

Intensive Management Refresher



January 2022

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Talk outline

- **Factors leading to 1994 IM statute**
- **Statute & regulations (“tools”)-- BOG process**
 - IM positive determination
 - IM population and harvest objectives
 - IM plans (assess feasibility, authorize regulations)
- **IM Protocol (science, mgmt.) -- DWC process**
 - Feasibility Assessments (potential to achieve objectives)
 - Operational Plans (technical guidance to implement and evaluate programs; complement to IM Plans)
- **IM process lite**

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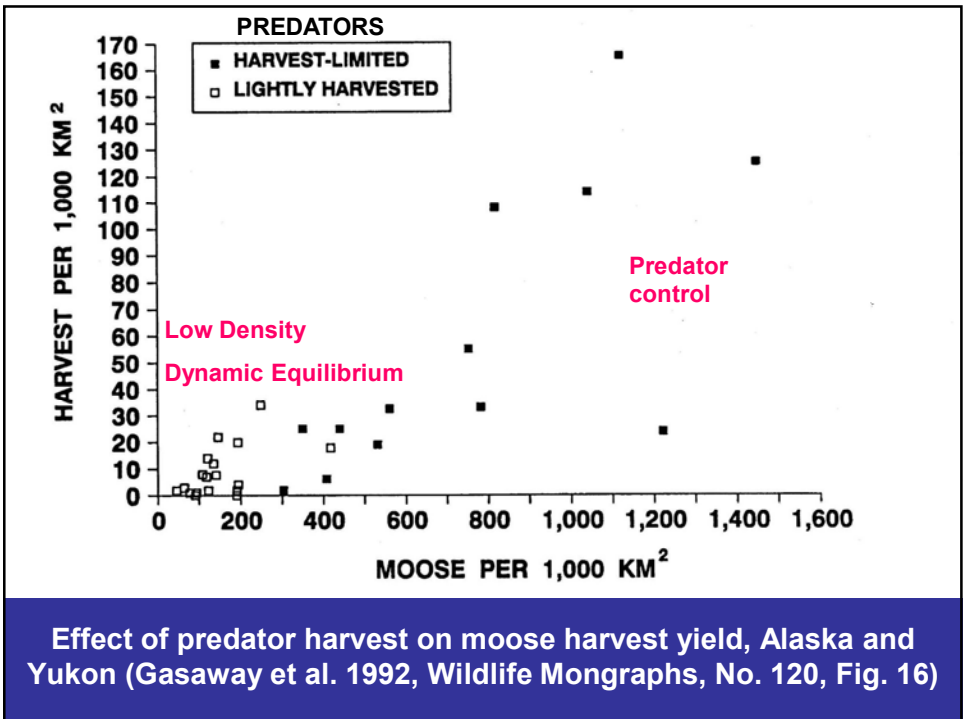
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Regulatory and perception changes prior to 1994 IM law

ADF&G wolf control in Unit 20A: (Gasaway et al. 1983)		1976-1982		1993-94 (Gasaway et al. 1992)	
<p>Federal wolf control (aerial shooting; poison also reduced bears)</p> <p>AK Game Commission --brown bear 1 per year, no sow/cub</p> <p>Alaska Constitution --sustained yield, common use</p> <p>1950s</p>	<p>High ungulate abundance</p> <p>ADF&G formed</p> <p>BOG formed --end predator control 1960 --black bear no sow/cub</p> <p>--end some wolf bounties, brown bear 1 every 4 years 1968</p> <p>1960s</p>	<p>Fed. Airborne Hunting Act 1972 (permit, plan) --begin Land And Shoot under trapping</p> <p>ADF&G --begin predation & wolf control research mid-70s</p> <p>BOG --end all wolf bounties 1972</p> <p>Legislature --AC anterless authorization '75</p> <p>1970s</p>	<p>Decreasing ungulate hunt opportunity</p> <p>ADF&G --wolf cont. 7 yrs.</p> <p>ANILCA 1980 (FWS, NPS 40% of land area)— access, method*</p> <p>AK Supreme Ct. – McDowell 1989 rural subsistence</p> <p>BOG--black bear baiting 1985 --brown bear season increase --end LAS* 1989</p> <p>1980s</p>		<p>Federal Subsistence Board 1990</p> <p>ADFG Wolf Planning Team 1989-93, mgmt. zones, strategic plan, wolf summit; tourism boycott</p> <p>--wolf control (2 yr. agency, 2 yr. public) end '94</p> <p>1990s</p>

