. The goal of the TCD's is to establish completing interest relationships between USDA, each TCD community, the State, the Big Game Commercial Industries and their private land owners to establish the Best Practices that were responsible for the restoration of exceptional wildlife habitats throughout the nation.

Thanks to the efforts of AVI, under the leadership of its President Mr. Charles Parker, and the completing interest relationship he has built with USDA, Alaska's private land owners are now the beneficiary of millions of dollars each year that are focusing on implementing Best Practices on Alaska's private land wildlife habitats. Each and every February, more and more Alaska private land owners hear about these Best Practices at the Rural Small Business Conference in Anchorage, sponsored by AVI. Each and every February, Mr. Parker extends an invitation to the State to participate as a completing interest. It is our hope that some day soon that invitation will be formally accepted. We hope that the State of Alaska will join the rest of the nation in the official recognition of Alaska's private land owners as critical partners and completing interests in the restoration and sustaining of Alaska's soon to be again, exceptional wildlife habitats and populations. This is our abiding goal, for the benefit of All.

Thank you,

Tom Harris
[redacted]
Anchorage, Alaska 99511
[redacted]
[redacted]



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Doug Vincent-Lang
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Welcome to the Kenai Peninsula Moose News

On the Kenai Peninsula, where the destinies of game and people have intertwined closely for thousands of years, state wildlife managers are working to increase and sustain one of the region's most valuable natural resources: moose. Kenai moose are cherished as a core wild food source and as icons of a region world famous for its abundant, healthy populations of game.

Interestingly, moose were not common on the Kenai prior to 1890. Early miners and settlers altered the landscape, creating exceptional moose habitat along the way. With these habitat changes moose numbers boomed. The area became known for its moose and in 1941 the federal government actually established a national moose range with the primary goal of conserving these world-class moose herds.

Today, moose numbers are low in many parts of the Kenai Peninsula. Given their importance to Alaskans and our constitutional mandates to manage for sustained yield, state wildlife managers have initiated a multifaceted research and management program aimed at increasing and sustaining the Kenai's moose herds. This effort includes a research program to increase our understanding of the factors affecting moose, as well as an adaptive ecosystem management program focused on increasing Kenai moose numbers.

As we embark upon our efforts, we are building partnerships. We are working with private landowners to manipulate habitat to favor moose. We are working with state foresters to allow for carefully monitored and managed controlled fires. We are working with transportation officials to reduce road kills. We are also working on state and private lands to manage predator numbers given data that show high predation rates on moose calves. We are partnering when we can with federal land managers, but conflicting mandates complicate the issue. Despite this, we will continue our outreach efforts given the importance of the area's moose to Alaskans.

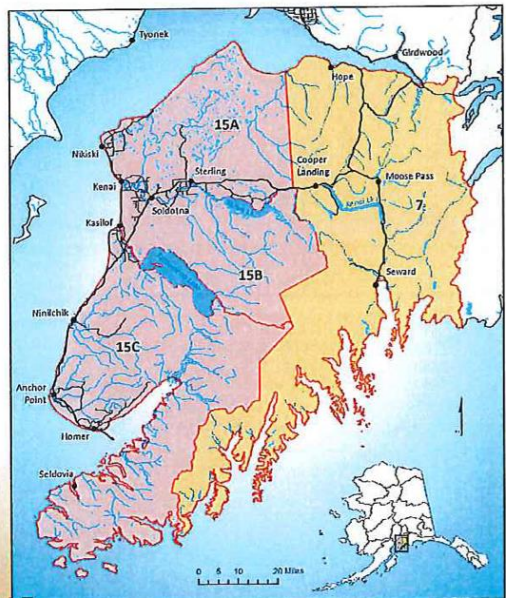
Managing moose in a region larger than the state of Massachusetts and far more geographically varied is complex. In this issue of *Kenai Peninsula Moose News*, we share a look into the complexities of managing moose in this part of the state.

Feel free to stop by our Soldotna, Homer, or Anchorage offices if you have any questions or want to discuss our efforts. Happy reading.

