

Units 20A & 20B moose update

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Outline

Unit 20A – cow harvest

- ◆ Background information
- ◆ Relation to harvest objectives
- ◆ How do we make decisions on cow harvest?
- ◆ Why start cow harvest now?
- ◆ Specific plan for fall 2026 permits

Unit 20B

- ◆ Fall 2025 survey results
- ◆ Fall 2026 cow hunt plans



Unit 20A

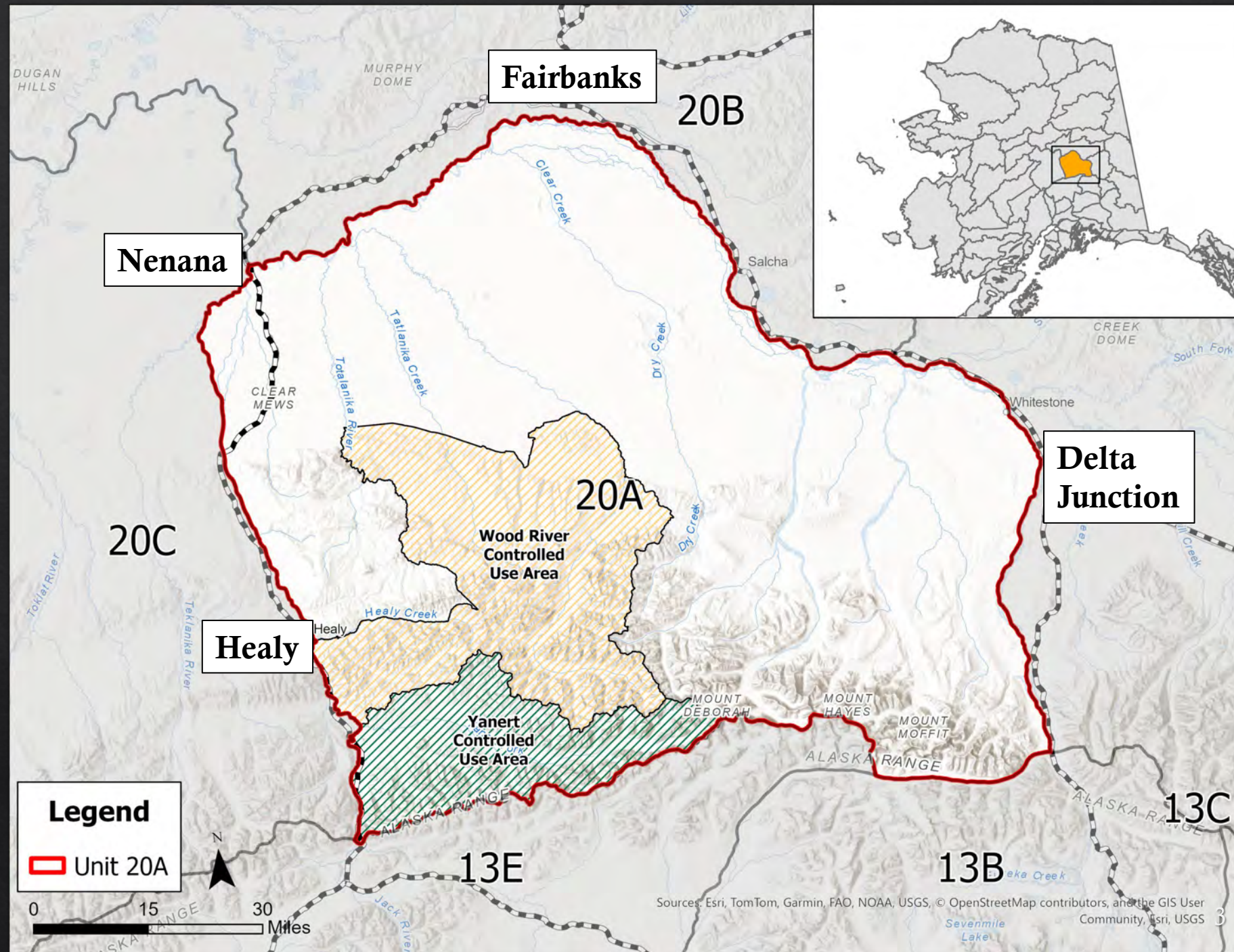
◆ IM objectives

- 10,000-15,000 moose
- 500-900 harvest

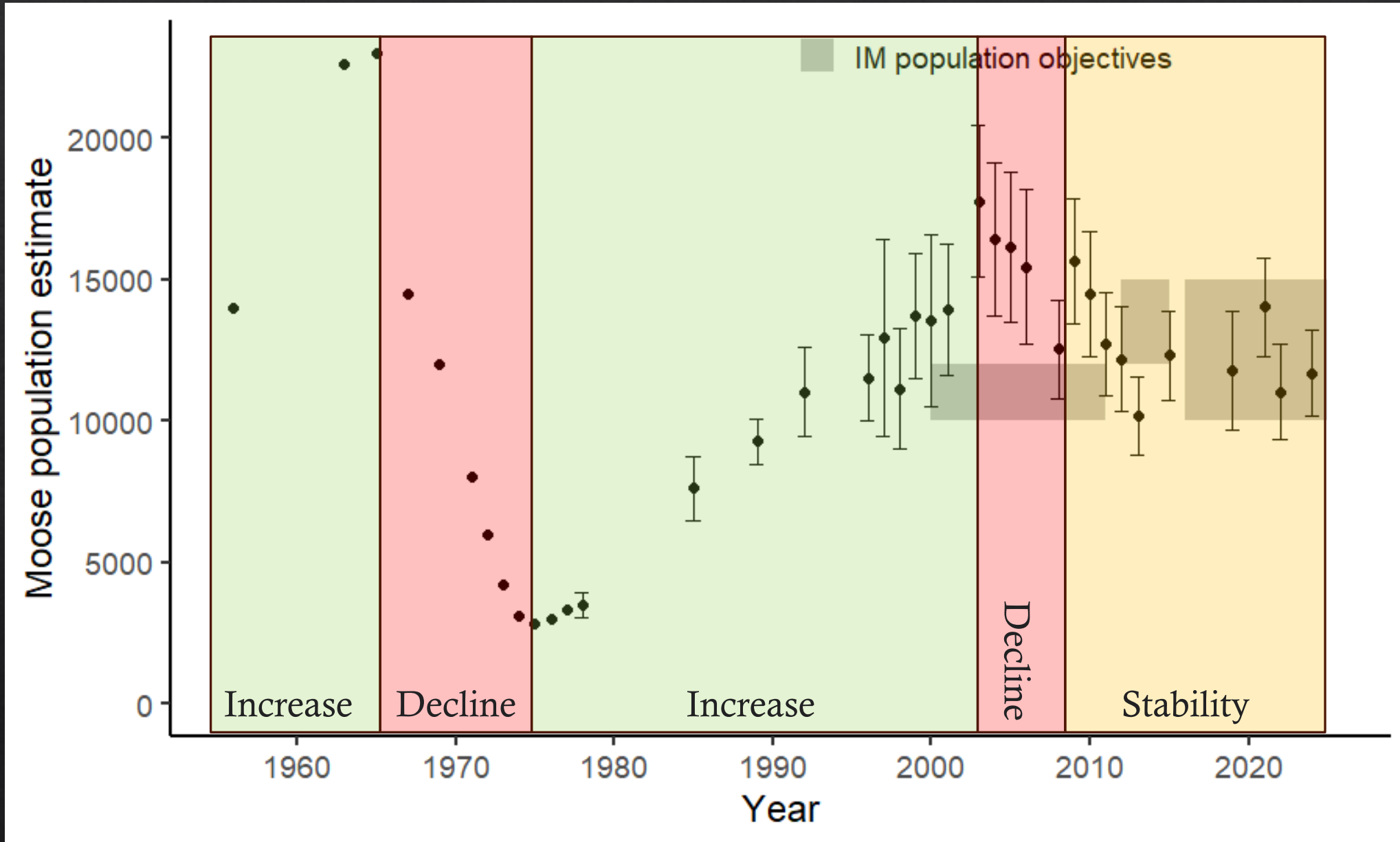
◆ Management objectives

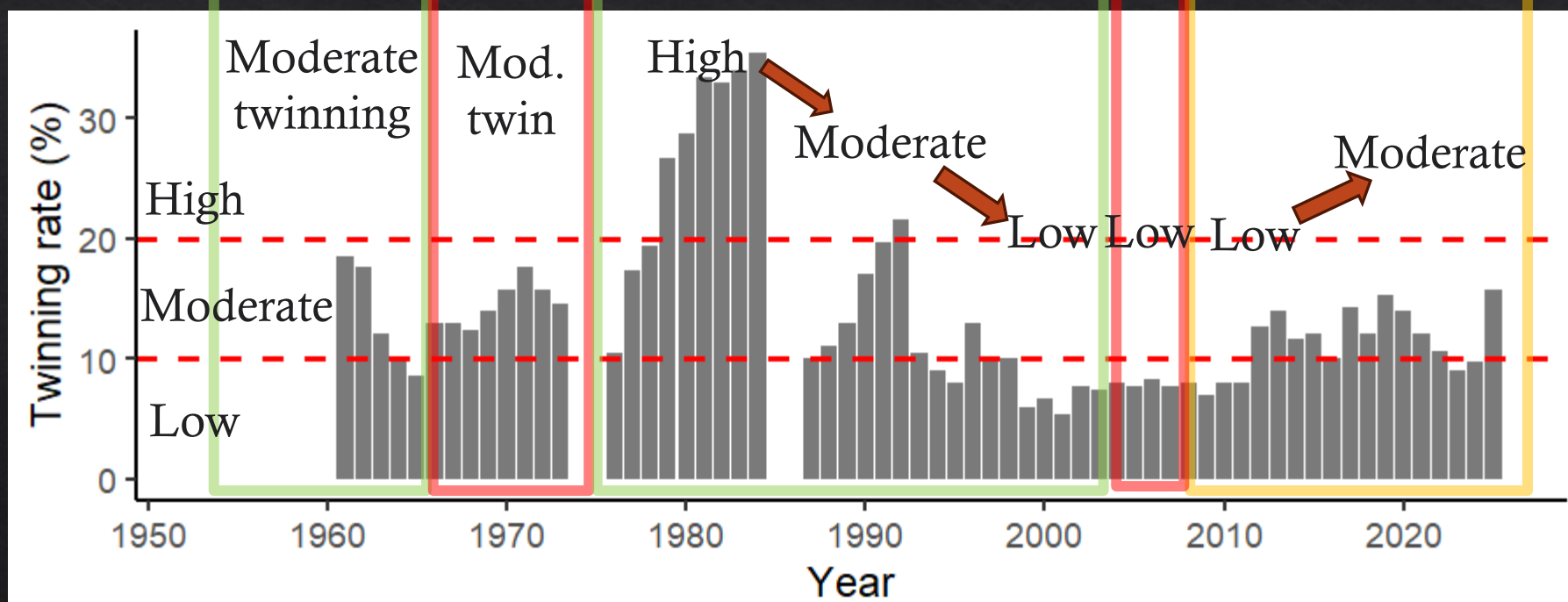
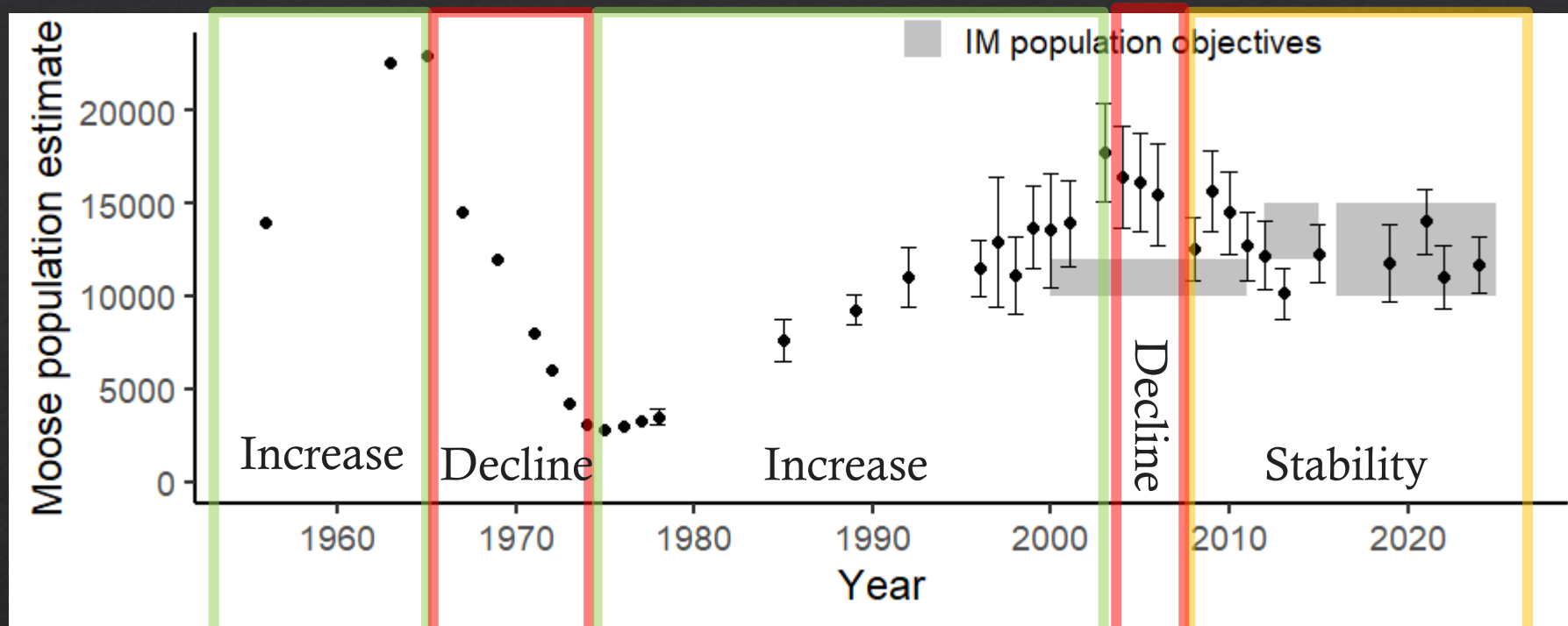
- ≥ 25 bulls:100 COWS
- Population growth depending on nutrition