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Regulatory and BOG policy changes after 1994 IM law

1997 2001 ADF&G non lethal wolf control (Unit 20E)
ADF&G non-lethal bear control (Unit 19D, 2003-04)
 ADF&G lethal wolf control (SAP 2007-08, UYT 2007-17)
ADF&G lethal bear control (Unit 19A, 2013-14)
 Increasing hunt opportunity & hunter success rates

Policy changes over time with different governors...

<p>BOG --wolf SDA 300 ft from aircraft 1994-96, 00 (hunting) --IM determinations and objectives 1995-2001 --aerial wolf control authorized beginning 1995 (not implemented by ADF&G) --back to brown bear 1 per year, eliminate resident tag fee (areas over time)</p> <p>NAS --1997 NRC report on AK game management</p> <p>1990s</p>	<p>ADF&G --began implementing lethal bear control over bait and aerial wolf control in spring 2004 (areas over time, no bag limit, public permittees only; agency staff starting 2007)</p> <p>BOG hunting regulations --authorized snowmachine 2001 and ATV, boat 2006 for wolf hunting (areas over time) --authorized sale of bear hides, snowmachine, SDA (PC areas over time) --first bear policy 2006</p> <p>2000s</p>	<p>ADF&G --IM Protocol 2011</p> <p>BOG hunting regulations --authorized black bear SDA 2011 (areas over time) --authorized brown bear over bait SDA 2013 (areas over time) --sale of brown bear hides where 2 bear bag limit 2016</p> <p>2010s</p>
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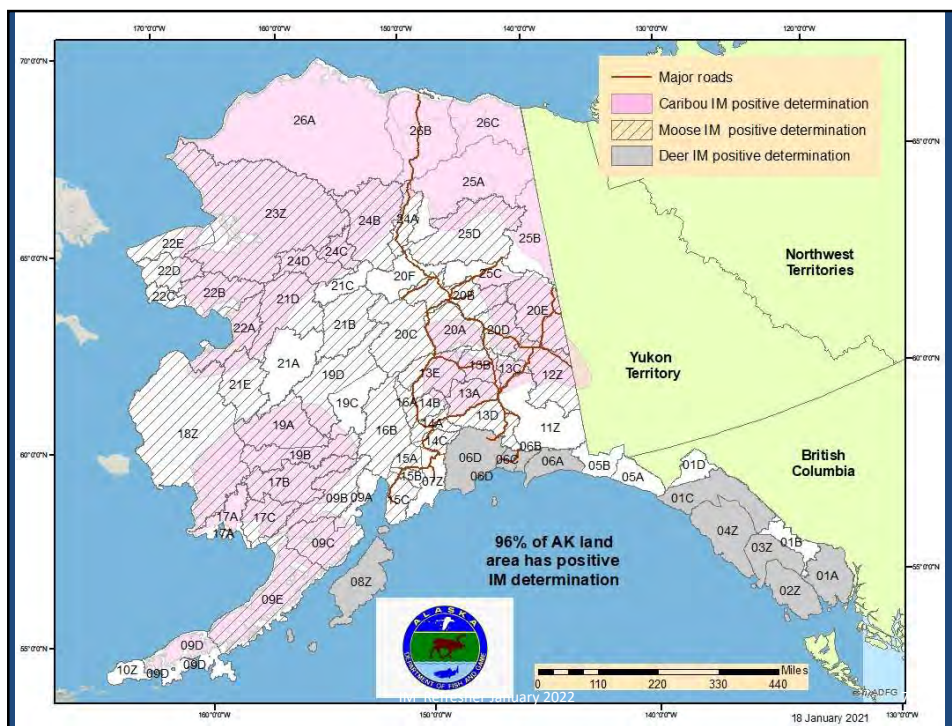
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Alaska Statute 16.05.255(e)

