

Terrestrial Mammal Surveys for the Proposed Pebble Project



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Environmental Baseline
Agency Information Meeting
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Acknowledgments

- Mulchatna Caribou Herd Technical Working Group:
Alaska Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
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Bob Small, Steve Schwartz, Grant Hilderbrand, Bruce Dale, Sean
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- UAMN: Steve MacDonald & Brandy Jacobsen
- Local observers: Carl Jensen (Pedro Bay); Raymond Wassillie &
James Lamont (Newhalen)
- Mark & Sandy Lang (Lake Clark Inn & Air)
- Fixed-wing pilots: Josh Goertzen, Mike Meekin, Harley McMahan,
Andy Greenblatt, David Filkill, Mike Litzen
- Helicopter pilots: Brent Fedirchuk, Bruce Andrews, Pascal Fischer,
Tim Varnadoe, Mark Stanton

Objectives: Mammals

- Review existing information from agencies & literature on mammal species in project area
- Assess seasonal distribution & abundance of selected species through field surveys in mine area & transportation corridor, to provide background for impact analyses
- Summarize existing population survey & telemetry data, and collaborate on field surveys as needed to update data
- Engage local participants in surveys
- Compile incidental observations from other wildlife surveys, project personnel, & contractors

Mammal Species List

- Cinereus shrew, masked shrew
- Pygmy shrew
- Dusky shrew, montane shrew
- Water shrew
- Tundra shrew
- Alaska tiny shrew
- Little brown bat
- Coyote
- Wolf
- Red fox
- Lynx
- River otter
- Wolverine
- Marten
- Ermine, short-tailed weasel
- Least weasel
- Mink
- Harbor seal
- Black bear
- Brown bear
- Moose
- Caribou
- Dall's sheep
- Hoary marmot
- Arctic ground squirrel
- Red squirrel
- Beaver
- Meadow jumping mouse
- Northern red-backed vole
- Collared lemming
- Brown lemming
- Singing vole
- Tundra vole, root vole
- Meadow vole
- Muskrat
- Northern bog lemming
- Porcupine
- Collared pika
- Snowshoe hare
- Tundra hare, Alaska hare

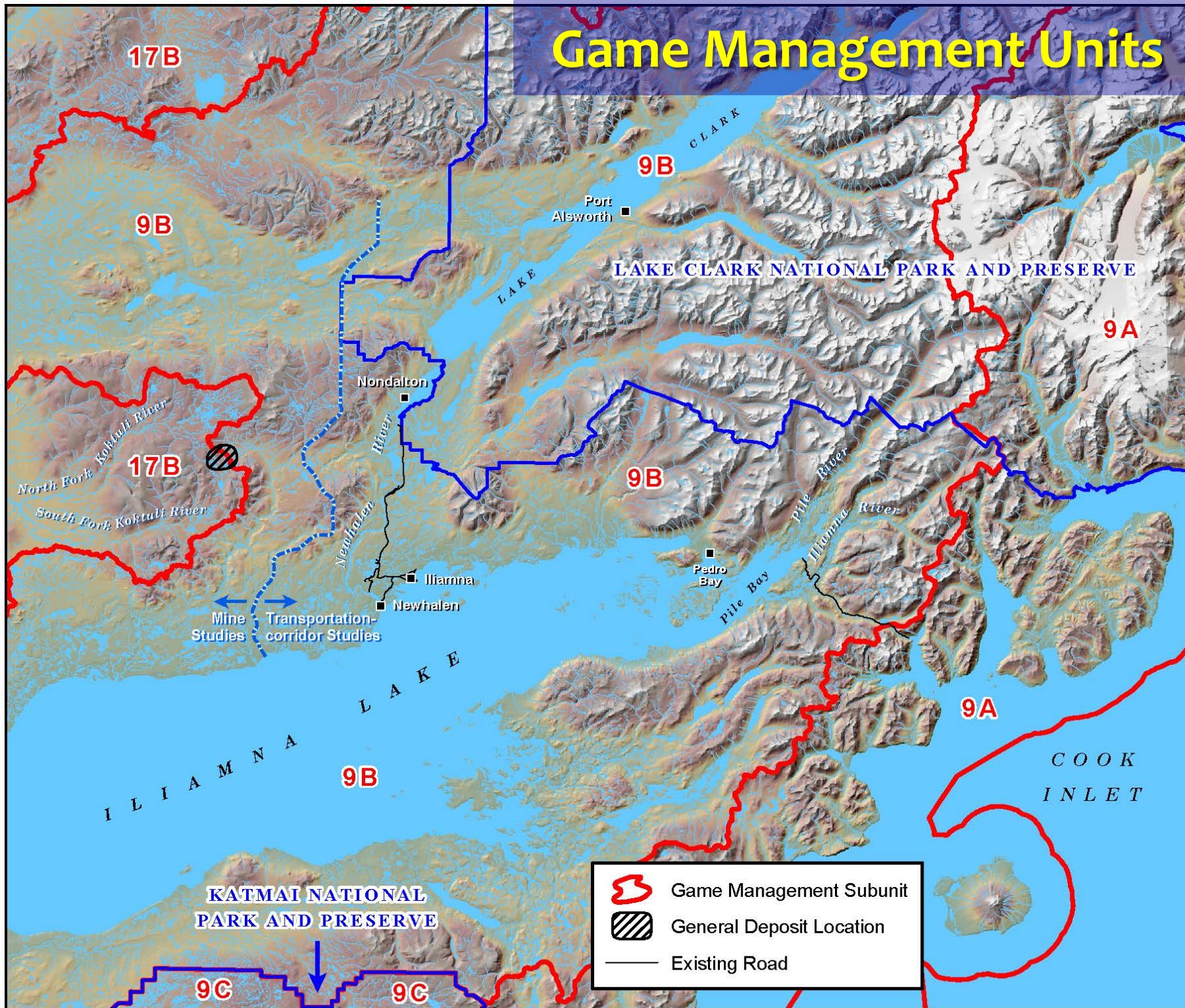
Methods: Mammals

- Species of primary interest for field surveys: caribou, brown bear, moose, harbor seal, beaver; but all species included in literature review & baseline report
- Aerial transect & reconnaissance surveys by fixed-wing airplane (~500 ft agl) over mine area & transportation corridor:
 - 2004 : Apr., May, June, July, Oct., Nov.
 - 2005 : Mar., May, June, July, Oct., Dec.
 - 2006 : (mine area) May, June, July, Dec.
 - 2007 : (mine area) June, July
- Systematic strip transects in mine area (50–100% coverage) & western/central transportation corridor (12.5% coverage), with double-count detectability assessment
- Reconnaissance overflights in eastern transportation corridor (east of Canyon Creek)

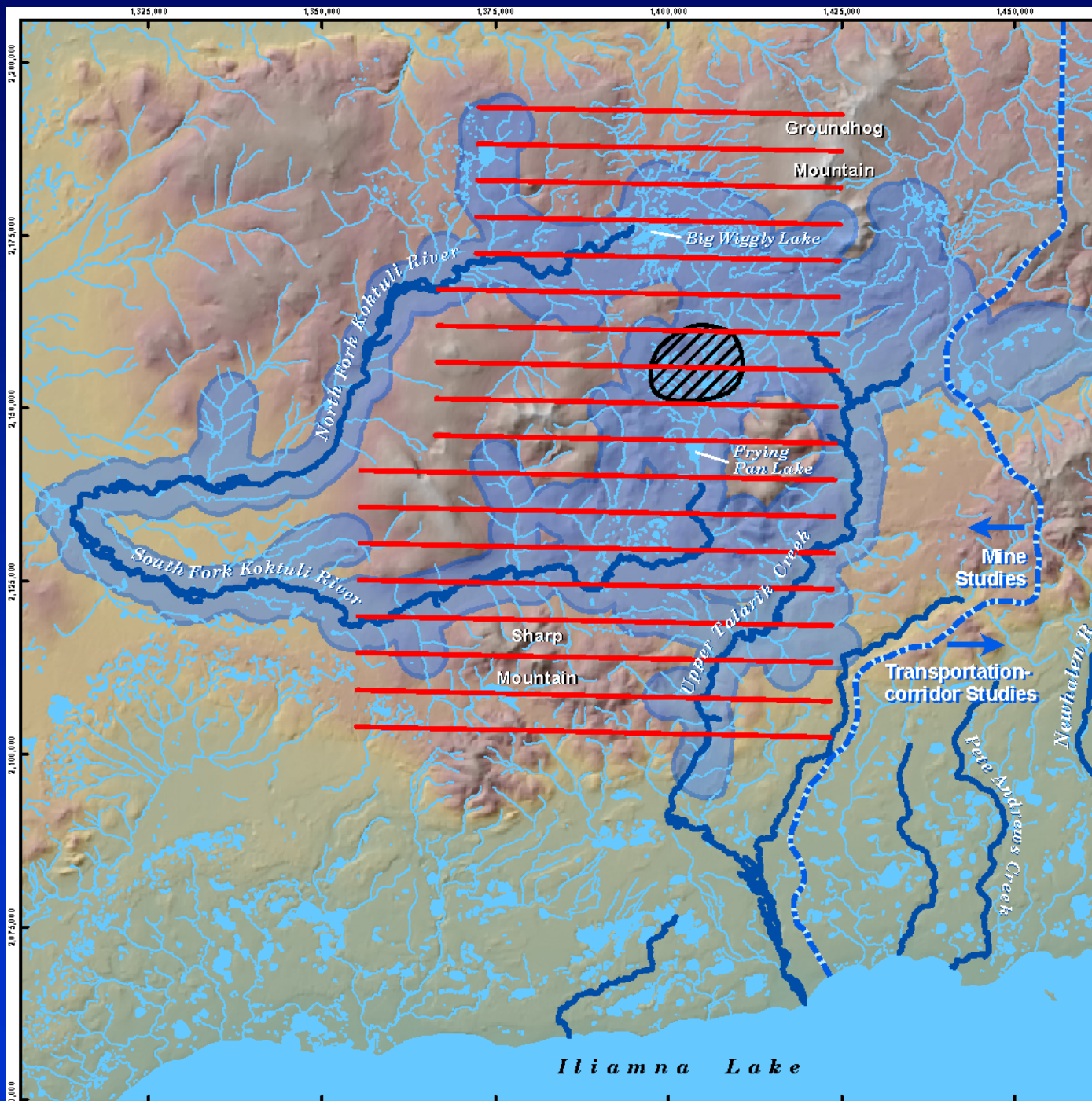
Methods: Mammals (continued)

- Moose population survey: Apr. 2010
- Bear population survey with ADFG: May 2009
- Helicopter survey of bears along salmon-spawning streams in Aug. 2004; similar data collected incidental to Harlequin Duck surveys in 2005
- Bear den checks by helicopter:
Aug. 2004, May & Aug. 2005, May 2006
- Helicopter surveys of active beaver colonies:
Oct. 2005 (mine) & Oct. 2006 (transportation corridor)
- Photographic surveys of harbor seal haulouts in Iliamna Lake (& coastal bays) by fixed-wing airplane (1,000 ft agl):
Mar.–Dec. 2005, May–Oct. 2007, Aug. 2008

Game Management Units







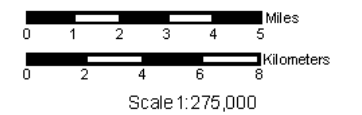
Mine Study Area



**Figure 16.2-1A
Survey Areas for Large
Mammals and Beaver,
Mine Study Area,
2004–2007**

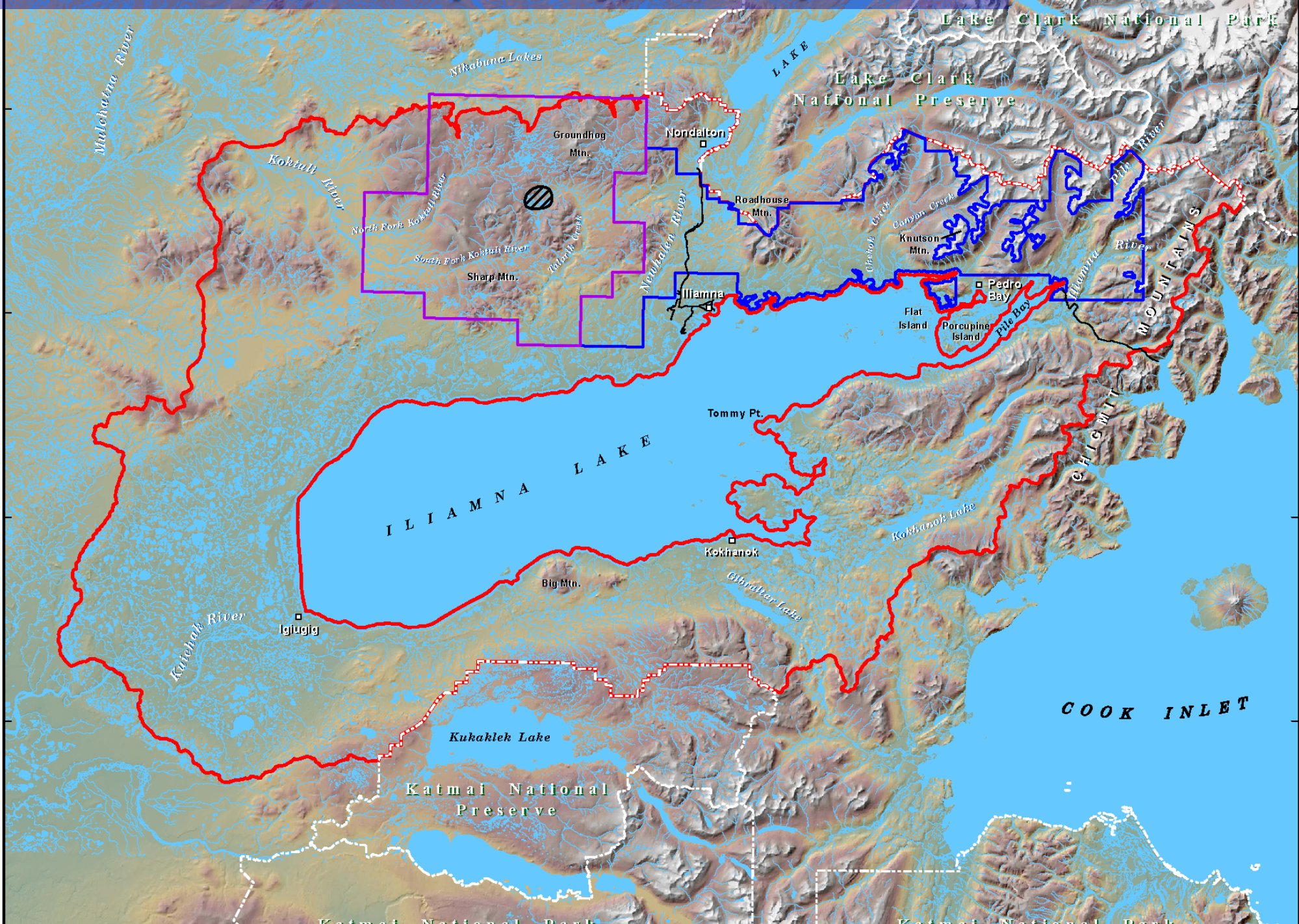
Legend

-  2004–2007 Aerial-survey Transect
-  August 2004 Stream Survey
-  October 2005 Beaver Survey Area
-  General Deposit Location