◆ IM law and AC statutory authority

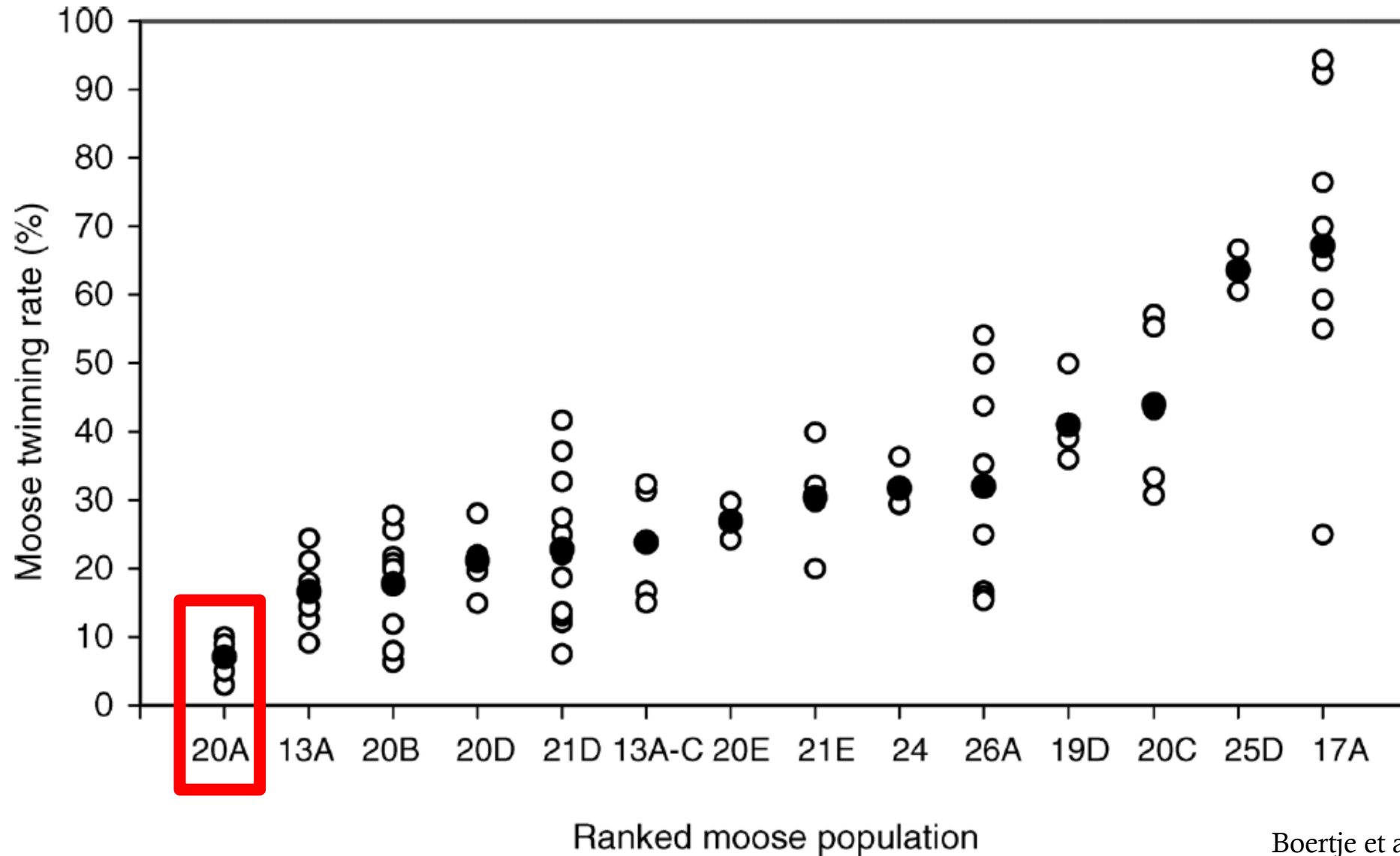


Unit 20A moose population history

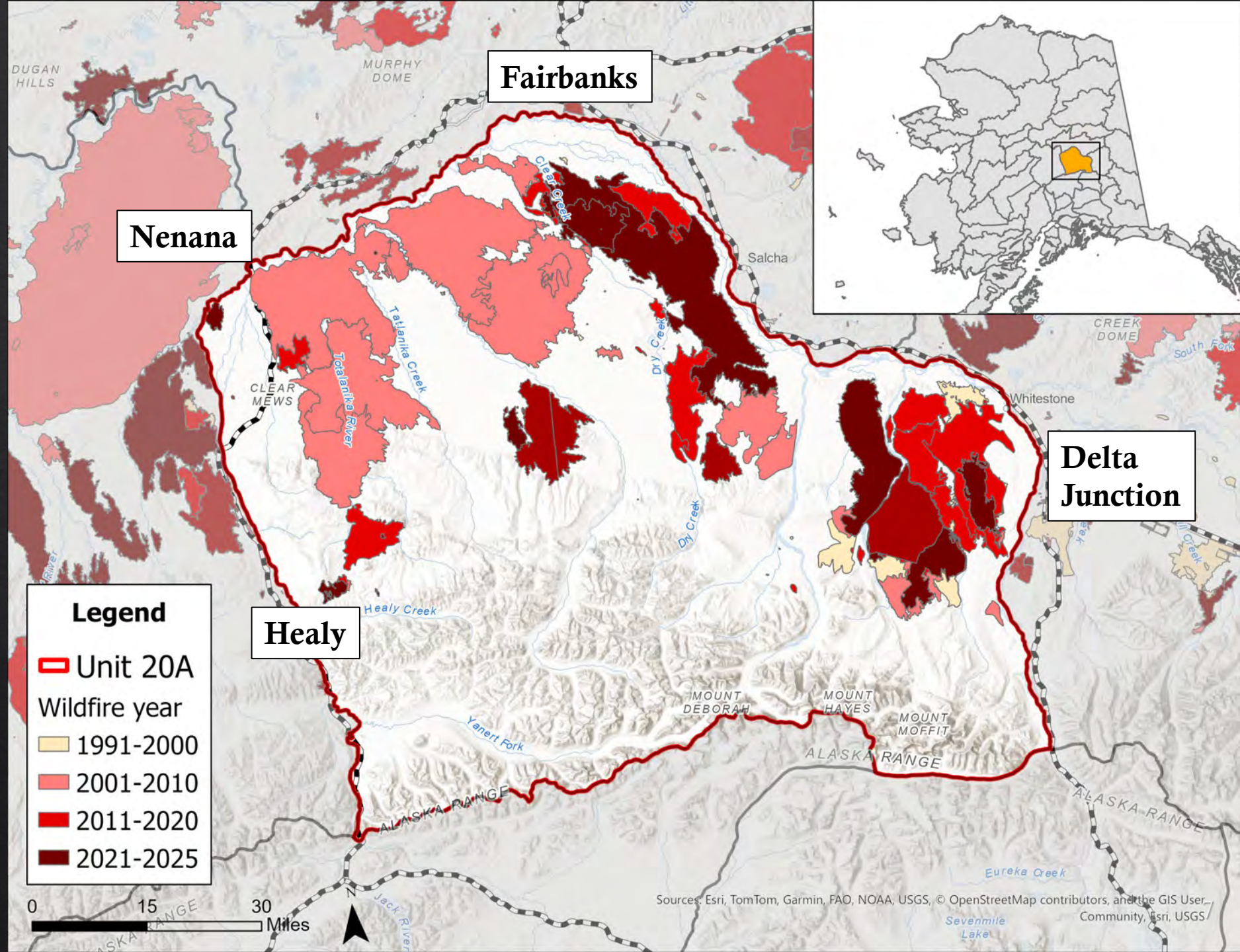




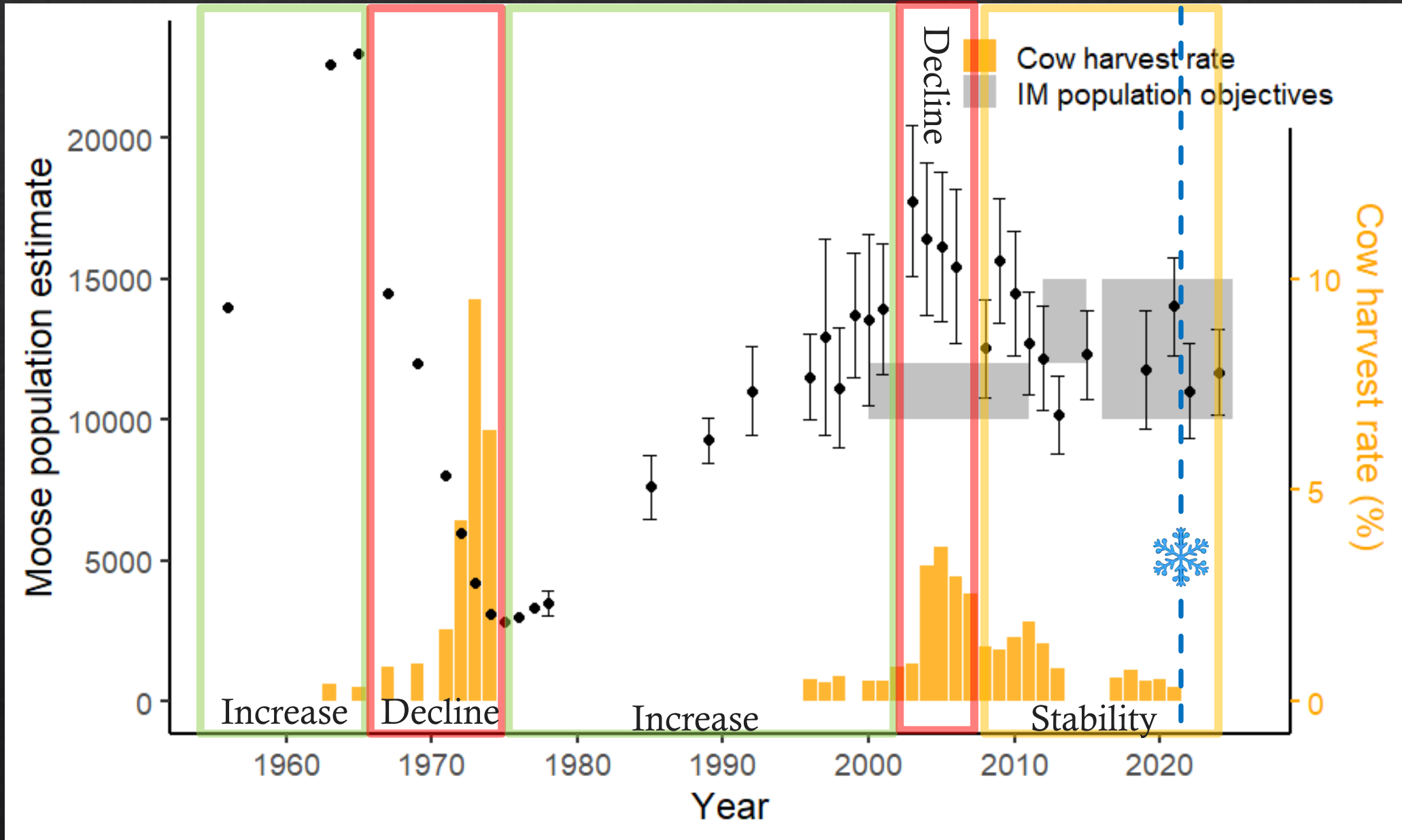
How did Unit 20A twinning rates compare?

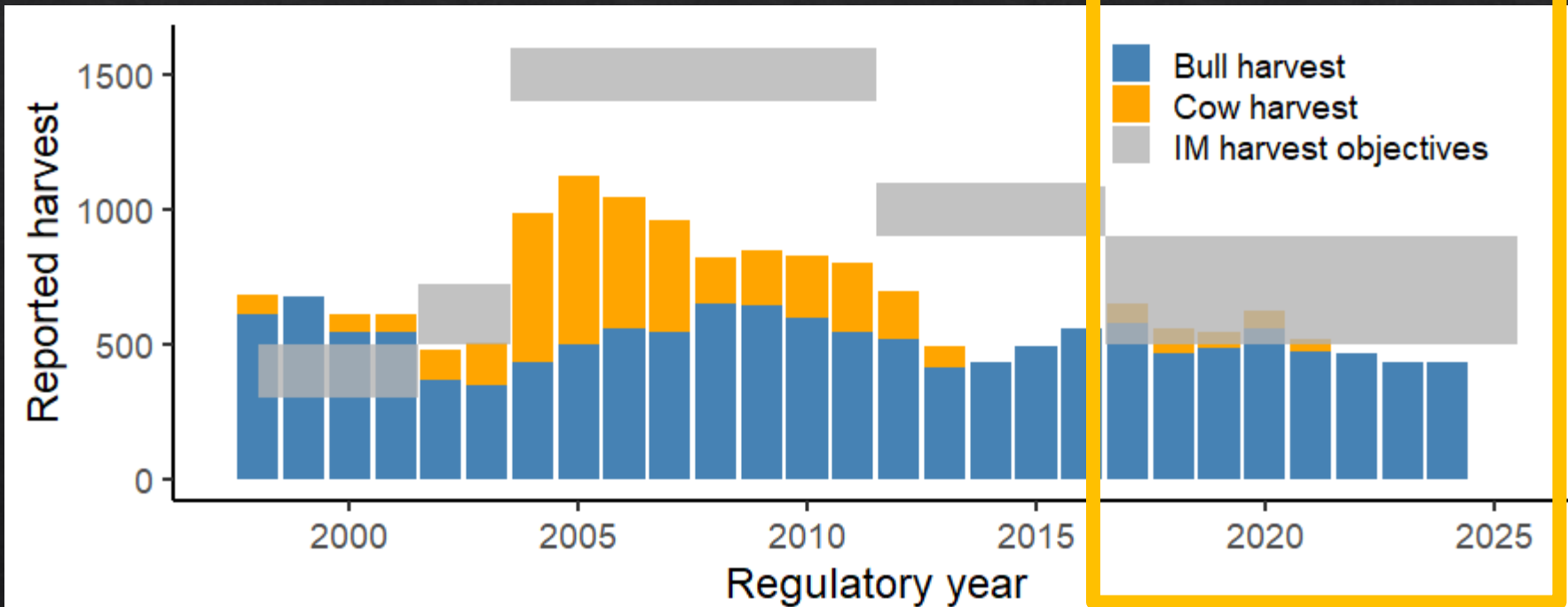
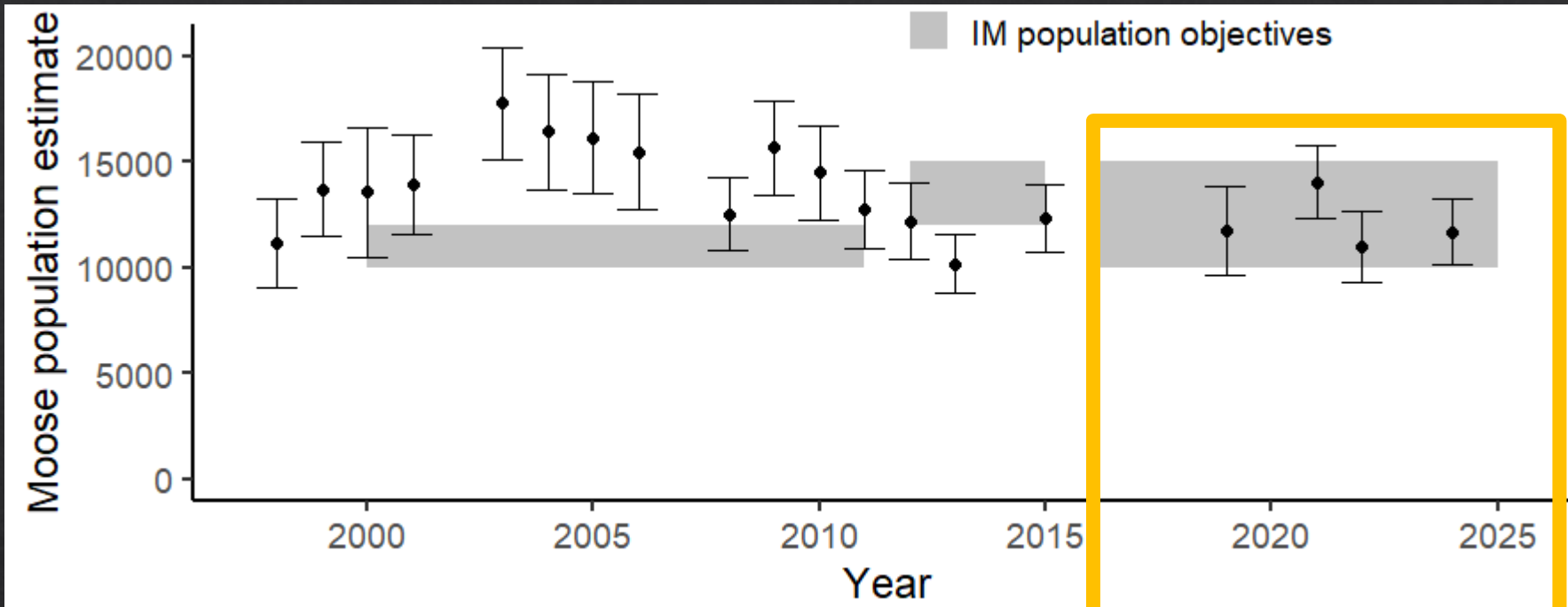


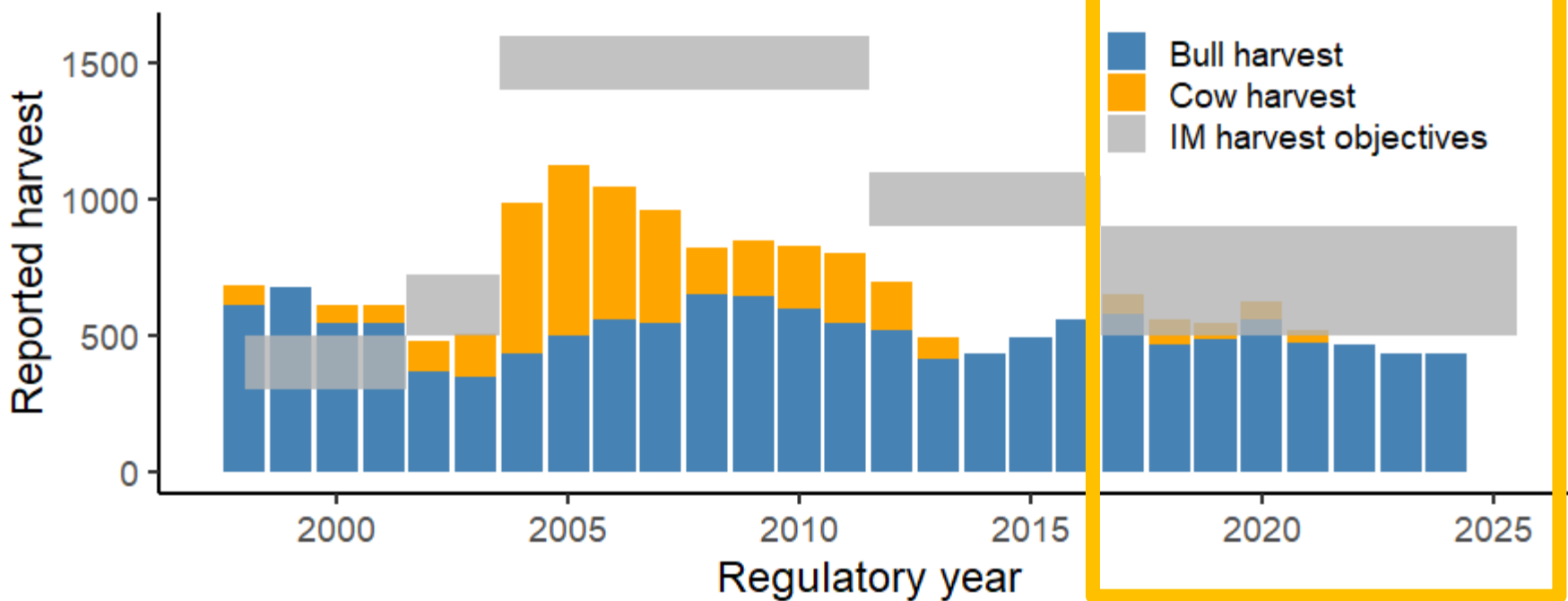
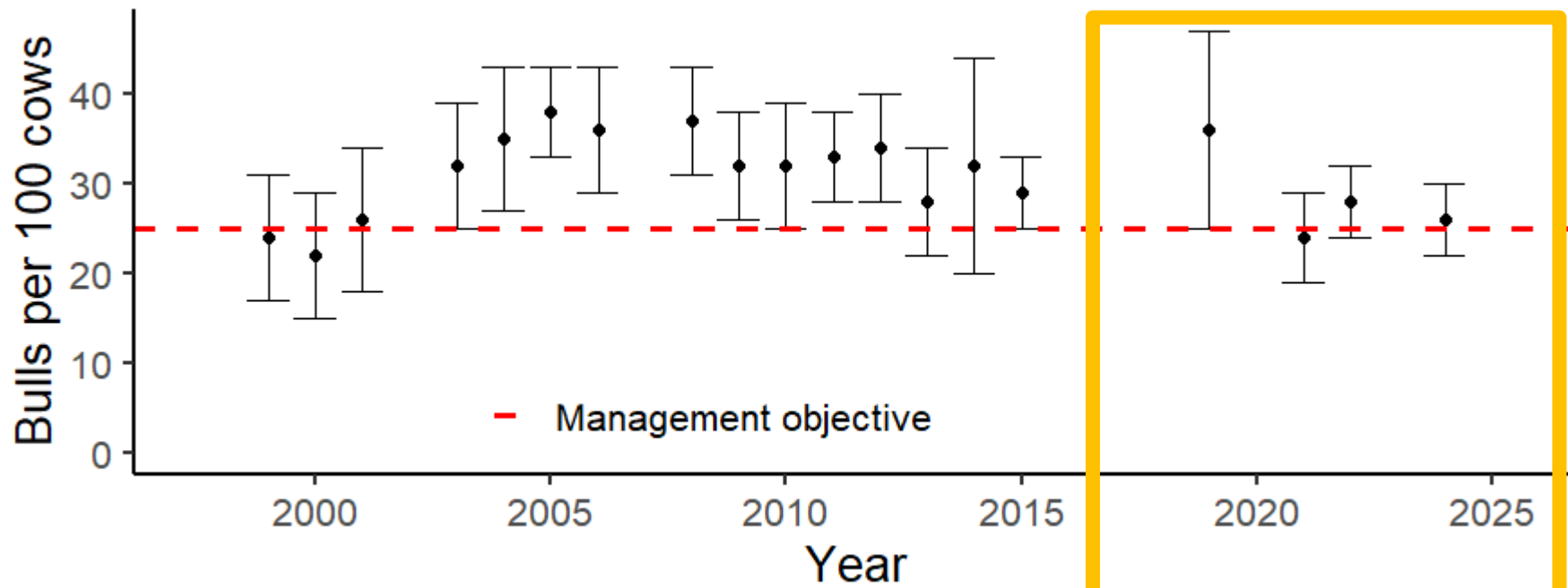
Unit 20A fire history



Unit 20A moose population history







When, where and how many?