- Required BOG to adopt regulations to provide for IM programs to restore abundance or productivity of identified big game prey populations to achieve consumptive use objectives
- Directed BOG to make a “positive determination” for IM when certain historic levels of harvest and other criteria are met and to set objectives (5 AAC 92.106 & 108) – **DWC worksheets**

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Conditions of IM implementation

- If prey population is below IM objective, and proposal to reduce harvest, BOG must consider various factors (feasibility assessment)
- BOG may adopt regulations to achieve IM objectives prior to reducing prey harvest, except where infeasible or incompatible
 - Ineffective, based on scientific information
 - Inappropriate, due to land ownership patterns (public methods, hunter access)
 - Against best interest of subsistence uses

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IM tool: Habitat enhancement

- Enhance or conserve habitat features (forage, cover) to improve prey nutrition and female productivity; moose more amenable than caribou
 - Maintain natural disturbance (fire management options to allow where feasible)
 - Prescribed fire (difficult near communities, thus hunter access important factor)
 - Logging, other mechanical (complements fuels reduction near communities, hunter accessible)
- Authority decision of landowner / manager

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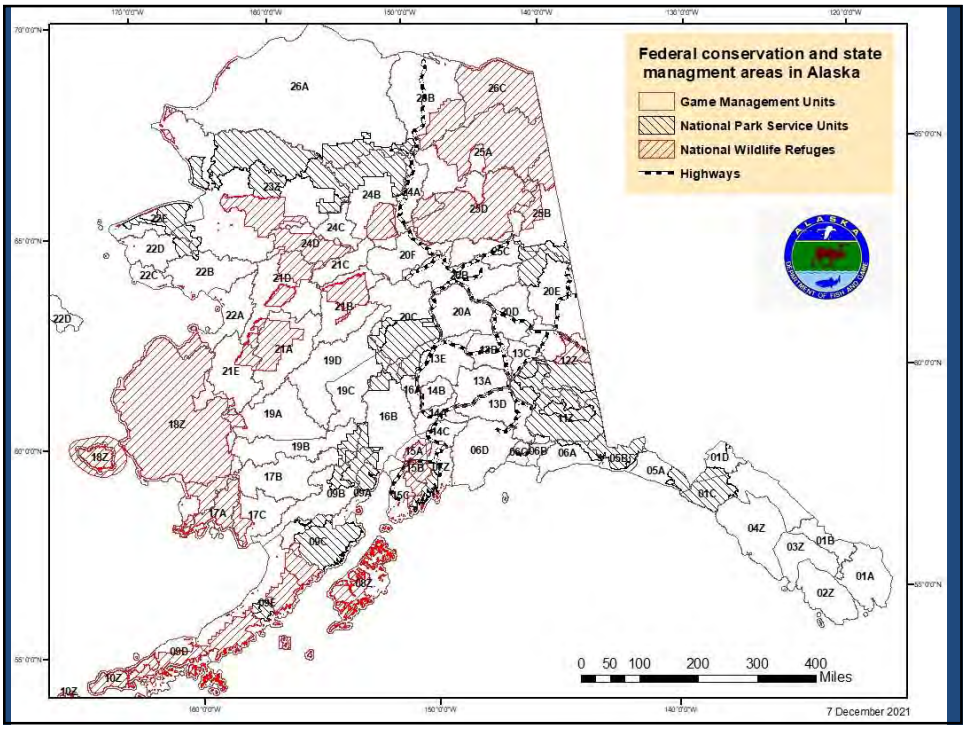
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IM tool: Predator control

