

Feasibility Assessment for Intensive Management in a Portion of Unit 1A

(Gravina Island)

Presentation Outline

- ▣ Map of Area
- ▣ Unit 1A Deer Management Objectives and ANS
- ▣ *Intensive Management Law*
- ▣ *Intensive Mgmt Issues*
- ▣ *Unit 1A Intensive Mgmt Triggers*
- ▣ *Portion of Unit 1A Selected for Treatment*
 - *Gravina Land Ownership Map*
- ▣ *Gravina Deer, Wolf and Bear Harvest*
- ▣ *How to Monitor Success?*
- ▣ *Current Field Work and Data Needs*

UNIT 1A AND SURROUNDING AREA



Sitka

Douglas

Ketchikan

Unit 1A
5,300 sq. mi.

Unit 1A Deer Management Objectives

<u>IM Population</u>	<u>Population Objective</u>	<u>Harvest Objective</u>
Unit 1A	15,000	700

- IM harvest objective set in Fall 2000 during peak harvest years
- Based on average harvest 1994 - 1998 plus 10 %
- Is harvest objective reasonable?

Unit 1A Deer ANS Objectives

**Amount
Necessary for
Subsistence**

Unit 1A

Finding

Positive

Objective

150 - 175

- ANS consistently achieved

Intensive Management (IM) Law

- IM Law passed by AK Legislature in 1994
- The IM Law directs the BOG to Identify ungulate populations that are especially important food sources for Alaskans.
 - Board made a positive IM finding for Unit 1A deer in 2000
- Where a positive IM determination is made, the BOG sets population and harvest objectives in regulation.
 - Set deer population objective (15,000) and harvest objectives (700 per year)
- If a population or harvest is below its respective IM objective, the BOG must consider various factors and adopt regulations to provide for IM programs to achieve the population and harvest objectives.

Intensive Management (IM) Law

- ▣ If the IM objectives are not met, the BOG must consider IM actions, including ...
 1. Reducing or eliminating non-resident hunting
 2. Reducing or eliminating resident hunting
 3. Liberalizing hunting and trapping regulations for wolves and bears
 4. Implementing habitat improvement projects

- ▣ If these actions do not (or are unlikely to) achieve the IM population and harvest objectives, the BOG may consider predator control.

Intensive Management Issues

- **Current Ungulate Status**

- **Several consecutive hard winters 1998-2000**
 - *Record & above average snowfall*

- **Predation**

- *Wolves*
- *Black Bears*

- **Habitat**

- **Habitat loss from Federal and State clearcuts both past and proposed, Mental Health selective logging, and forest fire on south end of Gravina Island**
 - *Loss of important deer winter range*
 - *Reductions in deer carrying capacity*
 - *Majority of Gravina poor winter deer habitat*
 - *Low volume muskeg scrub- ideal killing fields for wolves*

Unit 1A Deer Harvest



Southern Southeast Alaska

Unit 1B

Unit 1A

Canada

Cleveland Peninsula

420 sq. mi.

Unit 2

Prince of Wales Island

Gravina Island

100 sq. mi.