– Doug Vincent-Lang, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation

Kenai Peninsula Game Management Units

For wildlife management purposes, the Kenai Peninsula is divided into two primary game management units covering 8,400 square miles. Game Management Unit (GMU) 15 covers much of the Kenai Peninsula's western two thirds and is further divided into Subunits 15A, 15B, and 15C. The eastern third of the Peninsula, from Hope south to Seward, falls into GMU 7. Find detailed information about moose in each of these game management units and subunits on pages 8-9.



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Moose Management Today

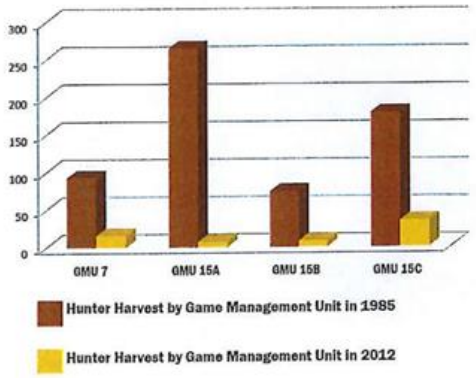
Moose Harvests Shrink with Population Declines, Hunting Restrictions

Kenai Peninsula moose succumb to predation, disease, malnutrition, poaching, and a host of other causes. Two of the most visible human-related causes of Peninsula moose deaths are road kills and hunting. Today, many more moose are killed in collisions on Peninsula roads than by hunting.

Moose have declined in many parts of the Peninsula, along with their available habitat. Combined with other factors -- including more restrictive hunting regulations to conserve moose -- this has led to a dramatic decrease in hunter harvests. For perspective, the following graph represents two harvest extremes.

Comparing Moose Harvests:

Moose Harvests by Game Management Units, 1985 and 2012

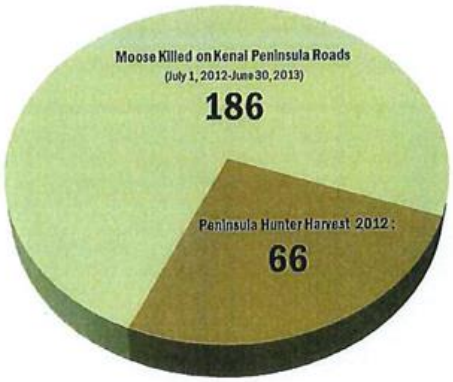


The Road Kill Factor

Since 2011, when additional antler restrictions were adopted, more Kenai Peninsula moose have been killed by motor vehicles than by hunters. Even before the Board of Game imposed the new antler restrictions, known road kills accounted for about a third of all moose killed by humans.

Road kills occur throughout the year, but moose are particularly vulnerable in winter when daylight is fleeting, roads icy, and deep snows cover food sources and make movement difficult. Cleared roadways make for easy walking, and young trees and shrubs growing along highway margins can be attractive food sources. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Transportation are working together to address this issue by clearing roadways in the fall, widening cleared rights-of-way to improve visibility, and educating drivers about slowing down and scanning roadsides for moose.

Annual Road Kills Outpace Hunting Harvest



Legal Bull: Antler restrictions help conserve moose and have been in place on the Kenai Peninsula since 1987.

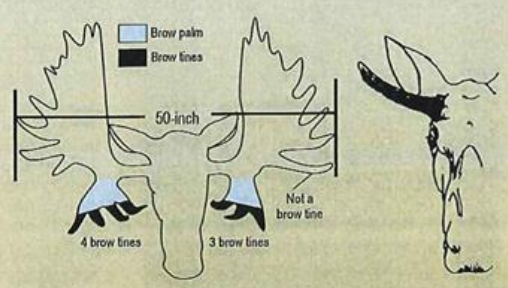
Antler Restrictions as a Conservation Tool

Antler restrictions protect breeding bulls by restricting harvest to younger and older animals. At the same time, the restrictions provide hunting opportunity while limiting the number of bulls harvested to sustainable levels.