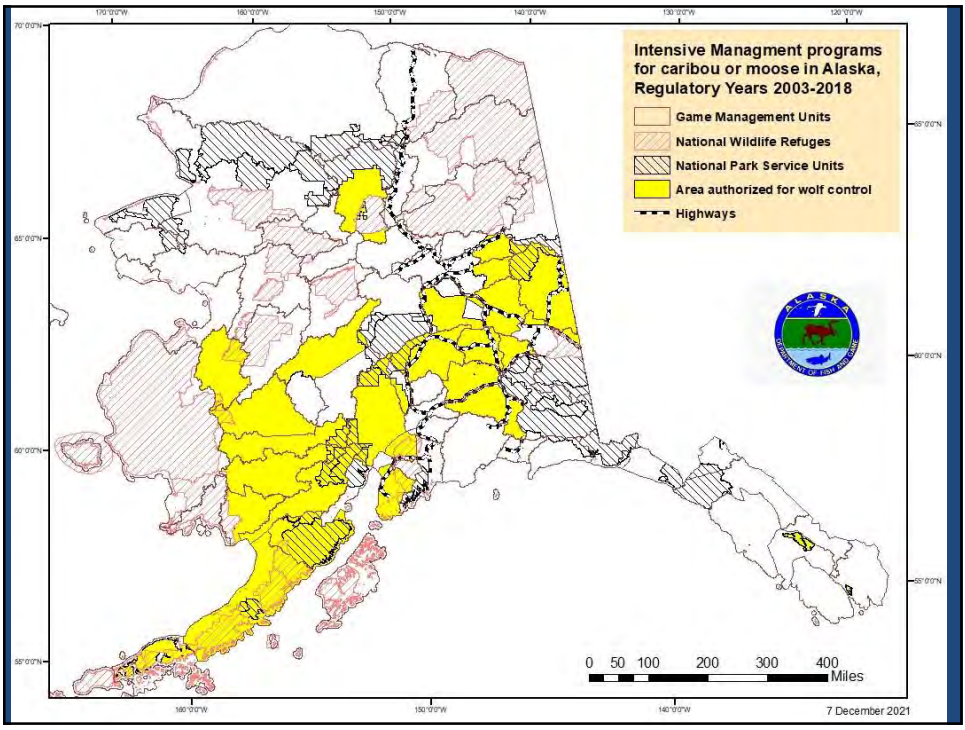
- Methods and means requiring BOG authorization outside of hunting or trapping regulations:
 - Aerial shooting, land and shoot (SDA) wolves
 - Bears: no bag limit, cub/sow, foot snare, brown bear over bait (2004-12)
 - Chemical euthanasia (agency only)
 - Non-lethal: sterilization, translocation (agency)
 - **Not restricted to IM; “restore” AS 16.05.020 (2)**
 - Separate findings and policies for conservation and management (bears, wolves; BOG website)