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles



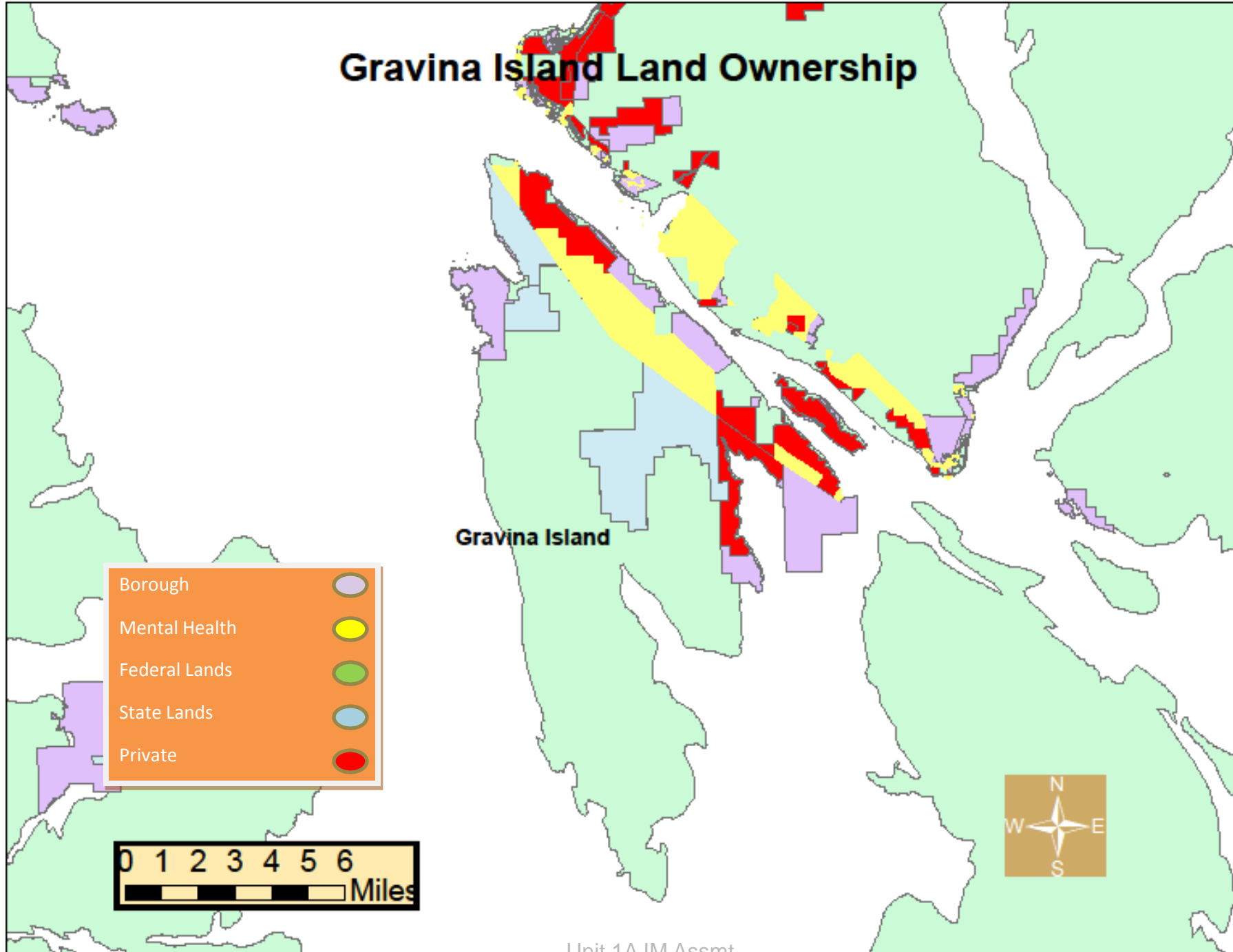
Revilla Island

Gravina Island

Prince of Wales Island

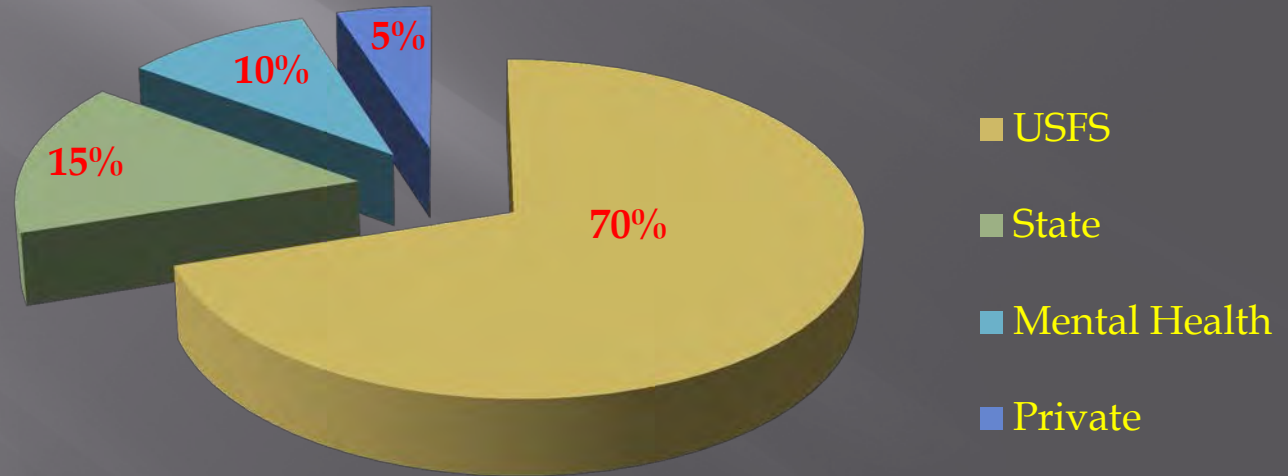