◇ Population trend

- Increasing, stable, decreasing

◇ Nutritional status

- Twinning rate
 - <10%, 10-20%, >20%
- Short-yearling weights
 - <365 lb, 365-385 lb, >385 lb

◇ Bull:cow ratio

- 25 bulls:100 cows threshold

◇ Prescribed bull and cow harvest rate

Appendix A. Decision framework for Unit 20A moose that links management recommendations to metrics of population trend, nutritional status, and bull-to-cow ratio in the context of management objectives, Interior Alaska.

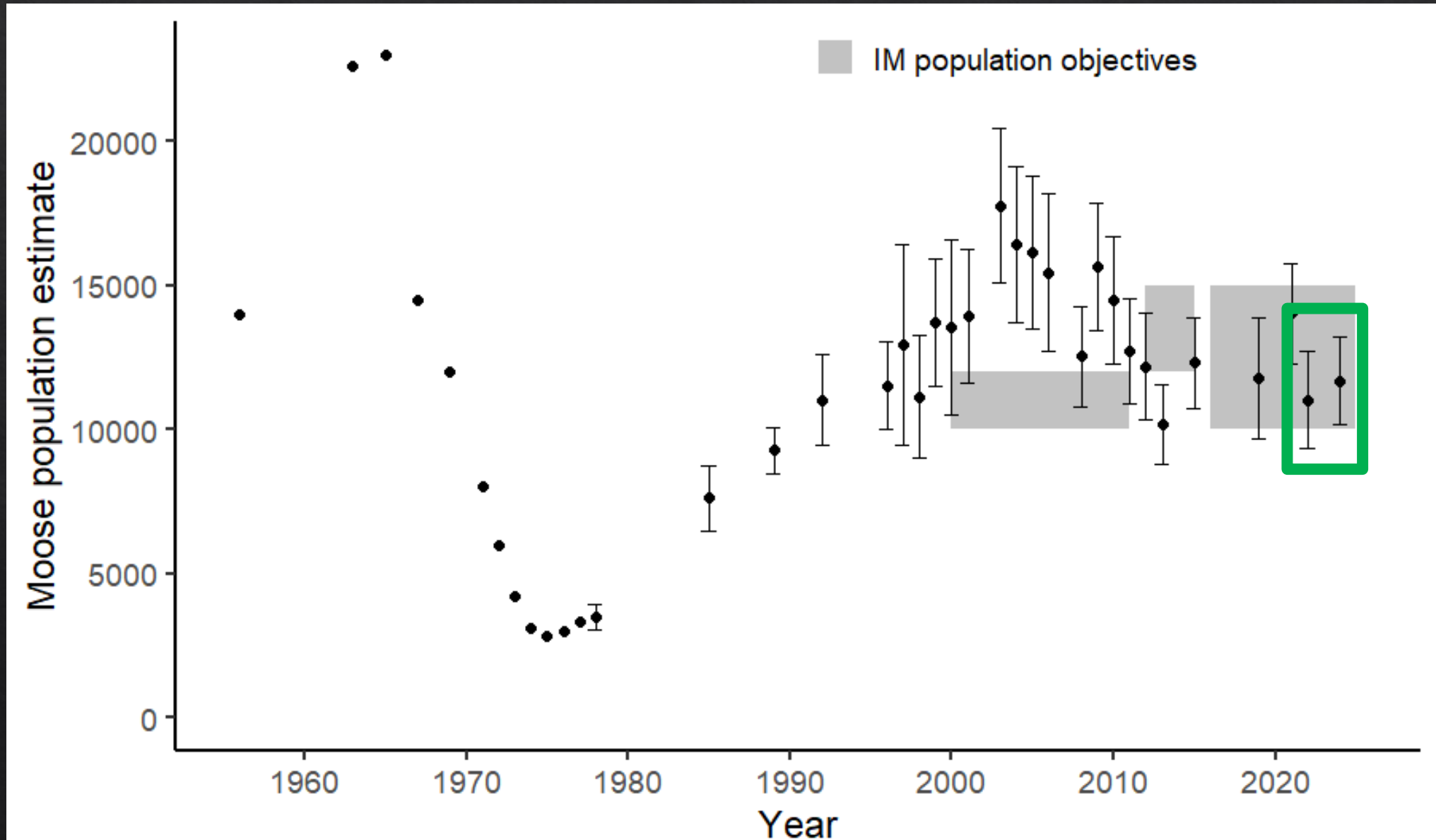
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			Bull harvest rate	Cow harvest rate
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^a High is a 3-year mean twinning rate >20% and/or female 10-month mass >385 lb.

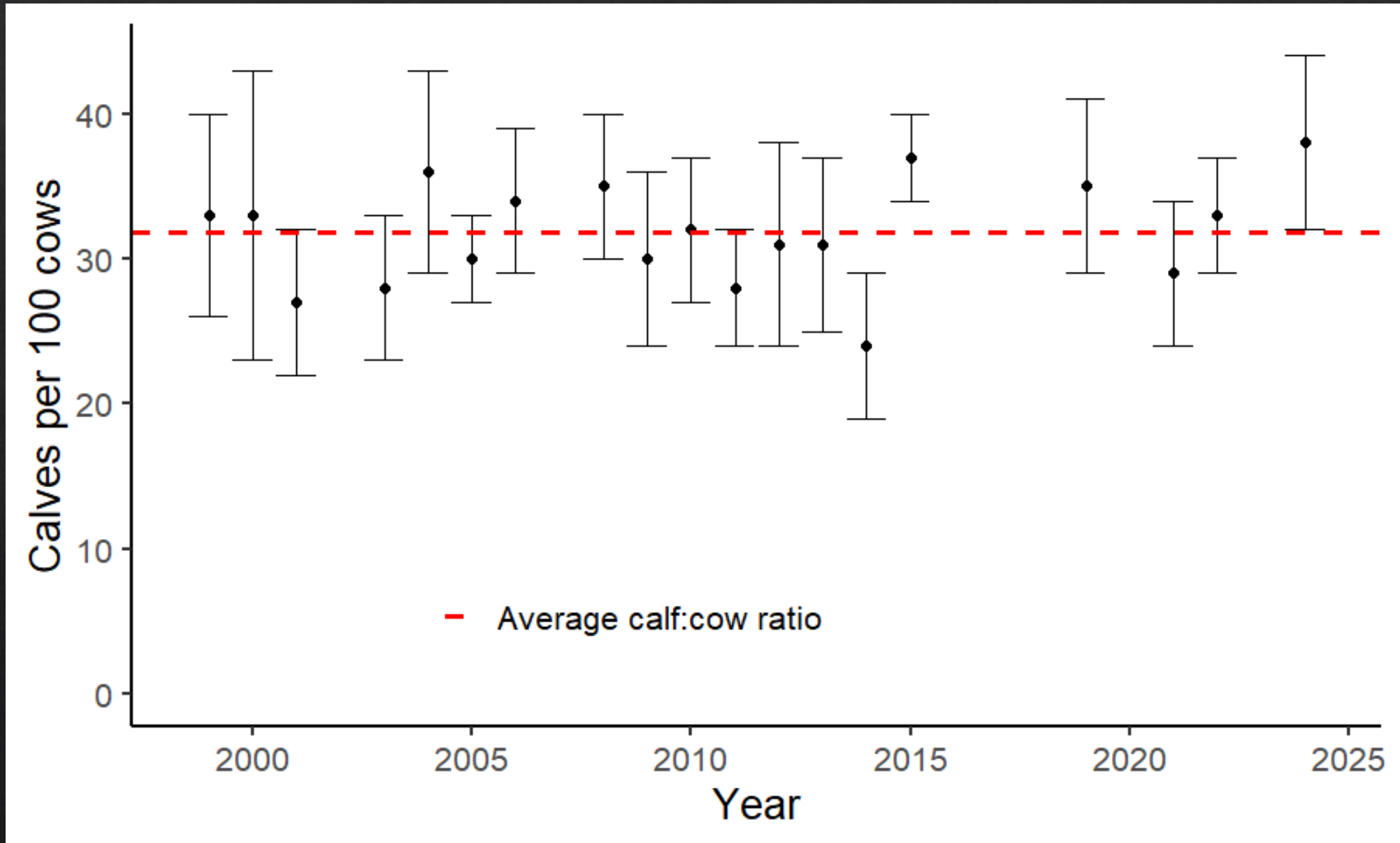
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^c Low is a 3-year mean twinning rate <10% and/or female 10-month mass <365 lb.

Population trend – likely stable (or increasing)



Unit 20A calf:cow ratios



When, where and how many?

◇ Population trend

- Stable

◇ Nutritional status

- Twinning rate
 - <10%, 10-20%, >20%
- Short-yearling weights
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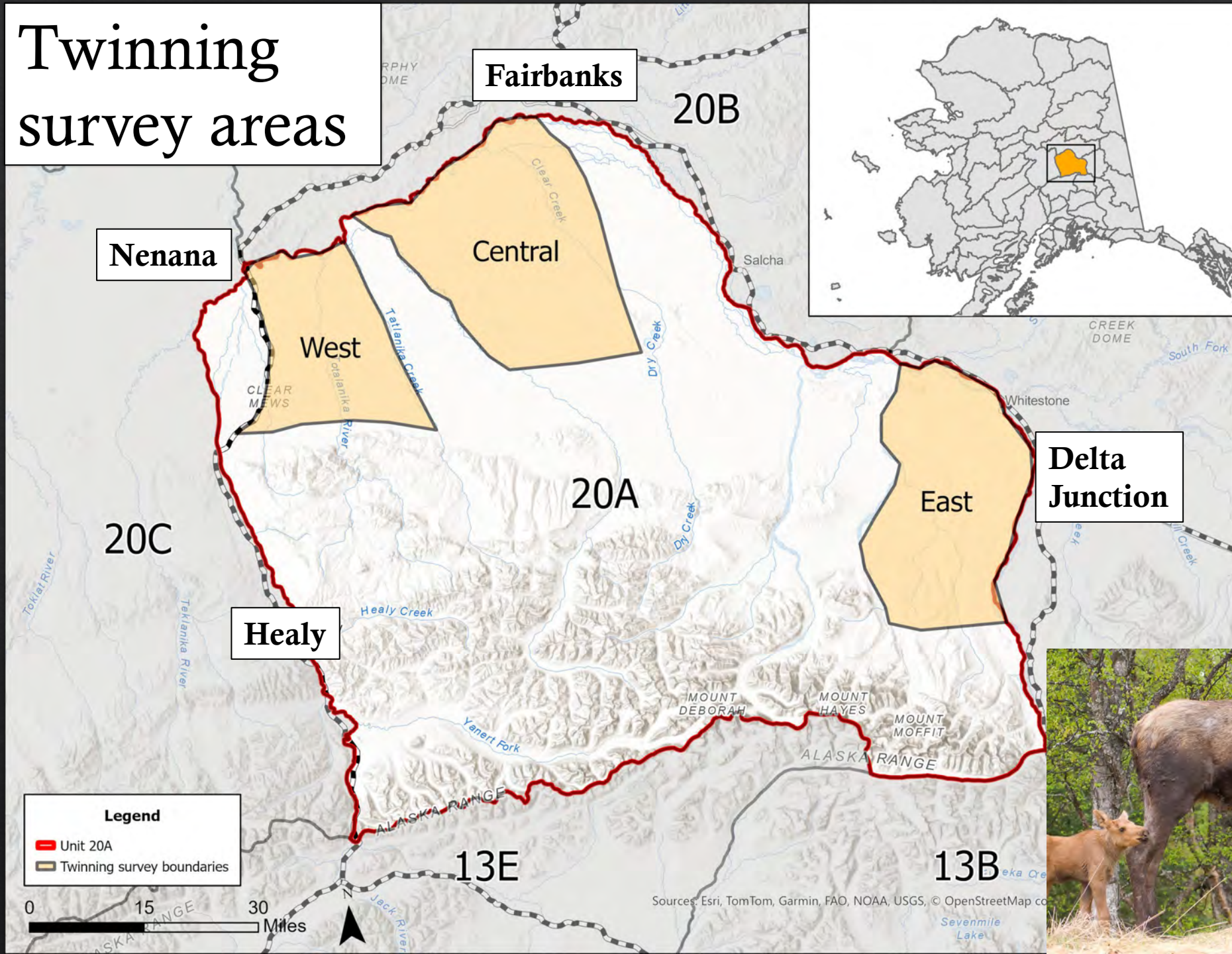
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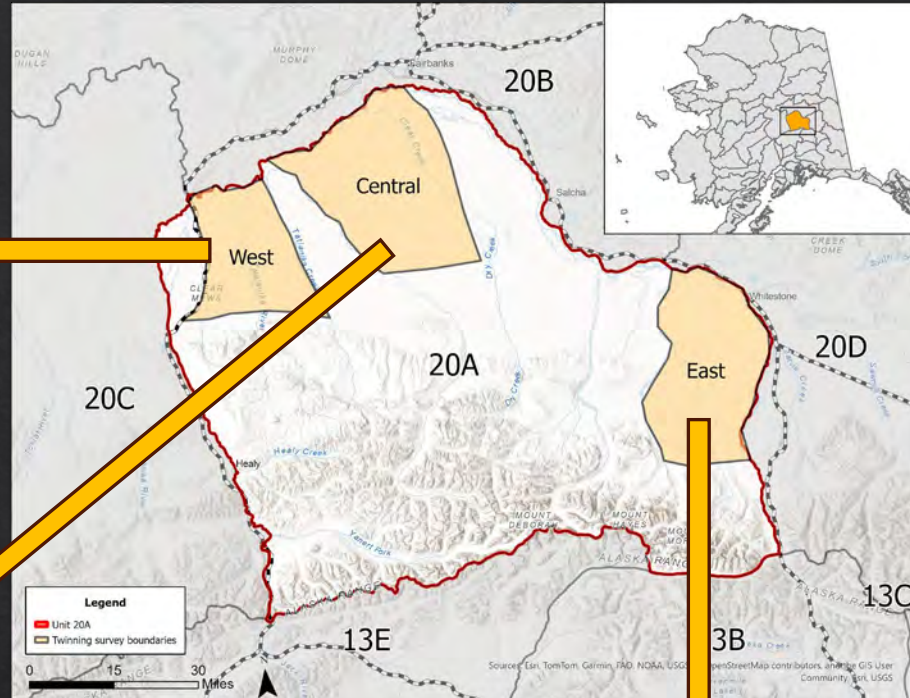
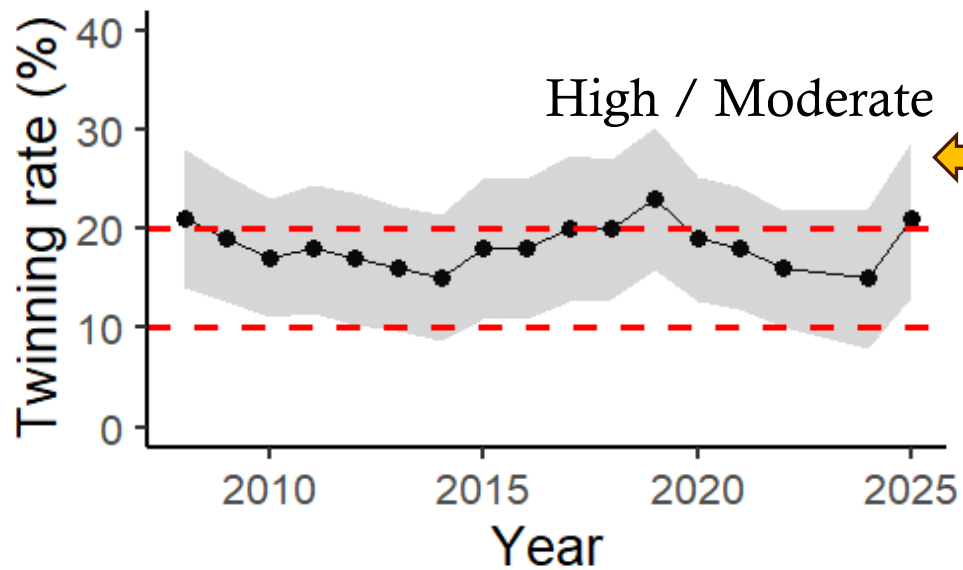
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Twinning survey areas