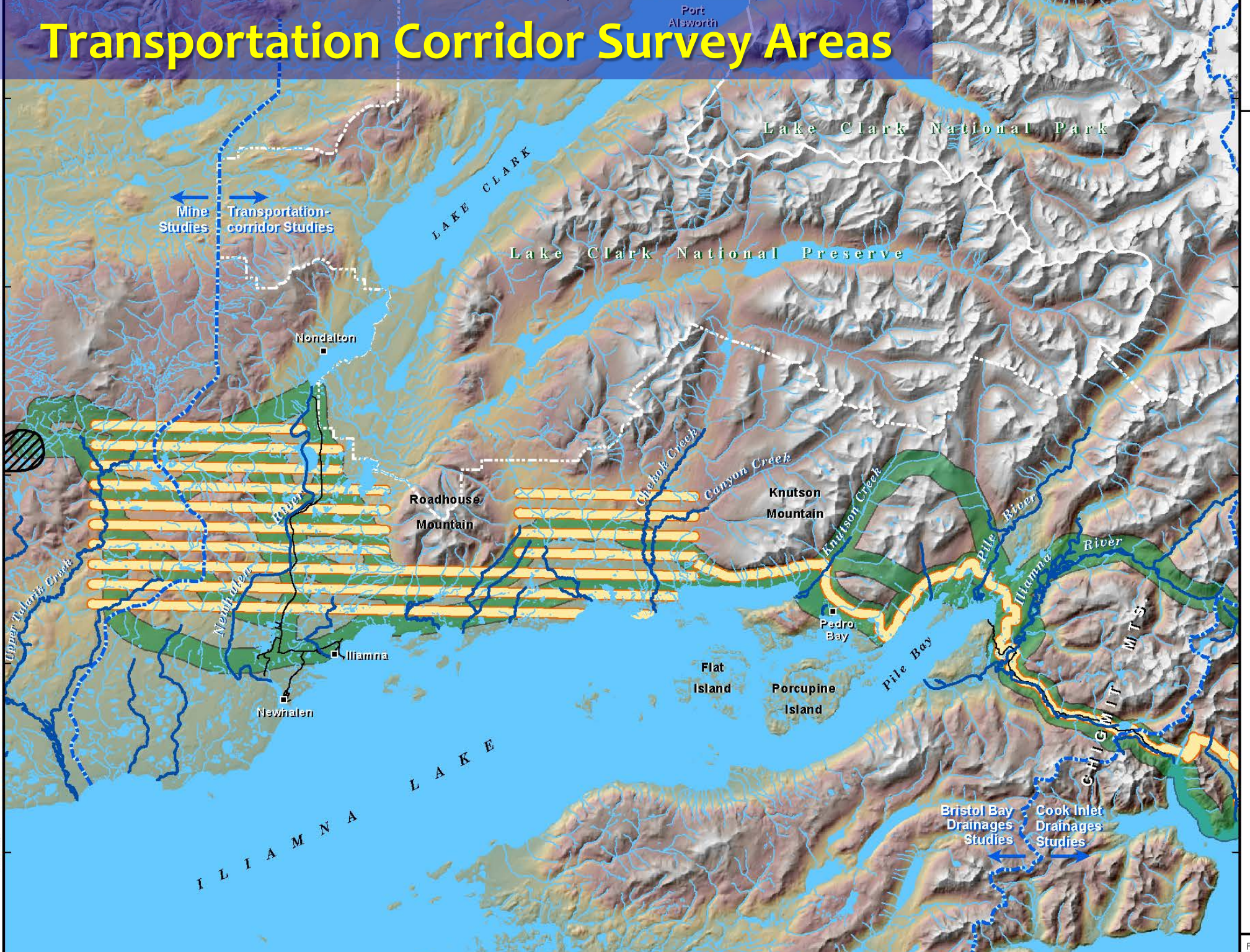


Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
1983 North American Datum

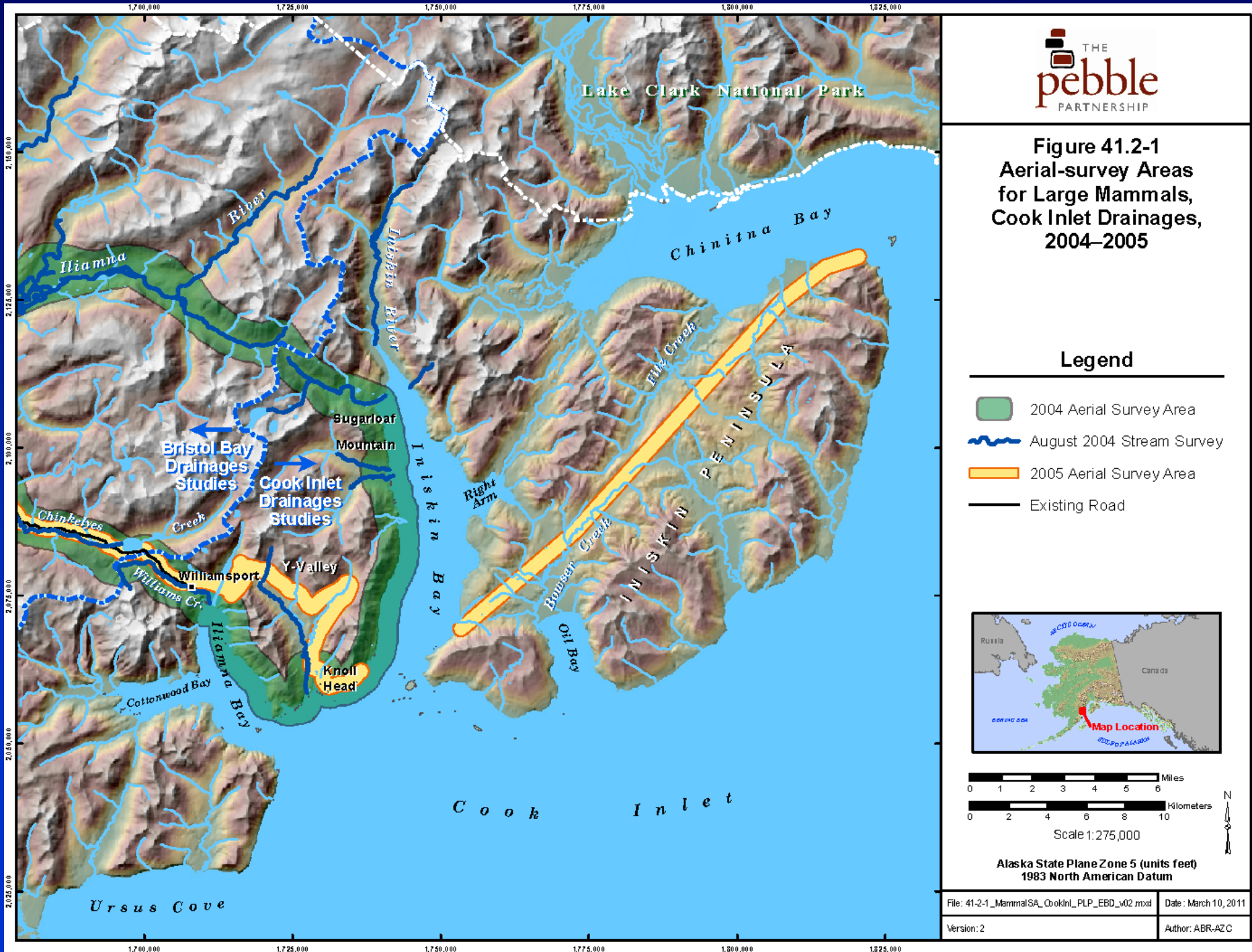
Bear & Moose Population Survey Areas

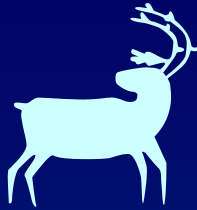


Transportation Corridor Survey Areas

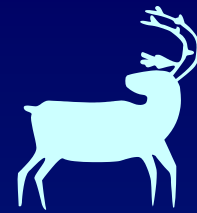


Survey Areas in Cook Inlet Drainages





Caribou

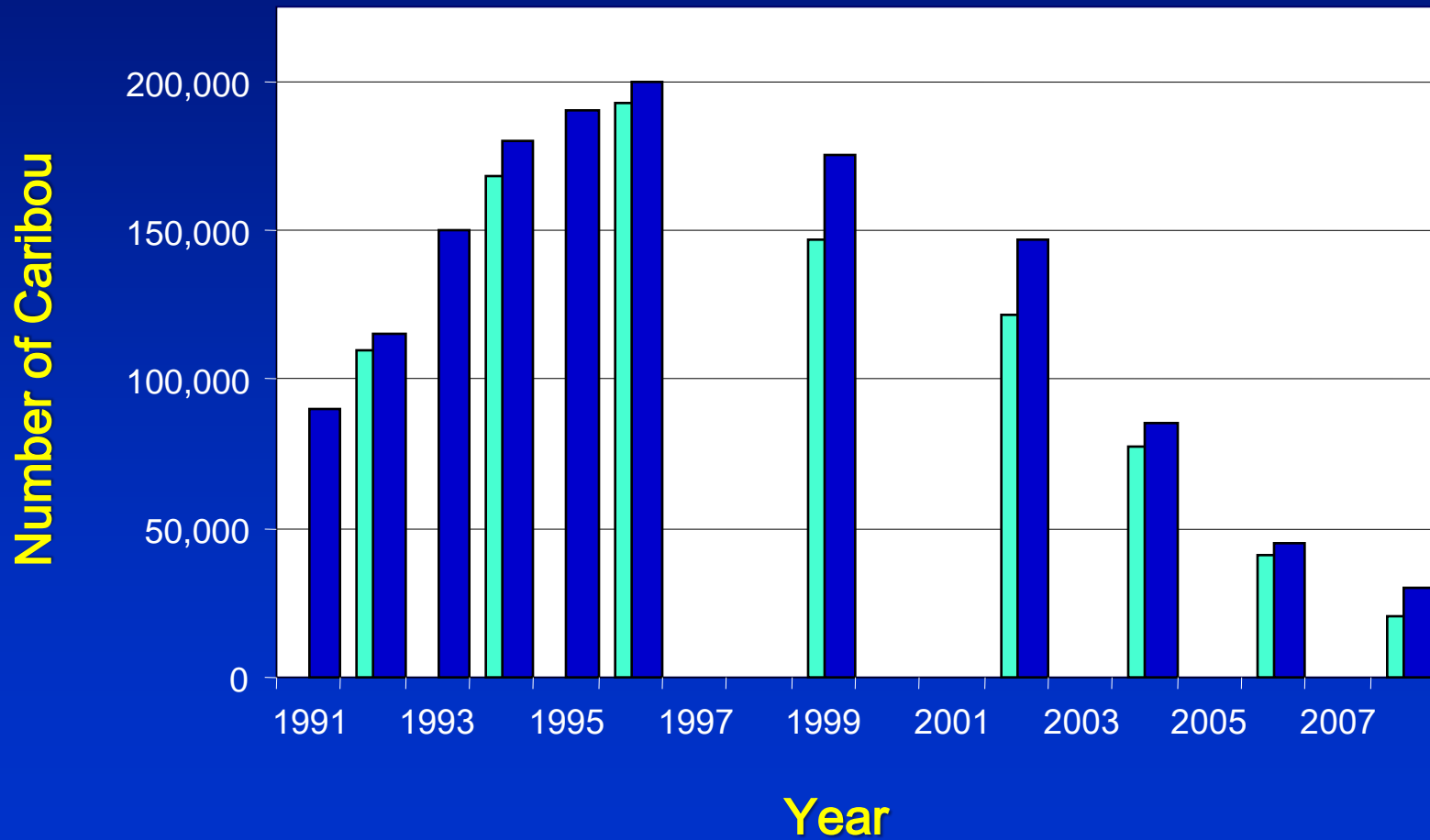


- Mulchatna Herd peaked at ~200,000 in 1996, then subsequently declined to ~30,000 by 2008
- Under a cooperative agreement, the MCHTWG provided its 29-year radiotelemetry data set for Pebble analyses
- MCH notable for highly variable range use over large areas of southwest Alaska since mid-1990s, accompanied by dramatic population fluctuation
- Past use of mine area (including early 1990s telemetry):
 - Wintering
 - Calving
 - Postcalving aggregations (summer insect season)
- Recent use primarily during postcalving period (late June–early July)
- Very little range use in transportation corridor east of Newhalen River

Mulchatna Caribou Herd size, 1991 – 2008

dark blue = ADFG estimate

turquoise = ADFG photocensus count



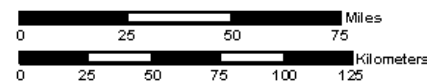
Mulchatna Caribou Herd Range, 1981 – 2010

Figure 16.2-2.
Mulchatna Caribou Herd Range,
Southwestern Alaska,
1981–2010

Legend

- Mulchatna Caribou Herd Range
- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location
- Existing Road
- Town or Village
- Summit

Data source: MCHTWG telemetry data set (from ADF&G and Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges), March 1981–March 2010.

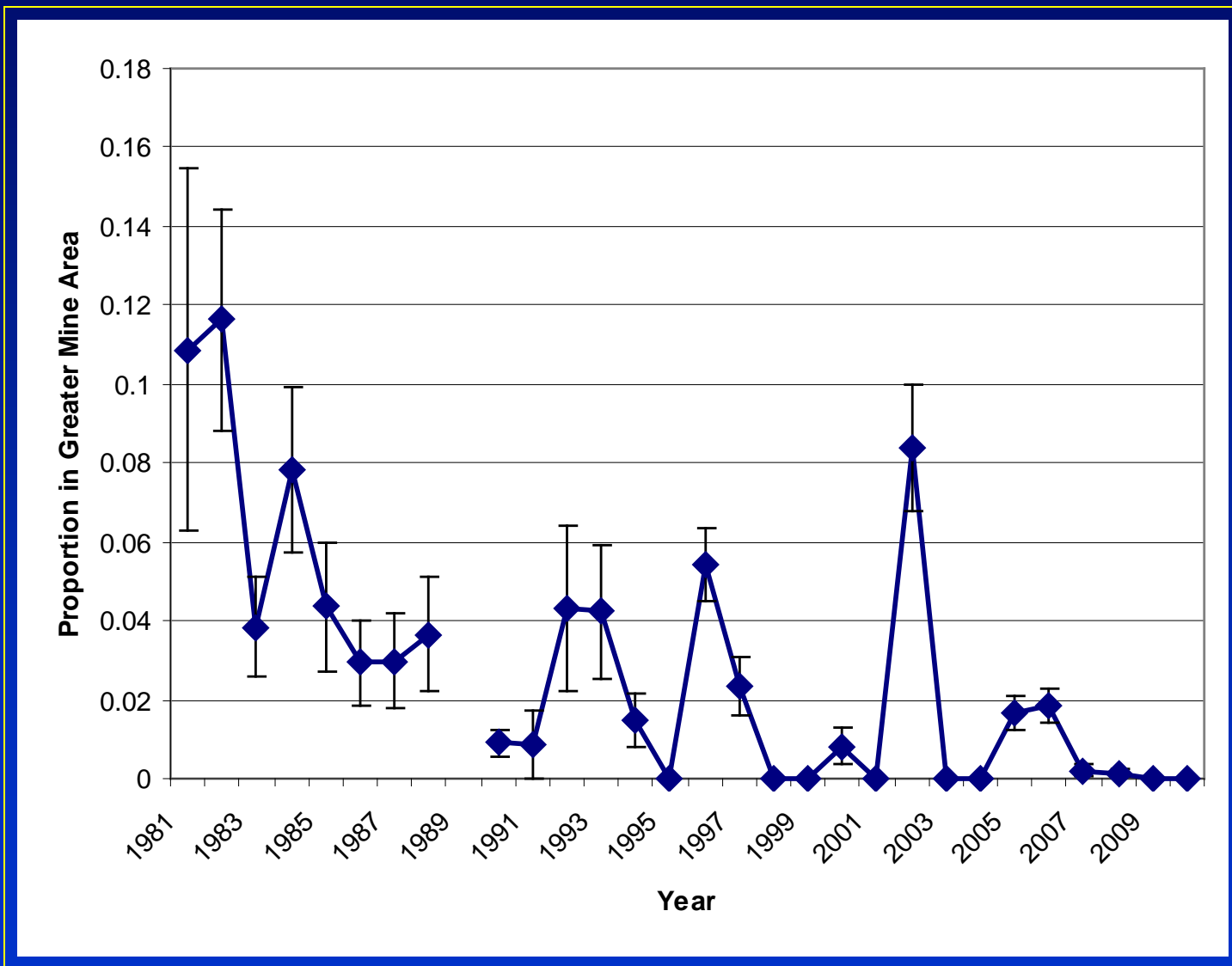
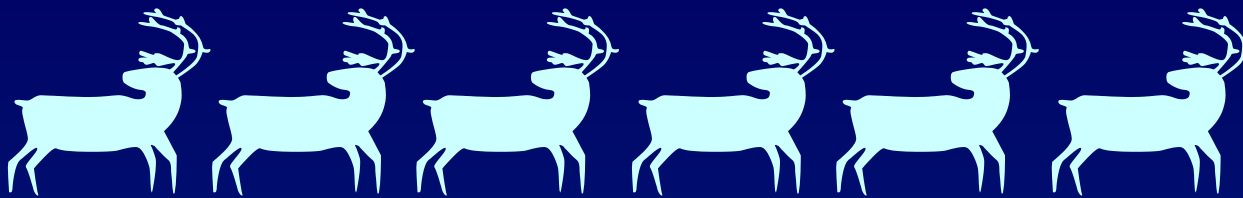


Scale 1:3,300,000

Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

468 VHF collars
34 satellite collars
12,198 locations

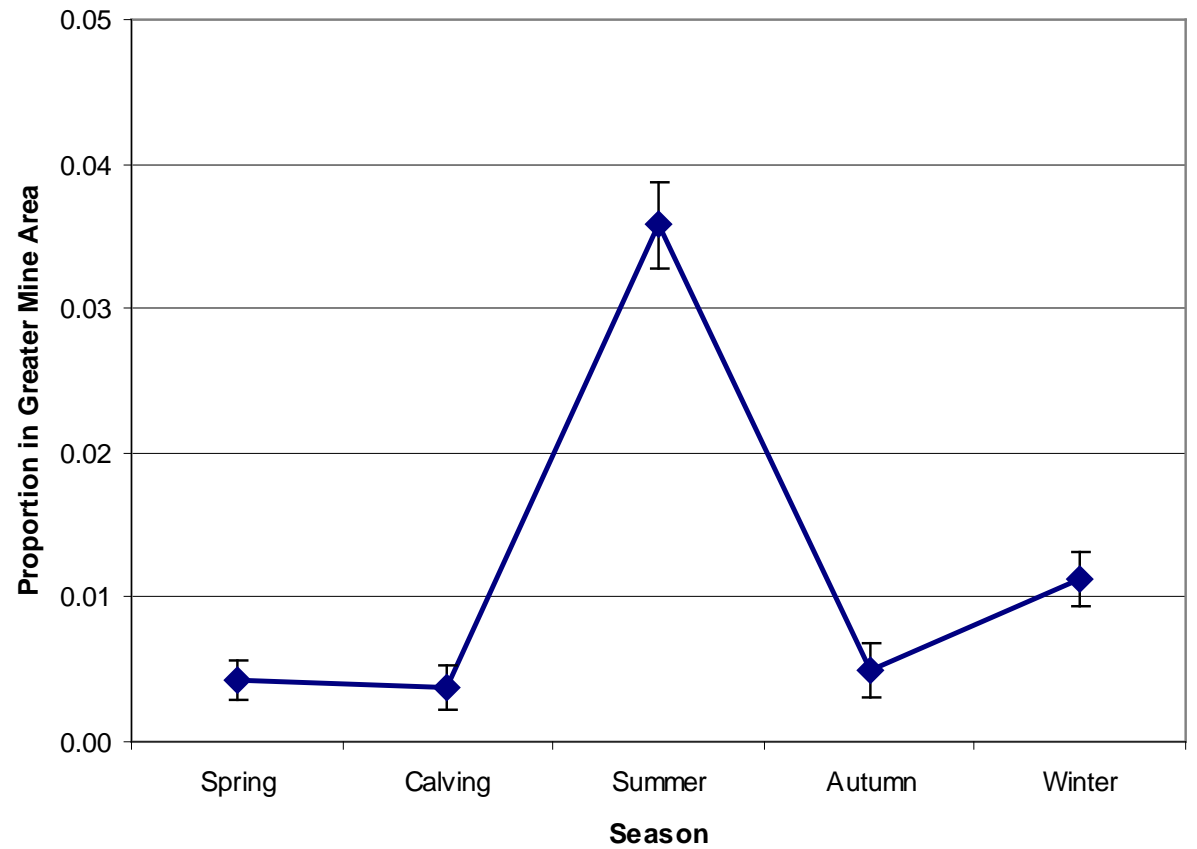




Proportion of radio-collared caribou locations in the greater mine study area, by year, Mulchatna Caribou Herd, 1981–2010



Proportion of radio-collared caribou locations in the greater mine study area, by season, Mulchatna Caribou Herd, 1981–2010