Annette Island

Gravina Island Land Ownership



Gravina Island Land Ownership

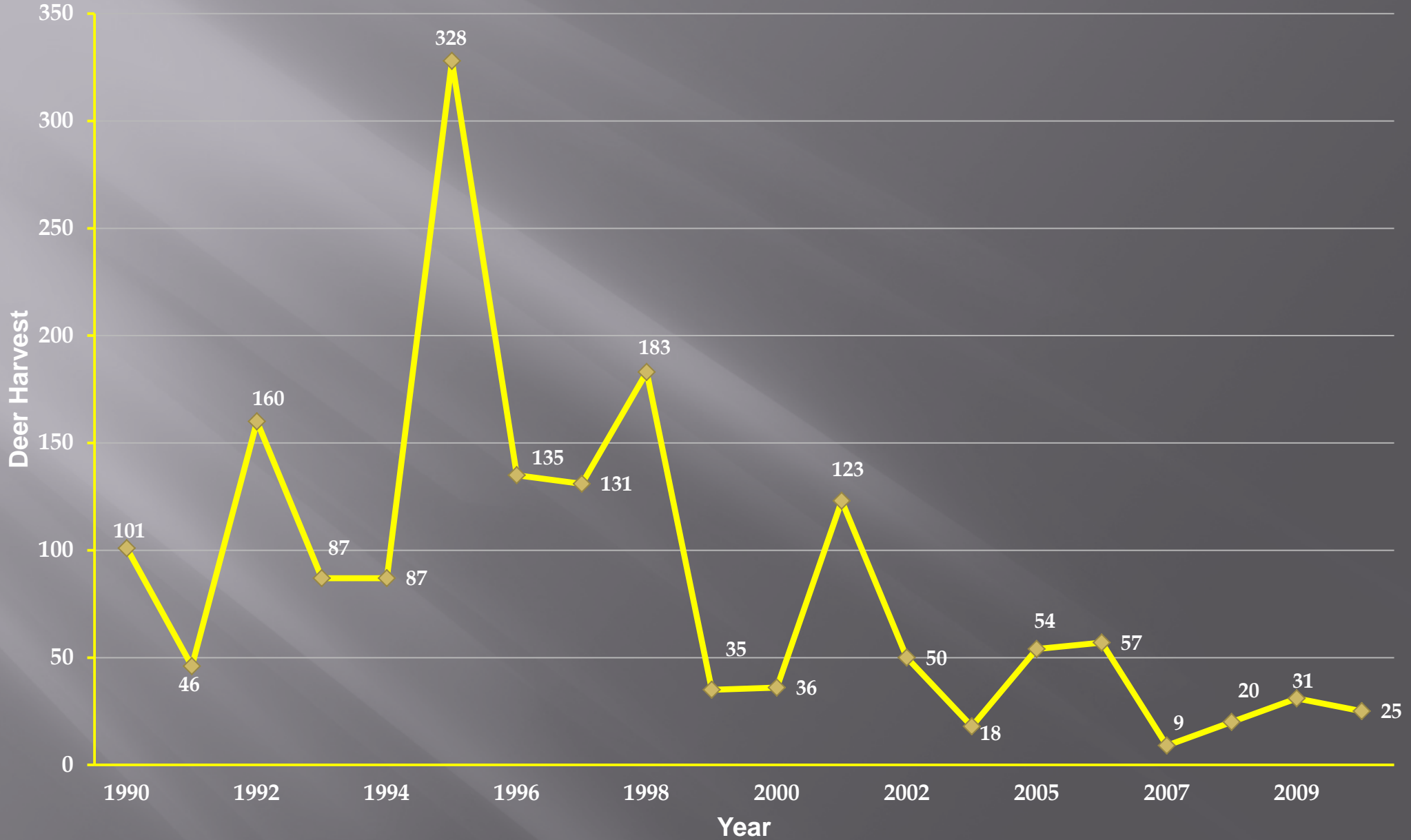
- ▣ U.S. Forest Service
- ▣ State of Alaska
- ▣ Mental Health Trust
- ▣ Private