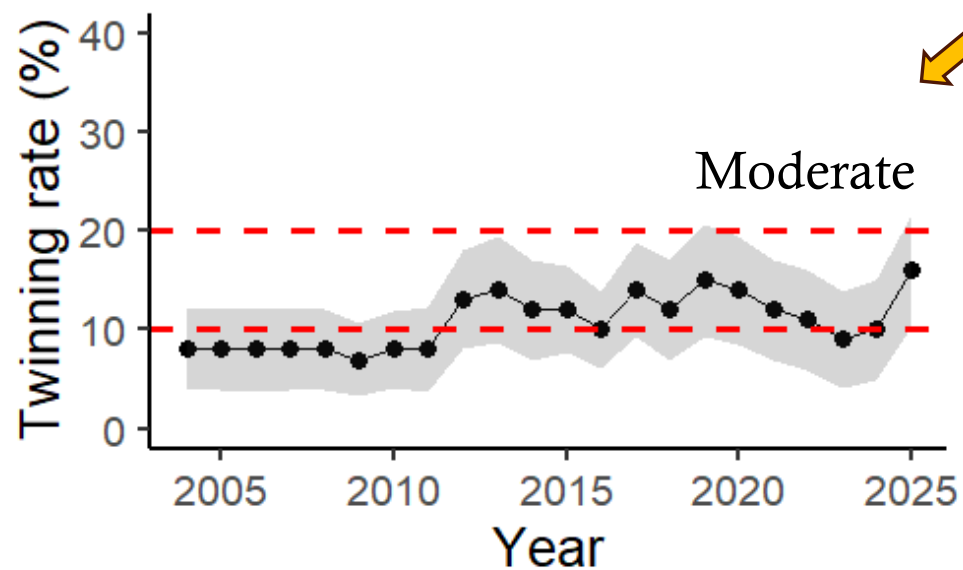


Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap co

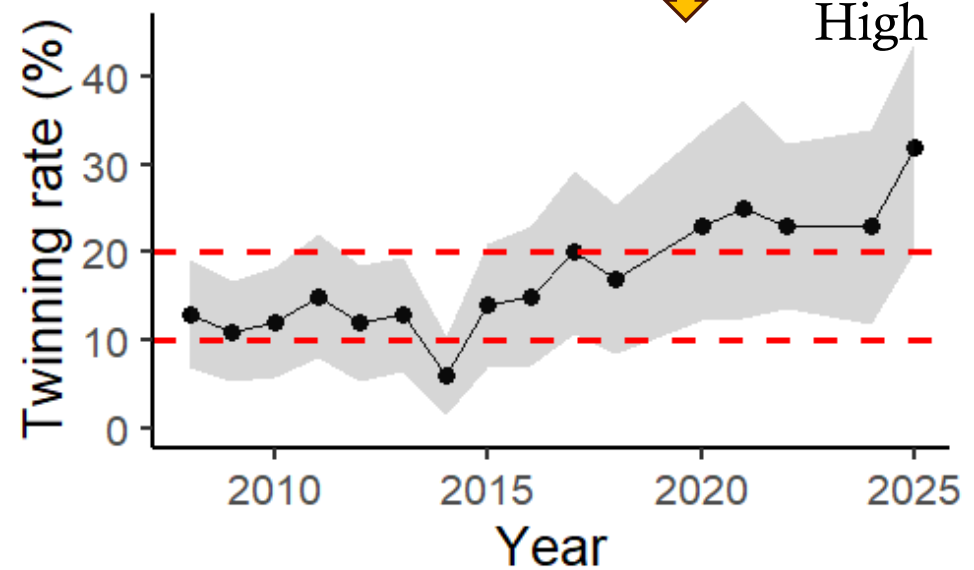
Western



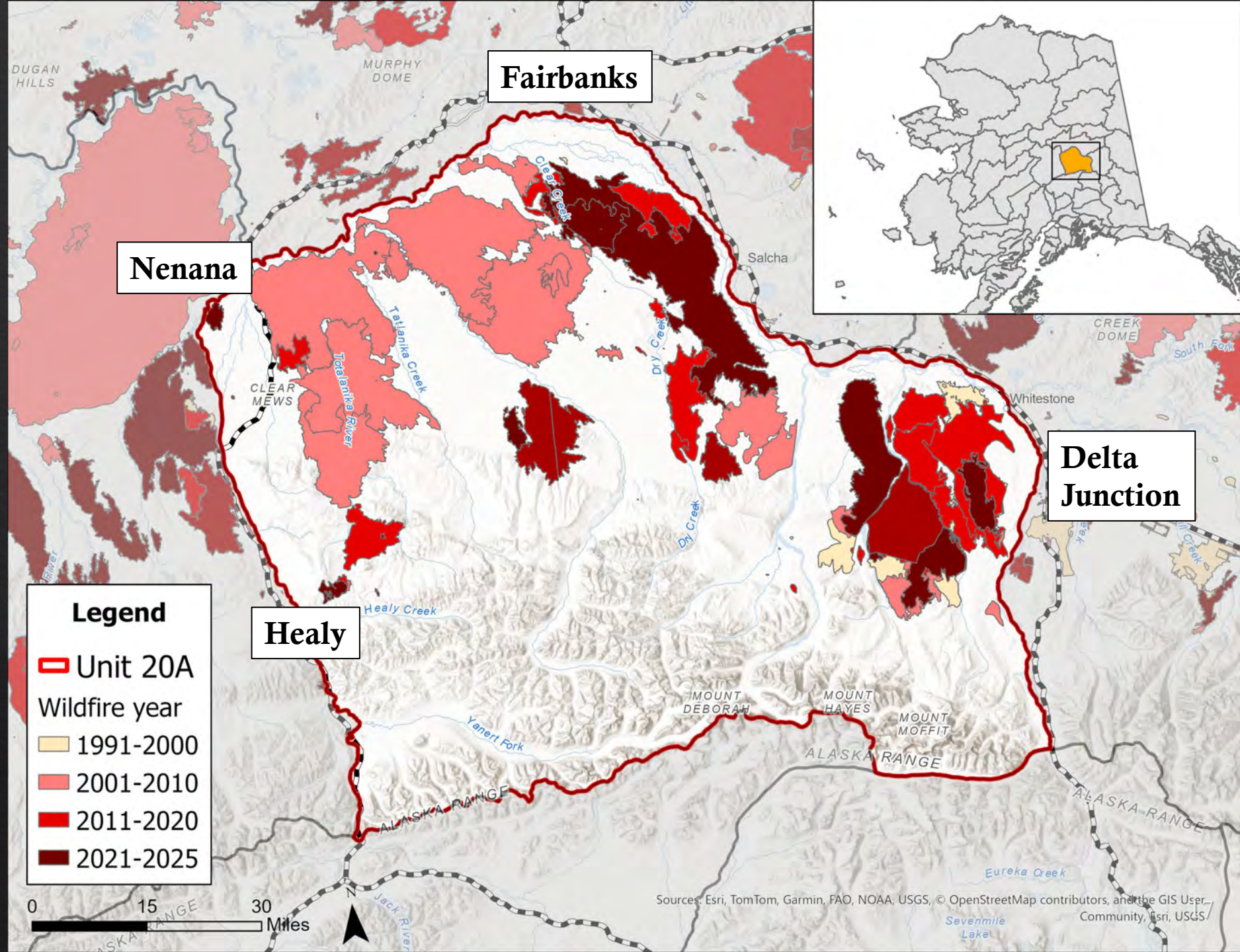
Central



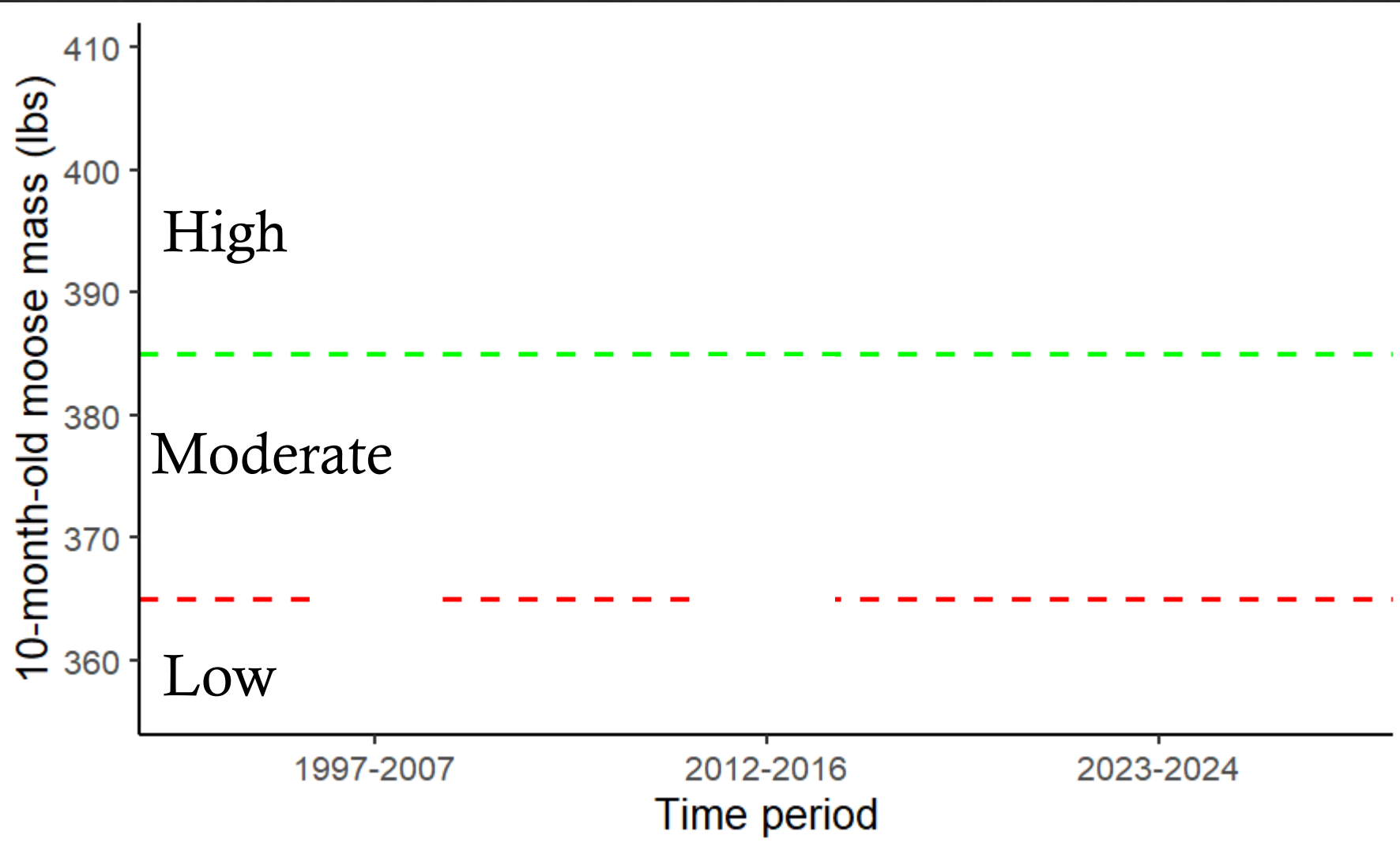
Eastern



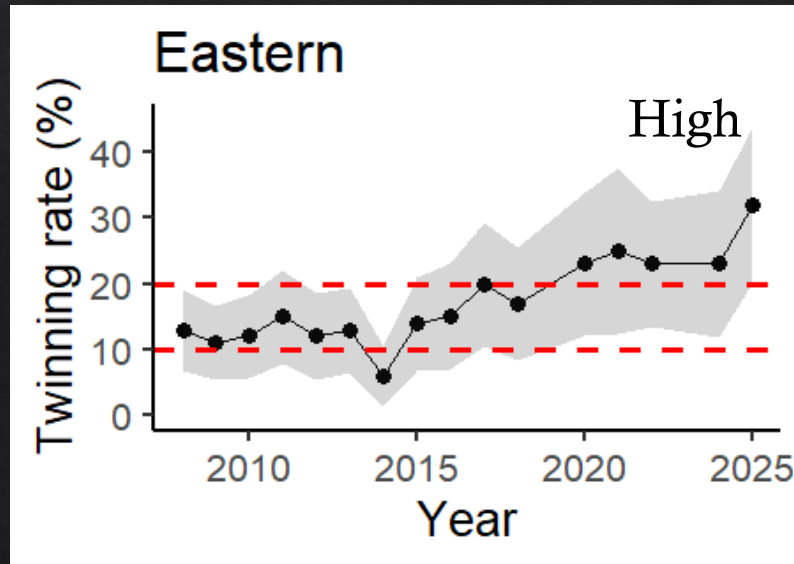
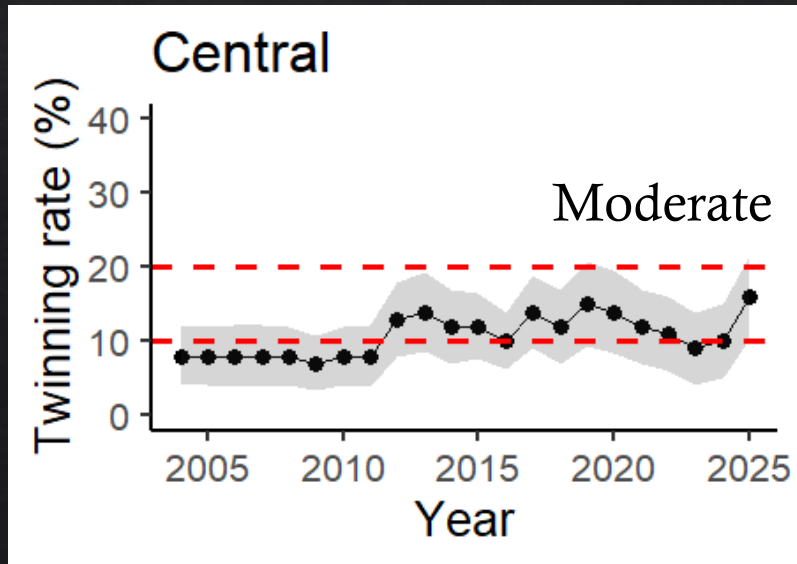
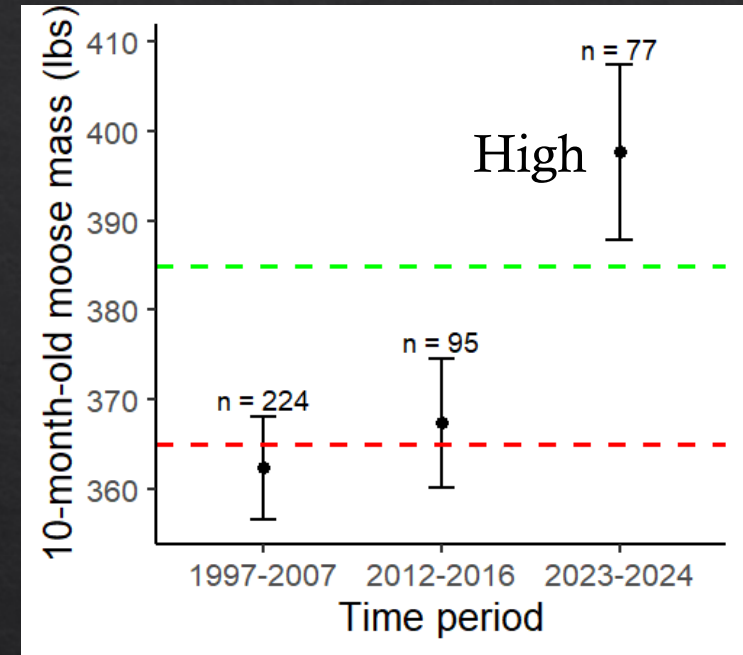
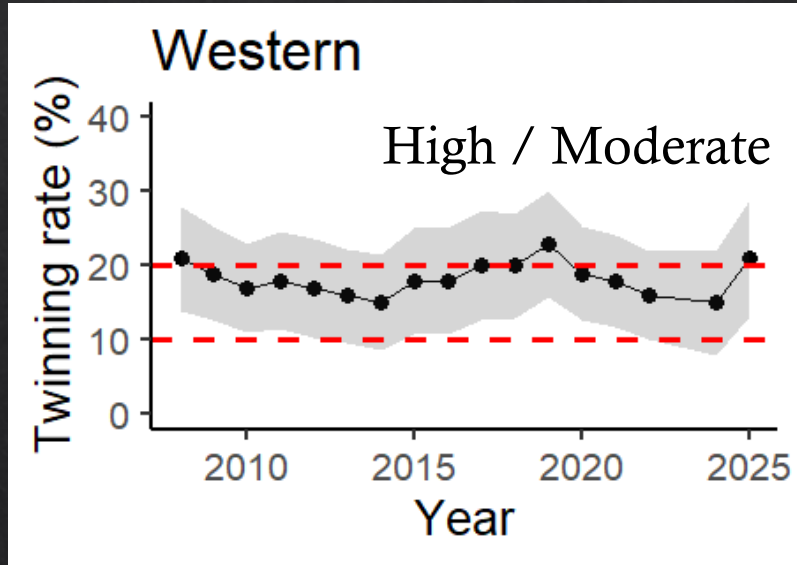
Unit 20A fire history



Short-yearling (10-month old) female mass



Nutritional status: moderate to high



When, where and how many?

