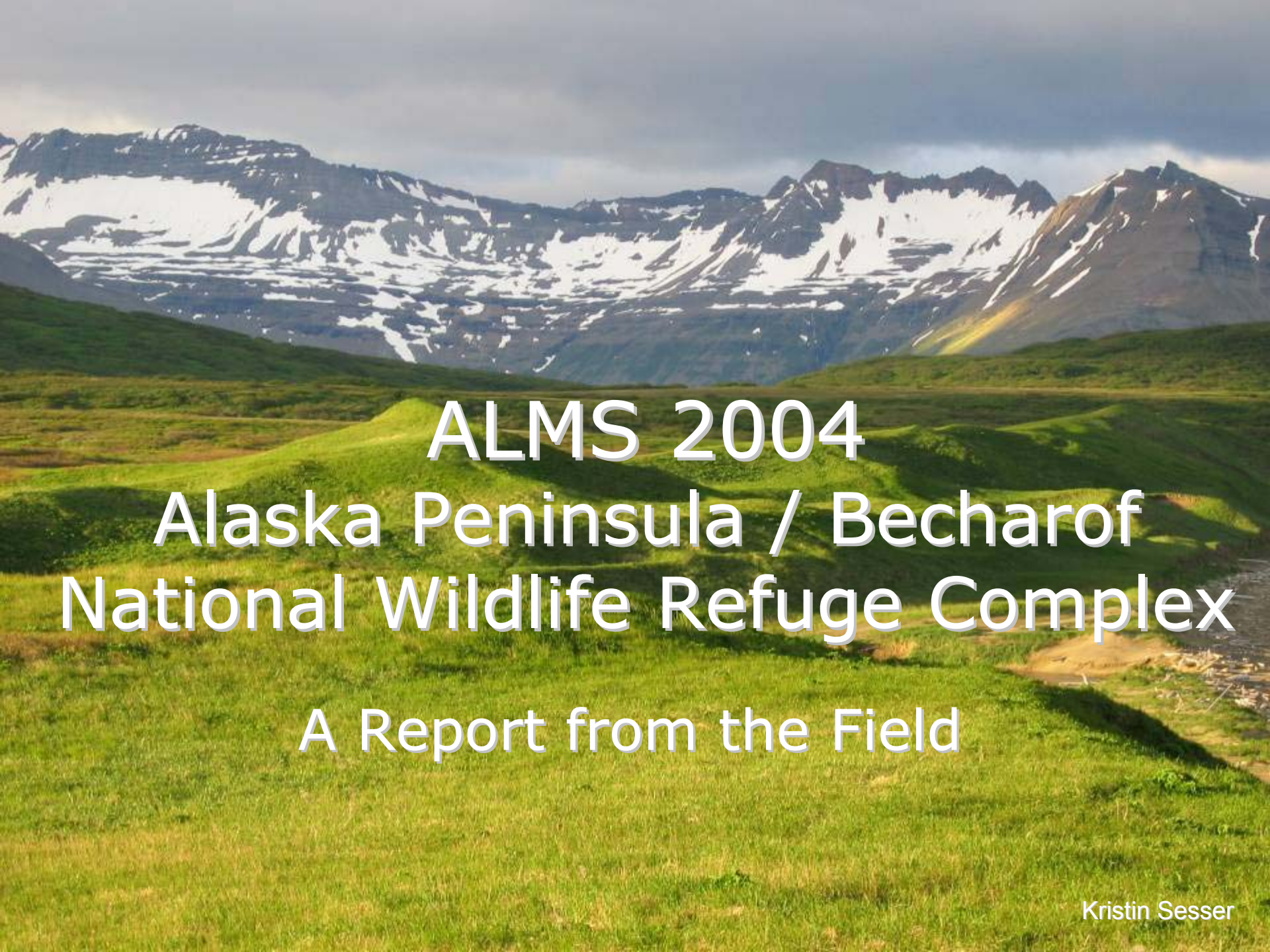


ALMS 2004
Alaska Peninsula / Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Complex