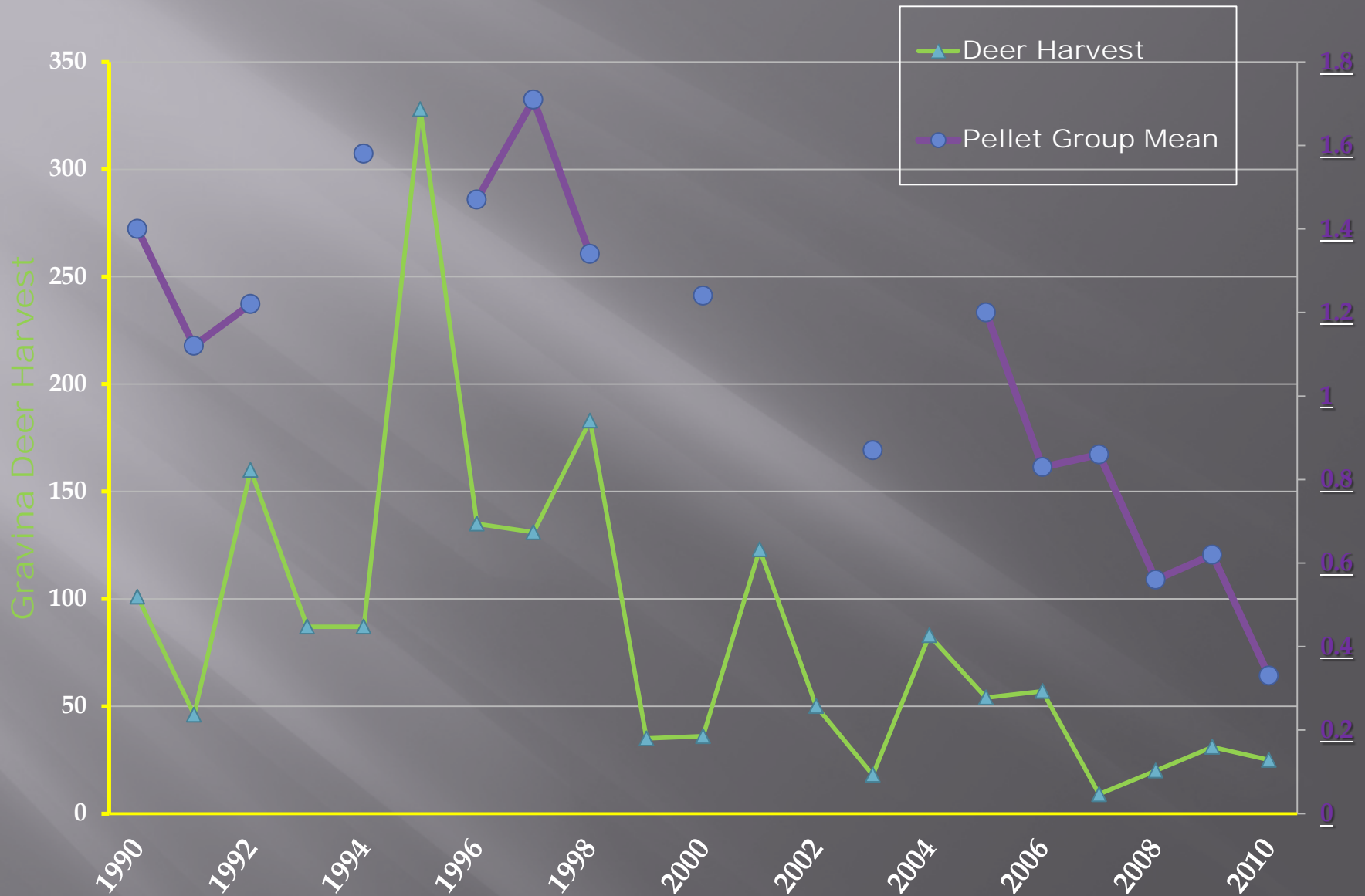
Gravina Ownership by Percent

GRAVINA ISLAND DEER HARVEST

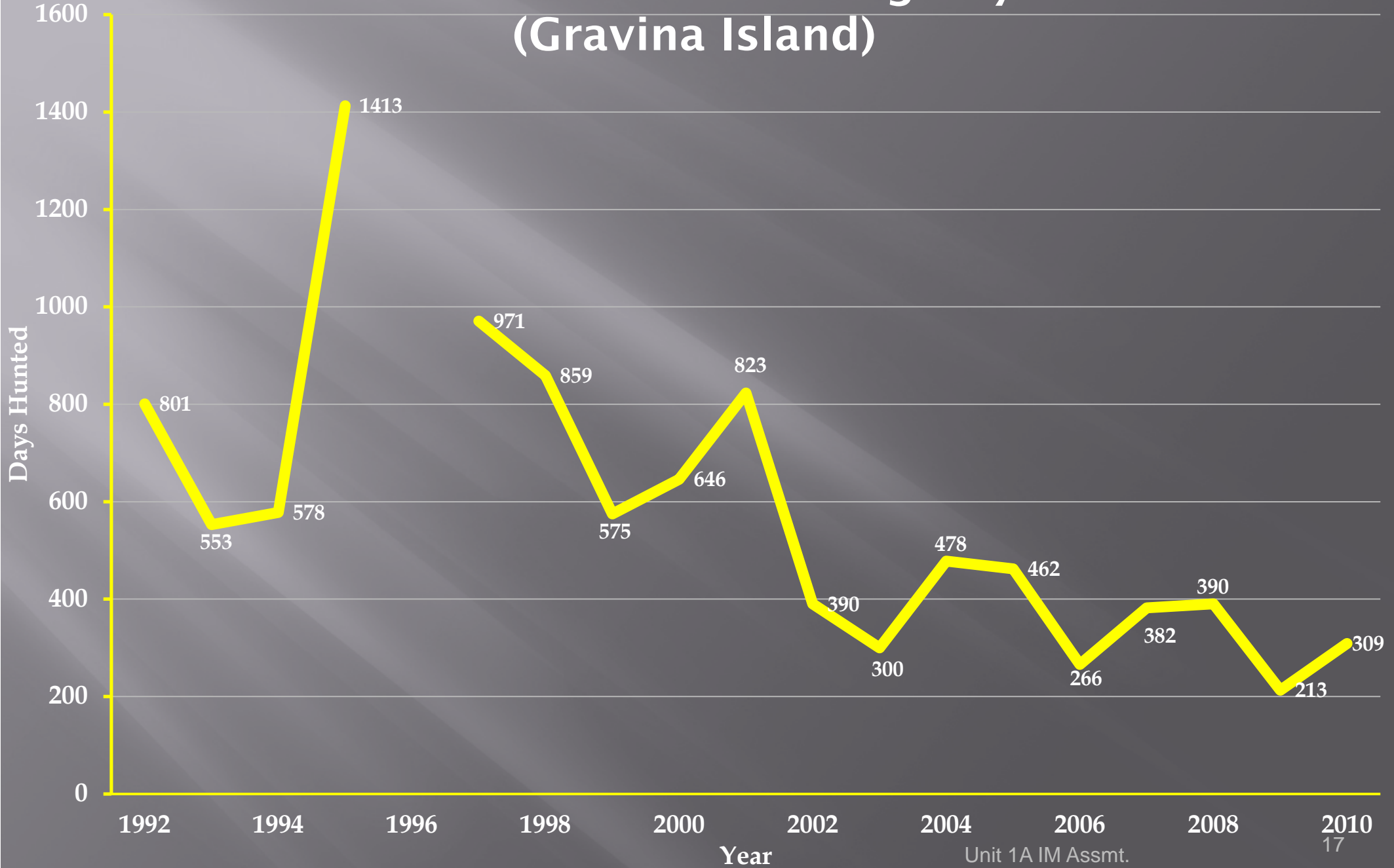
Gravina Island Deer Harvest



Gravina Is.: Deer Harvest and Pellet Group Counts



Number of Deer Hunting Days (Gravina Island)



Gravina Island

Wolf Population Estimate

- ▣ Gravina Island
- ▣ ~ 100 sq. miles
- ▣ Distance to other islands and source wolves <1 mile
- ▣ 6-12 wolves

Prince of Wales Island

Average pack size 8.5 (range 2-12)

Average home range

- 304 km² (117 mi²)
- SD = 63 km² (24 mi²)