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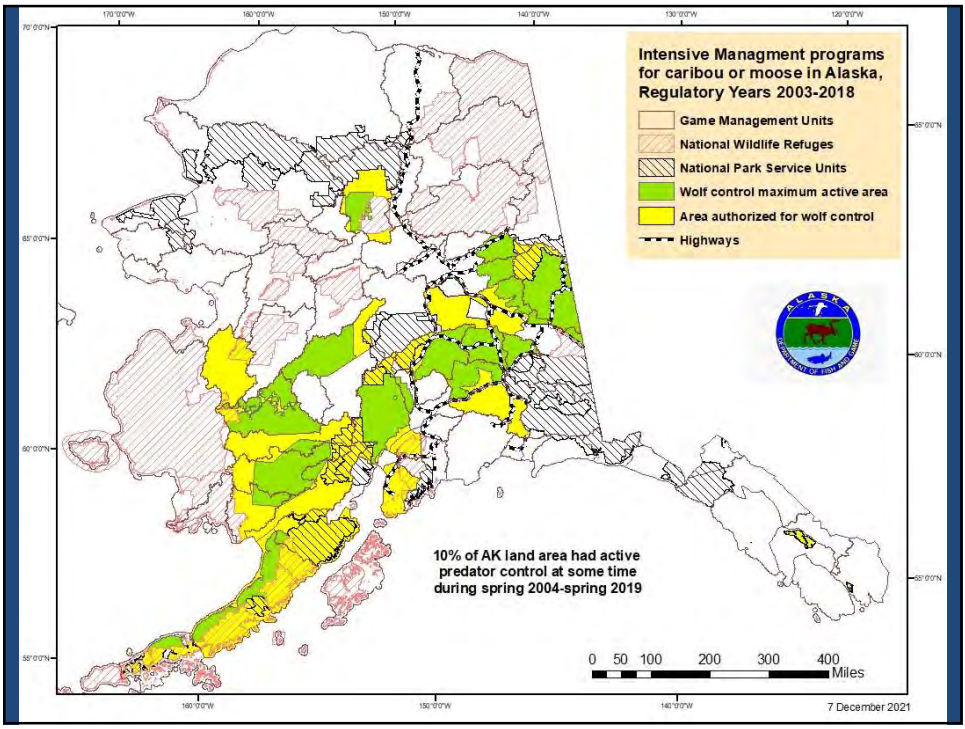
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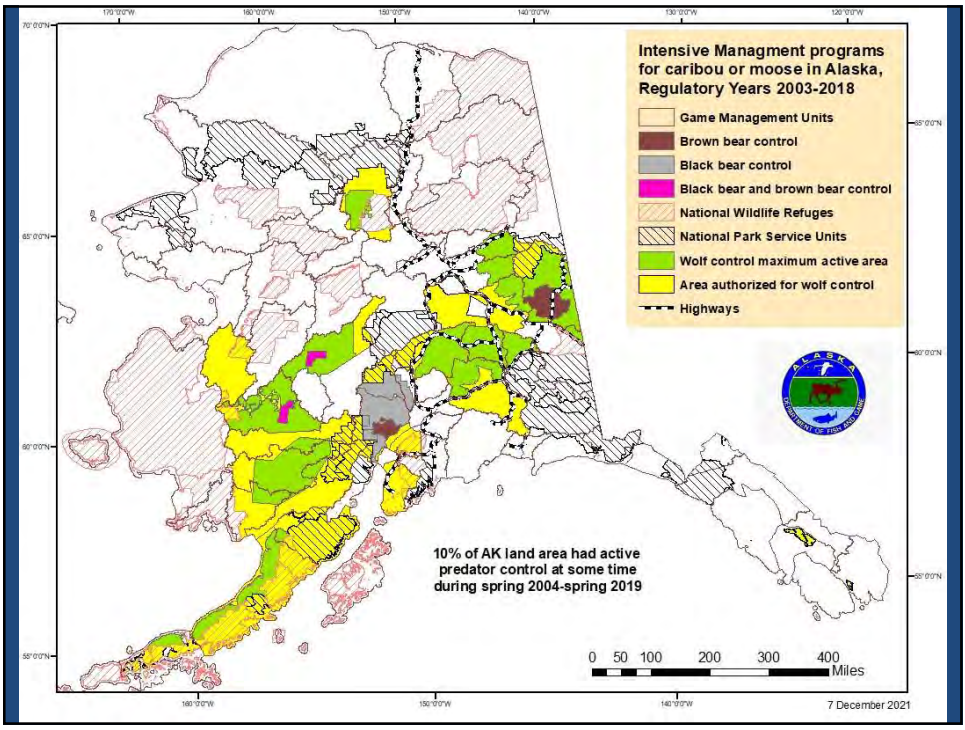
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IM Protocol 2011 (not policy)

- **DWC effort to improve transparency: legal and policy directives, science, management experience**
 - **DWC staff**: guidance on planning, implementing, reporting (website)
 - **Public**: understanding and participation in the IM process
 - **Board of Game**: efficient handling of IM in deliberations (Dept. Law)

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Principles and Guidelines

- **Principles** - operational factors and agency experience used to design and evaluate IM programs that are:
 - ecologically sustainable
 - based on scientific information
 - socially sustainable
 - transparent and explicit decision framework
 - economically sustainable


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Guideline example

Guideline 1.1: Managers should ensure ungulate and predator populations and their habitats will be managed for their long-term sustainability and use.