A Report from the Field

Kristin Sesser

Block Locations

9 – 28 June 2004

7 blocks completed

17035 – North King Salmon River

16321 – Gertrude Creek

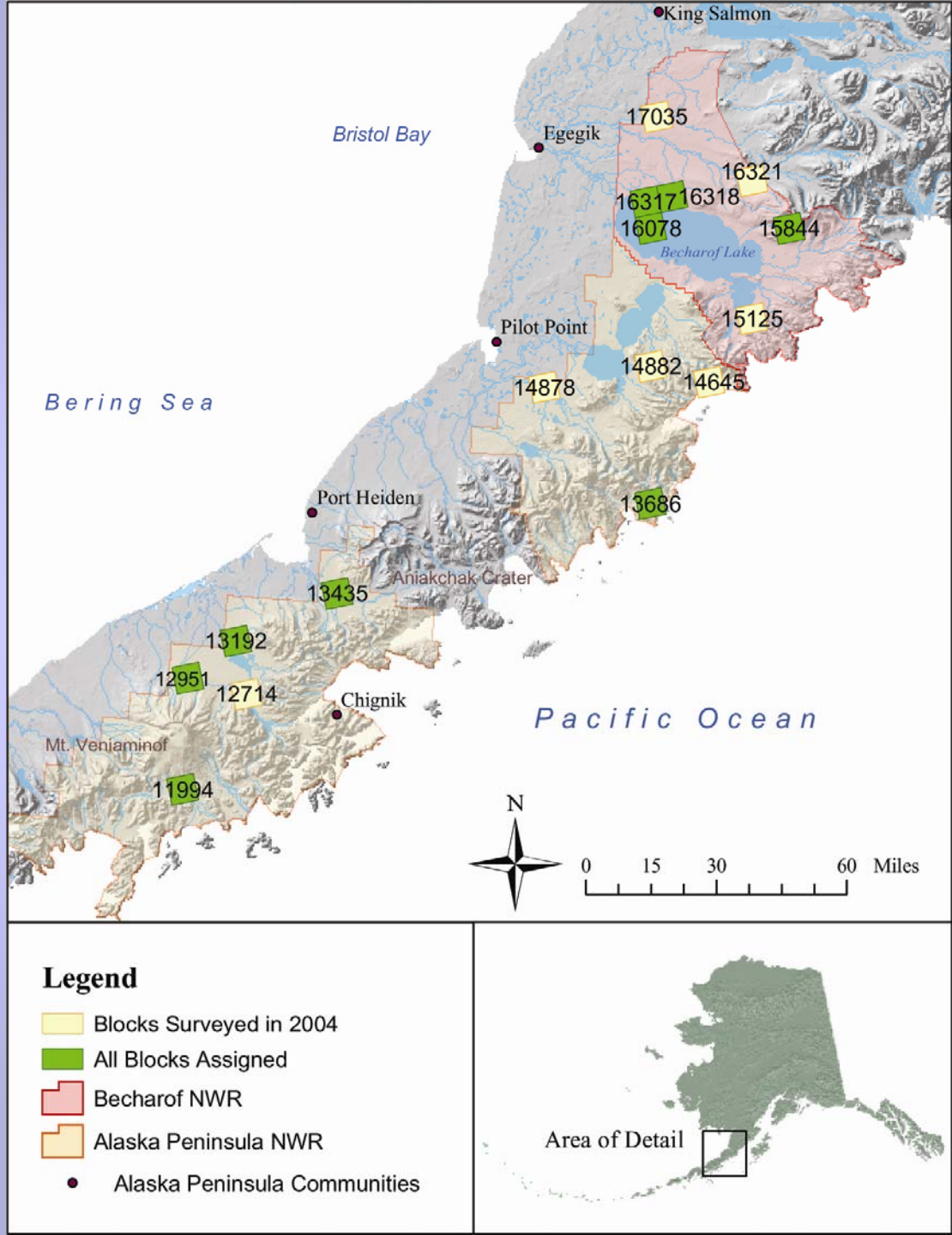
15125 – South Becharof Lake/Bear Creek

14882 – Ugashik/Deer Mountain

14878 – Dog Salmon River

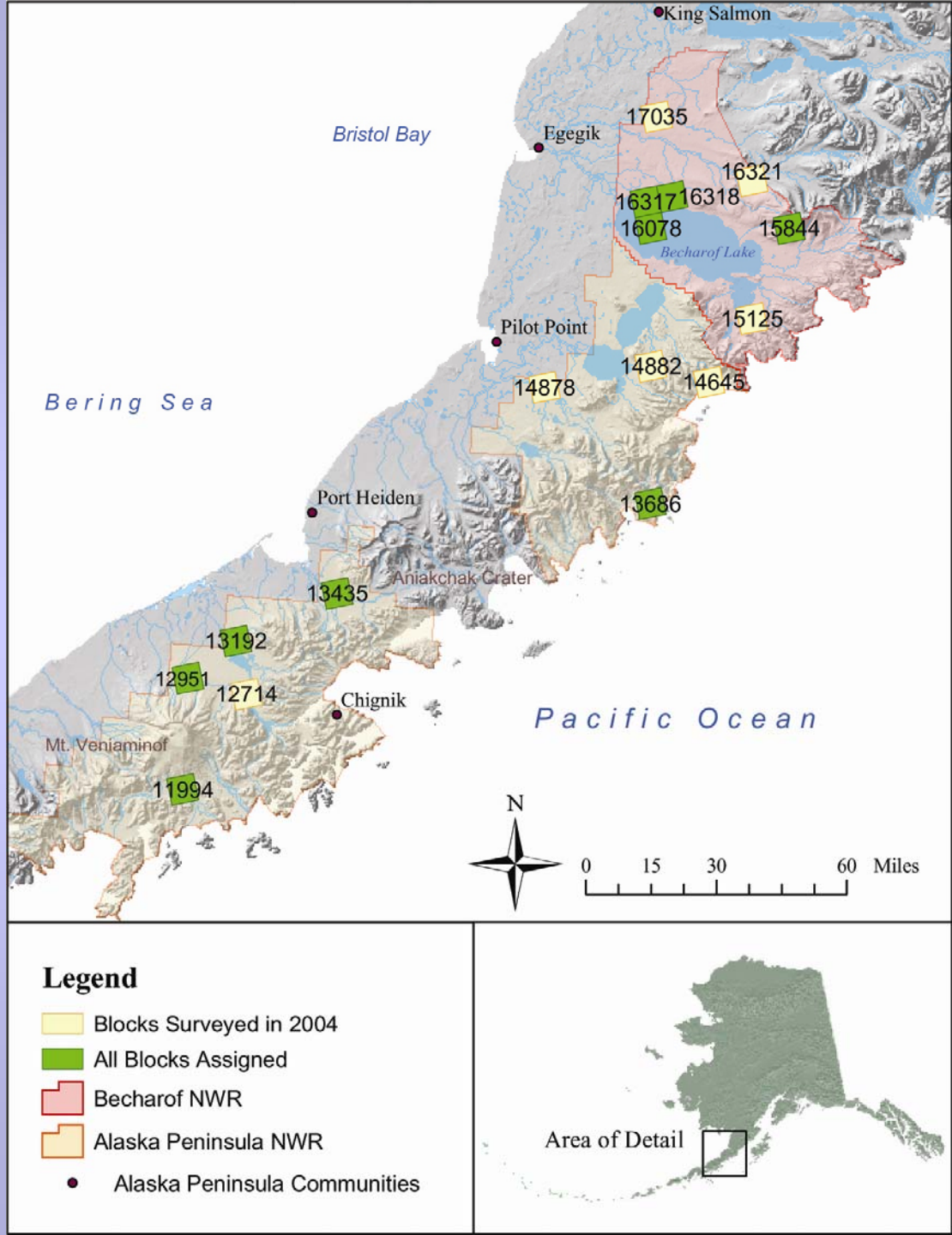
14645 – Wide Bay

12714 – Chignik Lake

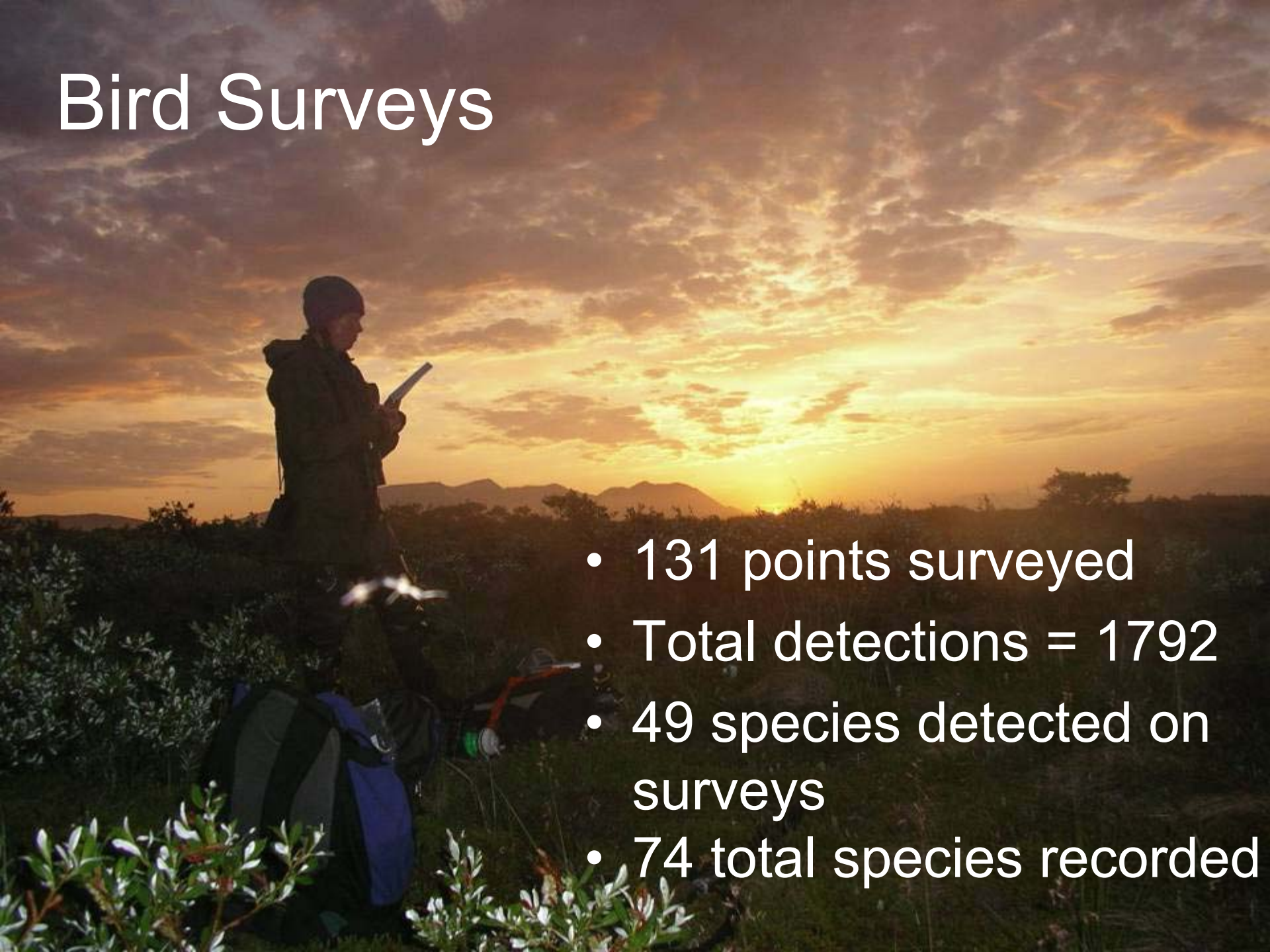


Block Locations

- 5 of original 6
- 2 alternates
  - 1 as an alternate
  - 1 to broaden monitoring effort
- Discarded blocks:
  - 4 in Pavlof Unit
  - 4 without 15 points on land
  - 2 on Native Corporation land
  - 1 too steep
  - 1 not accessible without two helicopter trips



Bird Surveys



- 131 points surveyed
- Total detections = 1792
- 49 species detected on surveys
- 74 total species recorded

Bird Surveys

- ***Average per block:***
- ***18.7 points***
  - Range: 15 to 25 points
- ***2.4 days bird surveys***
- ***20.9 bird species detected***
  - Range: 17 to 27 species
- ***Average per point:***
- ***13.7 detections***
- ***Species observed at all blocks***:
  - Wilson's Snipe
  - Orange-crowned Warbler
  - Wilson's Warbler
  - Savannah Sparrow
  - Common Redpoll
- ***Species observed at 6 of 7 blocks***
  - Least Sandpiper
  - Yellow Warbler
- ***Average frequency of detection:***
  - Savannah Sparrow – 0.88
  - Wilson's Warbler – 0.62
  - Orange-crowned Warbler – 0.53