Person *et al.* 2001

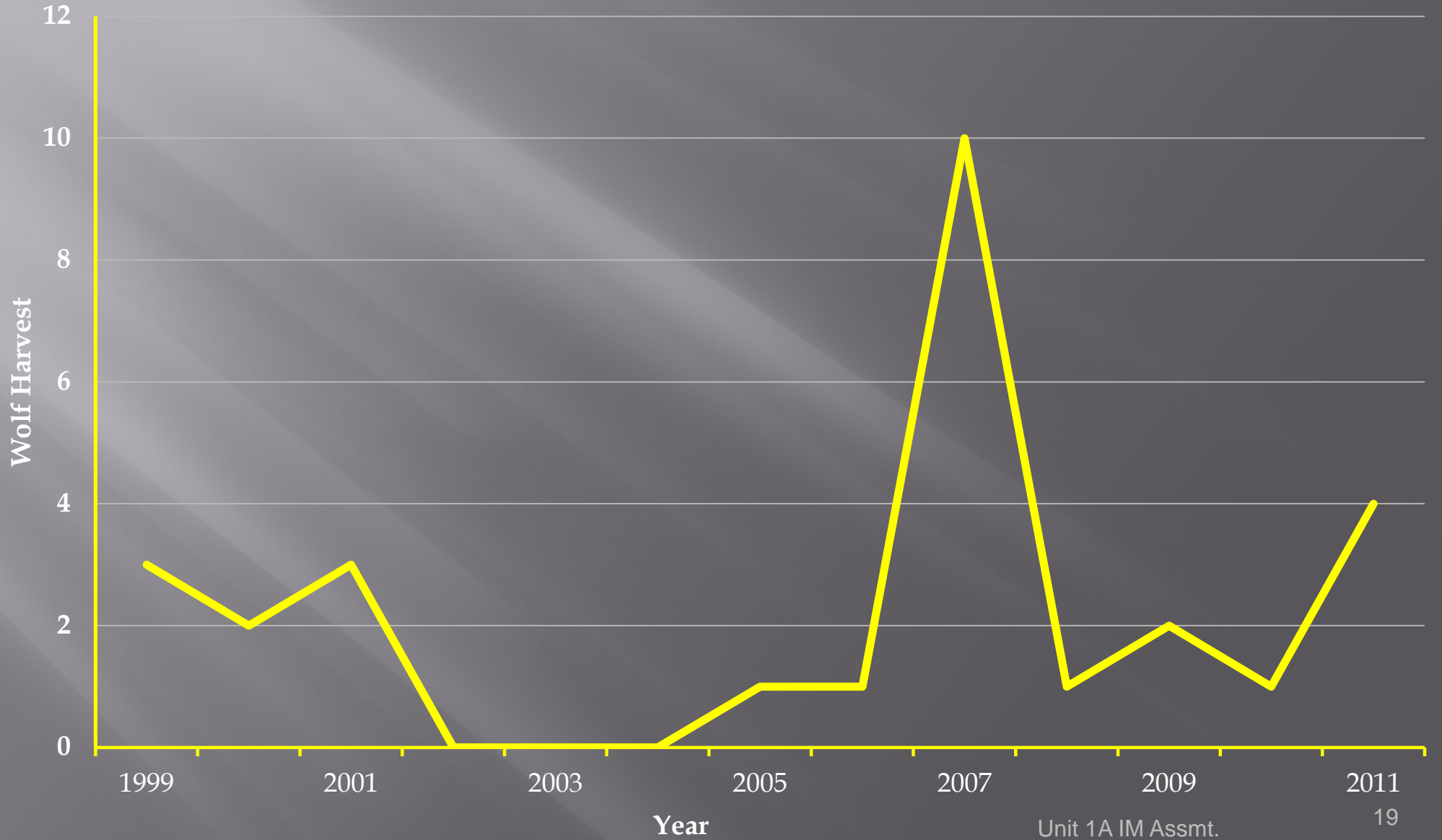
Revilla Island

Average pack size 5.4 (range 2-12)

Average home range size
108 mi² (range 30-170 mi²)

Smith *et al.* 1987

Gravina Island Wolf Harvest



Proposed Methods

Proposed Activities...