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Protocol document templates

Templates are “checklists” for consistency among IM programs:

- **Feasibility Assessment – (~A&R)**
DWC advises on potential to achieve IM objectives (H,M,L); not a decision
- **Operational Plan - implementation**
✓ Complements IM Plan (5 AAC 92.1##) required for predator control
DWC sets predator objectives
- **Department Report - evaluate results**

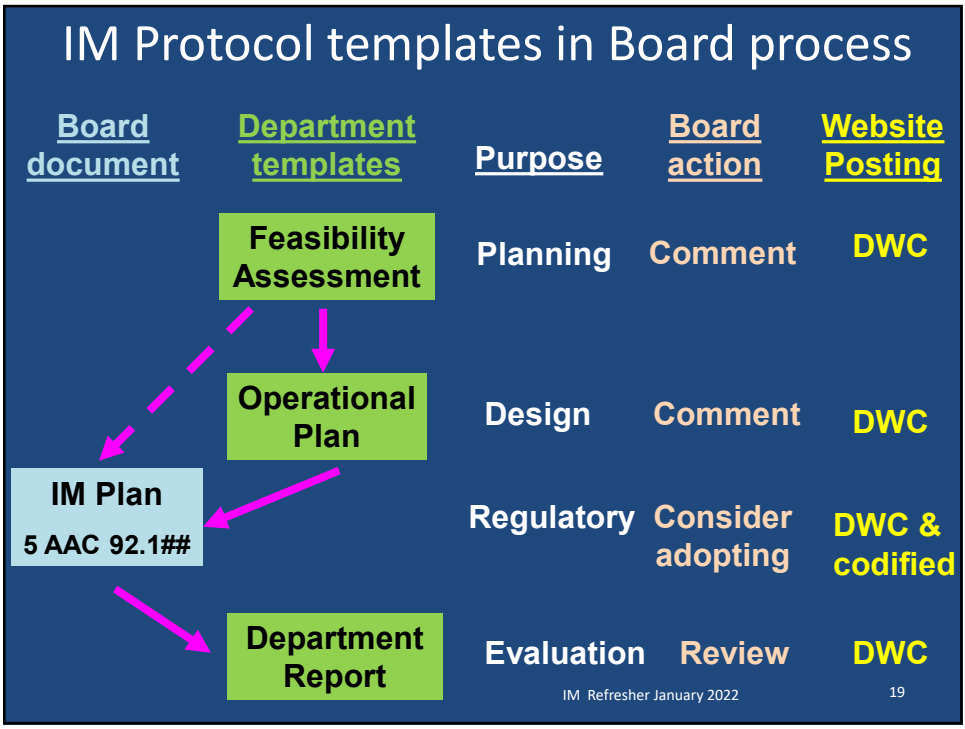
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Both
inform

monitoring
design

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Intensive Management in Alaska Overview

Overview | [Alaska's Programs](#) | [Research & Resources](#)

Harvesting wild game is extremely important to many Alaska. The bounty of economical, wild-grown meat are long-standing tra

The Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of wild ga Management Law in 1994. This law requires the Alaska Boar populations that are especially important food sources for Al large enough to allow for adequate and sustained harvest.

If the selected moose, caribou, or deer populations drop belo needed to meet people's needs, the Board directs the Alaska Intensive management of that population. Intensive manag

Click the links below to view more information about each program. You may also view the [Unit Map](#).

Active	Inactive	Expired	Other Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A, 19B (Mulchatna caribou) • Unit 13 • Unit 19A • Unit 19D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units 9C, 9E (Northern Alaska Peninsula) • Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, 25C (Upper Yukon/Tanana) • Unit 15C (Kenai) • Unit 16 • Unit 21E 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1A • Unit 3 • Unit 9D (Southern Alaska Peninsula) • Unit 15A (Kenai) • Unit 20A • Unit 20D • Unit 24B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 10 (Unimak) • Unit 26B (Muskox)

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IM process lite

- Proposal to restrict prey harvest in IM area triggers Board consideration of IM
- DWC does A&R, may do Feasibility Assessment (potential to achieve IM objective)
- BOG reviews Feasibility Assessment, decides whether to authorize an IM Plan (5 AAC 92.1##)
- If yes, DWC drafts an IM Operational Plan for Board & public review, implements program
- DWC produces annual reports to Board
- **DWC may suspend or reactivate PC per IM Operational Plan and codified IM Plan**
- Authorization sunsets / expires, so Board must reauthorize extension of plan (predator control does not have to be active)

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INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

December 2011

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Guidance on Intensive Management process for Board of Game members

Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), 20 January 2022 Board work session

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT LAW:

In 1994 the Alaska Legislature passed the "Intensive Management" law for caribou, deer, and moose (prey) that required the Alaska Board of Game to:

- set lower and upper prey population and harvest objectives in areas important to hunting,
- consider active management of predation and habitat when prey abundance and harvest are below IM objectives and further harvest restrictions are proposed, and
- consider feasibility based on science, land ownership, and subsistence uses (e.g., effect of increased hunt opportunity on local users).

PERTINENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS:

- AS 16.05.255 (e-g) and (k) - conditions, tools, feasibility assessment, objectives, and definitions.
- 5 AAC 92.106 - criteria for IM objectives.
- 5 AAC 92.108 - IM objectives by species herd or GMU.

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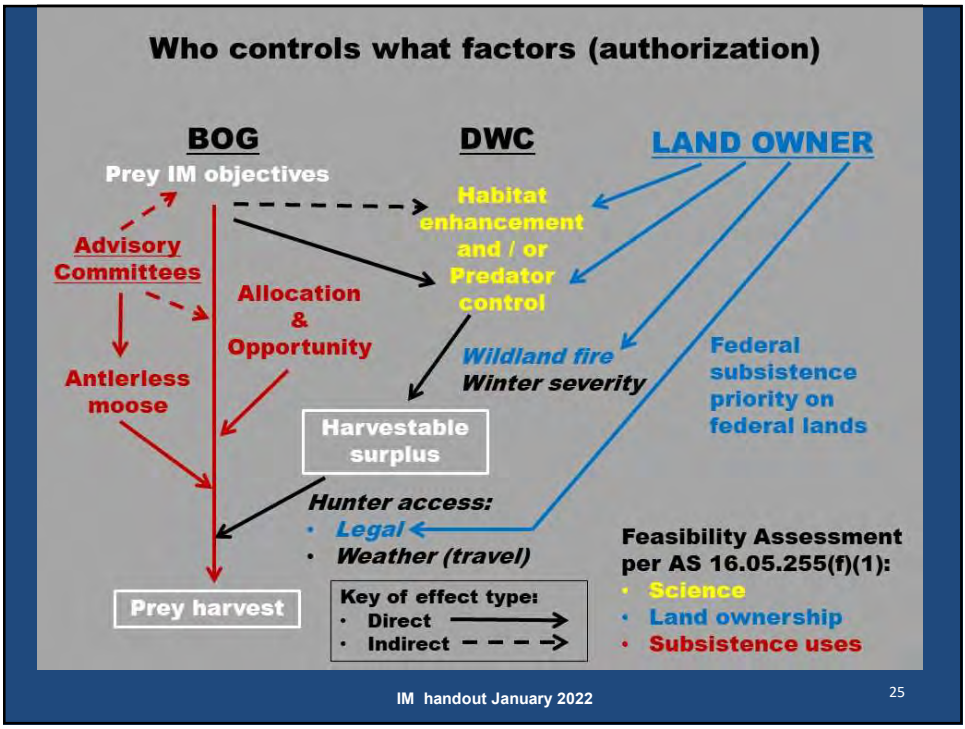
PROCESS STEPS:

- Proposal to restrict prey harvest in herd or GMU with positive finding for IM triggers Board consideration of IM practices (habitat enhancement, predator control) if prey below population or harvest objectives
- DWC does Analysis & Recommendation (reviewed by Division of Subsistence), may do Feasibility Assessment (report on potential to achieve IM objective)
- BOG reviews Feasibility Assessment, decides whether to authorize an IM Plan (5 AAC 92.1##)
- If yes, DWC drafts an IM Operational Plan as complement to IM Plan for Board & public review
- DWC implements and monitors IM program, produces annual reports to Board
- Under discretionary authority, DWC reviews decision to conduct control annually and may suspend or reactivate PC per IM Operational Plan and codified IM Plan
- Authorization sunsets /expires, so Board must reauthorize extension of plan (predator control does not have to be active)

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