Population trend

- Stable

Nutritional status

- Twinning rate
 - 10-20% and >20%
- Short-yearling weights
 - >385 lb

Moderate / high nutrition

Bull:cow ratio

- 25 bulls:100 cows threshold

Appendix A. Decision framework for Unit 20A moose that links management recommendations to metrics of population trend, nutritional status, and bull-to-cow ratio in the context of management objectives, Interior Alaska.

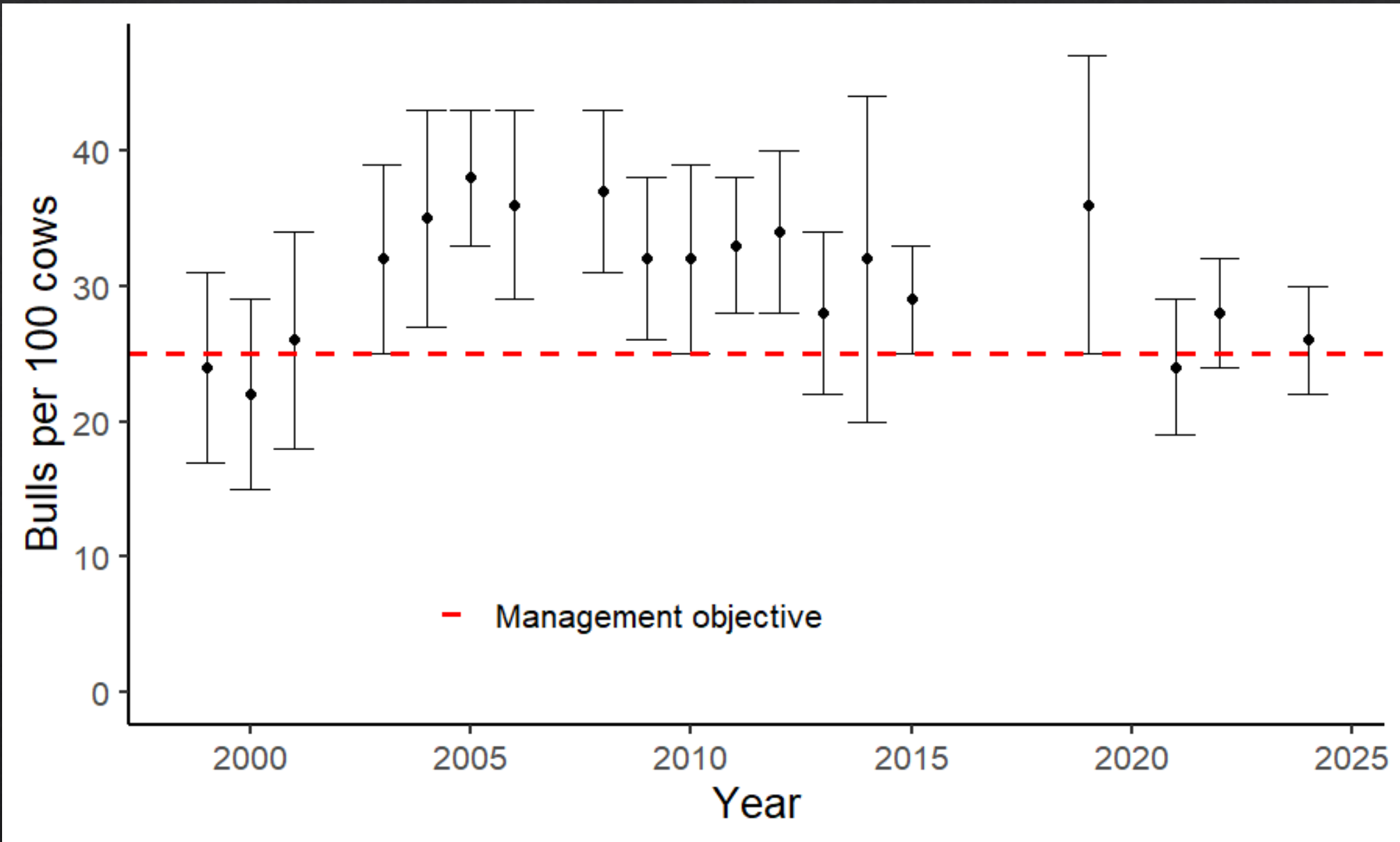
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20A bull:cow ratio estimates



When, where and how many?

Population trend

- Stable

Nutritional status

- Twinning rate
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 - >385 lb

Moderate / high nutrition

Bull:cow ratio

- 25 bulls:100 cows threshold

Prescribed cow harvest rate <1%

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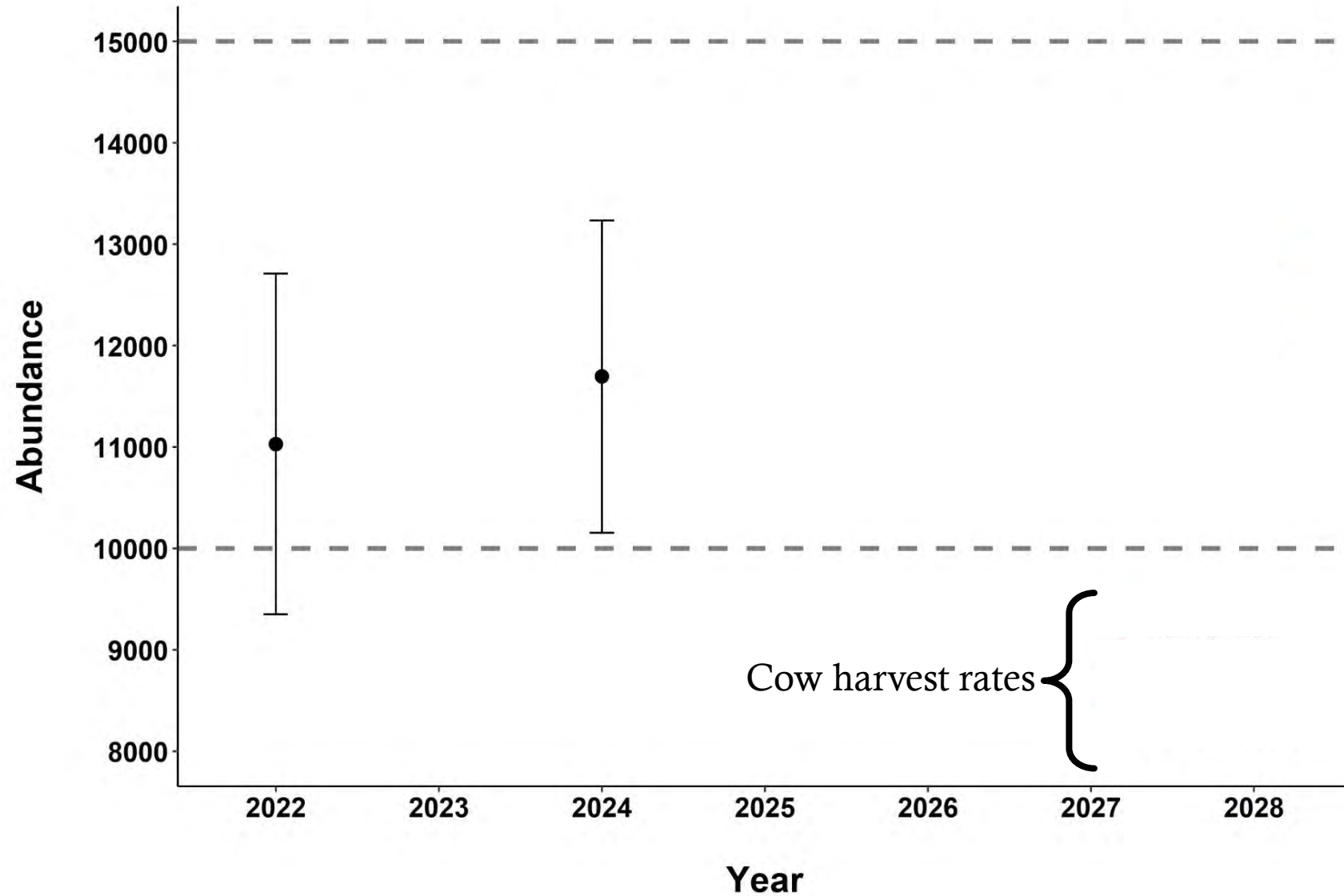
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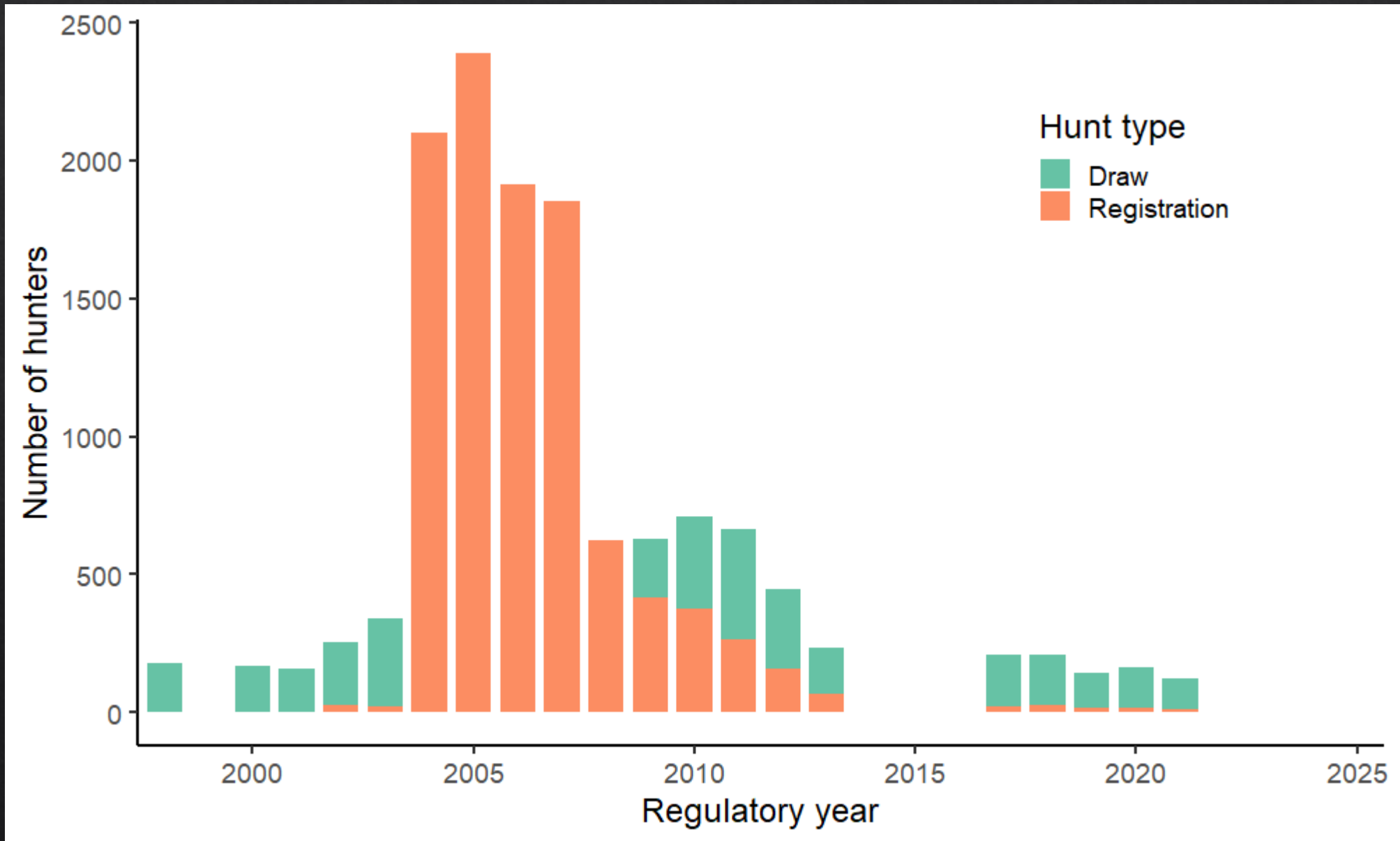
Why start now with antlerless harvest?

1. **Maintain population stability with low level (1% or less of population) of cow harvest**
 - ◇ Most of harvest from fall draw hunts
 - ◇ If wait – more harvest from winter registration permits

Unit 20A population model

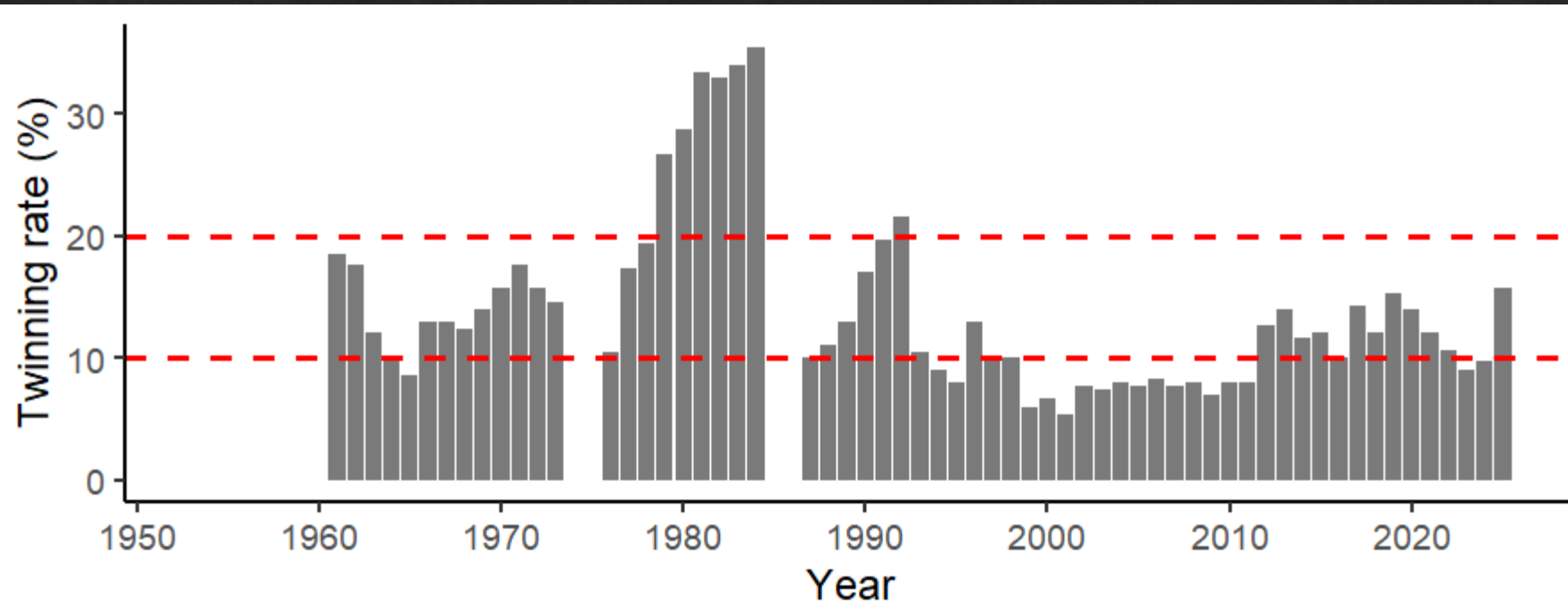
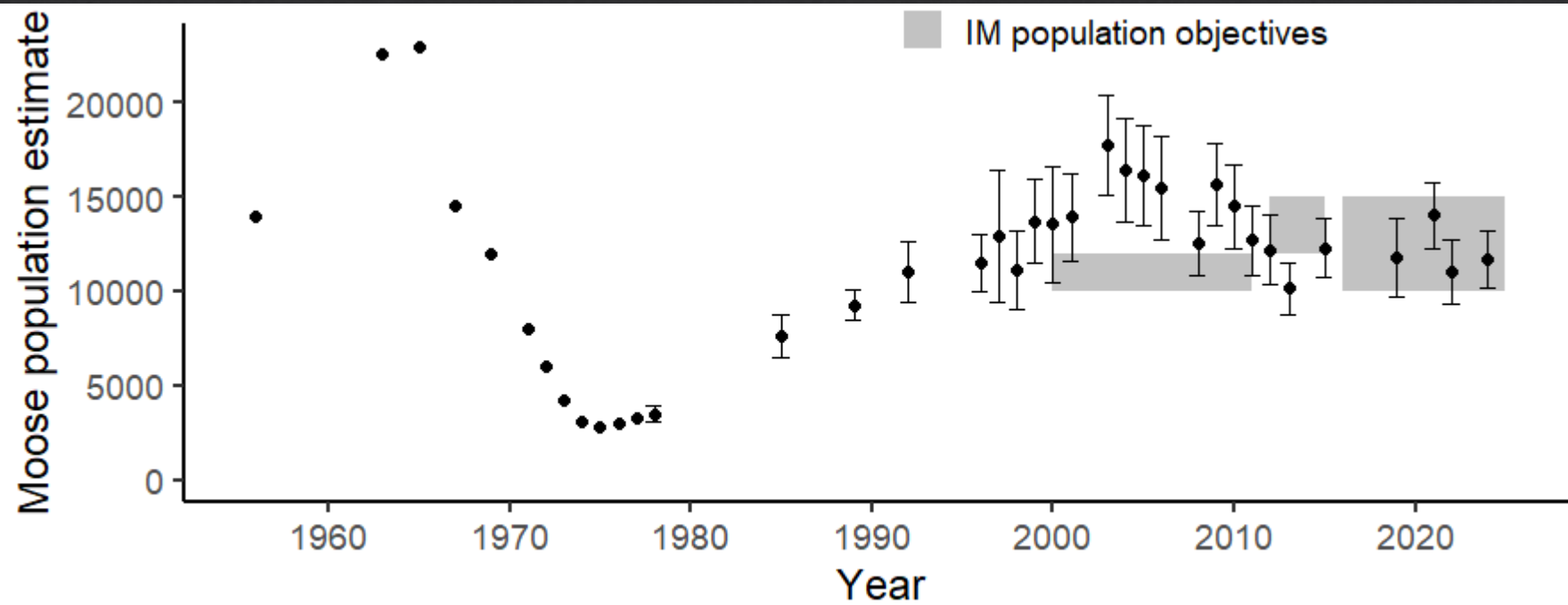