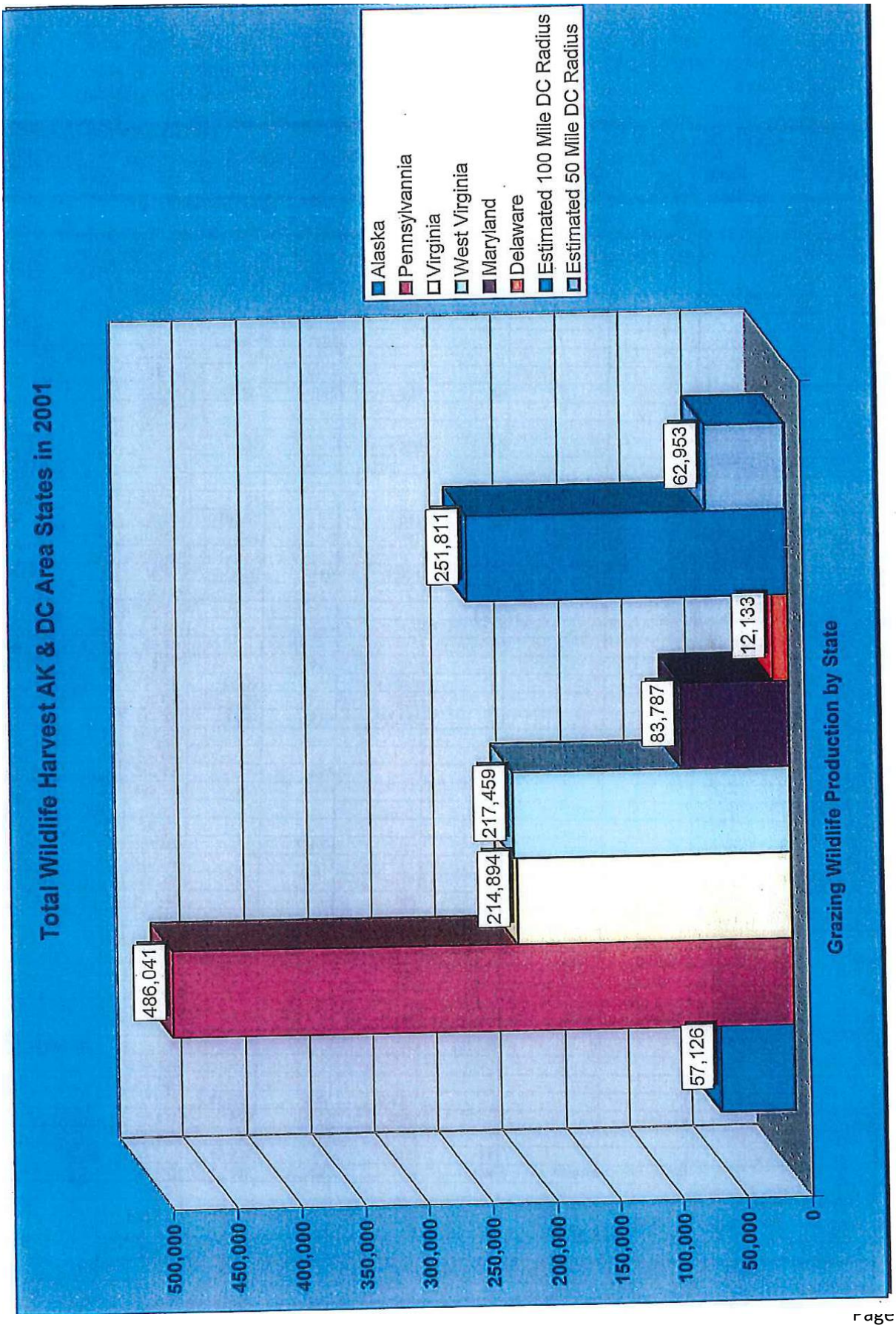
Without antler restrictions, a hunt might last only a few days, be restricted by access, or be limited to a permit hunt. With antler restrictions in place, seasons can remain open longer and allow opportunity for more people to hunt.

