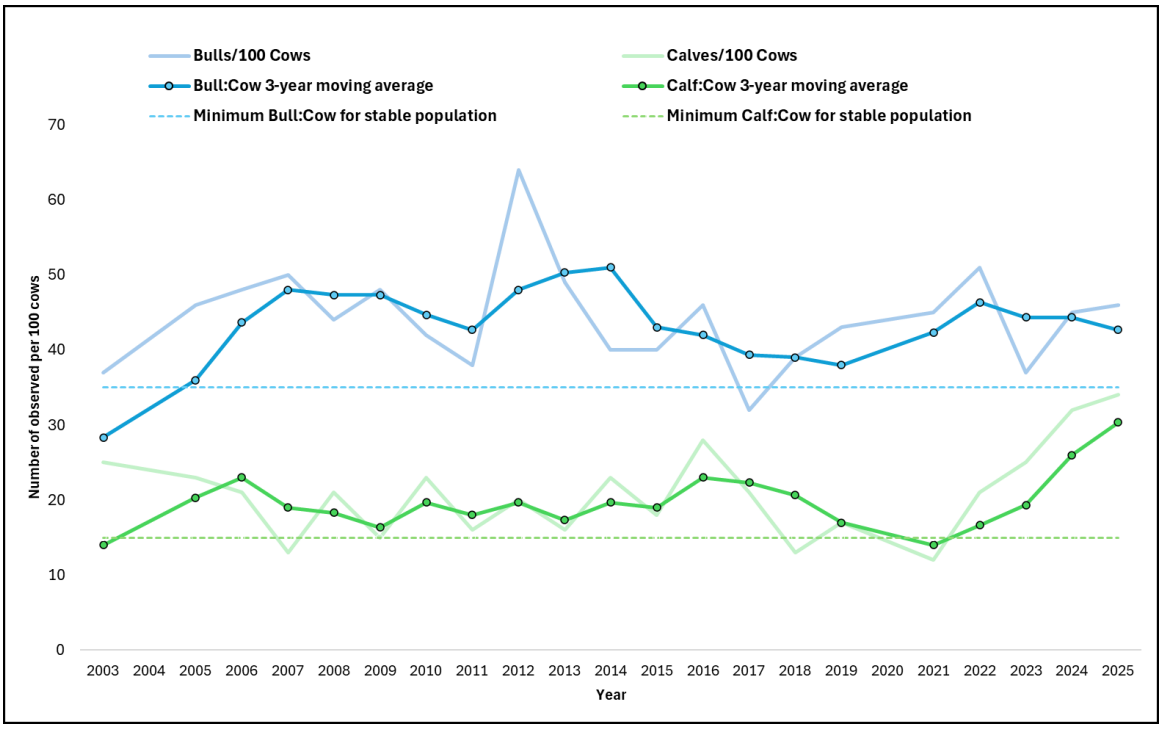
*Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Tok*

*Wildlife Report Update, Winter 2026*

- **Chisana Caribou Herd**

  - ADF&G staff conducted the annual Chisana caribou herd composition survey in October of 2025. A total of 409 caribou were classified during the survey. The fall composition survey indicated a 3-year moving average ratio of 30 calves:100 cows and a 3-year moving average ratio of 43 bulls:100 cows.
  - An additional 8 GPS collars were deployed on adult cows in October 2025




Number of calves and bulls per 100 cows observed during Chisana caribou herd composition surveys from 2003-2025 (no survey occurred in 2020).

- **Tok Management Area Sheep**

  - The Tok Management Area (TMA) was surveyed for sheep mid-July of 2025. Observers recorded 261 sheep. This reflects a 77% drop from the 2019 pre-crash count of 1,112 and a 74% decline from 2006-2024 average of 1,008. Across the full TMA, adult sheep comprised approximately 84% of the population between 2006 and 2024, with 54% being ewes or ewe-like individuals and 29% rams. The count for total adults has declined by 27% since 2024, from 291 sheep to 212. In 2025, ewe and lamb counts decreased by 18% from 2024; observers counted 167 ewes (down from 203 in 2024) and 49 lambs (down from 60 in 2024). However, both groups increased in proportional representation; ewes increased from 58% of the total count in 2024 to 64% in 2025. Lambs were previously 17% of the total

count in 2024 but now constitute 19% of the 2025 total count, translating to a 10% proportional increase in the representation of lambs across count areas.
    - In 2025, total TMA ram count fell 49%, from 88 rams in 2024 to 45, a decline of 85% relative to the 2006-2024 average of 295. It should be noted that while legal ram counts have fallen approximately in proportion to total adult counts, sublegal rams have declined more sharply both numerically and proportionally.
    - Surveys are anticipated to occur in July 2026 as funding allows.

- **Nutzotin/Count Area 9 Sheep**

    - Count Area 9 in the Nutzotin mountains North was surveyed in early July of 2025. The overall 2025 survey count of 318 was 66% lower than the previous count in 2019, which was the highest overall count on record and immediately prior to a series of harsh winters that severely impacted sheep populations throughout interior Alaska. Ram numbers declined to 70, 73% lower than the 2019 count and 61% lower than the historical average of 178. Ewe counts declined to 193, 64% lower than the 2019 count and 50% lower than the historical average of 387. Lamb counts fell to 51, 66% lower than the 2019 count and 61% lower than the historical average of 130. An additional 4 unidentified sheep were also observed during surveys.
    - Surveys will occur again when funding allows.

- **Mentasta/Count Area 1 Sheep**

    - Count Area 1 in the Mentasta Mountains was surveyed Mid-July of 2025. In 2025, the count area 1 survey showed substantially more population recovery towards pre-crash levels relative to other Tok-area surveys. The count rose to 447 sheep, a 29% increase from 2023, yet still 53% below the pre-crash average (950; 2002–2018) and 47% below the broader historical average (850; 2002–2023). Despite overall population growth, ram numbers declined further to 102, down 20% from 2023, and 67% and 63% below the pre-crash and historical averages, respectively. Most of this decline occurred among sublegal rams, which fell 33% to 78 individuals, representing a 70% decrease from the pre-crash average (261) and 67% below the historical average (237). Ewe counts rose to 261 in 2025, a 35% increase from 2023, but remained 51% below the pre-crash average (529) and 45% below the historical average (473). Lamb counts also rose sharply to 84, a 223% increase over 2023. Despite this gain, lamb numbers were still 23% below the pre-crash average (109) and 12% below the historical average (95).
    - Surveys will occur again when funding allows.

- **NW GMU 12 Moose**

    - The northwestern survey area in GMU 12 was surveyed mid-November in 2025. The count of 655 was lower than the previous count in 2022 and produced a population estimate of 2,518 (95% CI ± 549). The bull:100 cow ratio was 34:100, the calf:100 cow ratio was 18:100, and yearling bulls:100 cows remained steady at 7:100. The current density estimate of 0.9 moose/$mi^2$ (95% CI ± 0.22). is approximately similar to densities observed in 2003, and significantly below the high estimate of 1.34 moose/$mi^2$ (95% CI ± 0.21) observed in 2017. Lower observed densities are attributed to harsh winters between 2020 and 2022, which impacted ungulate populations throughout interior Alaska.
    - Surveys in NW GMU 12 are scheduled to occur every 2-3 years, though a subset of this area may be scheduled on a more frequent basis or as funding allows.