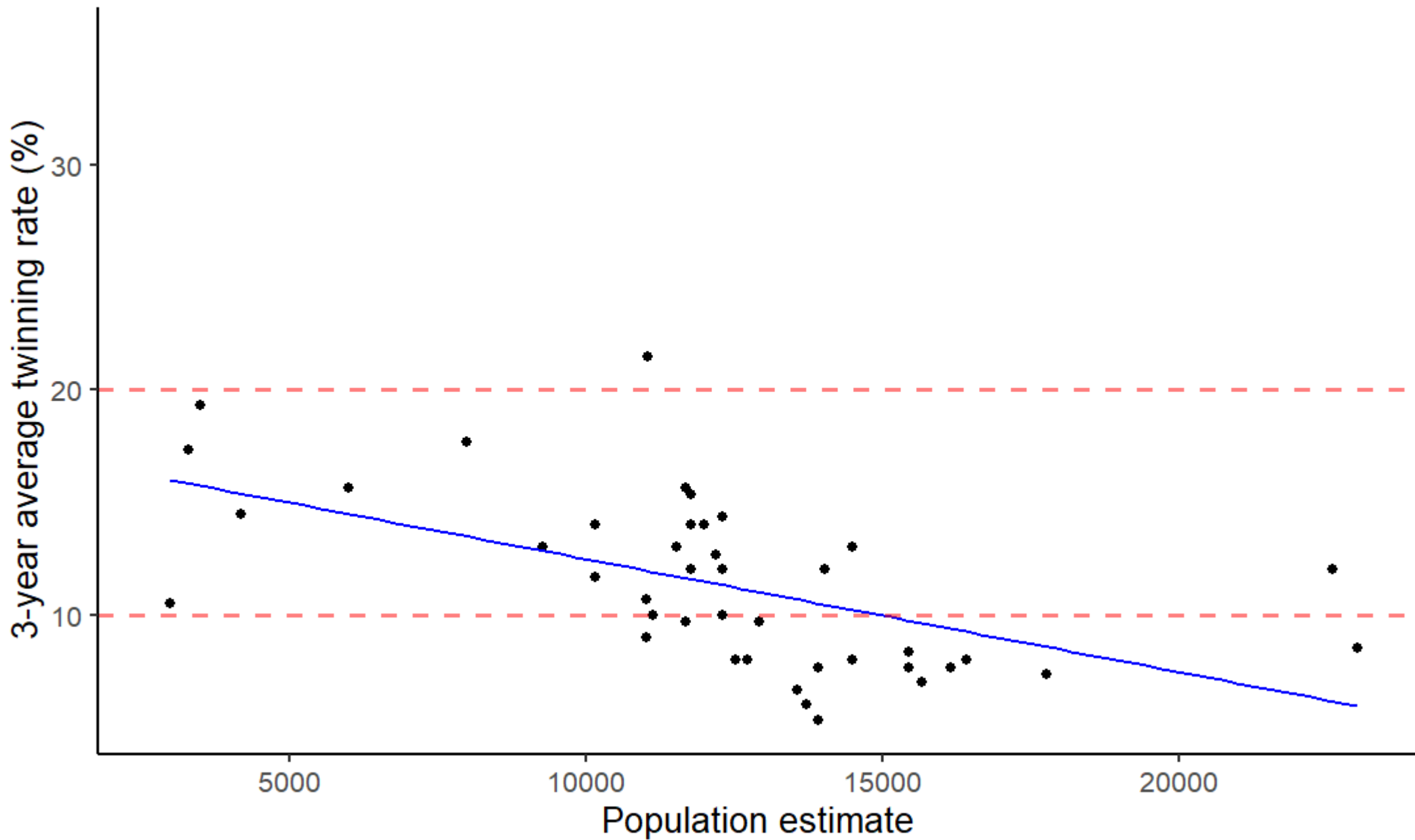
Unit 20A cow hunters by hunt type



Why start now with antlerless harvest?

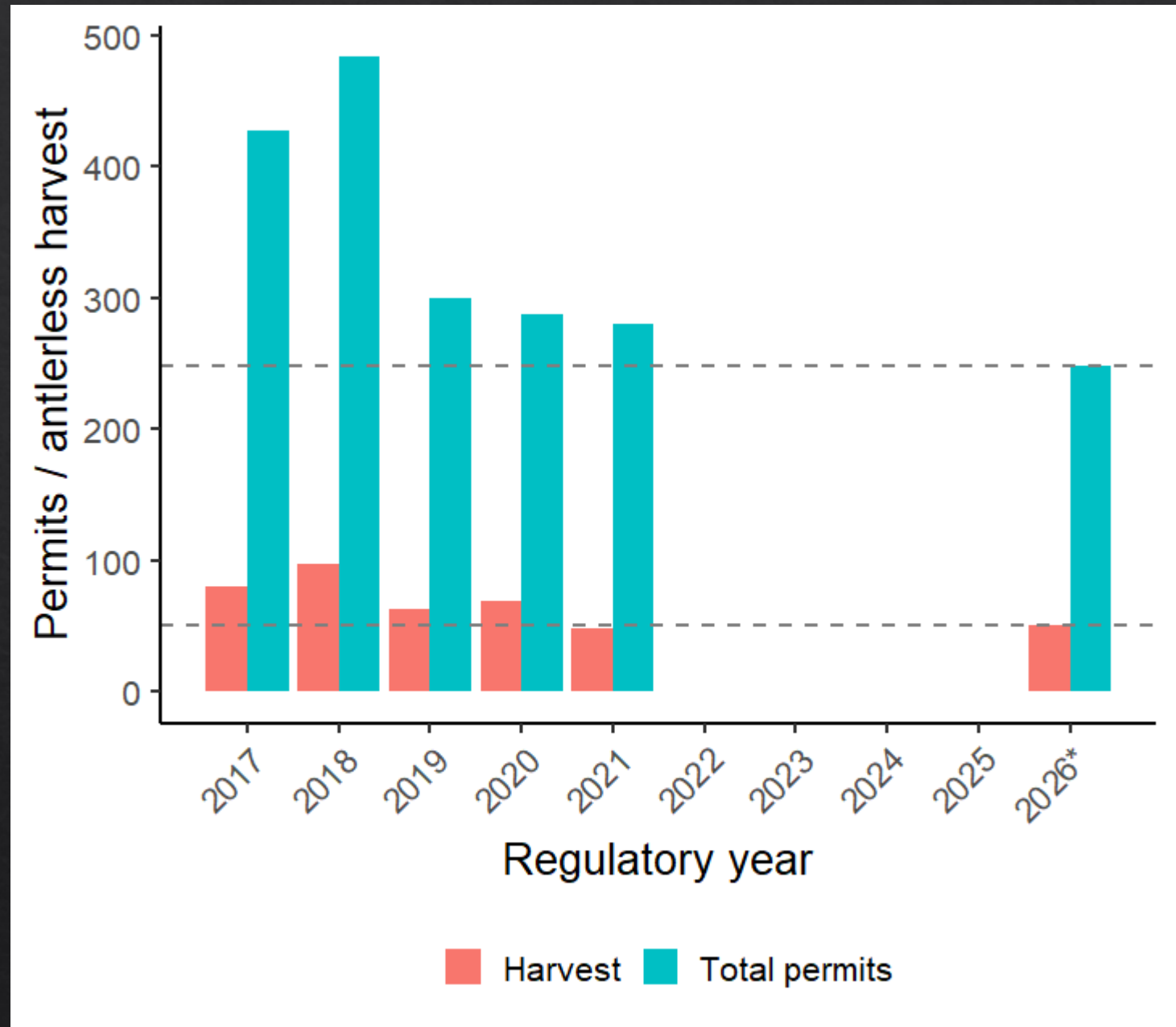
1. **Maintain population stability with low level (1% or less) of harvest**
 - ◇ Most of harvest from draw hunts
 - ◇ If wait – more harvest from winter registration permits
2. **Achieve IM harvest objective**
3. **Provide for additional stable opportunity**
4. **Stabilize population at more productive level**
 - ◇ Stabilize near 12,500 as opposed to 15,000





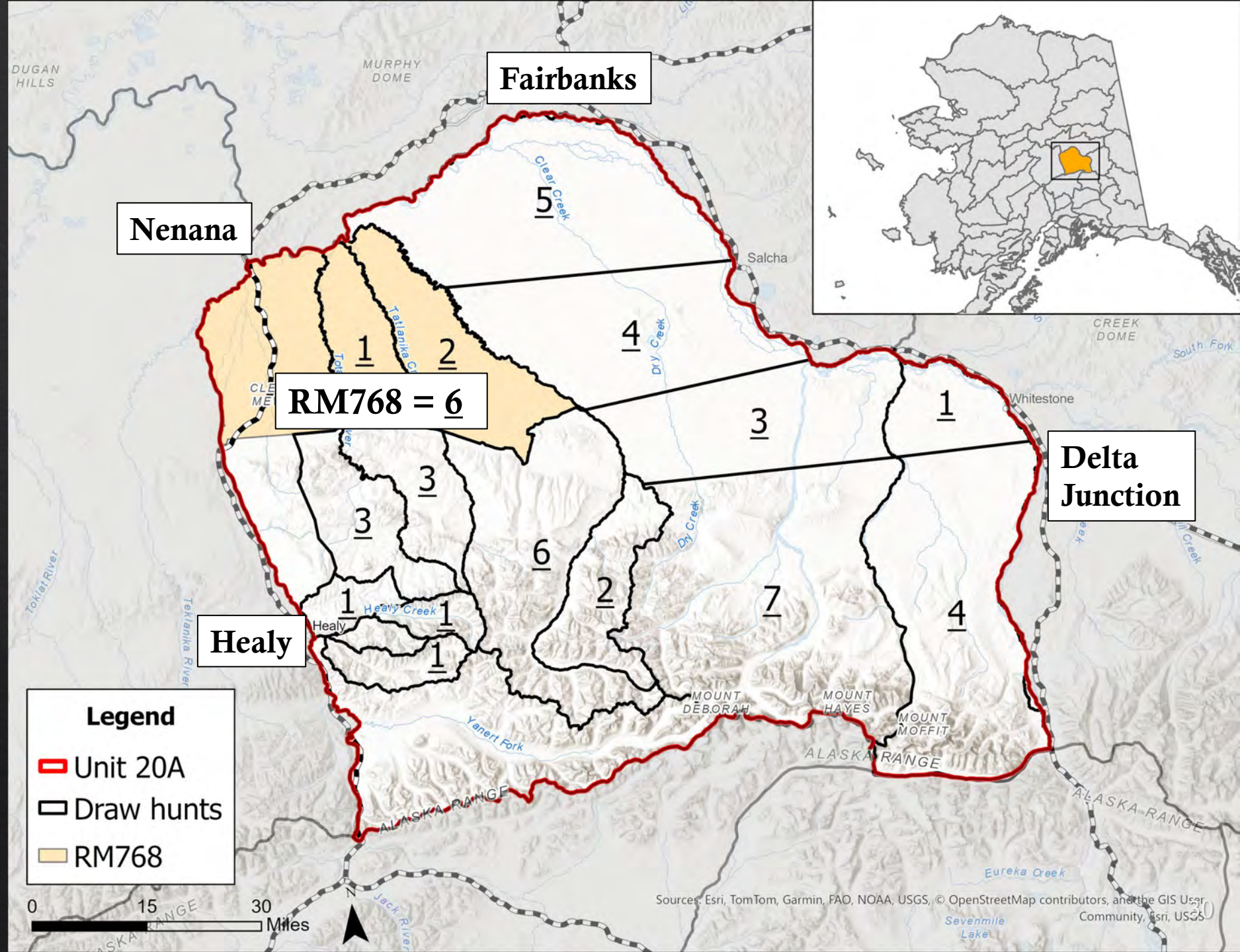
Fall 2026 cow harvest plan

- ◇ Fall 2024 pop. est. = 11,695
- ◇ Harvest goal = 50
 - 0.4% harvest rate
- ◇ 248 total permits
 - Average % hunted = 48%
 - Average success rate = 37%
- ◇ Low end harvest = 32
- ◇ High end harvest = 52