Antler restrictions to conserve moose have been in place Peninsula-wide since 1987. The following provides a look at adjustments that have been made to these restrictions to sustain moose populations and provide harvest opportunity:

- **1987** – Hunters participating in general moose hunts are restricted to one bull per season with a spike or fork on at least one antler, or antlers with minimum spreads of at least 50 inches, or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side.
- **2011** – When bull numbers in many parts of the Peninsula decline below the desired bull:cow ratio, antler restrictions are tightened further to bulls with antler spreads of at least 50 inches, or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side.
- **2013** – Following improved bull:cow ratios, restrictions are eased slightly to one bull with a spike on at least one side, antler spreads of at least 50 inches, or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side.



The drawing above and on the left shows a bull with an antler spread of at least 50 inches, plus four or more brow tines on at least one side. This is a legal bull on the Kenai Peninsula. Current hunting regulations allow the harvest of bulls with antler that span at least 50 inches or that have four or more brow tines on at least one side, or bulls with a spike (shown on right).


Total Wildlife Harvest AK & DC Area States in 2001
Grazing Wildlife Production by State
Alaska
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia
Maryland
Delaware
Estimated 100 Mile DC Radius
Estimated 50 Mile DC Radius
500,000
450,000
400,000
350,000
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
486,041
214,894
217,459
57,126
251,811
62,953
83,787
12,133

STATE	RANKED RECAP OF GRAZING ANIMALS HARVESTED BY STATE See key below for exceptions to 2001 statistics									
	DEER	ELK	MOOSE	ANTELOPE	BISON	CARIBOU	MUSKOX	WILD HOGS	TOTAL	RANKING
ALABAMA	410,700							no records kept	410,700	6
ALASKA	17,547	108	6,575		124	32,616	156	0	57,126	37
ARIZONA	11,274	10,628		518	29			5,220	27,669	42
ARKANSAS	150,279	31						no records kept	150,310	20
CALIFORNIA	34,417	230		149				7,007	41,803	40
COLORADO	31,634	42,630	102	6,417				Nuisance Only	80,783	30
CONNECTICUT	11,950							0	11,950	45
DELAWARE	12,133							0	12,133	44
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
FLORIDA	85,000							40,000	125,000	22
GEORGIA	446,000							no records kept	446,000	4
HAWAII	456							1,953	2,409	50
IDAHO	50,811	19,465	918	1,363				0	72,557	33
ILLINOIS	99,906							0	99,906	27
INDIANA	103,163							no records kept	103,163	24
IOWA	136,655							no records kept	136,655	21
KANSAS	101,584	9		142				no records kept	101,735	26
KENTUCKY	103,338	12						Nuisance Only	103,350	23
LOUISIANA	212,200								212,200	15
MAINE	27,769		2,545					0	30,314	41
MARYLAND	83,787							0	83,787	29
MASSACHUSETTS	9,829							0	9,829	47
MICHIGAN	463,706	190						0	463,896	2
MINNESOTA	217,452		125					0	217,577	12
MISSISSIPPI	321,000							31,500	352,500	7
MISSOURI	261,284							no records kept	261,284	10
MONTANA	111,991	19,684	516	25,294				0	157,485	18
NEBRASKA	59,455	27		737				No Feral Pigs	60,219	36
NEVADA	129,000	6,400		17,000				0	152,400	19
NEW HAMPSIRE	9,143		419					0	9,562	48
NEW JERSEY	69,970							No Feral Pigs	69,970	34
NEW MEXICO **	11,916								11,916	46
NEW YORK	308,216							0	308,216	9
NORTH CAROLINA	226,300							no records kept	226,300	11
NORTH DAKOTA	78,643	106	140	1,004					79,893	35
OHIO	165,124							no records kept	165,124	16
OKLAHOMA	101,635	211		47				no records kept	101,893	25
OREGON ***	61,894	10,645		997				no records kept	73,536	32
PENNSYLVANNIA	486,014	27						0	486,041	1
RHODE ISLAND	3,131							0	3,131	49
SOUTH CAROLINA	312,154							no records kept	312,154	8
SOUTH DAKOTA	58,558	772		4,656	10			0	63,996	35
TENNESSEE	157,599							210	157,809	17
TEXAS	398,830							17,000	415,830	5
UTAH *	37,551	14,487	110	631	45				52,824	38
VERMONT	15,065							0	15,065	43
VIRGINIA	214,890	4						0	214,894	14
WASHINGTON	41,011	7,705	77					0	48,793	39
WEST VIRGINIA	217,416							43	217,459	13
WISCONSIN	446,957							0	446,957	3
WYOMING	47,943	22,772	1,215	26,864	41			0	98,835	28
TOTALS	7,174,280	156,143	12,742	85,819	249	32,616	156	102,933	7,564,938	
KEY:					Alaska Acreage	365,039,400	19.23%	Alaska	57,126	0.76%
* = 2000 statistic					Nation Acreage	1,898,182,500		Nation	7,507,812	
** = will fax data										
*** = Is sending 2001 raw data for our use								As of 5/5/03		