Caribou Spring Range: Apr. 1 – May 14

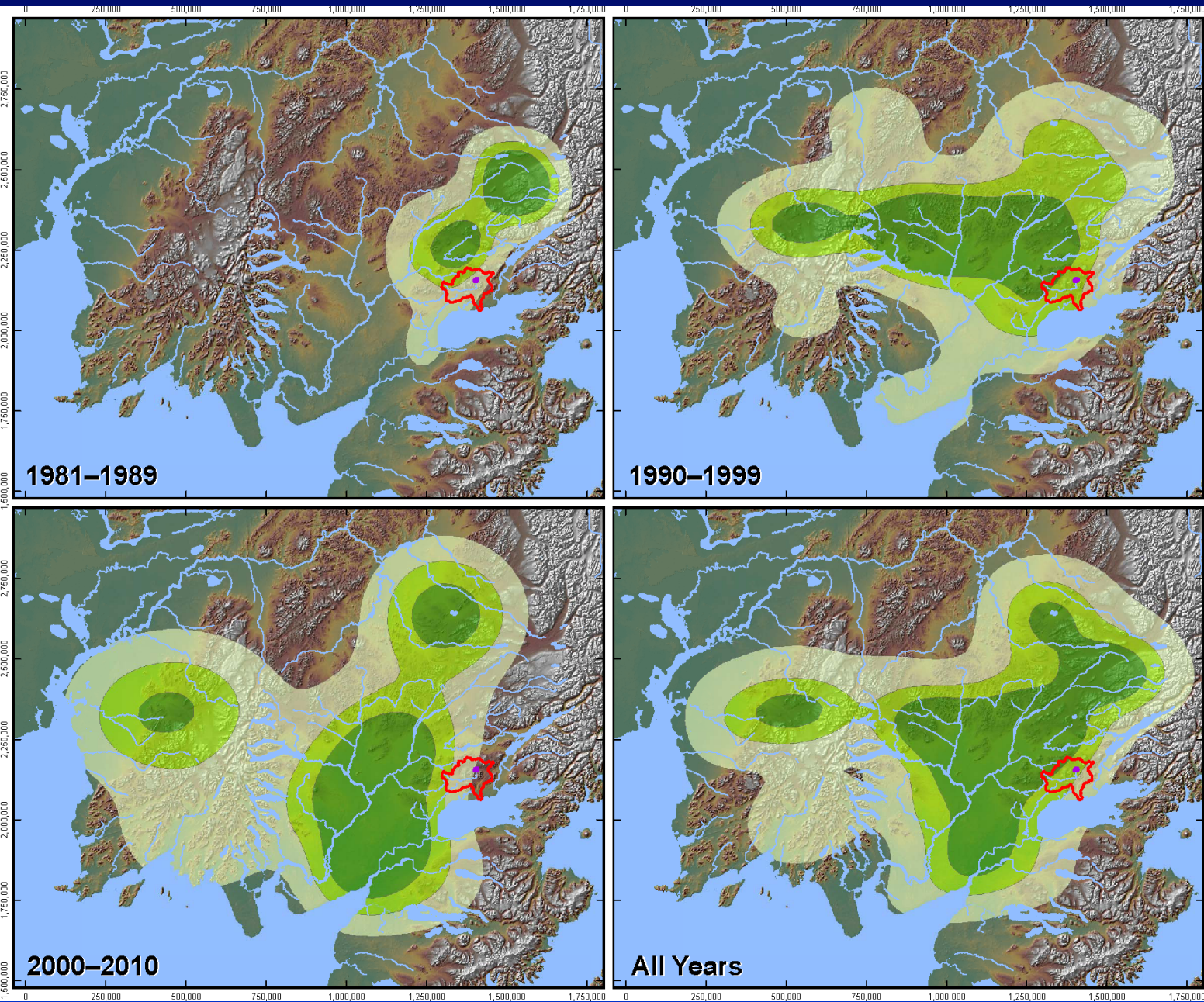


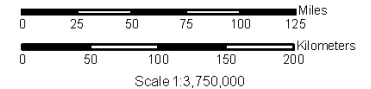
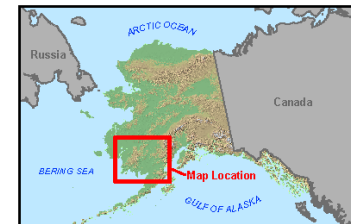
Figure 16.2-4
Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
Seasonal Range Use,
Southwestern Alaska,
Spring 1981–2010

Spring (April 1–May 14)
Areas of Concentrated Use

- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density

- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location

Data source: Utilization distribution contours from fixed-kernel analysis of locations of radio-collared caribou (telemetry database from ADF&G, Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges). Contours enclose stated percentages of all collar locations. High-, medium-, and low-density areas are the 50%, 75%, and 95% utilization distribution contours, respectively.



Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Caribou Calving: May 5 – June 10 (females only)

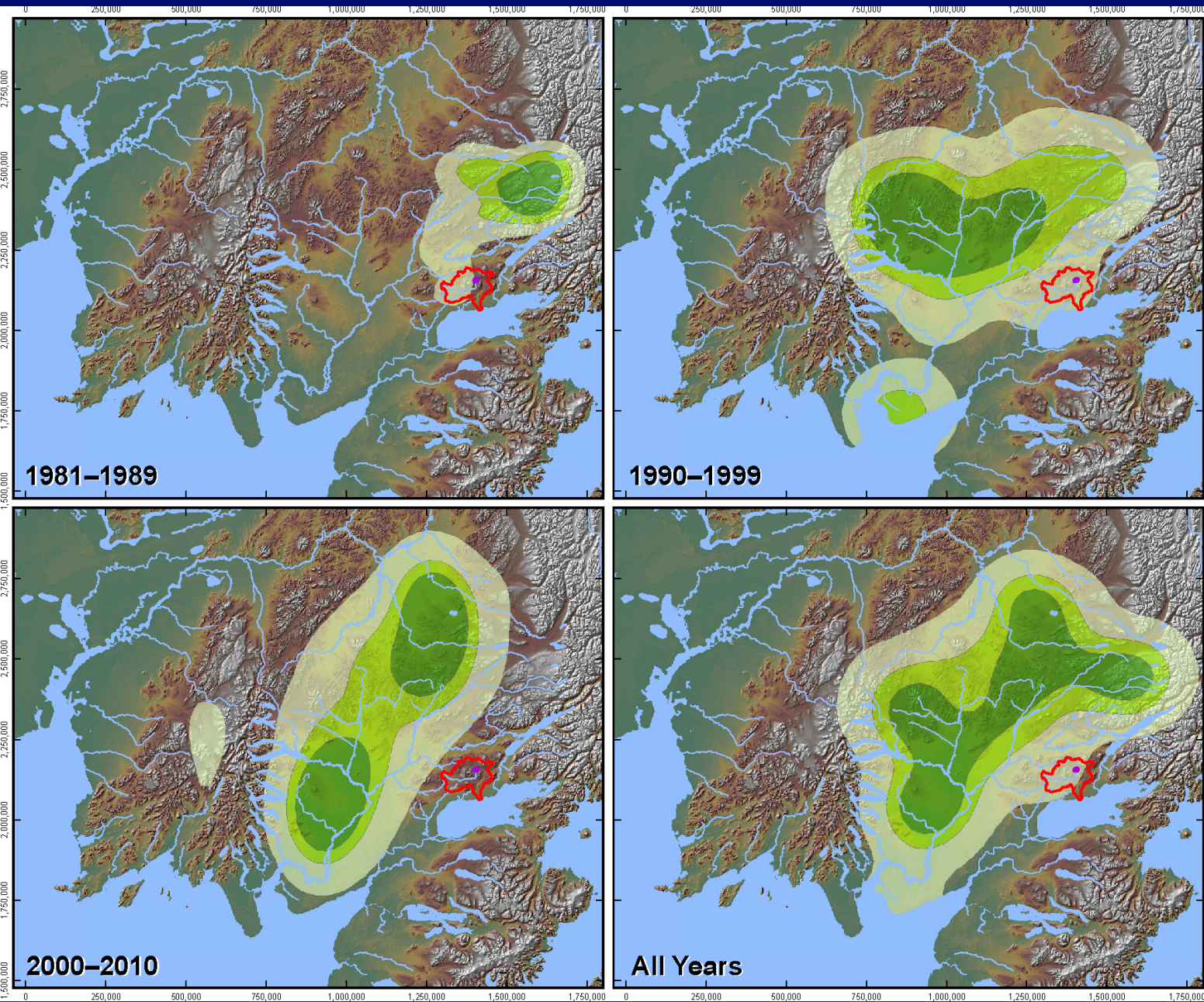


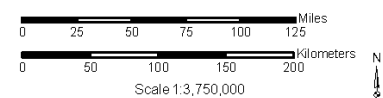
Figure 16.2-5
Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
Seasonal Range Use,
Southwestern Alaska,
Calving 1981-2010

Calving (May 15-June 10)
Areas of Concentrated Use

- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density

- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location

Data source: Utilization distribution contours from fixed-kernel analysis of locations of radio-collared female caribou (telemetry database from ADF&G, Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges). Contours enclose stated percentages of all collar locations. High-, medium-, and low-density areas are the 50%, 75%, and 95% utilization distribution contours, respectively.



Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Caribou Summer Range: June 11 – Sep. 7

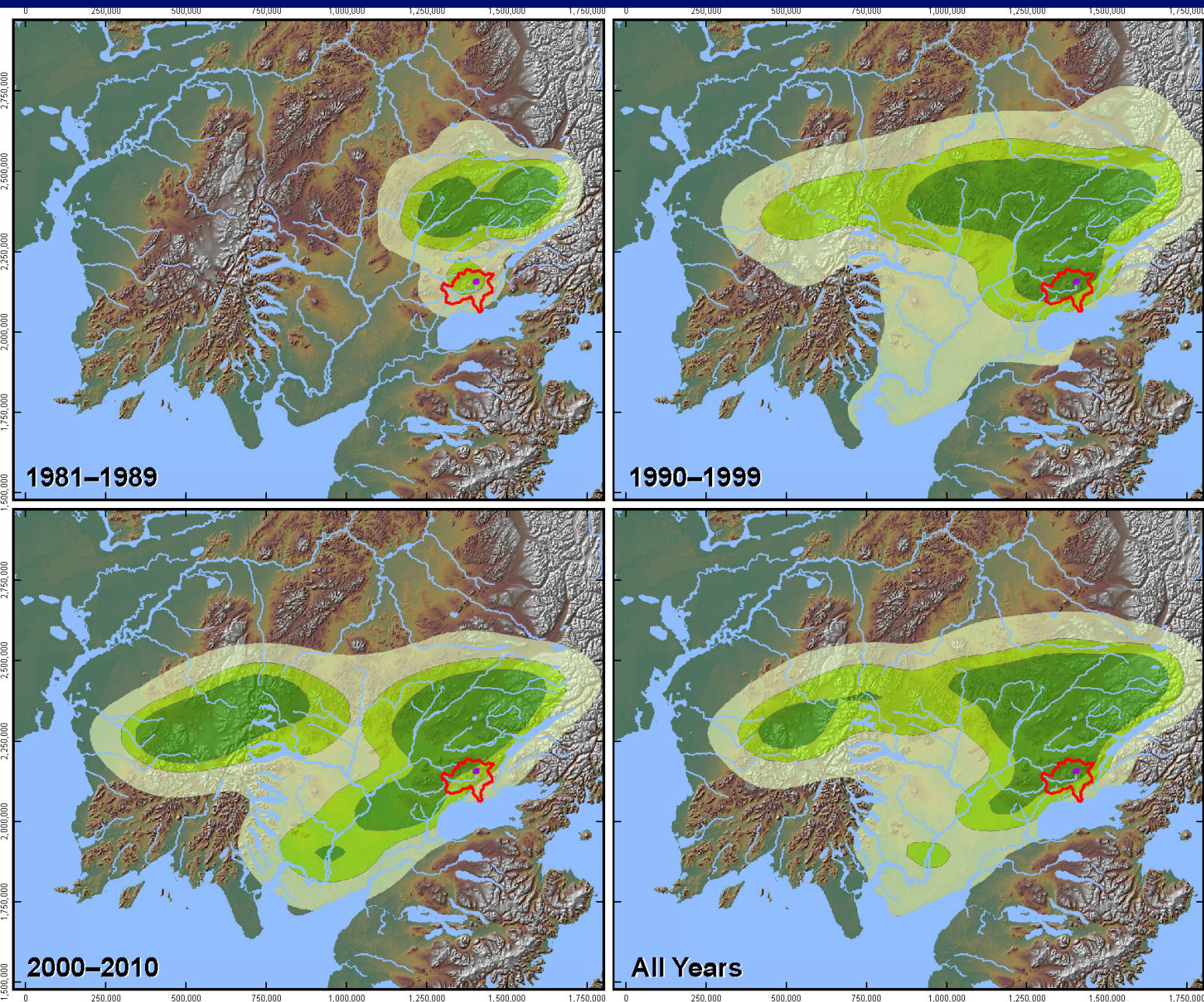


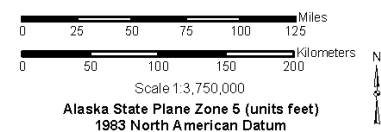
Figure 16.2-6
Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
Seasonal Range Use,
Southwestern Alaska,
Summer 1981–2010

Summer (June 11–September 7)
Areas of Concentrated Use

- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density

- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location

Data source: Utilization distribution contours from fixed-kernel analysis of locations of radio-collared caribou (telemetry database from ADF&G, Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges). Contours enclose stated percentages of all collar locations. High-, medium-, and low-density areas are the 50%, 75%, and 95% utilization distribution contours, respectively.



Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Caribou Autumn Range: Sep. 8 – Oct. 31

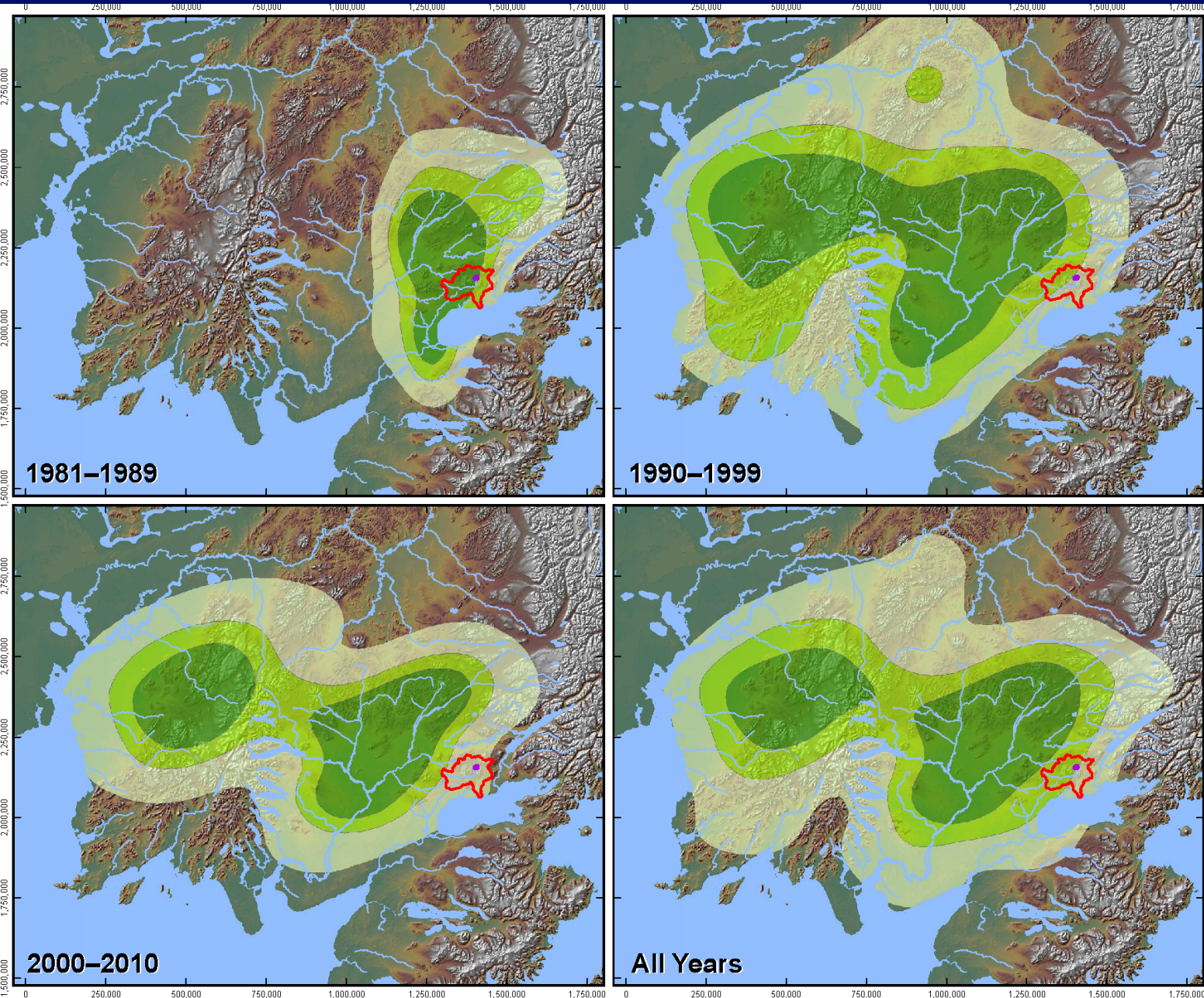


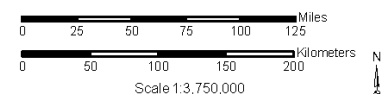
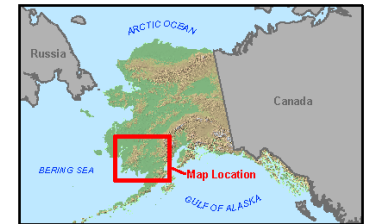
Figure 16.2-7
Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
Seasonal Range Use,
Southwestern Alaska,
Autumn 1981–2010

Autumn (September 8–October 31)
Areas of Concentrated Use

- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density

- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location

Data source: Utilization distribution contours from fixed-kernel analysis of locations of radio-collared caribou (telemetry database from ADF&G, Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges). Contours enclose stated percentages of all collar locations. High-, medium-, and low-density areas are the 50%, 75%, and 95% utilization distribution contours, respectively.