Bird Surveys

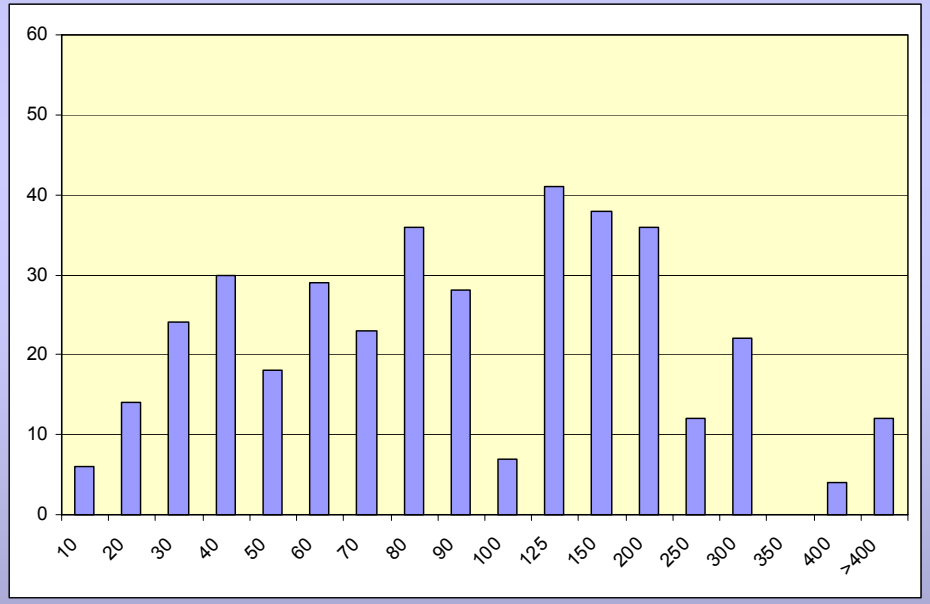
Proportion of total detections (n = 1792) for each species

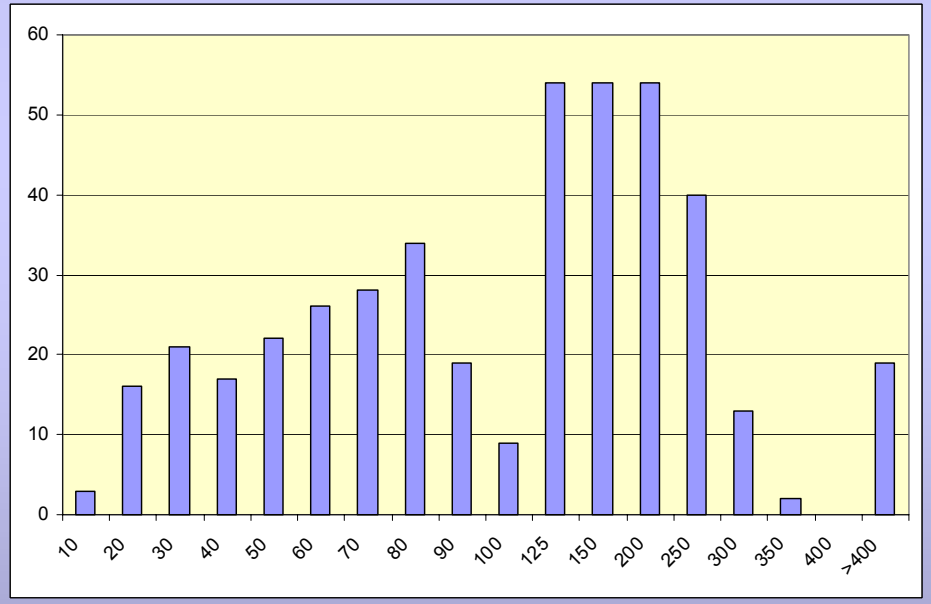
Common Name	*n*	*Proportion*
Alder Flycatcher	1	0.0006
Black-billed Magpie	20	0.0112
Common Raven	5	0.0028
Tree Swallow	4	0.0022
Bank Swallow	3	0.0017
Grey-cheecked Thrush	12	0.0067
Hermit Thrush	**124**	**0.0692**
American Robin	20	0.0112
American Pipit	8	0.0045
Orange-crowned Warbler	**102**	**0.0569**
Yellow Warbler	58	0.0324
Wilson's Warbler	**140**	**0.0781**
American Tree Sparrow	**144**	**0.0804**
Savannah Sparrow	**352**	**0.1964**
Fox Sparrow	49	0.0273
White-crowned Sparrow	24	0.0134
Golden-crowned Sparrow	**173**	**0.0965**
Lapland Longspur	**112**	**0.0625**
Common Redpoll	**136**	**0.0759**