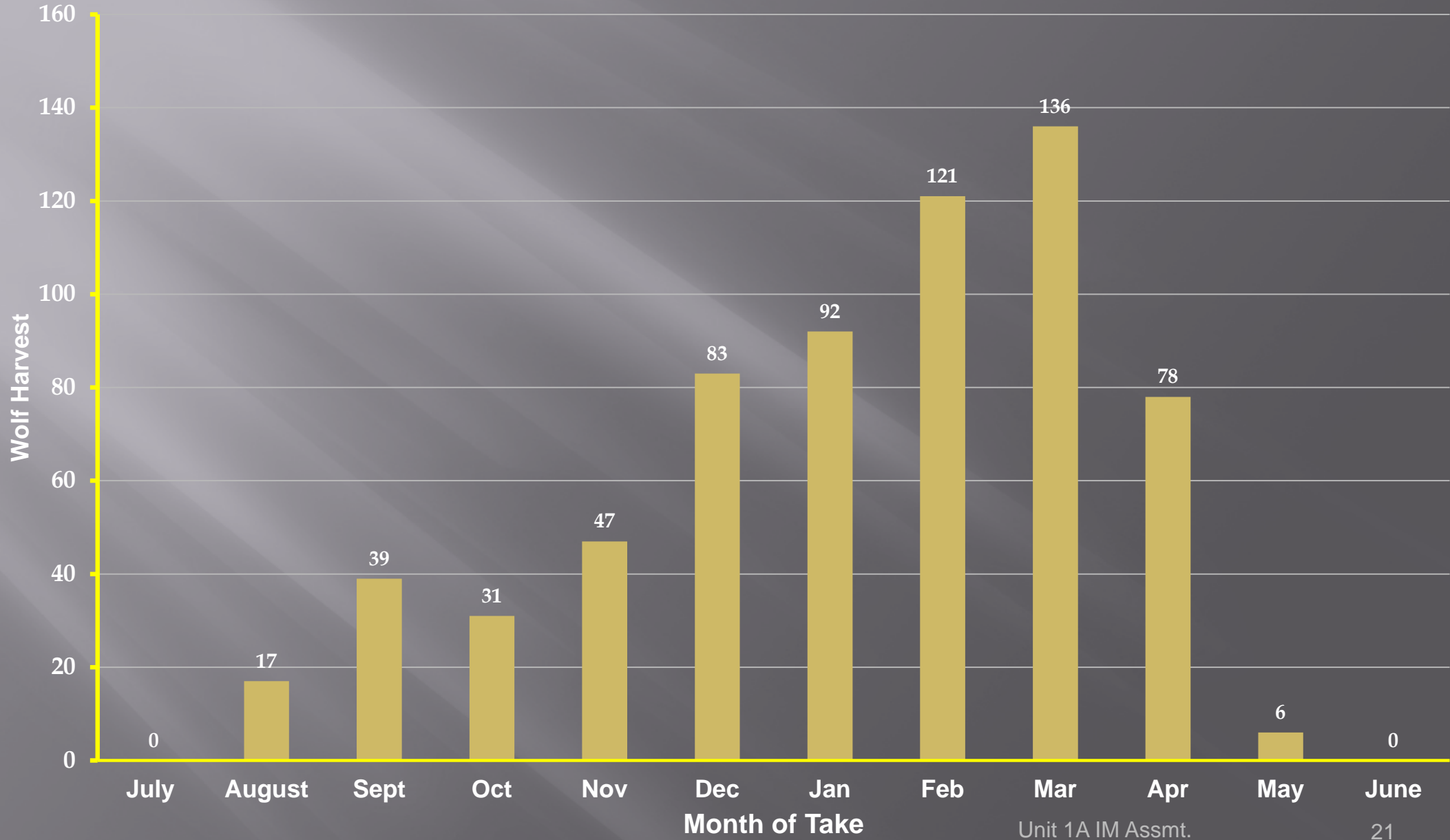
Hire one or more skilled trappers to intensively trap wolves in a treatment area consisting of Gravina Island.

Contact local trappers that have harvested wolves on Gravina in past to encourage active participation.