Caribou Winter Range: Nov. 1 – Mar. 31

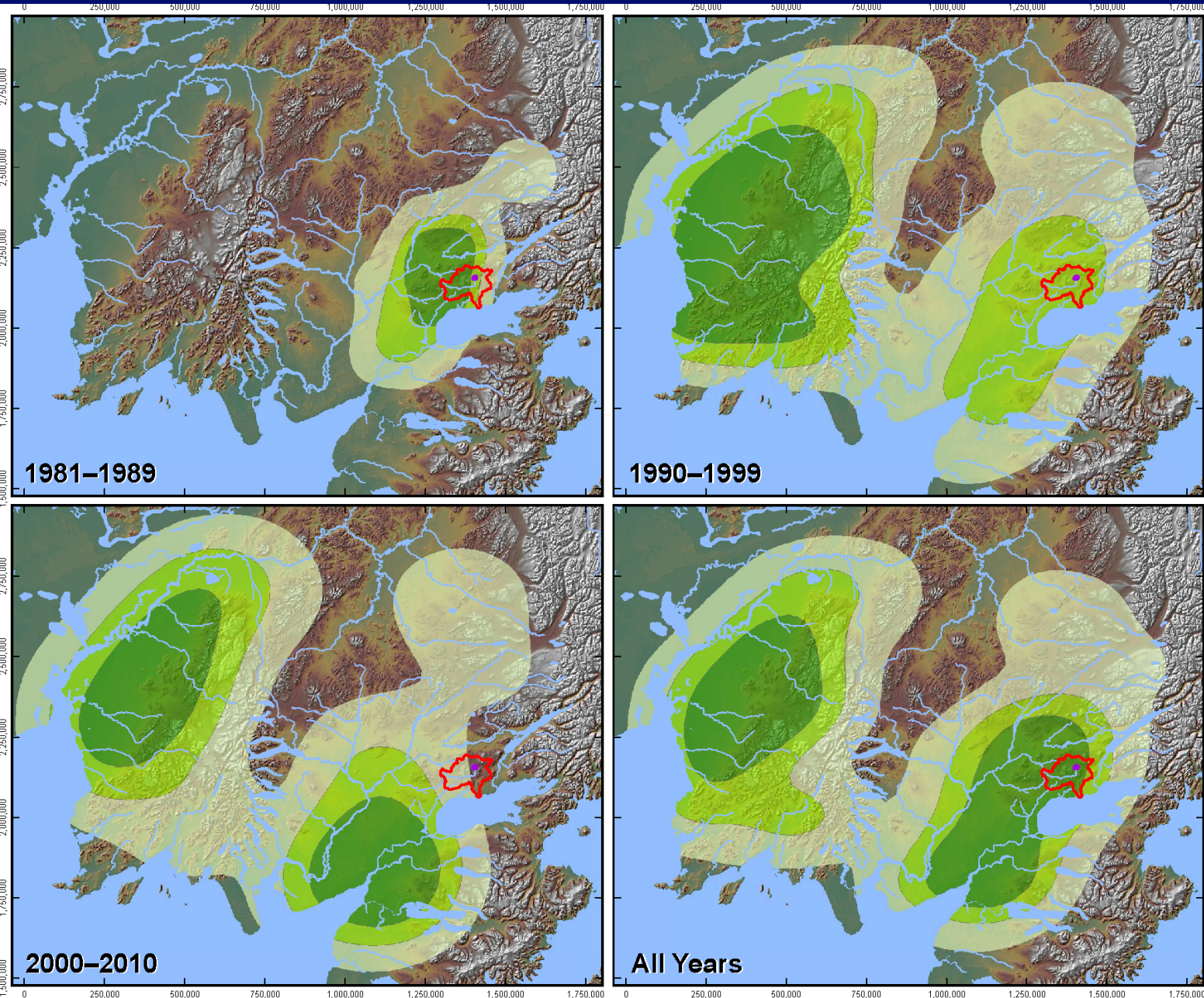


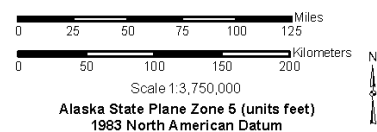
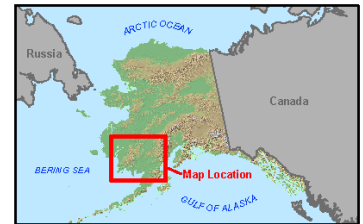
Figure 16.2-8
Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
Seasonal Range Use,
Southwestern Alaska,
Winter 1981–2010

Winter (November 1–March 31)
Areas of Concentrated Use

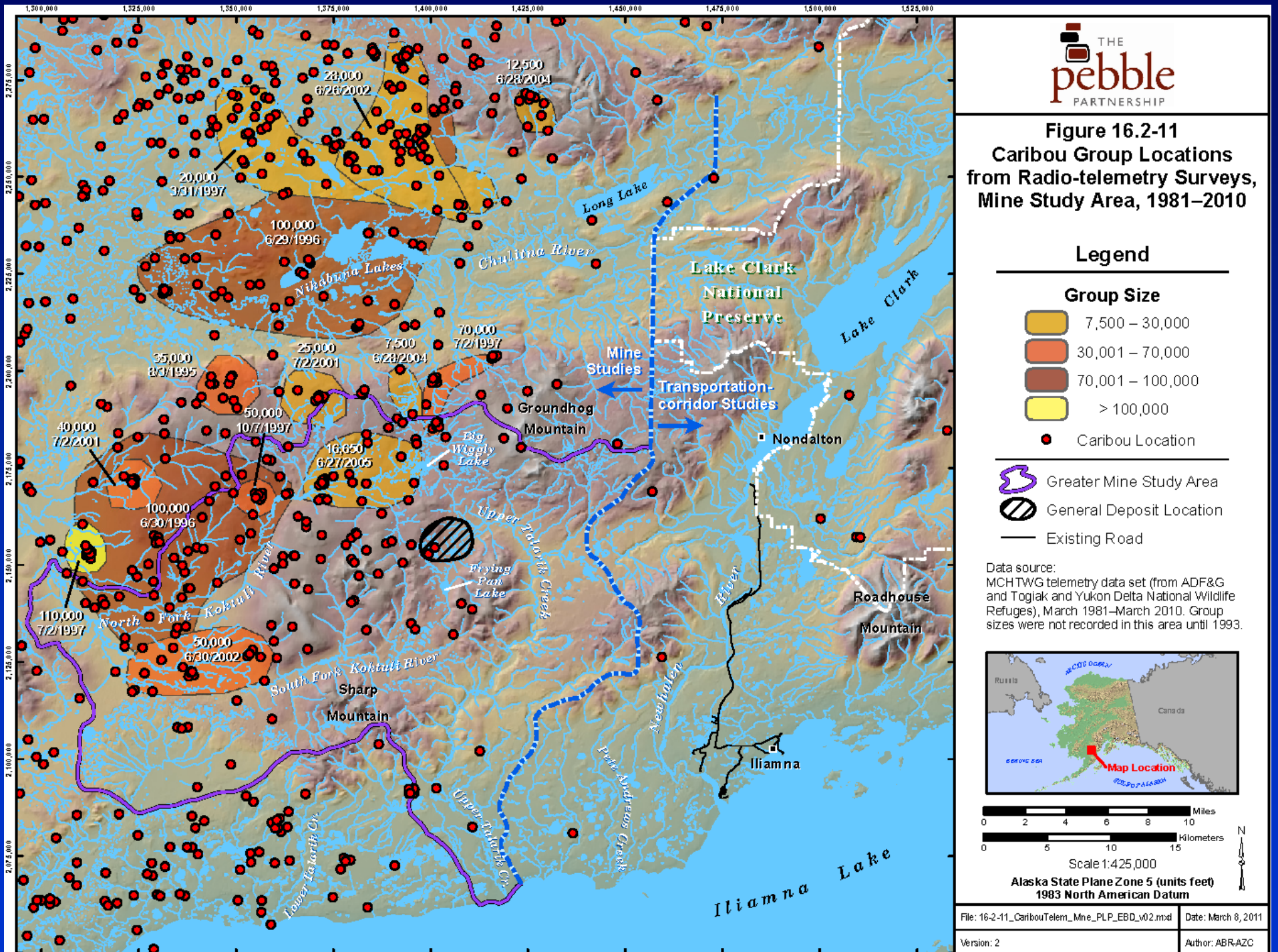
- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density

- Greater Mine Study Area
- General Deposit Location

Data source: Utilization distribution contours from fixed-kernel analysis of locations of radio-collared caribou (telemetry database from ADF&G, Togiak and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges). Contours enclose stated percentages of all collar locations. High-, medium-, and low-density areas are the 50%, 75%, and 95% utilization distribution contours, respectively.



Caribou Locations & Aggregations near the Pebble Deposit, 1981–2010



28,000
6/26/2002

12,500
6/28/2004

20,000
3/31/1997

100,000
6/29/1996

35,000
8/7/1995

25,000
7/2/2001

7,500
6/28/2004

70,000
7/2/1997

40,000
7/2/2001

50,000
10/7/1997

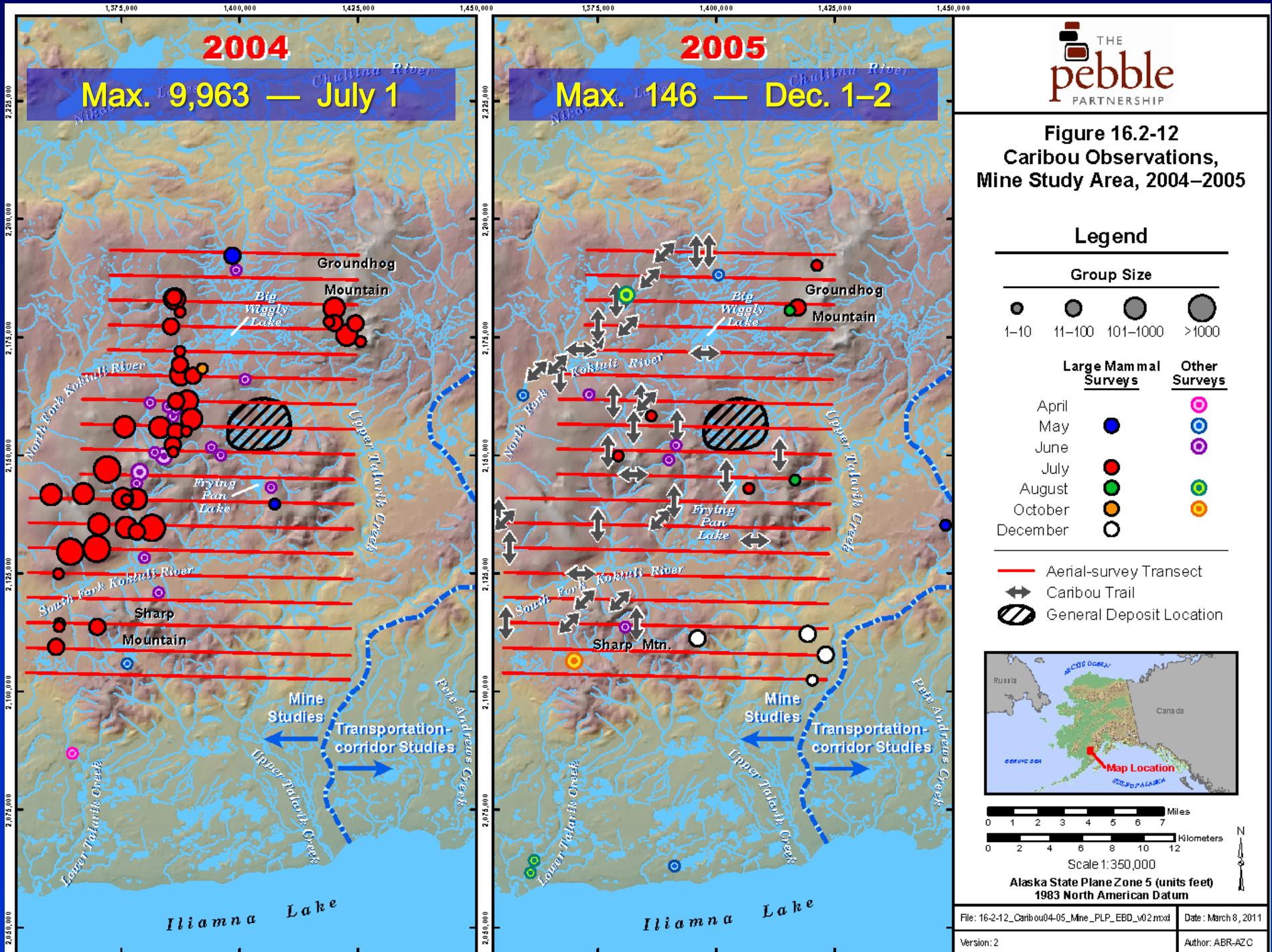
16,850
6/27/2005

100,000
6/30/1996

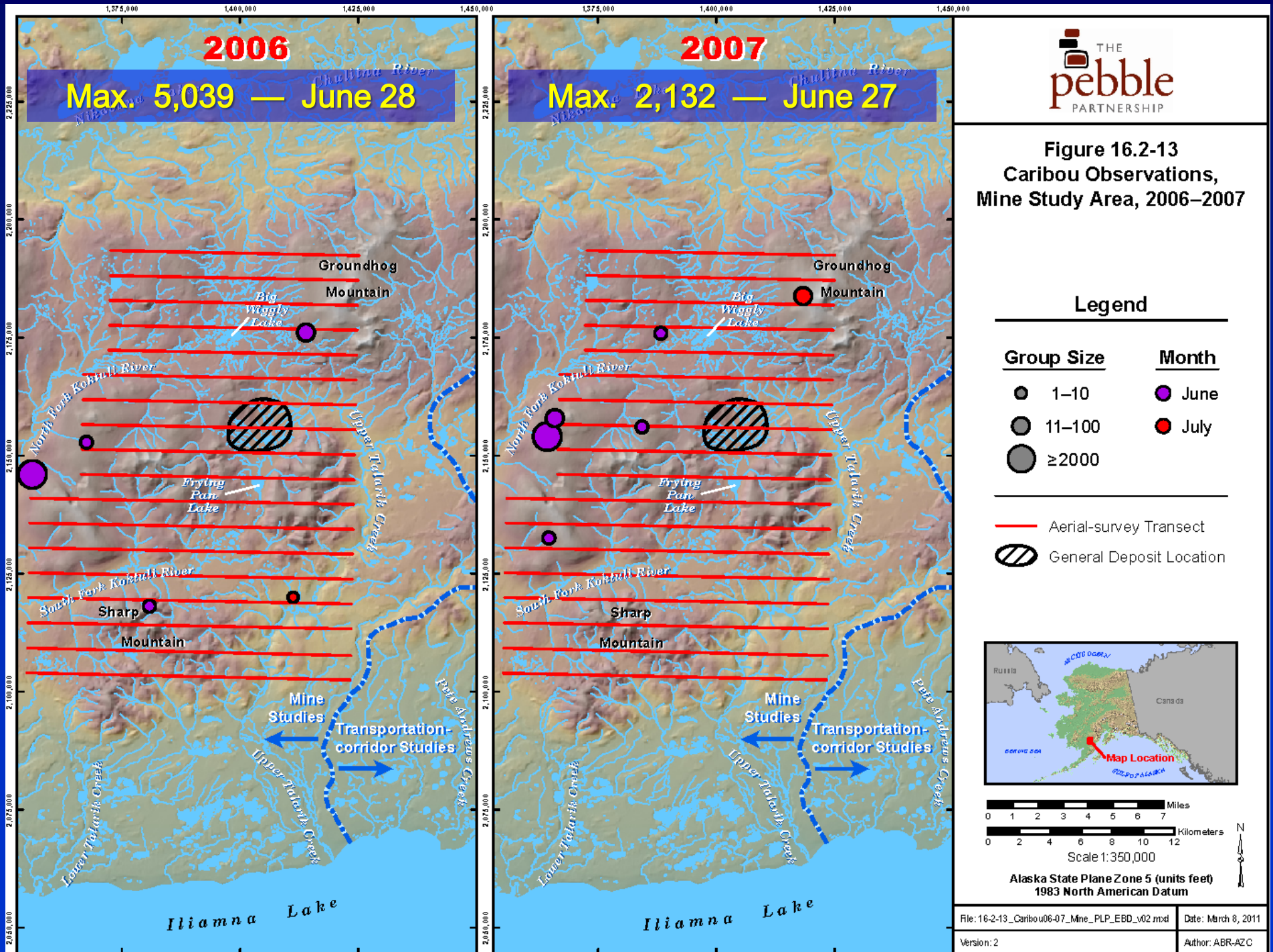
110,000
7/2/1997

50,000
6/30/2002

Caribou Survey Observations — Mine Study Area, 2004 & 2005



Caribou Survey Observations — Mine Study Area, 2006 & 2007



Brown Bear

- Important for both hunting & viewing opportunities (GMU 9A/B state hunting season open only in odd-year falls & even-year springs)
- Gradient from moderate-density inland population (39–50/1,000 km²) to high-density coastal population (150/1,000 km²); reportedly stable or increasing slowly
- Potential for attraction to areas of human activity = concern for safety of humans & bears
- Low reproductive rate = concern over effects of human-caused mortality & disturbance
- Notable seasonal concentrations in coastal bays and at salmon spawning streams

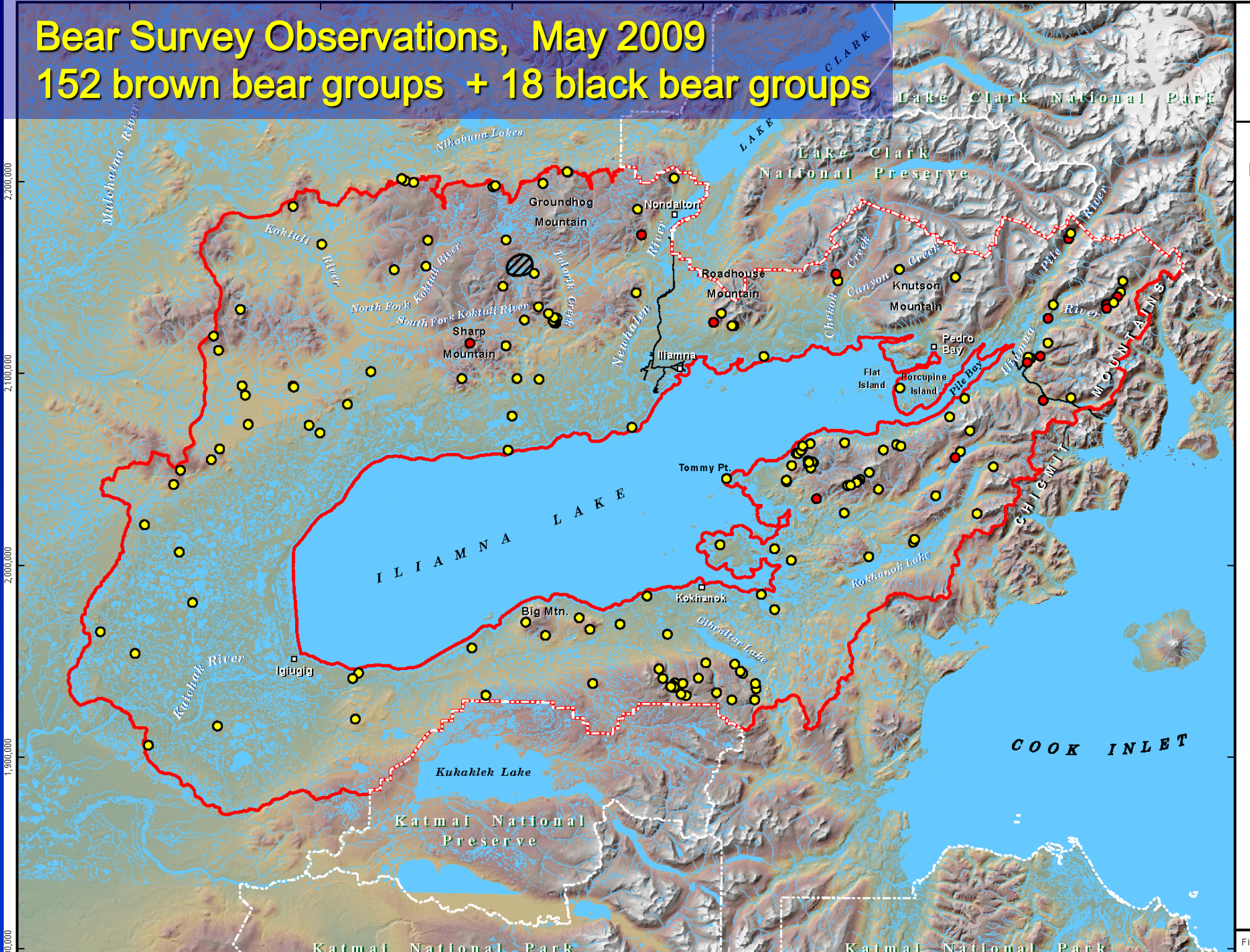


Bear Population Survey — May 2009

- Collaborative cost-sharing effort between PLP & ADFG
- Used line-transect sampling to estimate density of bears in region surrounding Iliamna Lake (GMU 9B South and southeastern GMU 17B)
- Standard ADFG survey method (Becker & Quang): blind double-counts with GPS-based distance estimation on randomly selected, 20-km transects, along elevation contours
- 5 survey airplanes (Super Cubs) & crews, based at Iliamna
- 1,004 transects during May 16–29 (9,800 km² of bear habitat)
- Bear density: 48–58 brown bears/1,000 km² (using 2 different sightability models); black bear sample too small for estimate
- Comparable ADFG–NPS survey data from GMU 9A: 150 brown bears/1,000 km²; 85 black bears/1,000 km²

Bear Survey Observations, May 2009

152 brown bear groups + 18 black bear groups



Bear Population Survey by NPS, May 2007



Figure A1. Brown bear sightings along roads in the GCM/SA study area, 2003-2004.