ALASKA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS

A PUBLIC PROPOSAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF ALASKA'S WILDLIFE

STATE OF ALASKA
Jay S. Hammond, Governor

Department of Fish and Game
James W. Brooks, Commissioner

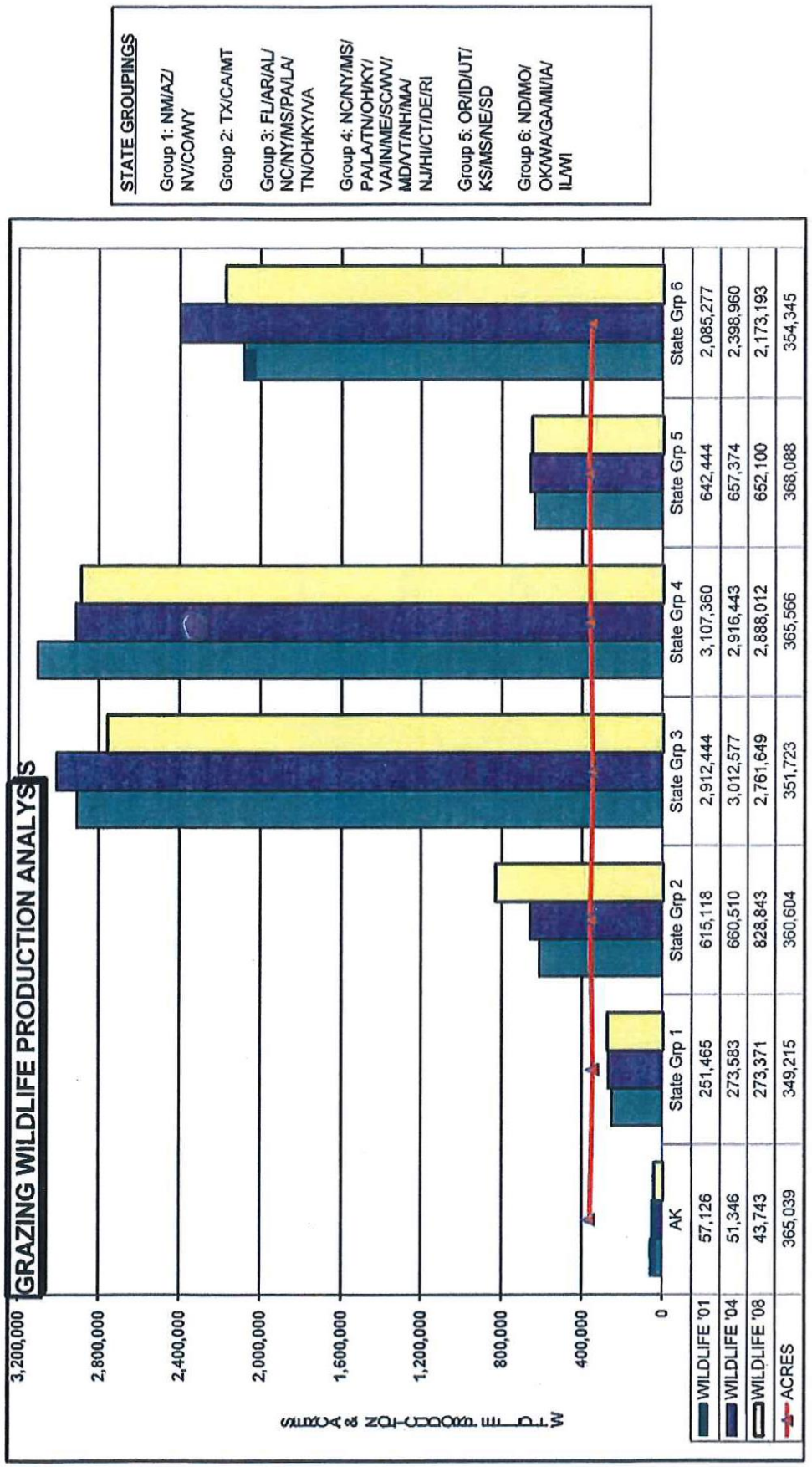
Division of Game
Robert A. Rausch, Director