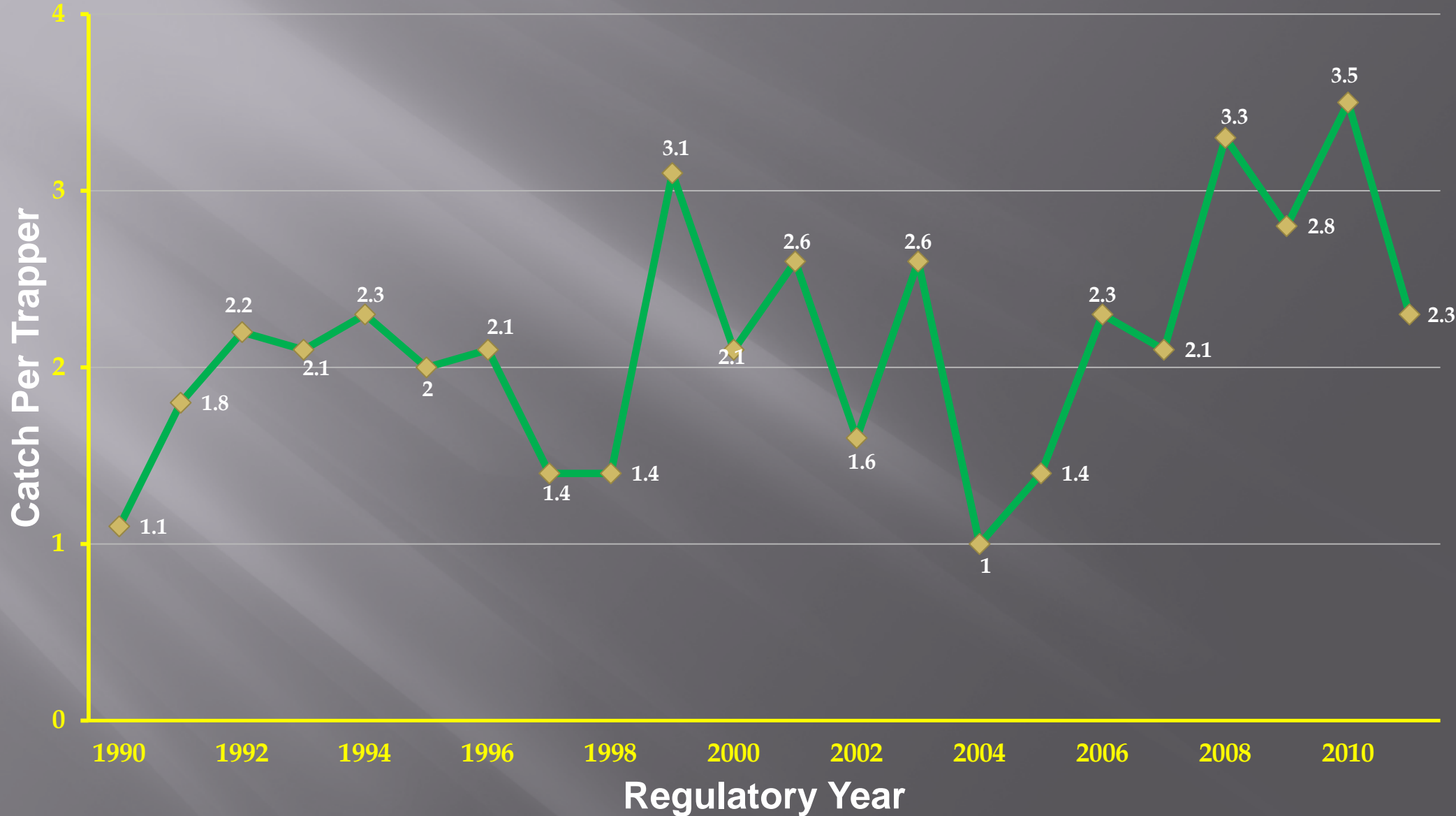
Use remote trail cameras to estimate wolf numbers and identify individuals

Use marked wolves and GPS radio collars to estimate wolf numbers

Unit 1A Wolf Harvest by Month of Take (1992-2011)



Unit 1A Average Wolf Harvest Per Successful Trapper



Successful Unit 1A Wolf Trappers



How Do We Monitor Effects of Program?

- ▣ Monitor established deer pellet transects before and after treatment
- ▣ Monitor trail cameras at key trails and pinch-points around island
- ▣ Establish wolf and deer track surveys along key beaches
- ▣ Fly wolf track survey after fresh deep snowfall
- ▣ Fly peak season aerial alpine deer survey
- ▣ Deer hunting registration permit
- ▣ Duplicate efforts in Control Area (Cleveland Pen.)

Data Needs

▣ Wolf

- ▣ Estimate Numbers
- ▣ Collar 2-4 Wolves
- ▣ DNA Estimates
- ▣ Camera Traps

▣ Deer

- ▣ Estimate Deer
- ▣ Adult Female Condition
- ▣ Fawn Birth Rates
- ▣ Fawn Survival
- ▣ Sources of Mortality

▣





12-10-31 8:37:59 PM M 3/3



28°F RFIRE
2012-11-01 11:57:09 PM M 3/3





Questions?