Figure A1. Black bear sightings along roads in the GCM/SA study area, 2003-2004.

Brown Bear Observations — Mine Area, 2004 & 2005

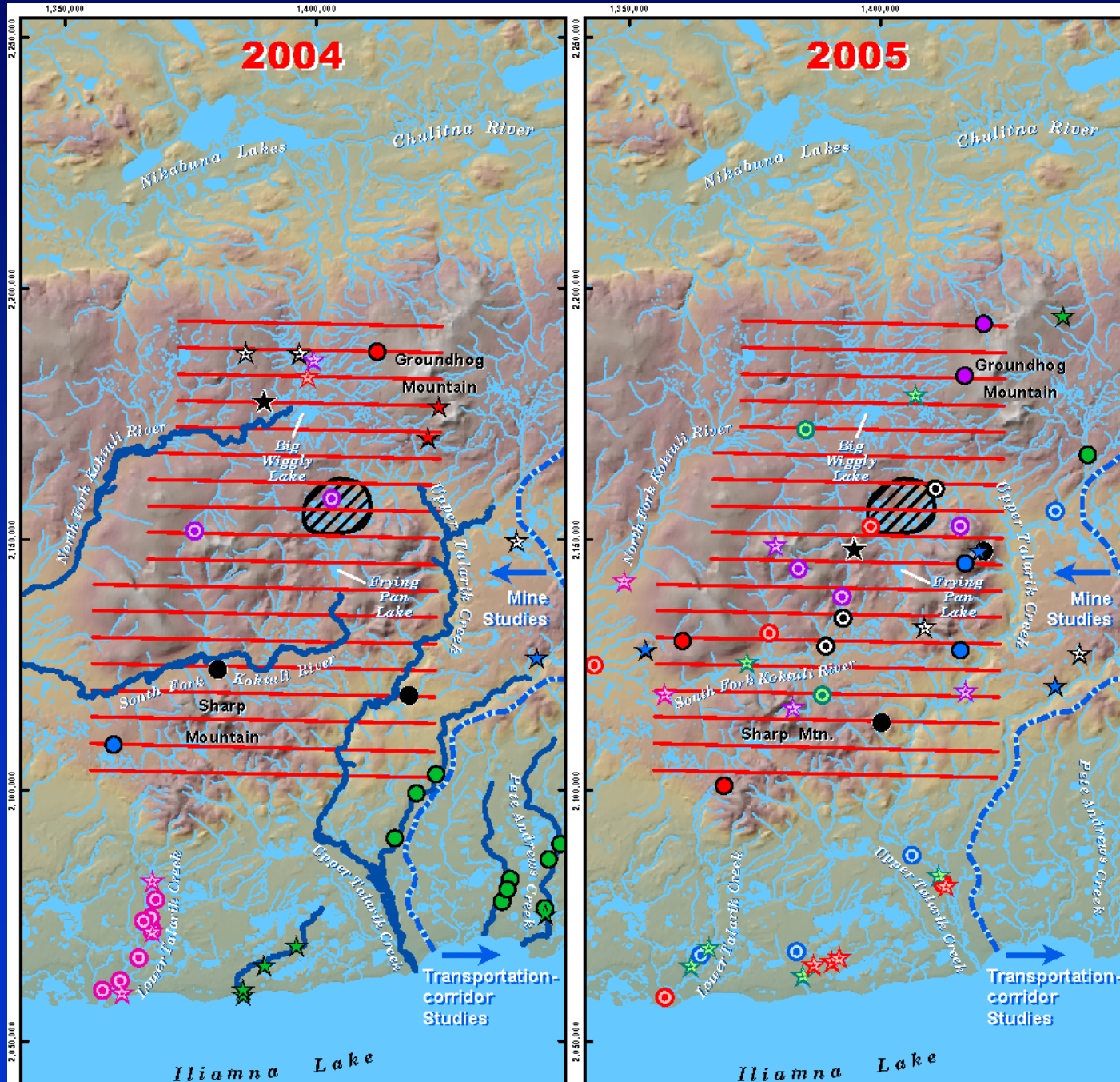


Figure 16.2-15
Brown Bear Observations,
Mine Study Area, 2004–2005

Legend

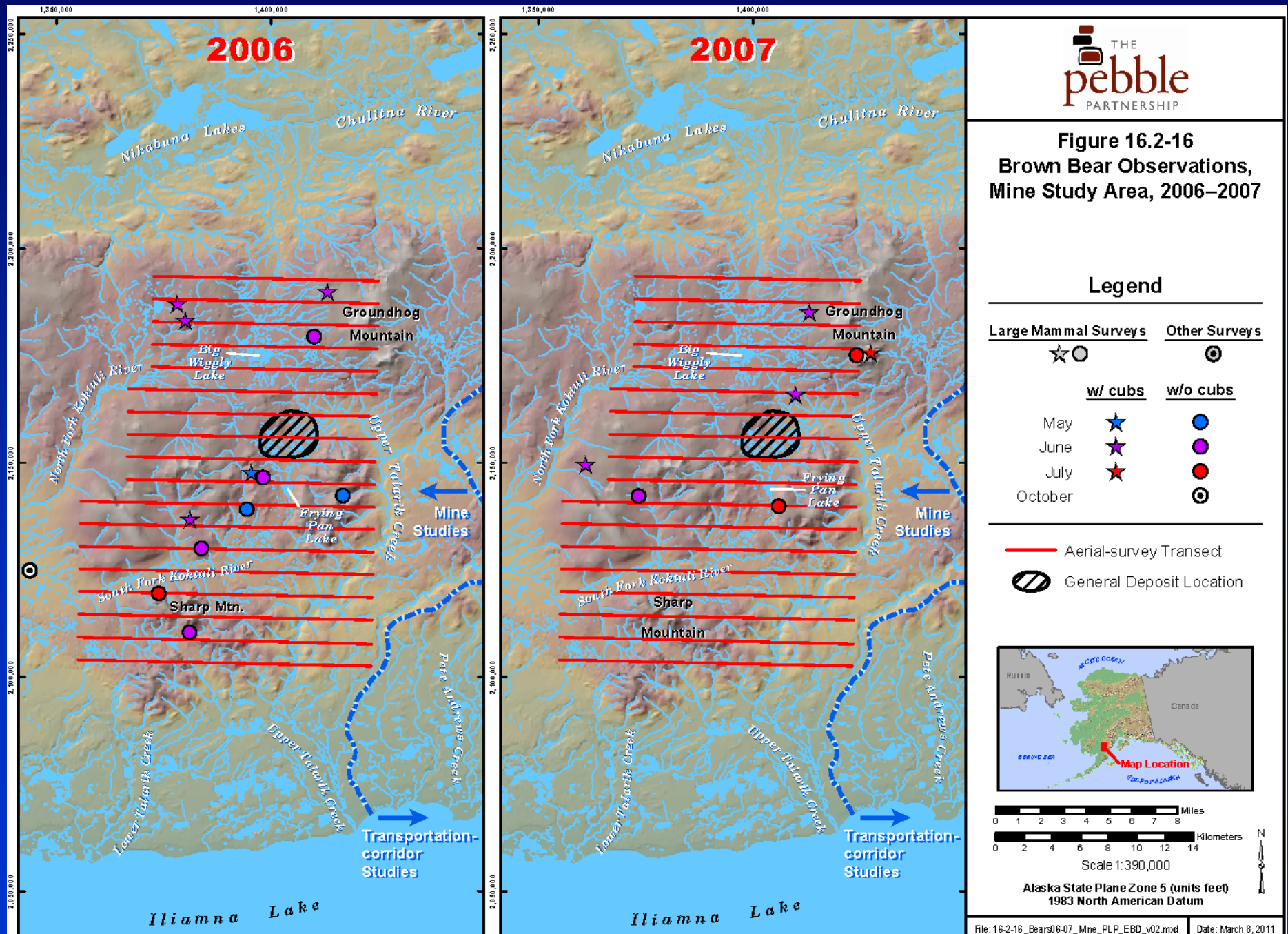
Large Mammal Surveys		Other Surveys	
w/ cubs		w/o cubs	
May	★	★	○
June	★	★	○
July	★	★	○
August	★	★	○
September	★	★	○
October	★	★	○

- Aerial-survey Transect
- August 2004 Stream Survey
- General Deposit Location

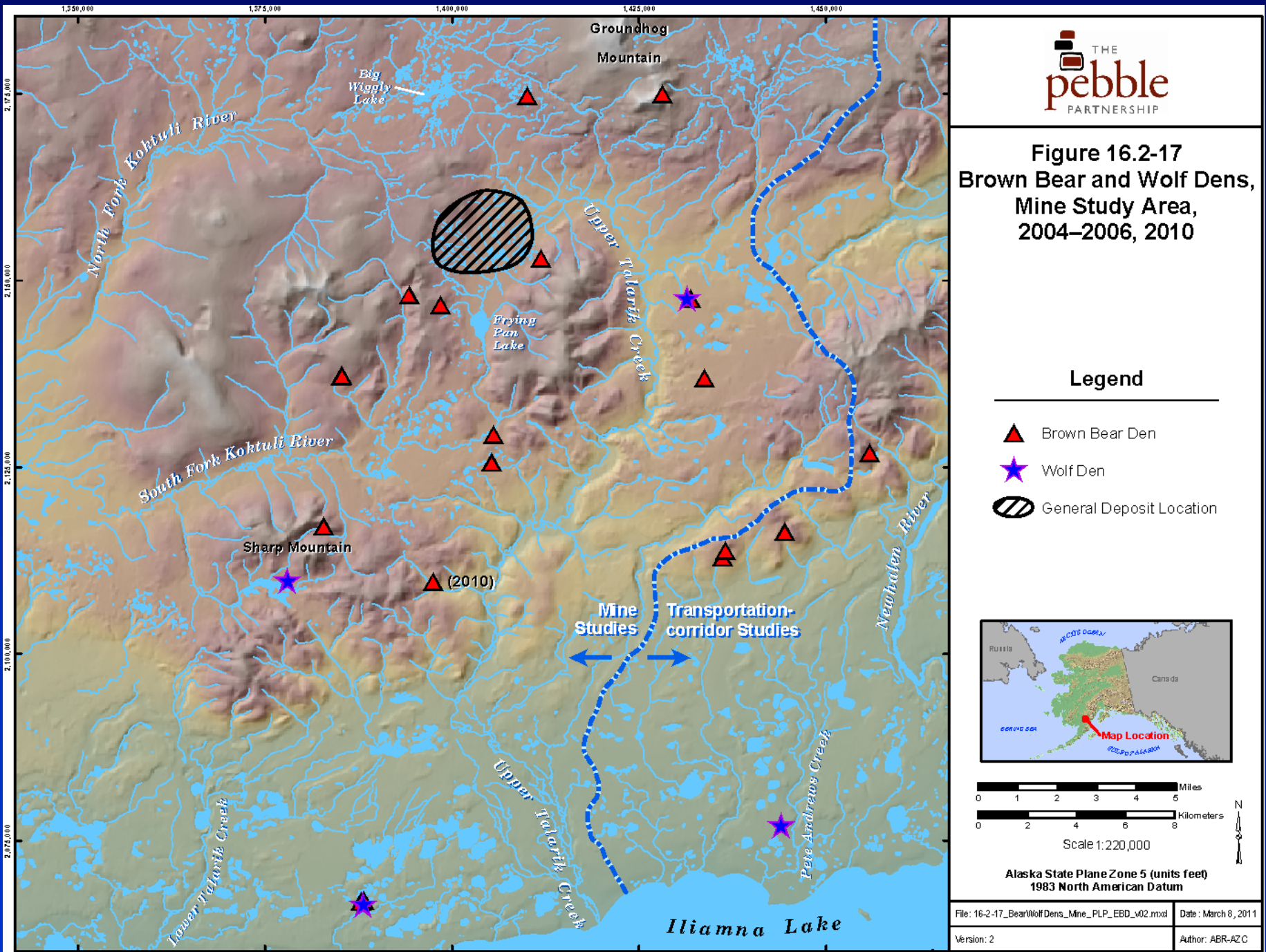


0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Miles
 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 Kilometers
 Scale 1:390,000
 Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Brown Bear Observations — Mine Area, 2006 & 2007



Brown Bear & Wolf Dens — Mine Area, 2004 – 2006, 2010



Brown Bear Observations — Trans. Corridor, 2004 – 2006

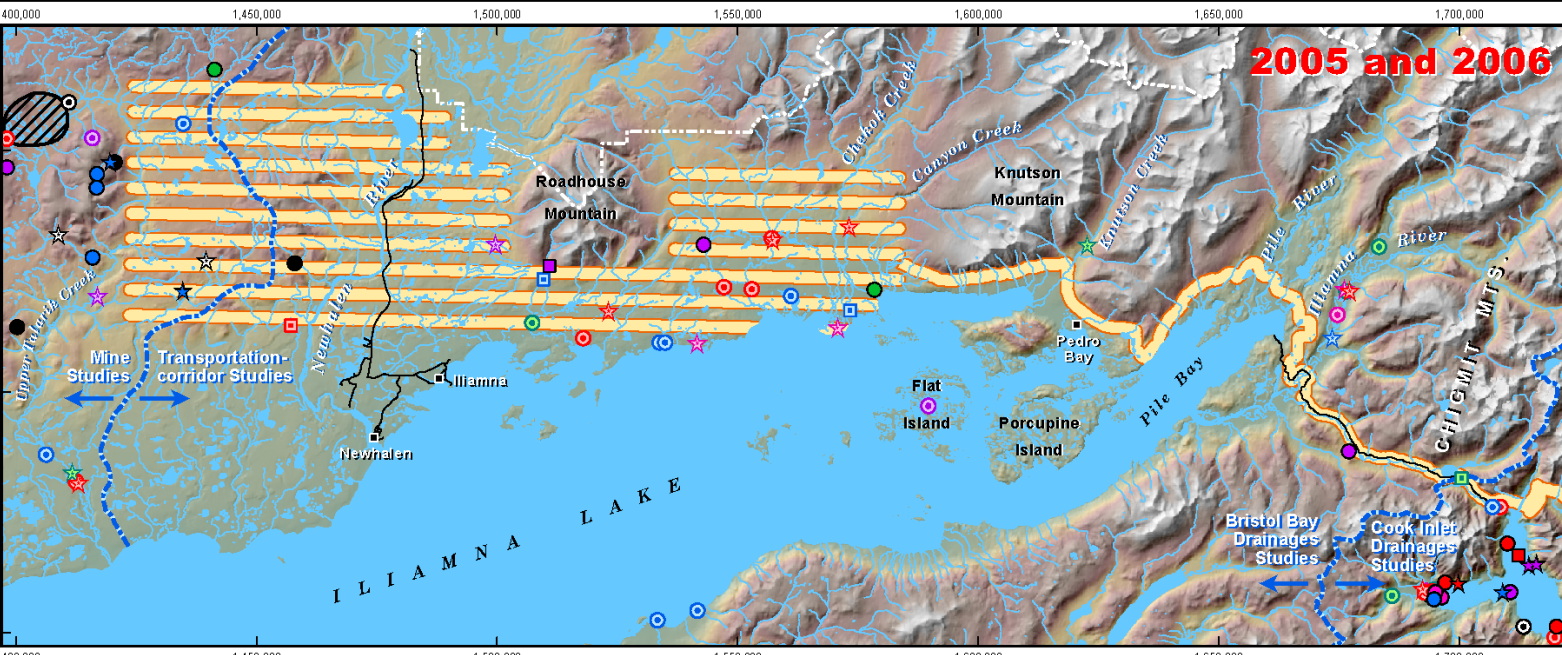
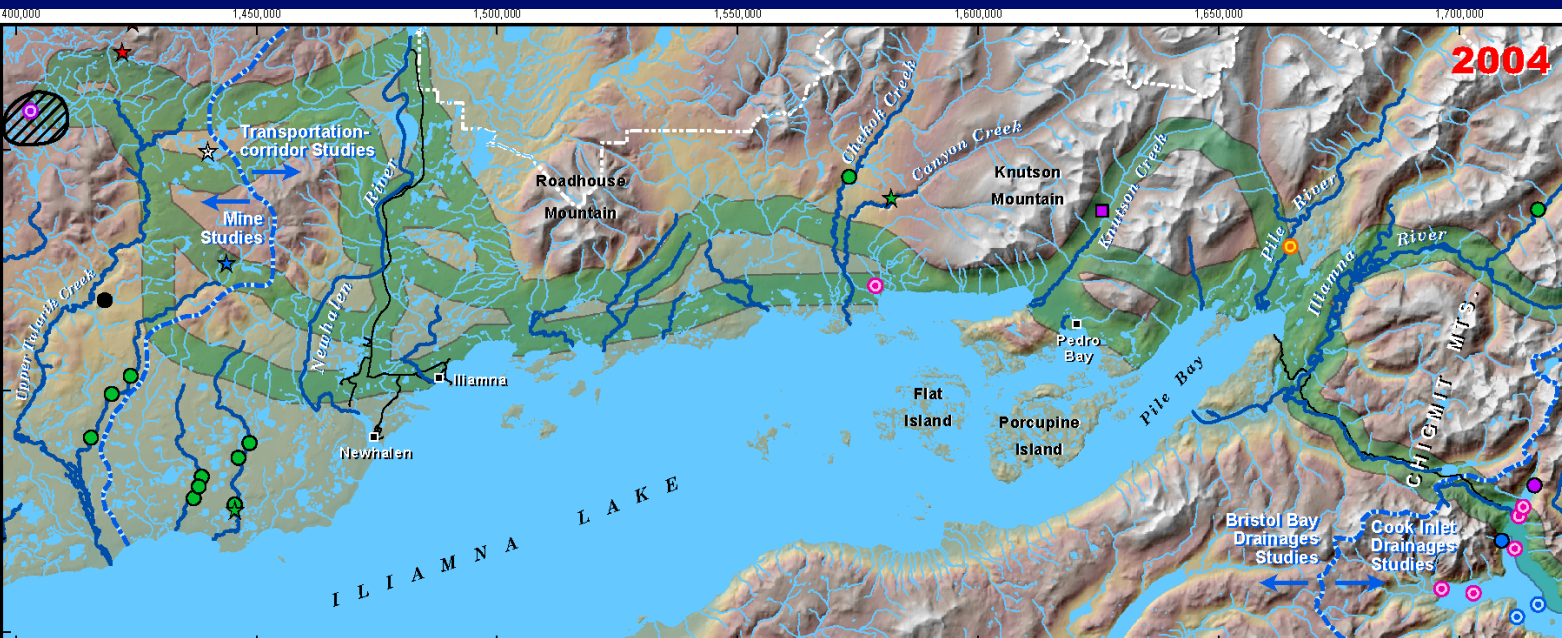
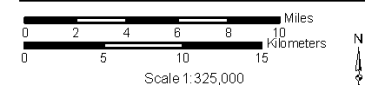


