

**Wolf Predation Control Plan Implementation Summary  
Winter 2008-2009**

**Unit 16 Same Day Airborne (SDA Summary) 2008-09**

**19 August 2009**

<u>Unit 16B:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wolves taken by SDA permittees (within PCA):	11	10	0	21
Wolves taken by trapping/hunting:	7	4	0	11
<i>Total take (trapping, hunting, and SDA):</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>32</i>
<u>Unit 16A :</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wolves taken by SDA permittees (within PCA):	1	2	0	3
Wolves taken by trapping/hunting (unit wide):	1	6	0	7
<i>Total take (trapping, hunting, and SDA):</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>
<u>Unit 16B (unit-wide; incl. Fed. land):</u>	<u>2009 Spring Estimate</u>			
	38 – 49 minimum			

Initial potential take objective: The preliminary take objective for 16B was a minimum of 38 wolves, based on a preliminary estimate of 83 to 111 for the 2008 fall population within the PCA. As wolf observations and reports came in over the winter, the population estimate was refined.

Estimated effect of trapping and hunting: The final reported take from trapping and hunting unit-wide was 32 wolves in 16B and 9 in all of Unit 16A. None of the wolves taken by hunting or trapping in 16A were taken inside the predator control area (PCA). The 2008-09 total take of wolves for Unit 16 (hunt, trap, SDA) was 41, with 35 of those occurring within the PCA.

Effectiveness of combined take: The spring population objective of 22 - 45 wolves in Unit 16B was most likely achieved as we estimated between 38 and 49 wolves for the unit.

Summary of permittee interest & participation: Similar to the first four years of the program, there were more applicants in the SDA program in Unit 16 than the number of pilots needed. For 2008-09, 36 pilots participated in the program. Of the 36 pilots permitted for the Unit 16 SDA program, 32 pilots flew 187 days. No pilots flew over 20 days, however 5 pilots flew at least 10 days.

Program challenges: Pilot participation may be waning as a result of fewer wolves and increasing costs of operation. Parts of the unit have thick spruce forests making tracking and taking wolves difficult. Five years of aerial control has resulted in more “educated” wolves and this has presented a challenge to pilots when they are often flying over forested areas while attempting to locate and take wolves.

Remarks: The SDA program in Unit 16 has continued to be successful in reducing the wolf population. In order to maintain the effectiveness, aerial control should continue as the preferred option. Given a reasonable estimate of the number of wolf pups born each spring, SDA in

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combination with hunting and trapping should be used to maintain a low population of wolves until prey populations have shown significant increases.

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