Moose populations in the upper Copper and Susitna River drainages have been heavily hunted for meat and trophies by both guided and unguided recreational hunters. Annual harvests over the past decade have fluctuated between 800 and 2,000 moose, with females constituting up to one-third of the kill of the larger harvests. In addition to hunting on foot from the highway system, aircraft, off-road vehicles, boats, horses, motorbikes and snowmachines have been widely used. Many areas are laced with vehicle trails and evidence of aircraft use can be found around most lakes and landing strips within moose country.

Moose in the lower Susitna River Basin, from Talkeetna to Mt. Redoubt, have experienced increasing hunting pressure in recent years, especially from Anchorage-based hunters. The proportion of unguided hunters has risen dramatically with increasing use of private aircraft or commercial air transport services. Because of the inaccessibility of much of this country by other than float or ski-equipped aircraft, harvests have not been as high as to the east. Annual harvests have ranged from 300 to 900 with females comprising one-third of the take.

Harvests from the Matanuska Valley and vicinity have in past years provided up to 2,250 moose, about half of which were cows. In recent years, the kill has averaged 350 to 600, due to elimination of antlerless moose seasons. This area supports few commercial guides. Most hunting in this relatively accessible terrain is by recreational meat hunters utilizing a variety of motorized conveyances.

Kenai Peninsula moose harvests have ranged between 700 and 2,400 moose, with fewer kills in more recent years. Both guided and unguided hunters use the area, although guiding has become less popular as the moose population has declined. Much of the Kenai Peninsula is administered by the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both agencies effecting controls on the use of motorized vehicles. Nevertheless, hunters have enjoyed a relatively high rate of success by using aircraft, horses, boats and other permitted means of transportation.



This chart documents the grazing (hoofed wildlife) harvests, in America during the years of 2001, 2004 and 2008. Alaska is the only region of the nation that lost 23% of its wildlife harvest during this period. Alaska is also the only region that was subjected to a USDA NRCS funding decrease of 46%.

USDA NRCS	AK	State Grp 1	State Grp 2	State Grp 3	State Grp 4	State Grp 5	State Grp 6
FUNDING '01	$523,300	$23,572,200	$46,070,000	$96,886,800	$94,333,500	$58,583,800	$100,812,200
FUNDING '02	$1,858,729	$147,589,571	$337,666,933	$285,971,761	$311,730,868	$456,313,668	$782,988,265
FUNDING '03	$2,690,824	$177,373,957	$419,172,204	$408,548,877	$439,887,410	$551,914,681	$892,447,777
FUNDING '04	$13,191,500	$ 228,832,615	$474,691,192	$493,710,581	$577,975,112	$618,639,035	$984,826,154
FUNDING '05	$13,275,403	$ 240,457,020	$489,947,085	$512,247,027	$609,428,025	$649,026,327	$998,108,837
FUNDING '08	$ 7,109,596	$ 246,149,300	$492,214,037	$559,008,362	$641,563,985	$693,751,361	$1,006,862,050
ACRES	365,039	349,215	360,604	351,723	365,566	368,088	354,345
CUMULATIVE	$38,649,352	$1,063,974,663	$2,259,761,451	$2,356,373,408	$2,674,918,900	$3,028,228,872	$4,766,045,283