Figure 16.7-2
Bear Observations,
Transportation-corridor,
Bristol Bay Drainages Study Area,
2004–2006

Legend

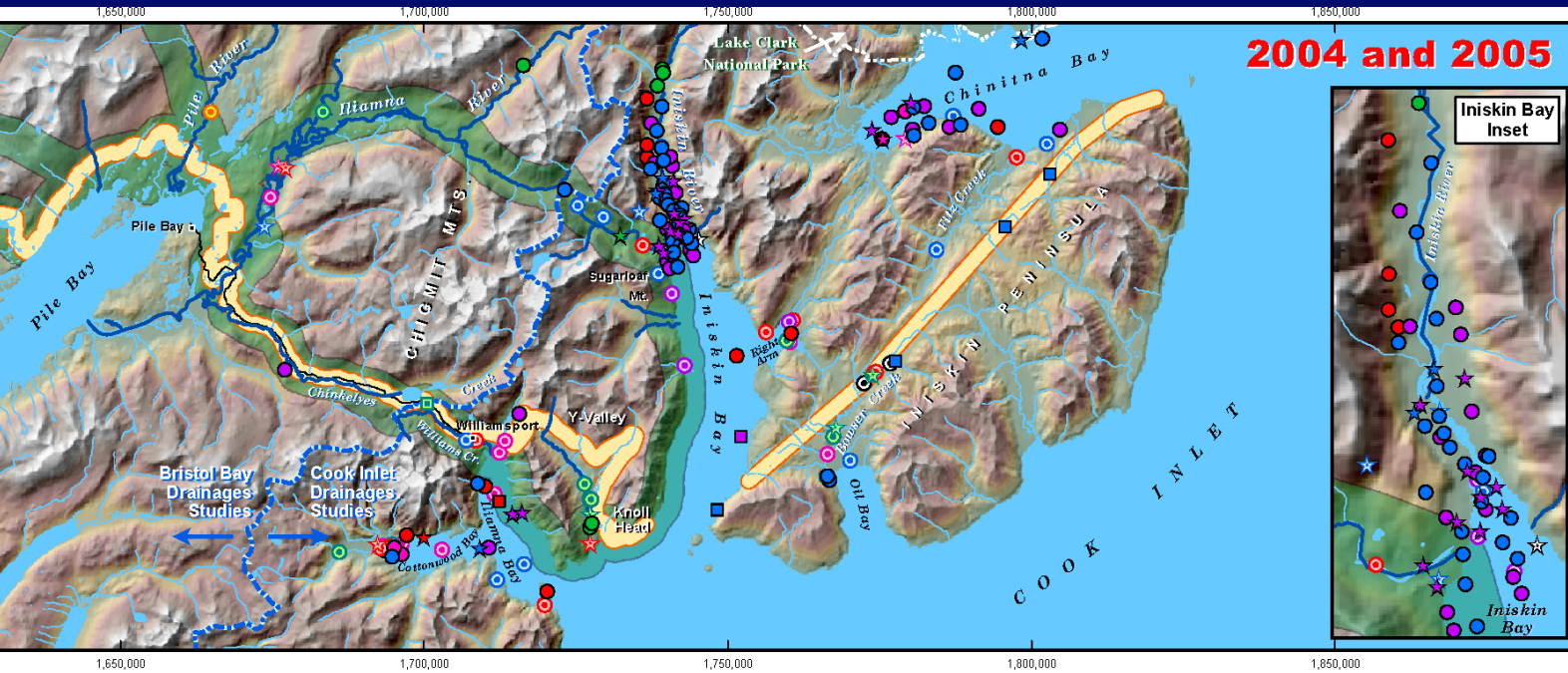
Large Mammal Surveys		Other Surveys	
★ ○ □		★ ◎ □	
Brown Bear		Black Bear	
w/ cubs	w/o cubs	w/ cubs	w/o cubs
April ★	○	★	◎
May ★	○	★	◎
June ★	○	★	◎
July ★	○	★	◎
August ★	○	★	◎
September ★	○	★	◎
October ★	○	★	◎

- 2004 Survey Area
- August 2004 Stream Survey
- 2005–2006 Survey Area
- General Deposit Location
- Existing Road



Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Brown Bear Observations — Cook Inlet Drainages, 2004 – 2007



2004 and 2005

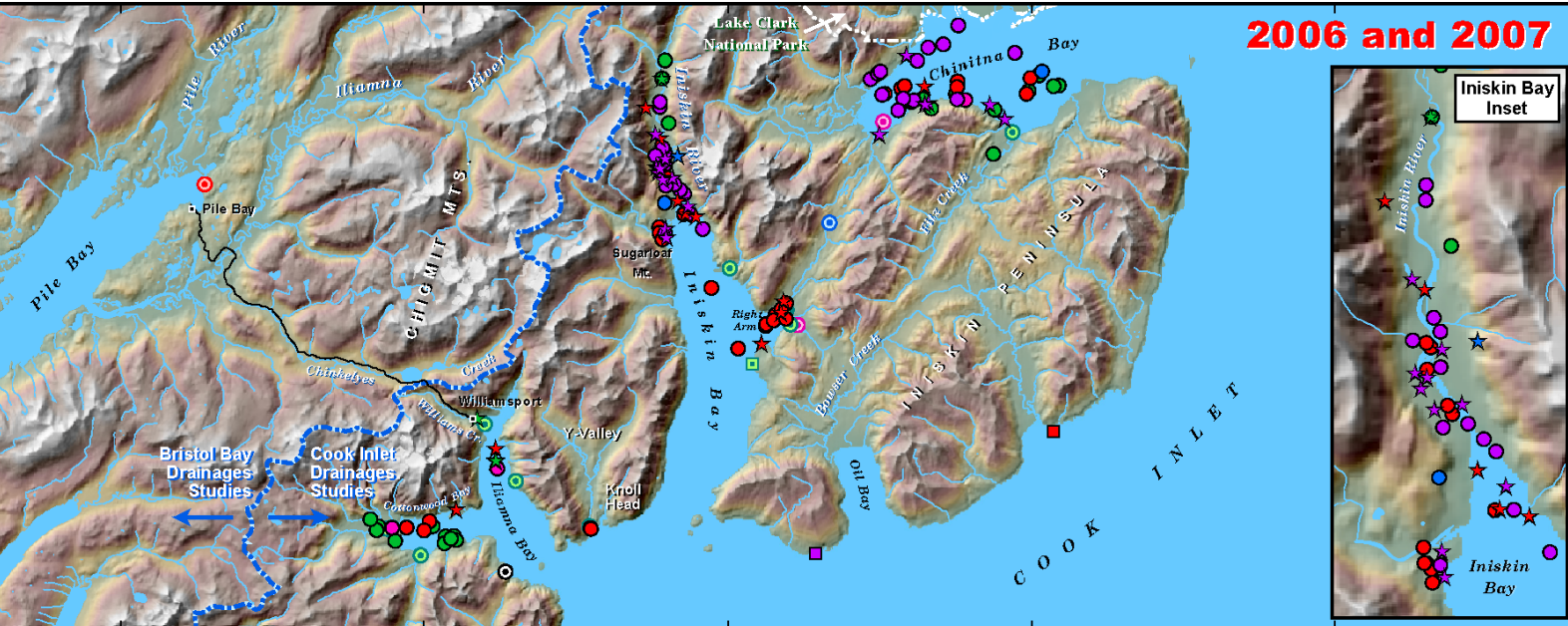


Figure 41.2-2
Bear Observations,
Cook Inlet Drainages, 2004–2007

Legend

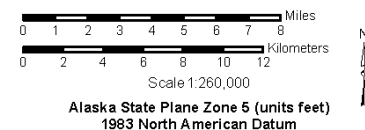
Large Mammal Surveys ^a		Other Surveys	
★ ○ □		★ ○ □	
Brown Bear		Black Bear	
w/ cubs	w/o cubs	w/o cubs	
April	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
May	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
June	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
July	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
August	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
September	★ ★	○ ○	□ □
October	★ ★	○ ○	□ □

^aIncludes sightings made during harbor seal surveys.



2006 and 2007

- 2004 Survey Area
- August 2004 Stream Survey
- 2005 Survey Area
- Existing Road

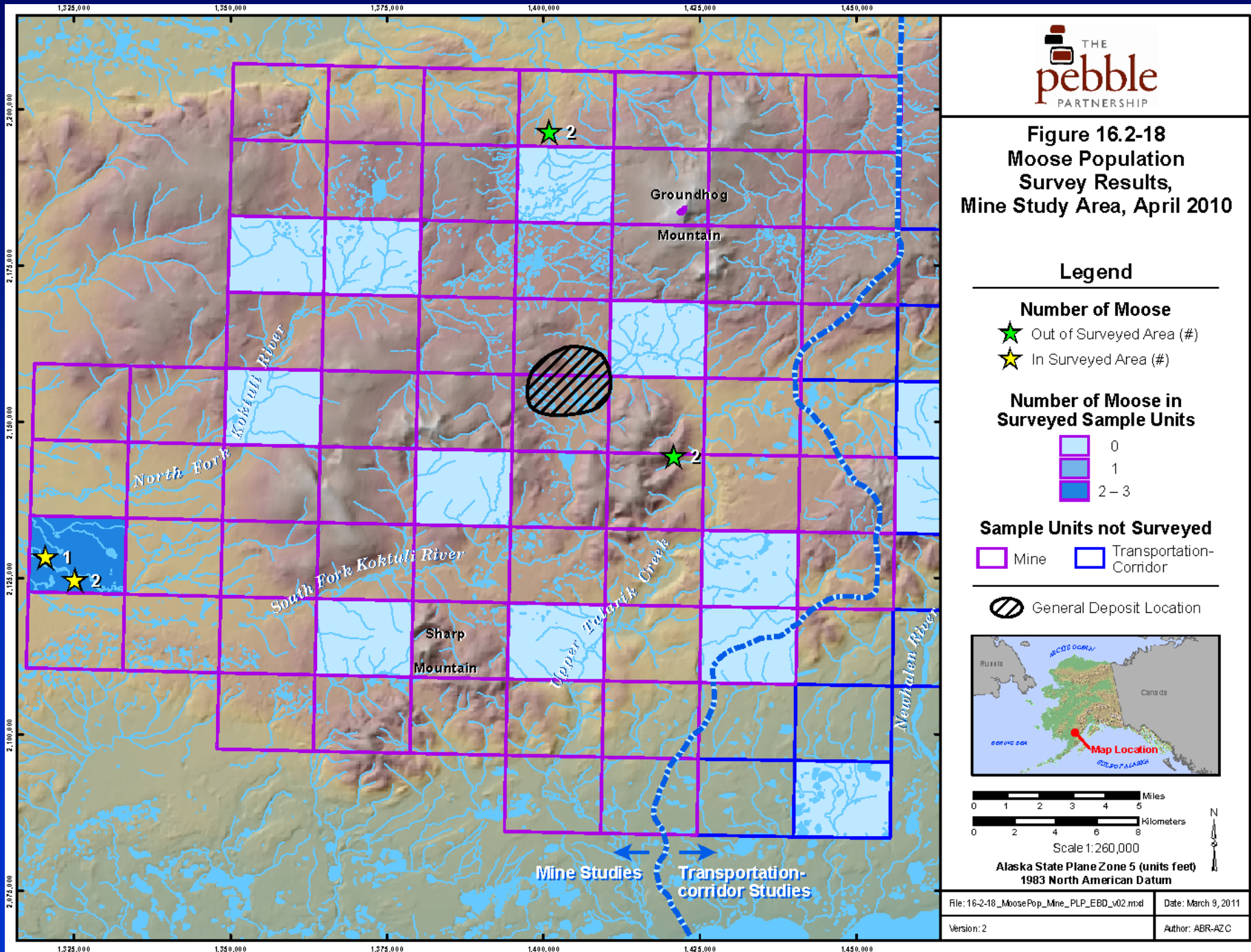


Moose

- Important species for local harvest & some sport hunting
- Moderate-/low-density population, probably relatively stable, probably limited by predation
- Winter concentrations noted east of mine area in 1980s, notably Upper Talarik Creek & large rivers in trans. corridor
- ADFG historical data in Chekok trend-count area (central transportation corridor) + NPS data for Lake Clark N.P.
- Used ADFG's Geospatial Population Estimator method in Apr. 2010 (late-winter density)
- Poor weather and lack of snow prevented early-winter survey in Nov.–Dec. 2009



Moose Population Survey — Mine Area, April 2010



Moose Population Survey — Trans. Corridor, April 2010

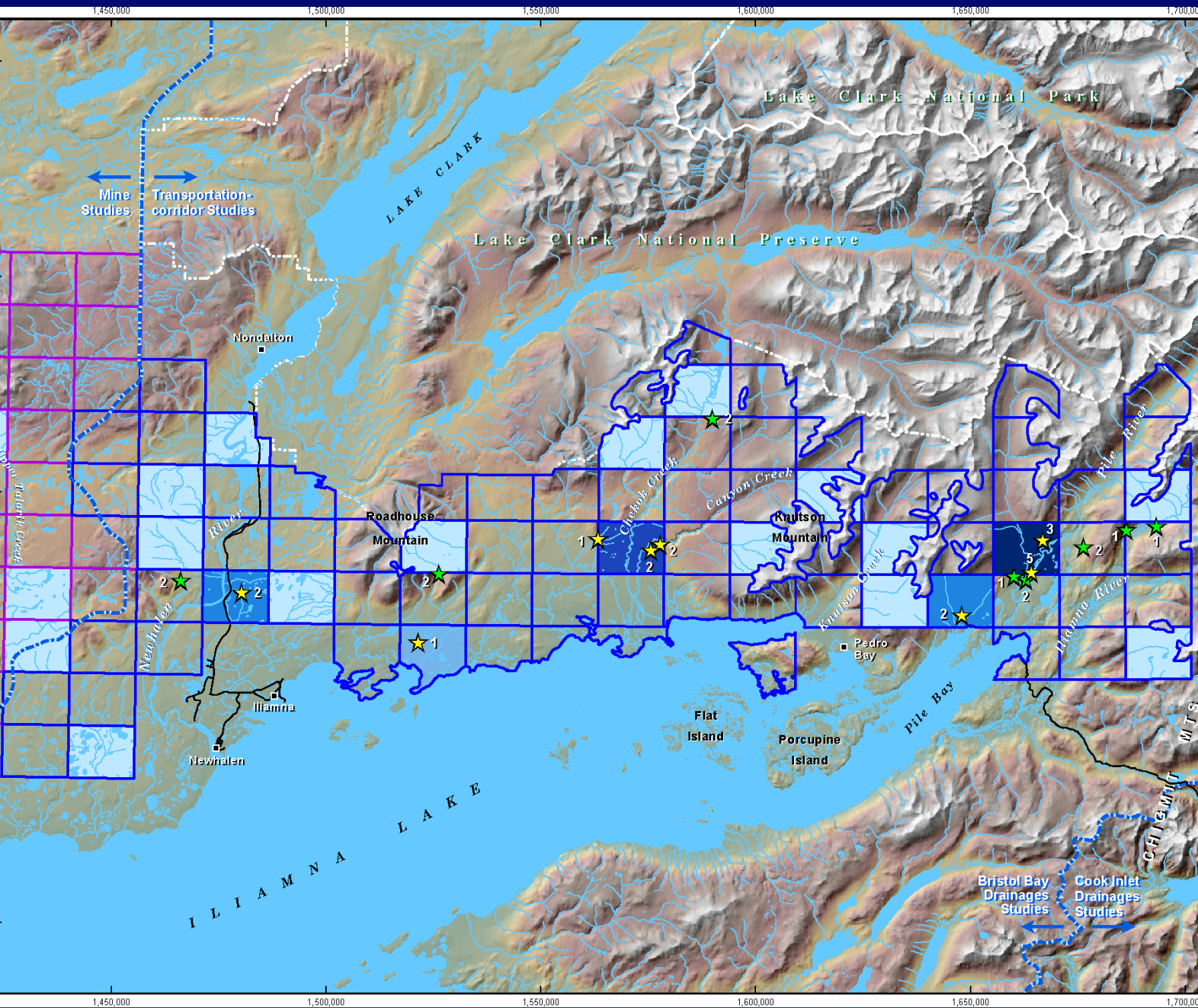
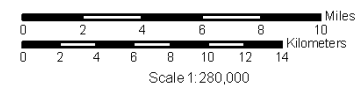


Figure 16.7-3
Moose Population Survey Results,
Transportation-corridor,
Bristol Bay Drainages Study Area,
April 2010

Legend

- Number of Moose**
 - ★ Out of Surveyed Area (#)
 - ★ In Surveyed Area (#)
- | Number of Moose in Surveyed Sample Units | Color |
|--|-------------------|
| 0 | Lightest Blue |
| 1 | Light Blue |
| 2-3 | Medium Light Blue |
| 4-5 | Medium Blue |
| 6-8 | Darkest Blue |
- Sample Units not Surveyed**
 - Mine
 - Transportation-Corridor
 - Existing Road



Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Moose Population Survey — April 6 – 10, 2010

Number Observed Inside and Out of Surveyed Sampled Units, by Sex and Age Category

On/Off Survey	Study Area	Sex / Age Category				Total
		Adult Male	Cow with 1 Calf	Cow with 2 Calves	Unknown Sex	
Inside sample units	Mine Area	0	0	0	3	3
	Transportation Corridor	3	3	1	6	18
	TOTAL	3	3	1	9	21
Outside sample units	Mine Area	4	0	0	0	4
	Transportation Corridor	2	2	0	7	13
	TOTAL	6	2	0	7	17