Harvest goal
by hunt area

Total harvest
goal = 50

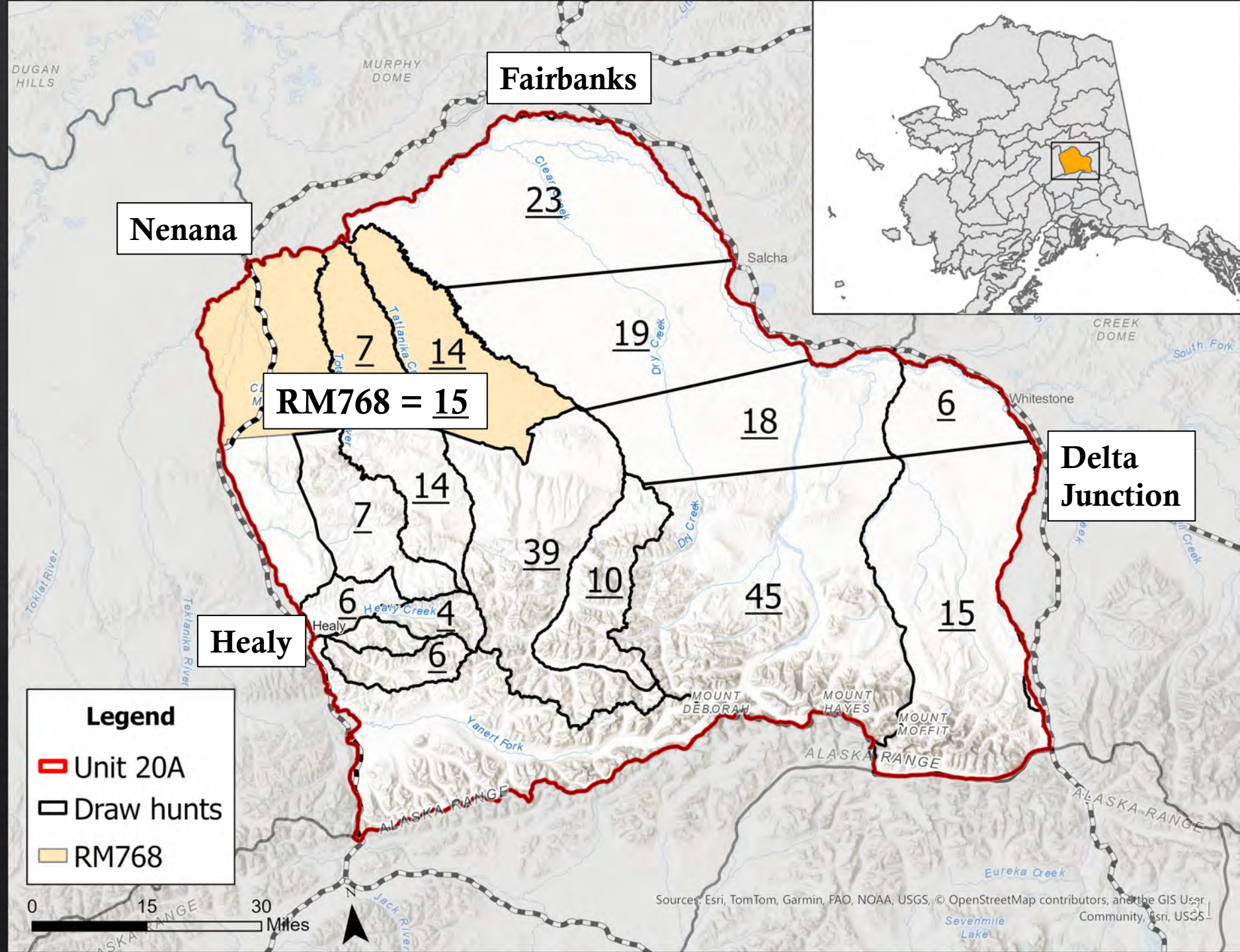


Number of permits by hunt area

Total draw permits = 233

Total RM768 permits = 15

Total combined permits = 248

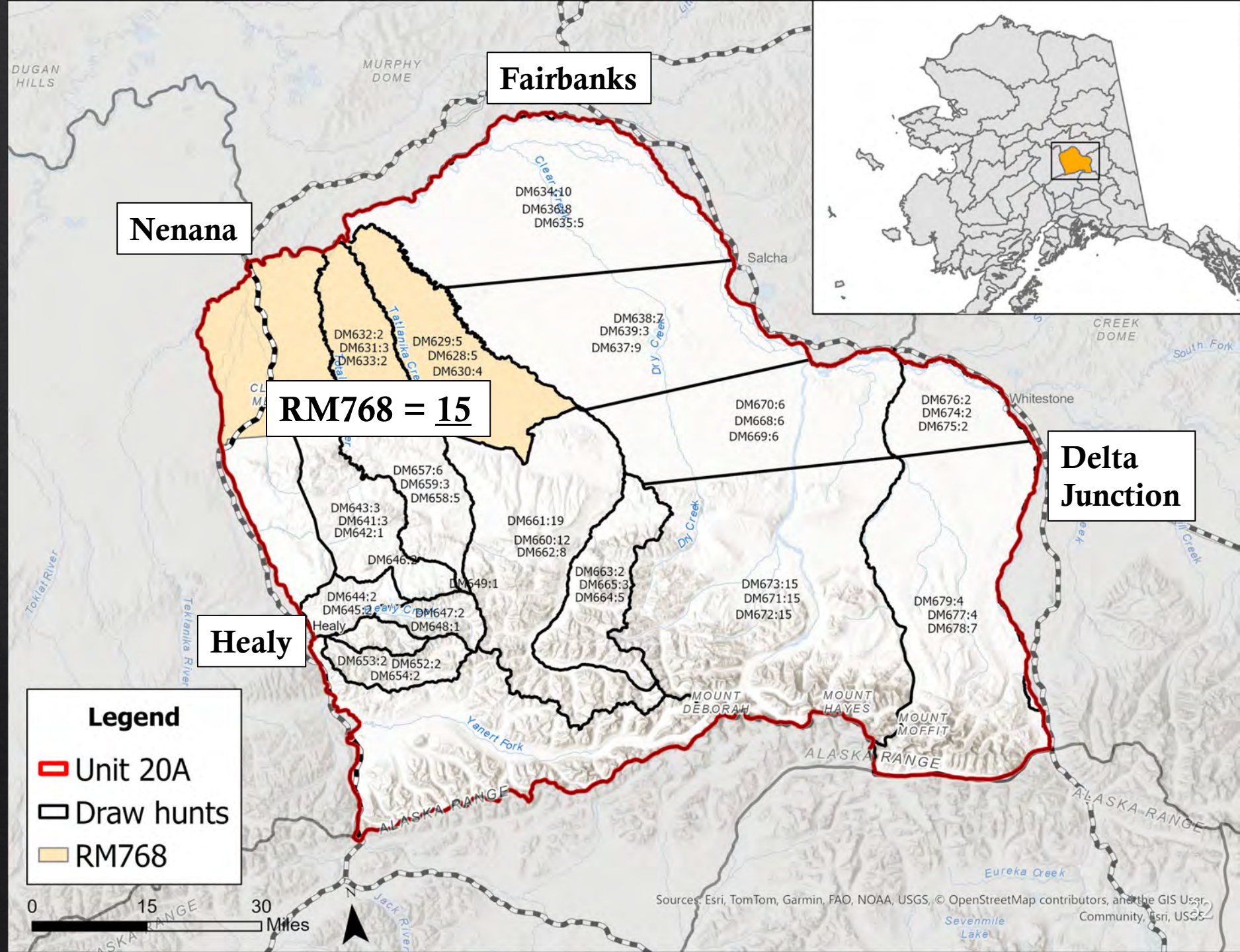


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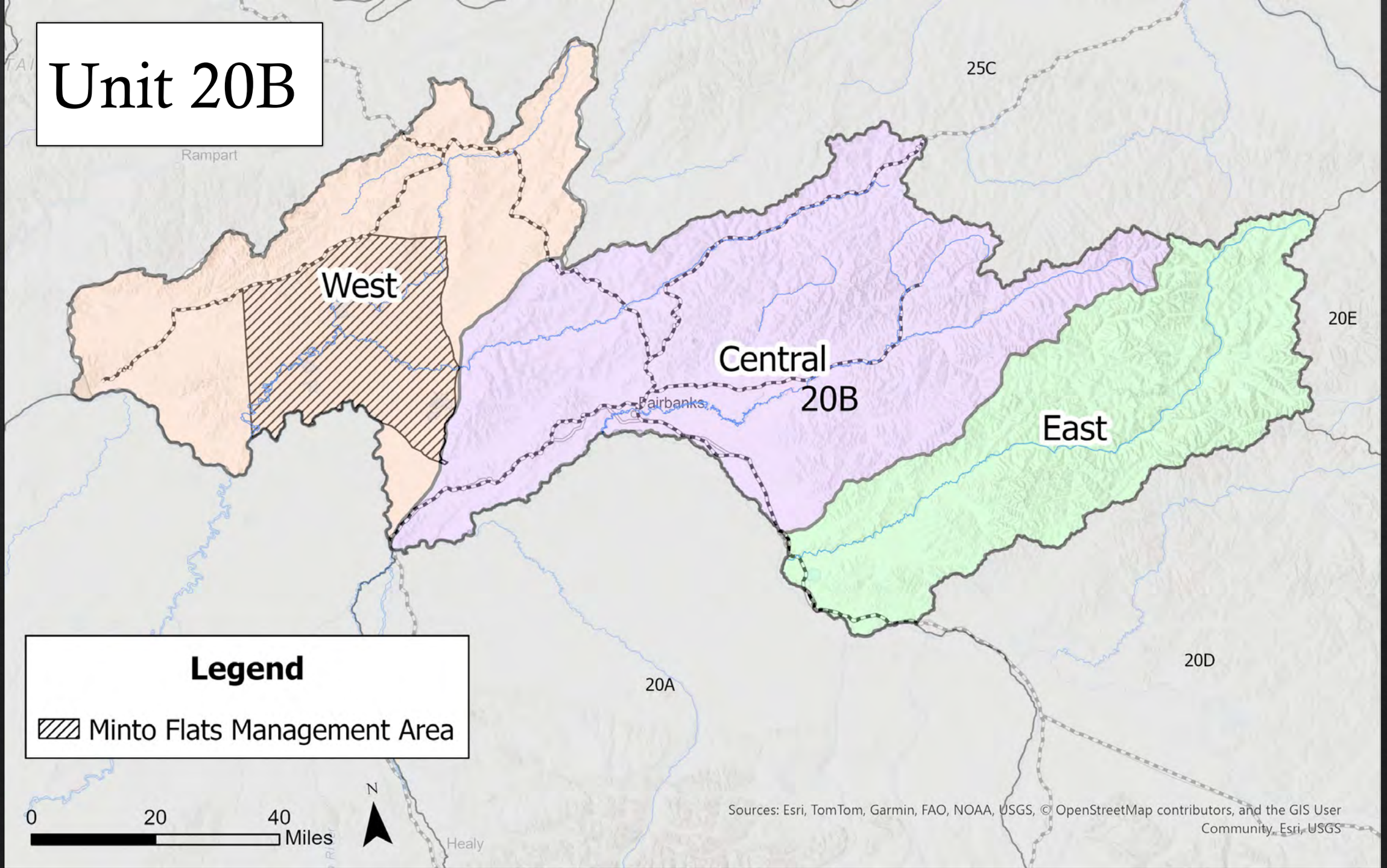


A black dog is standing in a snowy field with sparse, dry vegetation. The dog is facing away from the camera, looking towards the left. The background shows a snow-covered hillside under a clear sky.

Questions / discussion on Unit 20A?

Reauthorization = proposal 256

Unit 20B



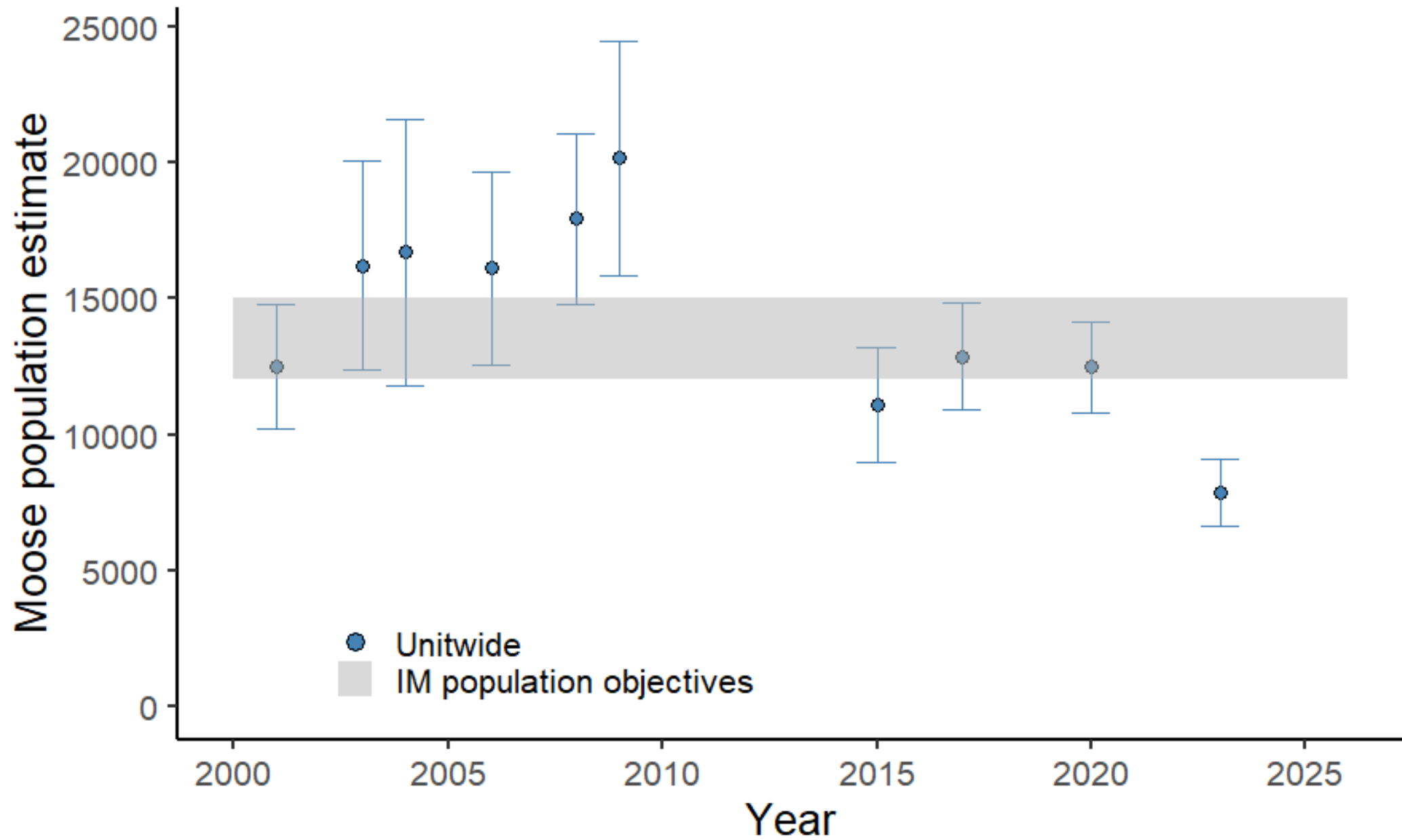
Legend

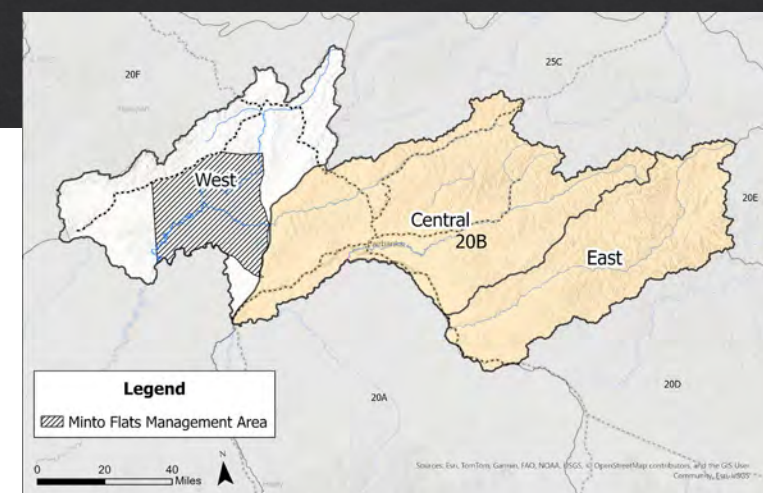
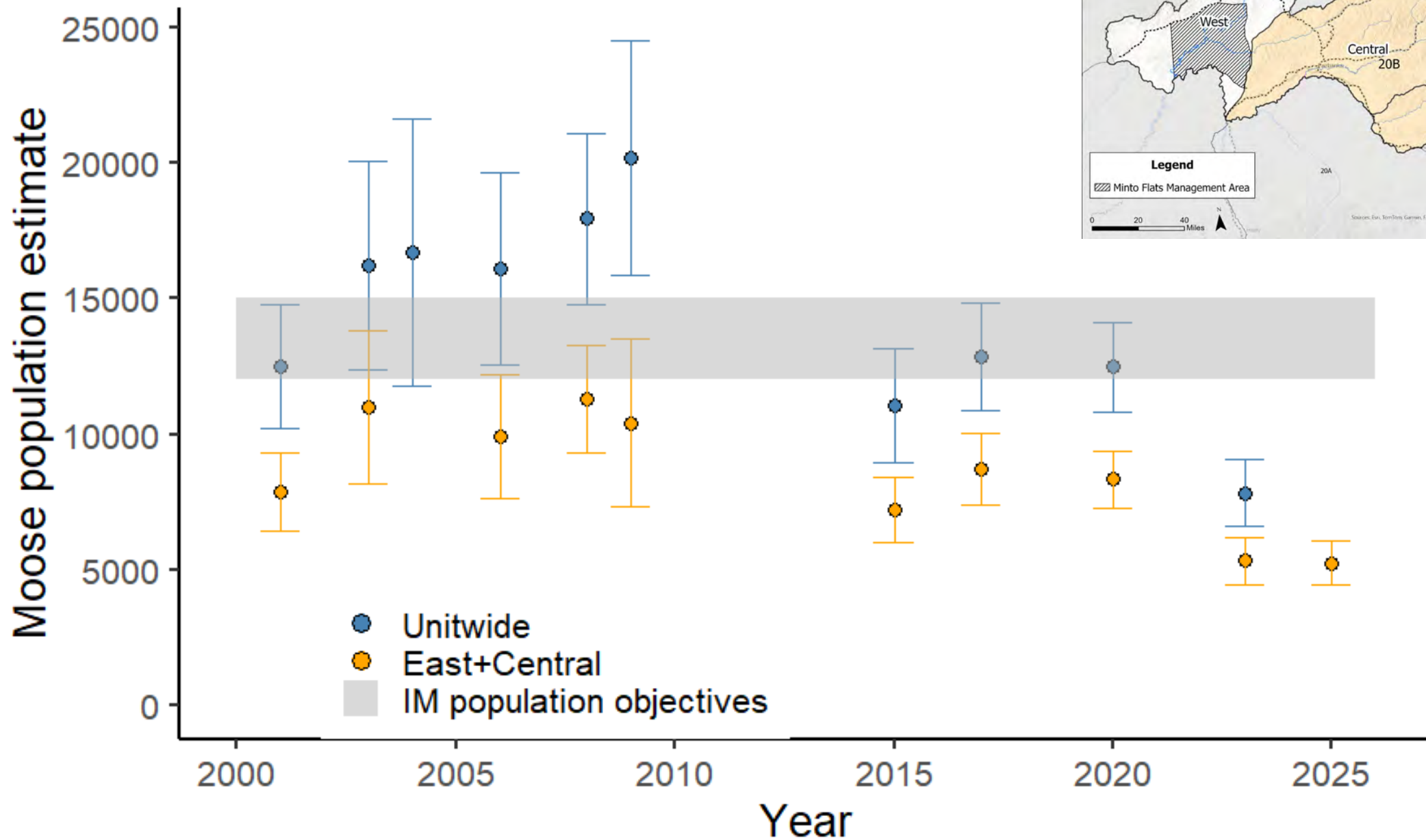
 Minto Flats Management Area

0 20 40 Miles

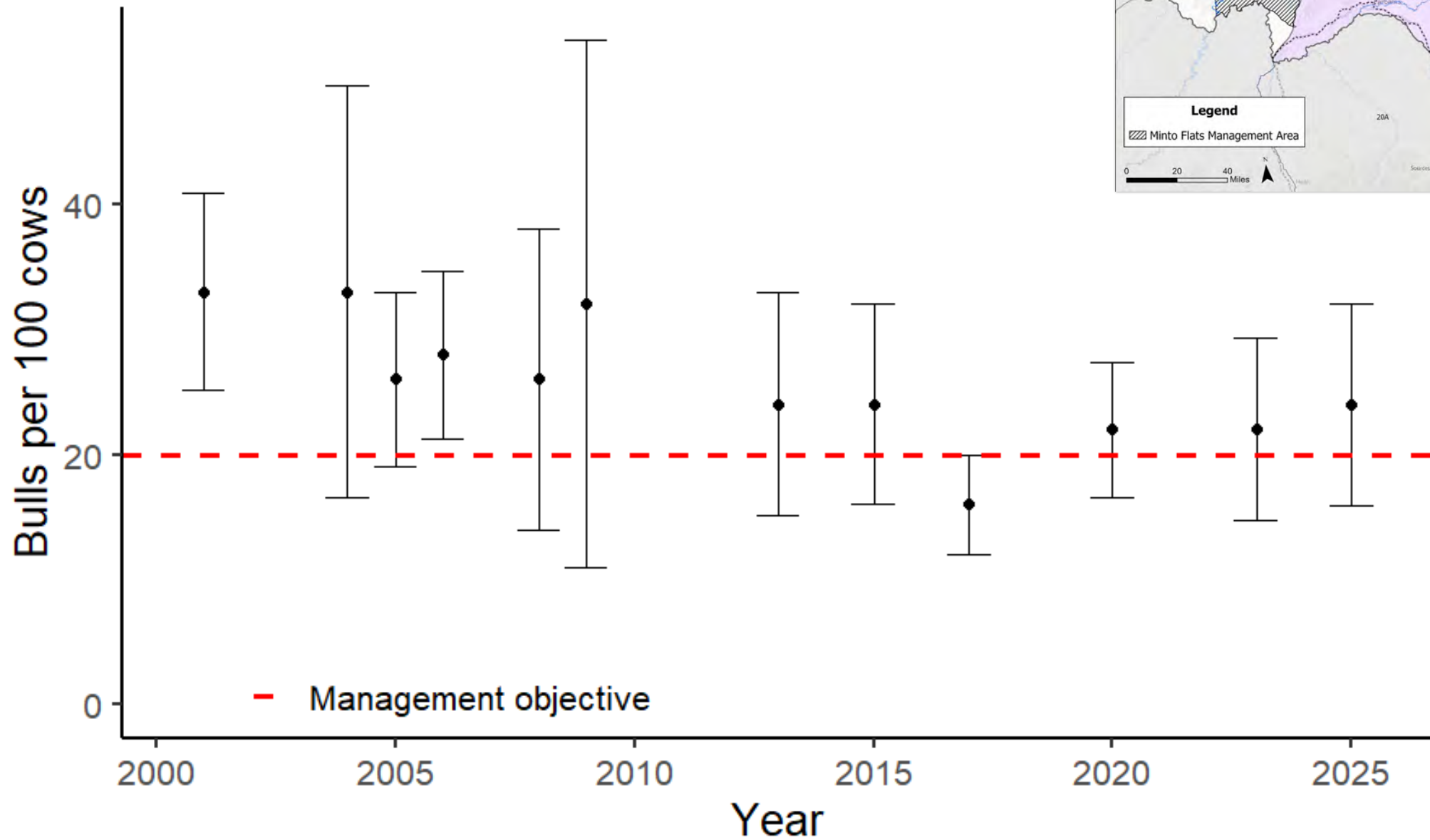
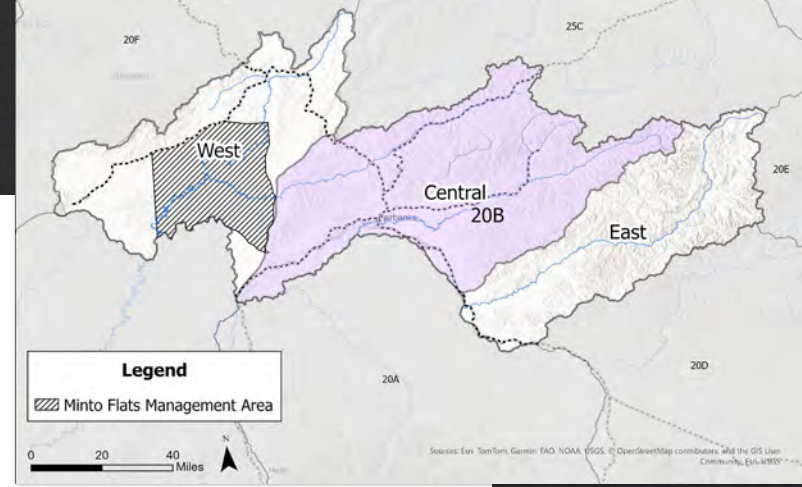


Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

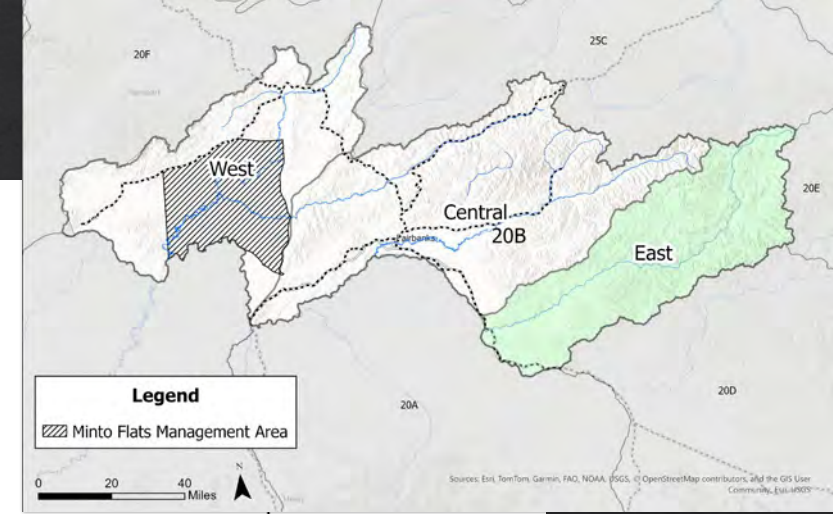
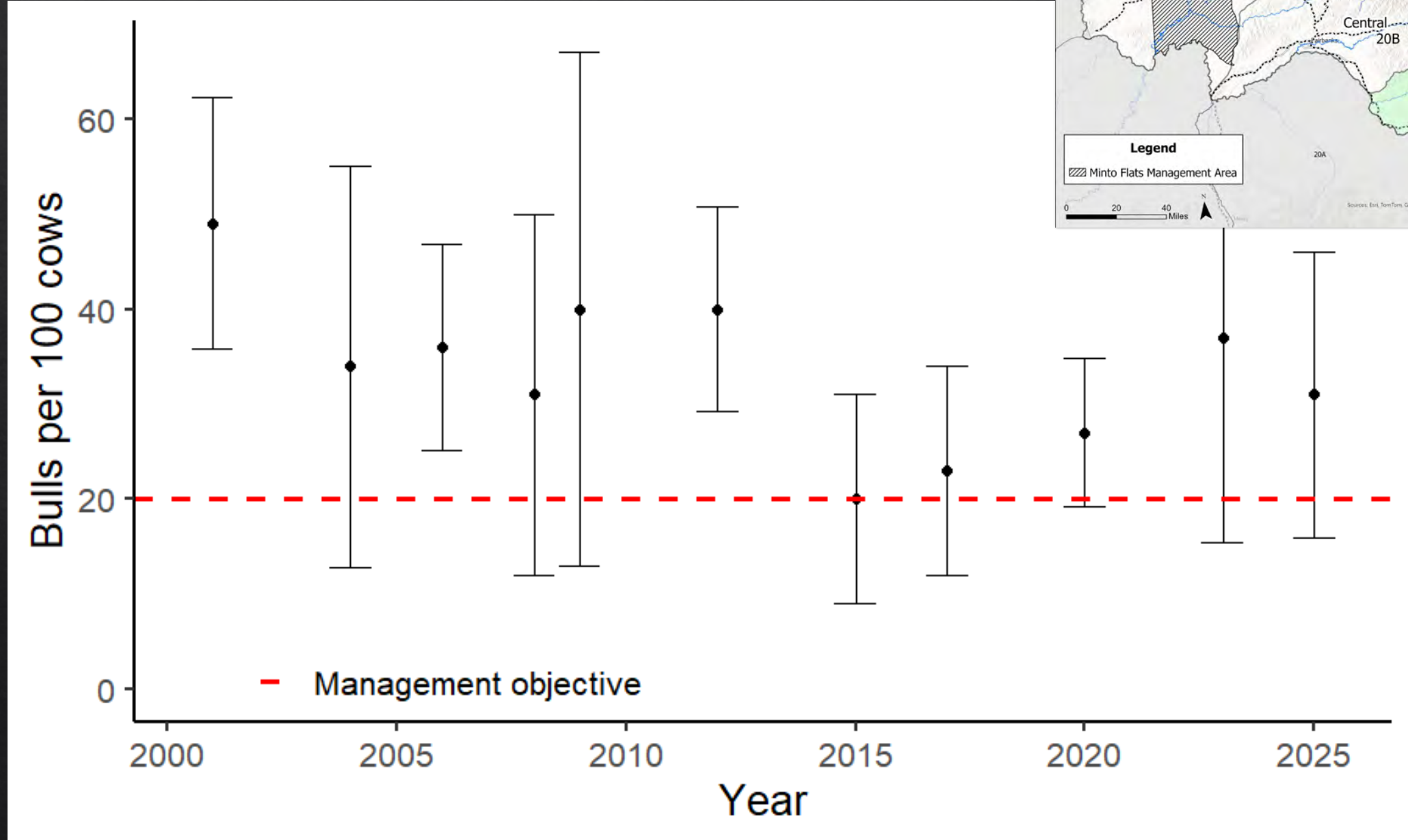




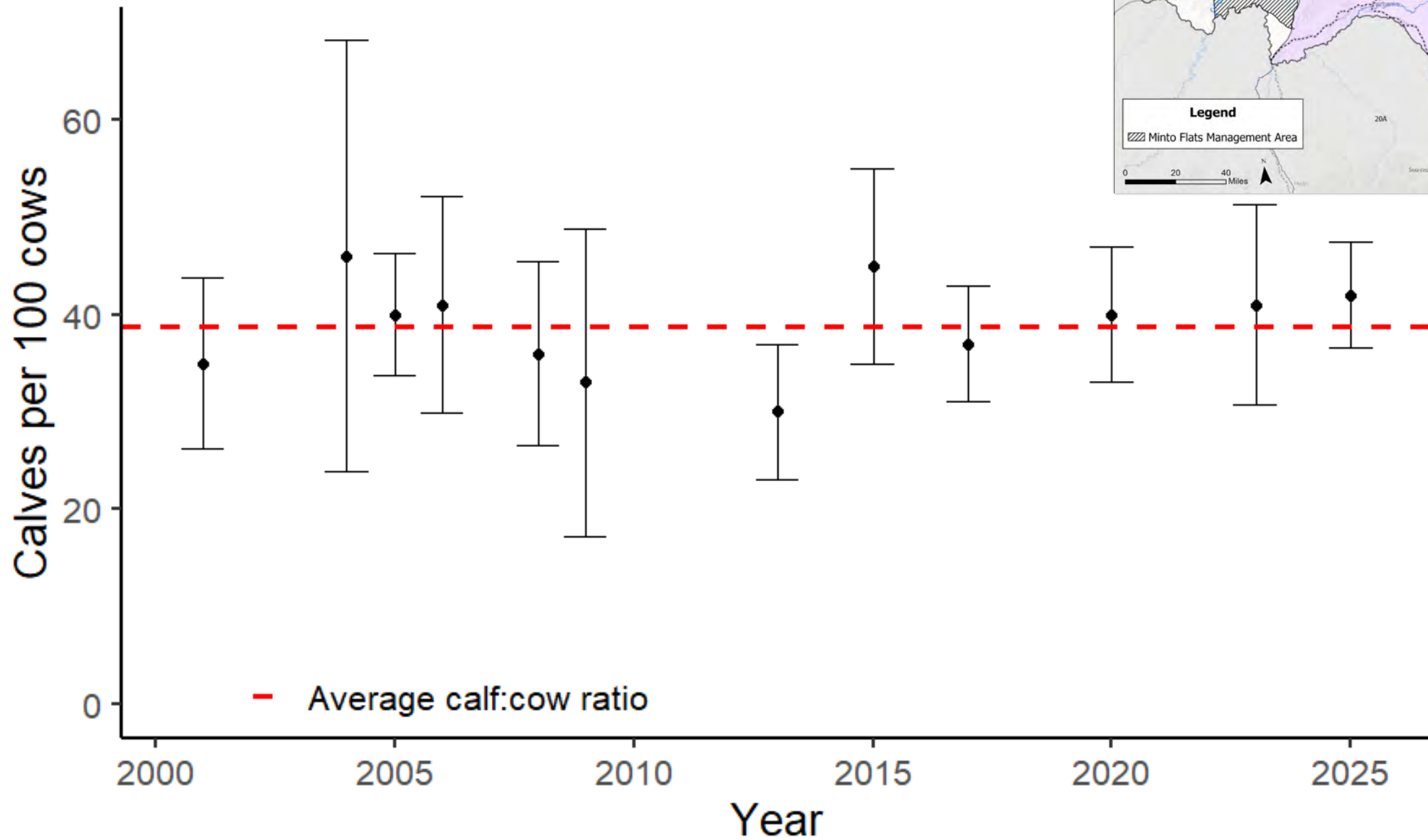
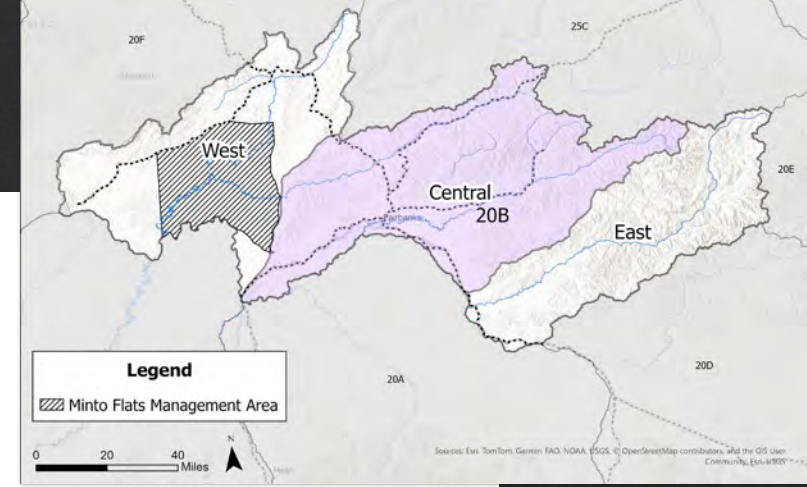
Central Unit 20B bull:cow ratios



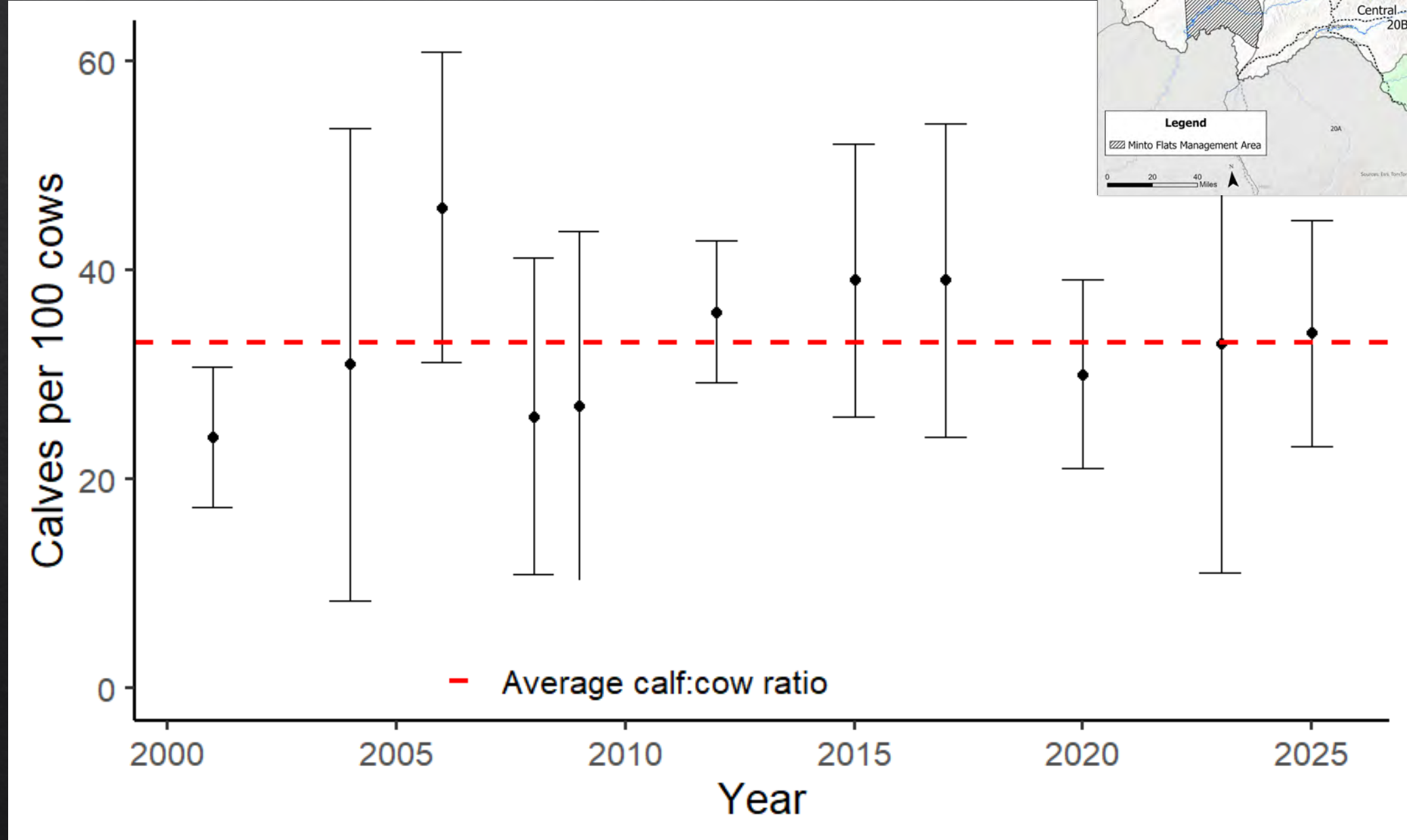
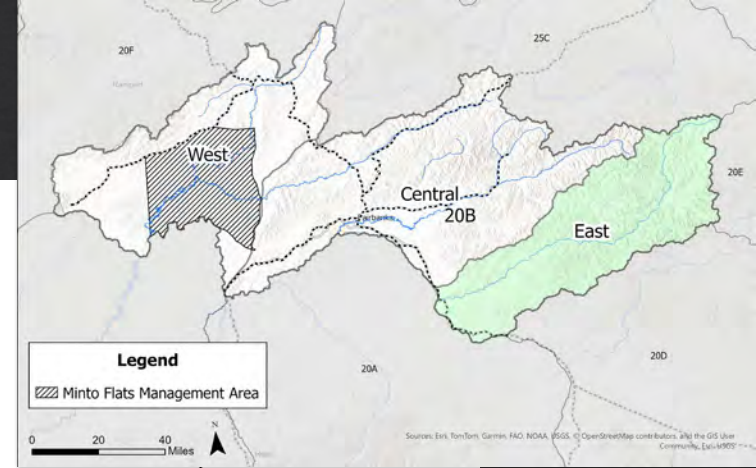
Eastern Unit 20B bull:cow ratios



Central Unit 20B calf:cow ratios



Eastern Unit 20B calf:cow ratios



Unit 20B moose population status summary

- ◆ East / Central abundance similar to 2023
- ◆ Unitwide likely below IM population objective
- ◆ Bull:cow ratio slightly above objective
- ◆ Calf:cow ratios slightly above average
- ◆ 20B west in fall 2026

Unit 20B antlerless hunts (proposal 257)

◆ Fall – winter 2026

- Same plan as fall-winter 2025
- Fairbanks Management Area
- Richardson Highway
- Targeted hunt