Estimated Number and Density, by Study Area

Study Area	Area (km ²)	Estimated Population Size		Population Density (moose/km ²)	
		Number	95% C.I.	Density	95% C.I.
Mine Area	1,178.4	33	7 – 81	0.03	0.01 – 0.07
Transportation Corridor	1,219.3	63	31 – 109	0.05	0.03 – 0.09
TOTAL	2,397.7	96	38 – 176	0.04	0.02 – 0.07

Other Mammal Observations — Mine Area, 2004 – 2007

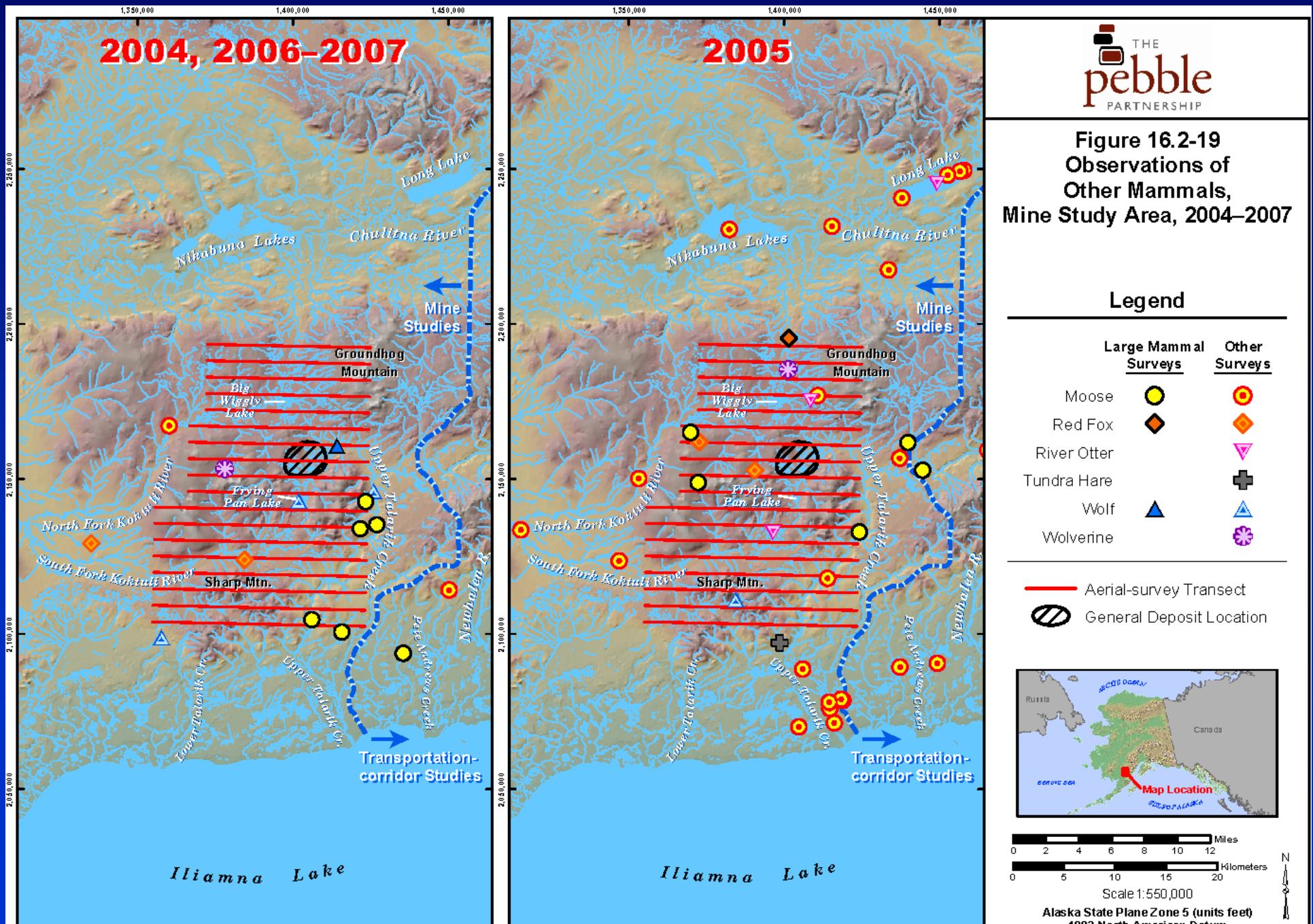


Figure 16.2-19
Observations of
Other Mammals,
Mine Study Area, 2004-2007

Other Mammals — Transportation Corridor, 2004 – 2006

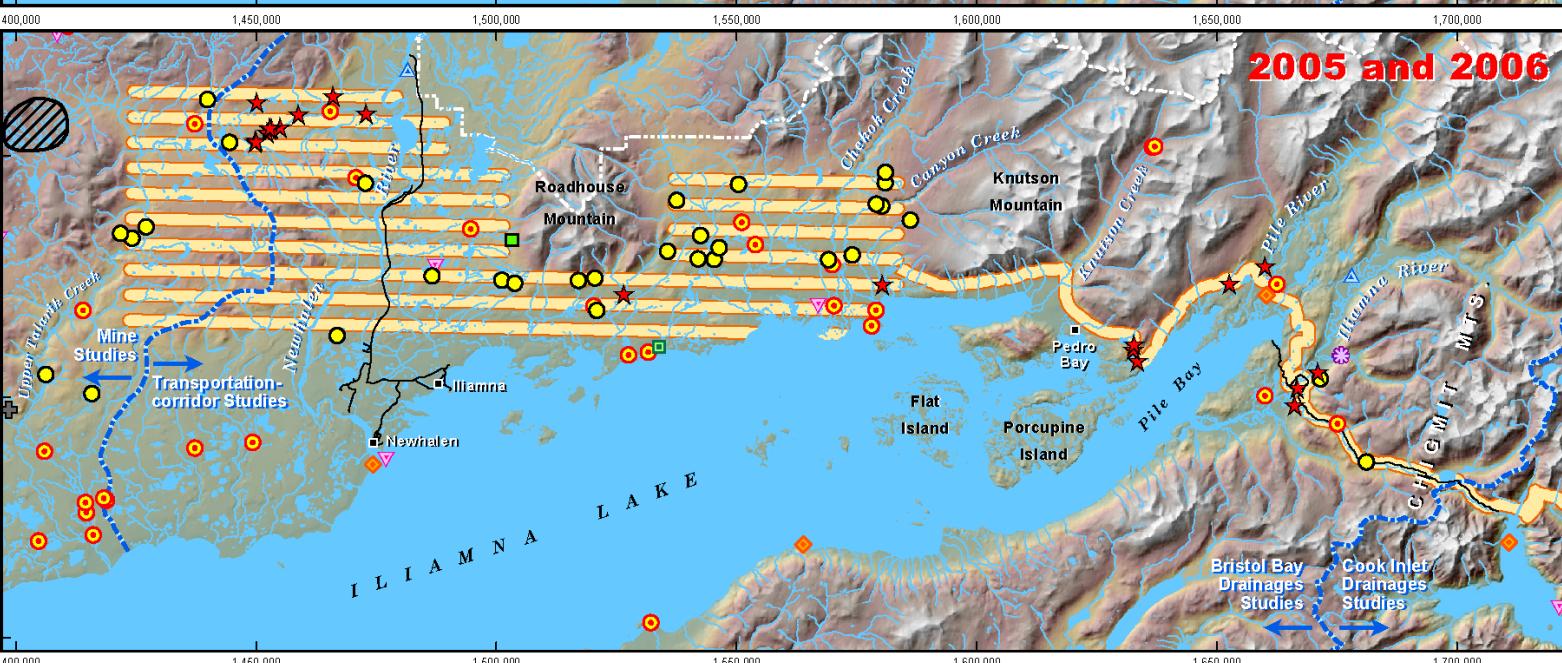
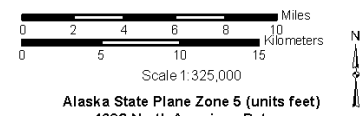


Figure 16.7-4
Observations of Moose and Other Mammals, Transportation-corridor, Bristol Bay Drainages Study Area, 2004–2006

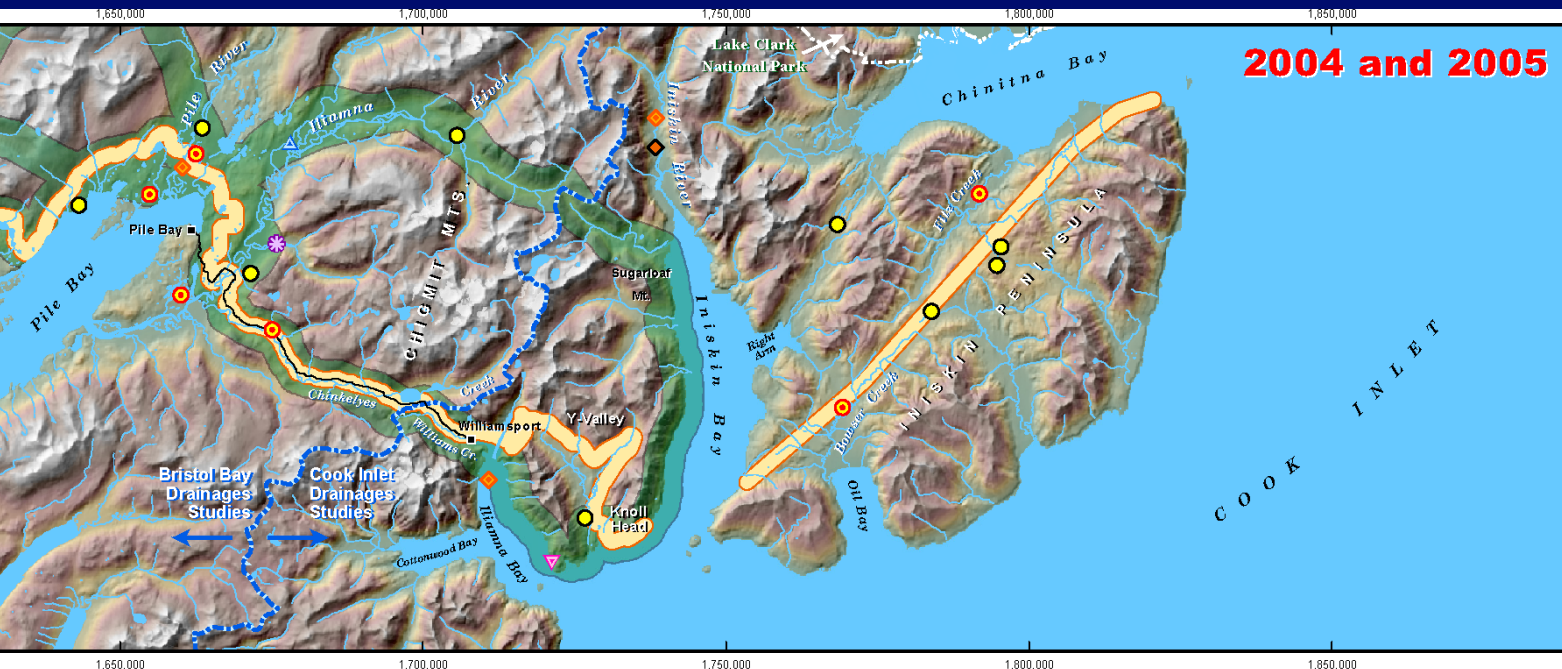
Legend

	Large Mammal Surveys	Other Surveys
Moose	●	○
Coyote	■	□
Red Fox	◆	◇
Beaver Colony	★	☆
River Otter	▲	▼
Wolf	▲	▲
Wolverine	●	●

- 2004 Survey Area
- 2005–2006 Survey Area
- General Deposit Location
- Existing Road



Other Mammals — Cook Inlet Drainages, 2004 – 2007



2004 and 2005



Figure 41.2-3
Observations of Other Mammals,
Cook Inlet Drainages,
2004–2007

Legend

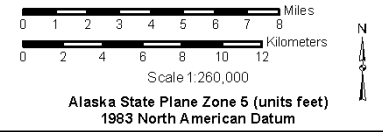
	Large Mammal Surveys ¹	Other Surveys
Moose	●	○
Red Fox	◆	◇
River Otter		▽
Wolf		▲
Wolverine		✿

¹Includes sightings made during harbor seal surveys.

- 2004 Survey Area
- 2005 Survey Area
- Existing Road



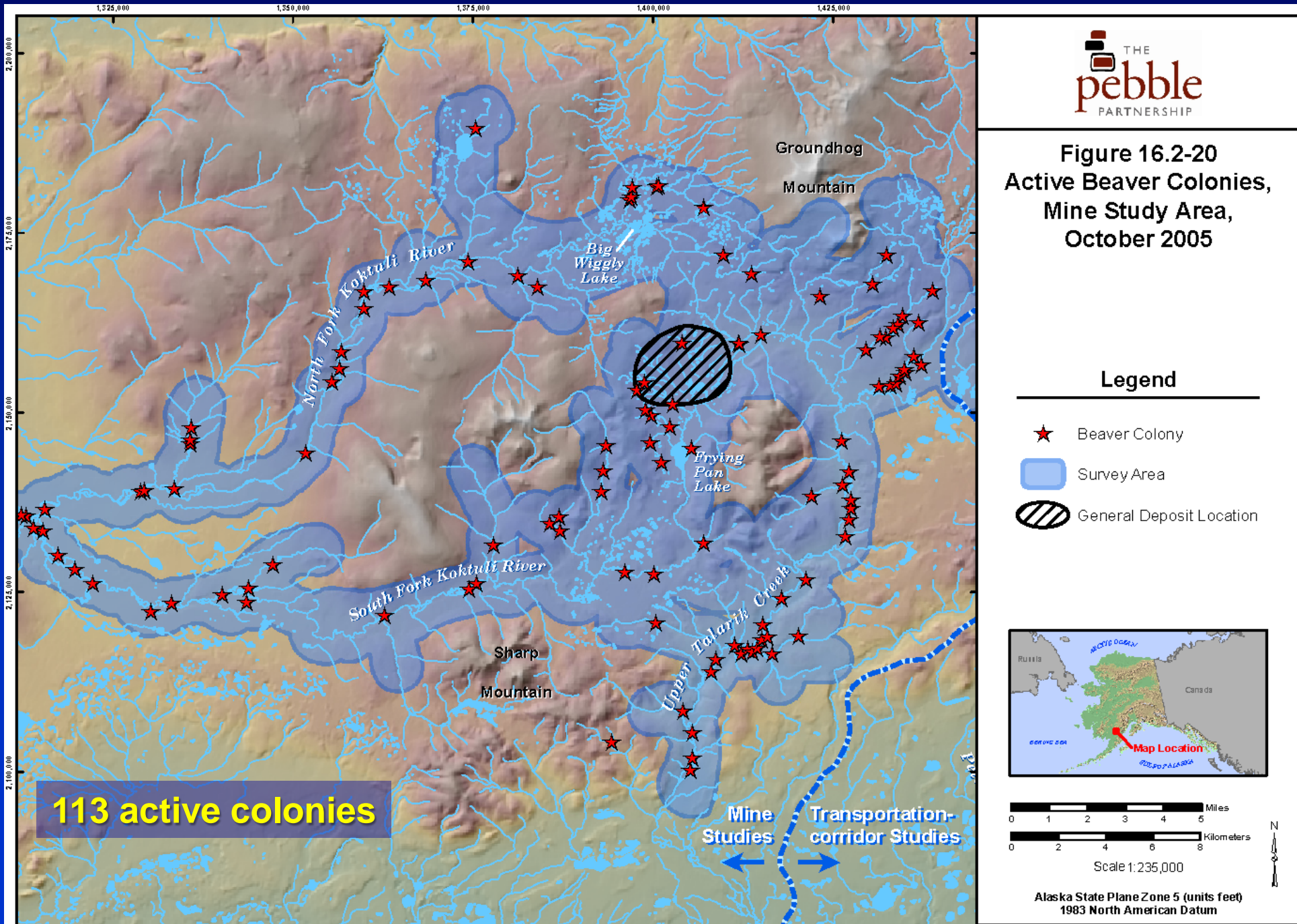
2006 and 2007



Active Beaver Colonies



Beaver Colony Survey — Mine Area, Oct. 9, 2005





Furbearer Harvests

ADFG harvest records in and near mine & transportation corridor study areas*

Species	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Lynx	5	13	18	9	2	8	7	10	18	1	1	3	1	0
River otter	29	17	18	15	18	30	15	6	3	1	6	0	28	3
Wolverine	22	19	22	23	10	15	17	10	4	4	5	1	21	8
Wolf	42	15	45	84	18	3	17	41	68	13	28	5	23	4
Beaver	305	111	70	174	65	163	19	8	8	15	24	10	23	0

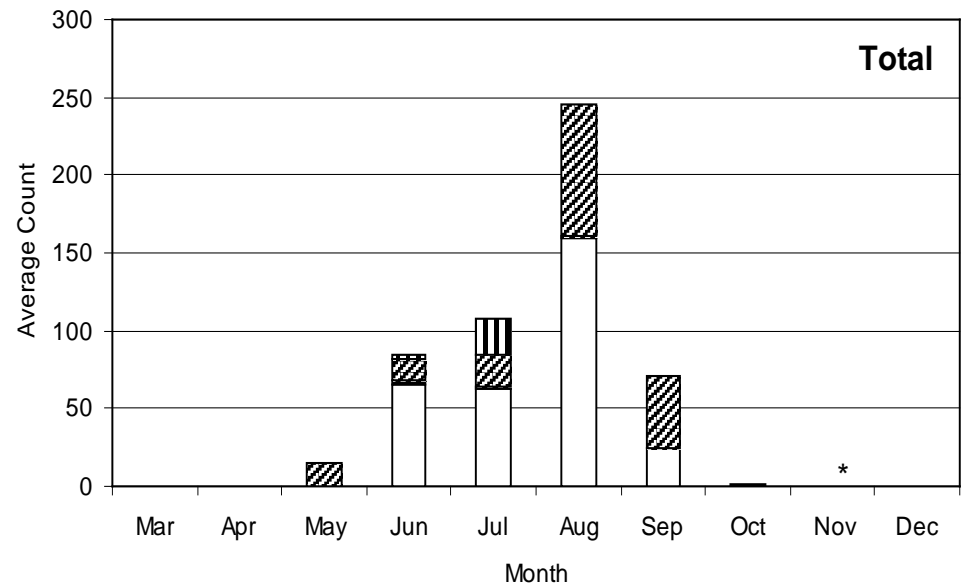
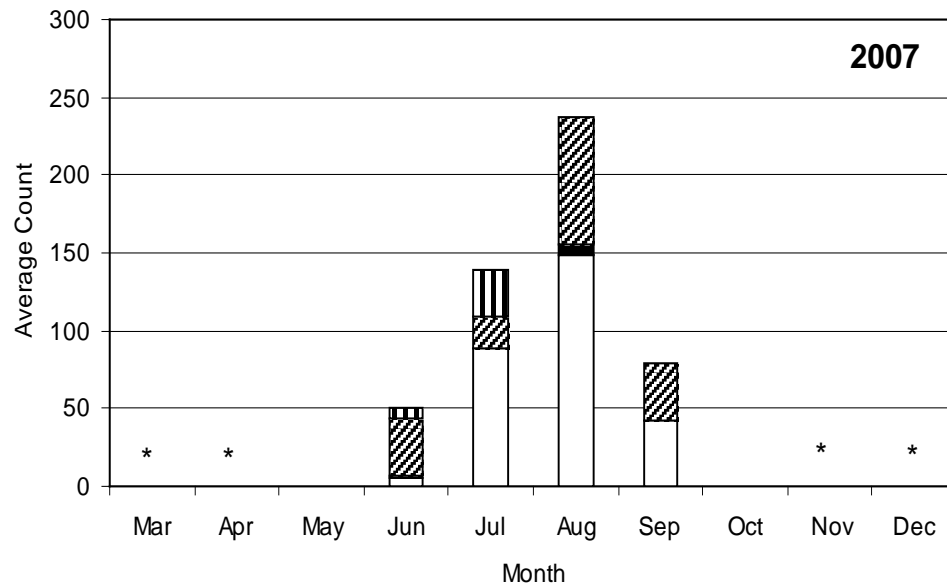
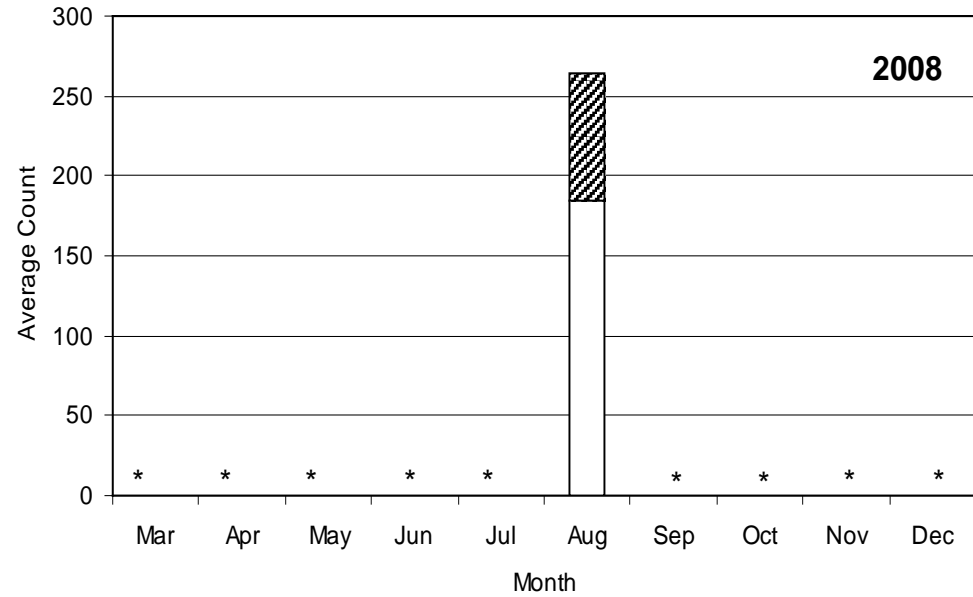
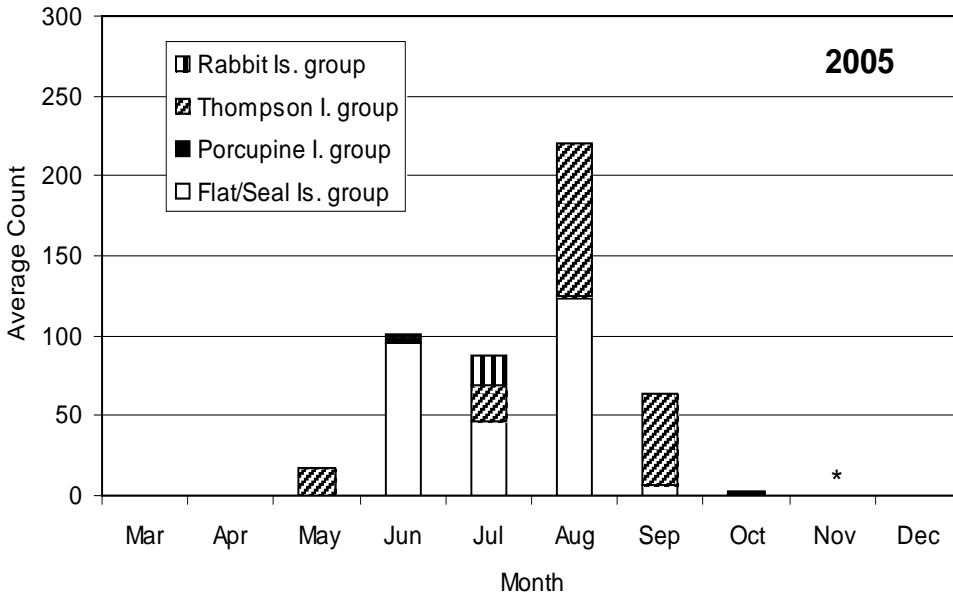
* Uniform Coding Units: 201 in GMU 17B + 203, 301, 302, 303, 304, 401, 601, 701 in GMU 9B

Harbor Seal — Iliamna Lake

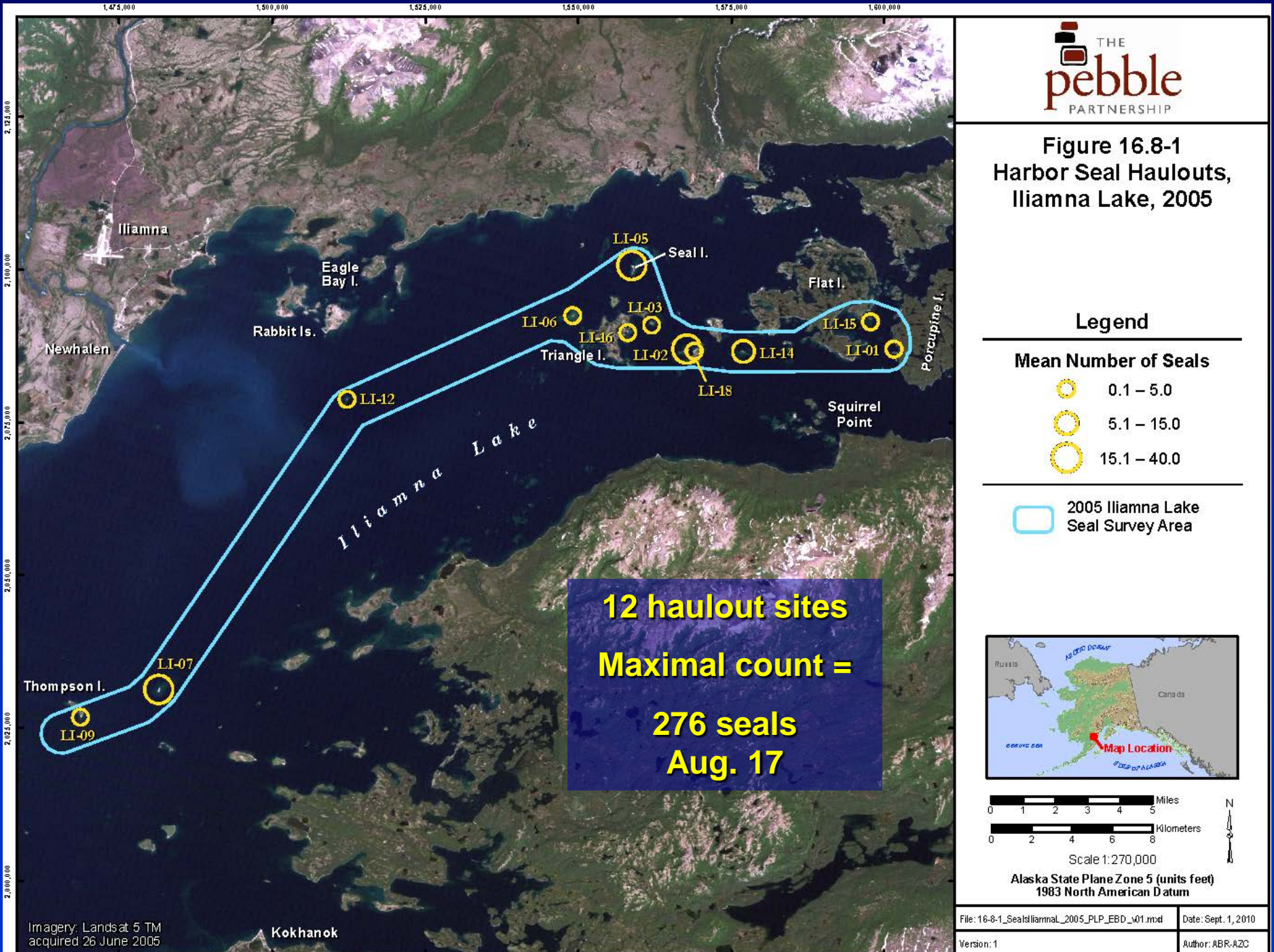
- Subject to MMPA permitting concerns
- Susceptible to disturbance when hauled out, especially during pupping in early summer & molt in late summer
- Iliamna Lake hosts only freshwater seal population in Alaska
- Coastal bays near potential port site known to support large numbers of seals (discussed under Marine Wildlife)



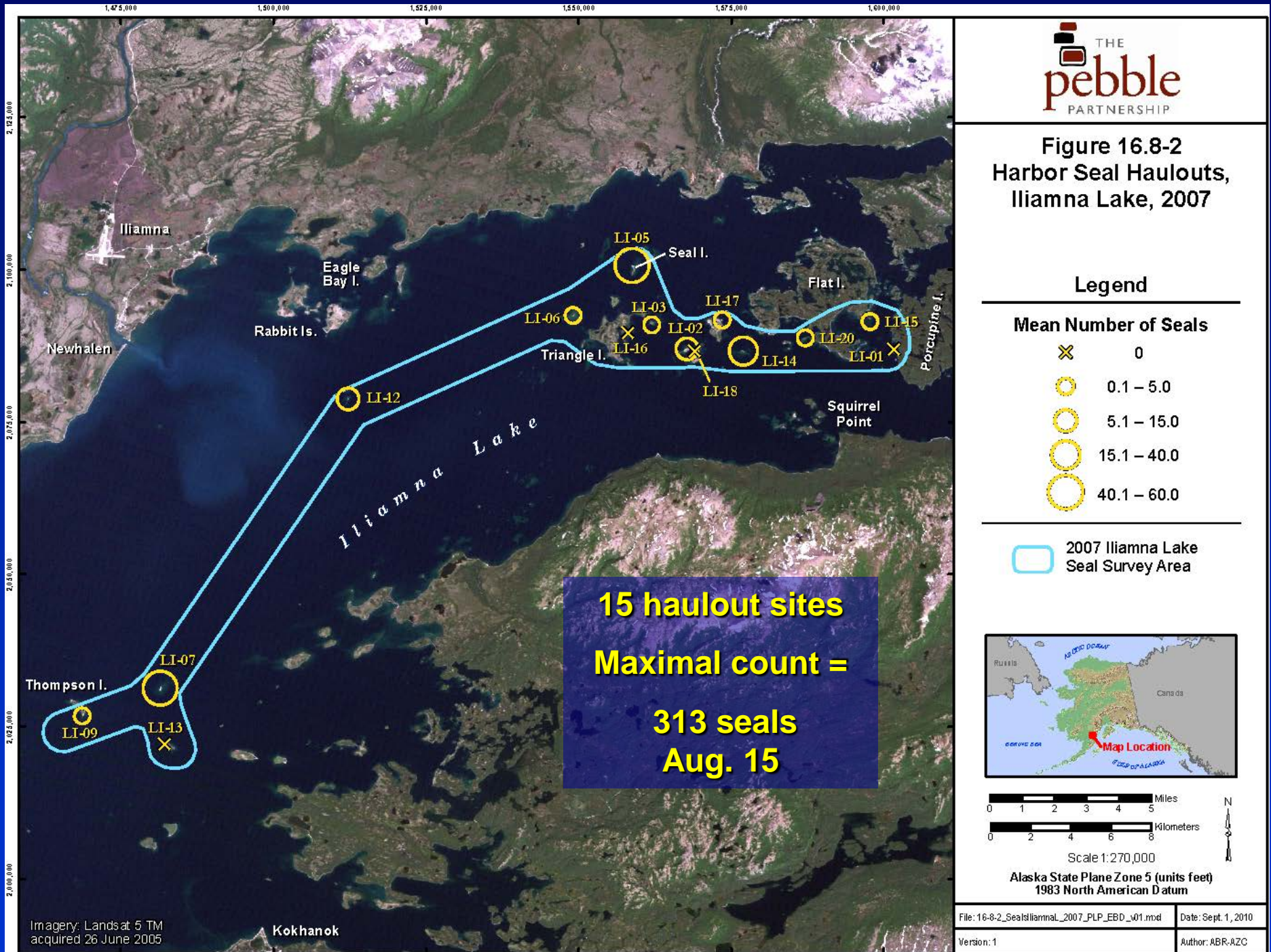
Timing of Seal Haulout Use, Iliamna Lake: 2005, 2007, 2008



Harbor Seal Haulouts, Iliamna Lake, Mar. – Dec. 2005



Harbor Seal Haulouts, Iliamna Lake, May – Oct. 2007



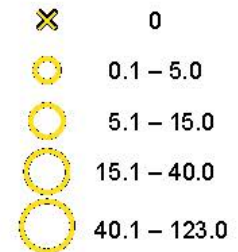
Harbor Seal Haulouts, Iliamna Lake, Aug. 2008



Figure 16.8-3
Harbor Seal Haulouts,
Iliamna Lake, 2008

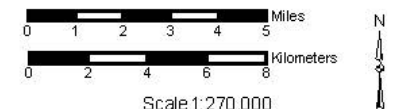
Legend

Mean Number of Seals



○ (blue outline) 2008 Iliamna Lake Seal Survey Area

16 haulout sites
Maximal count =
357 seals
Aug. 17



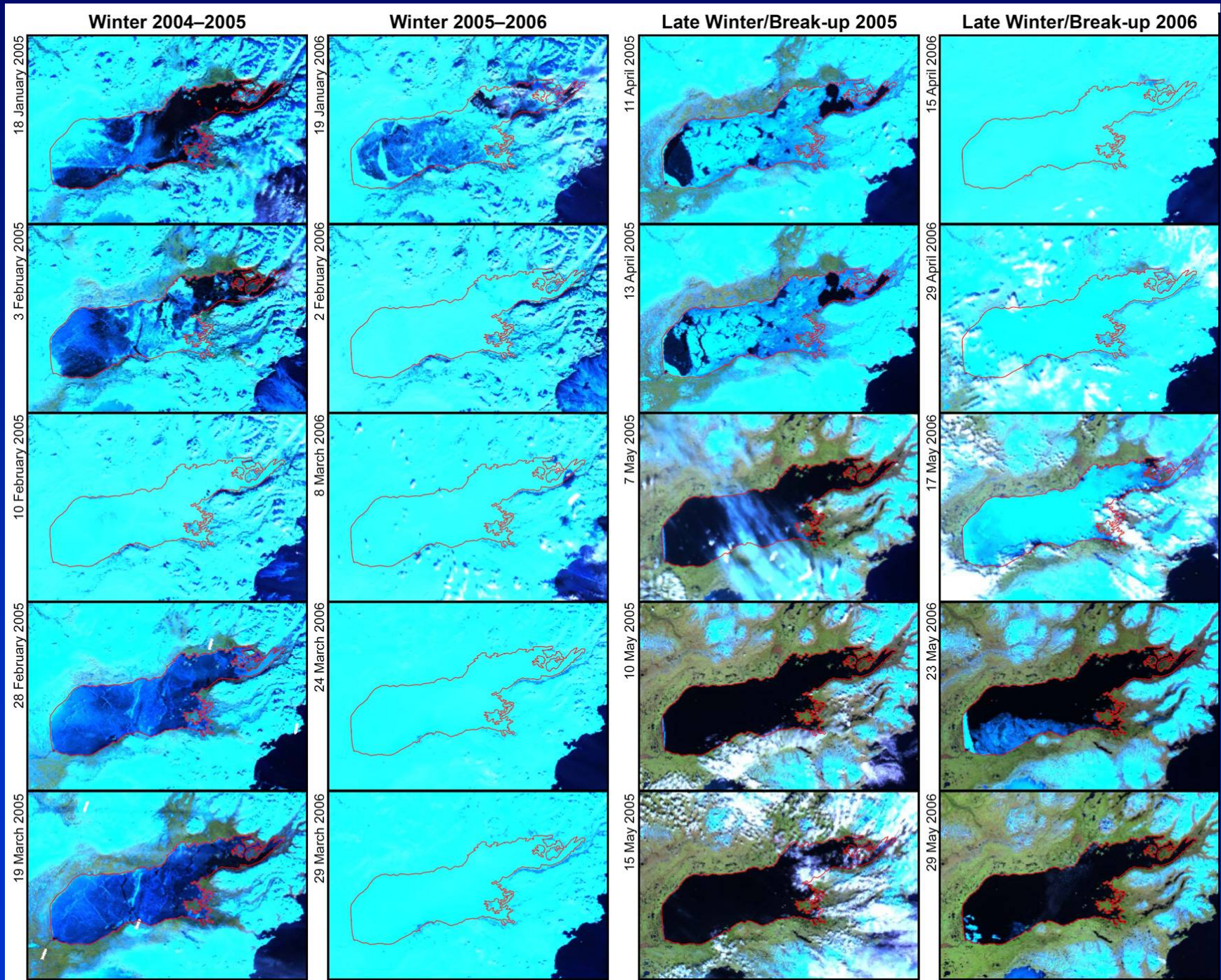
Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
1983 North American Datum

File: 16-8-3_SealsIliamnaL_2008_PLP_EBD_v01.mxd Date: Sept. 1, 2010

Version: 1

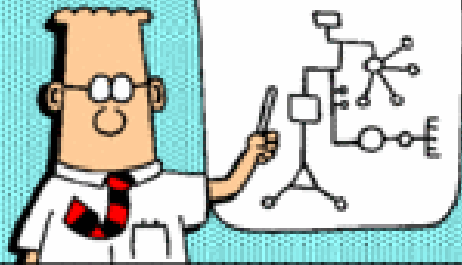
Author: ABR,AZC

Ice Cover on Iliamna Lake (MODIS Satellite Imagery)



Questions?

AS YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE IN SLIDE 397...



www.dilbert.com scottadams@aol.com

GAAAAH!



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"POWERPOINT POISONING."