Highest

Bird Surveys

2 different observers' detections recorded in each distance interval

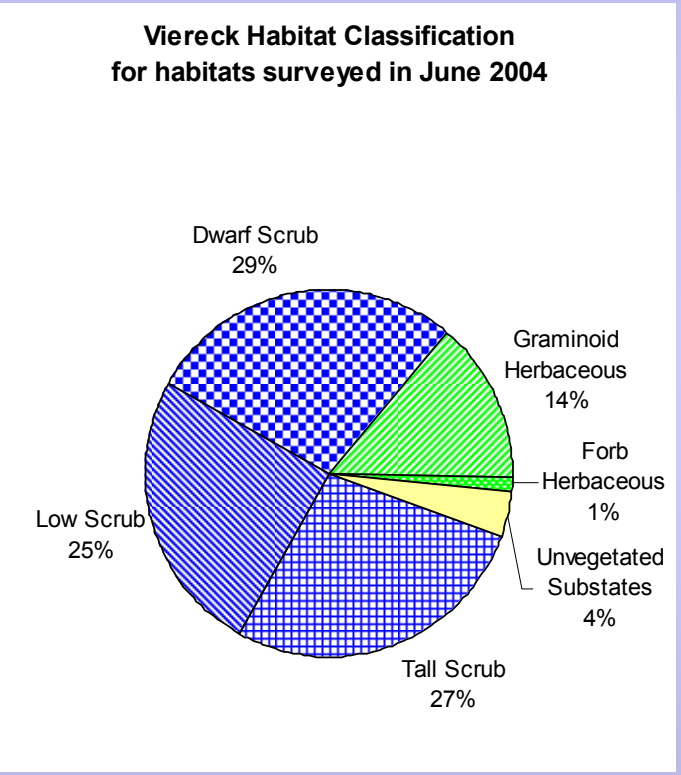




Total detections = 380 431

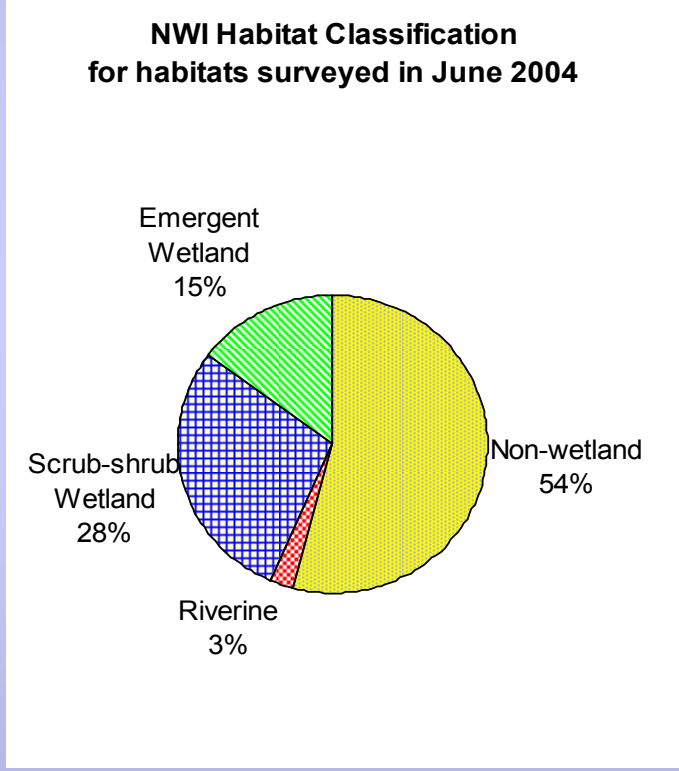
Habitat

Habitats Encountered



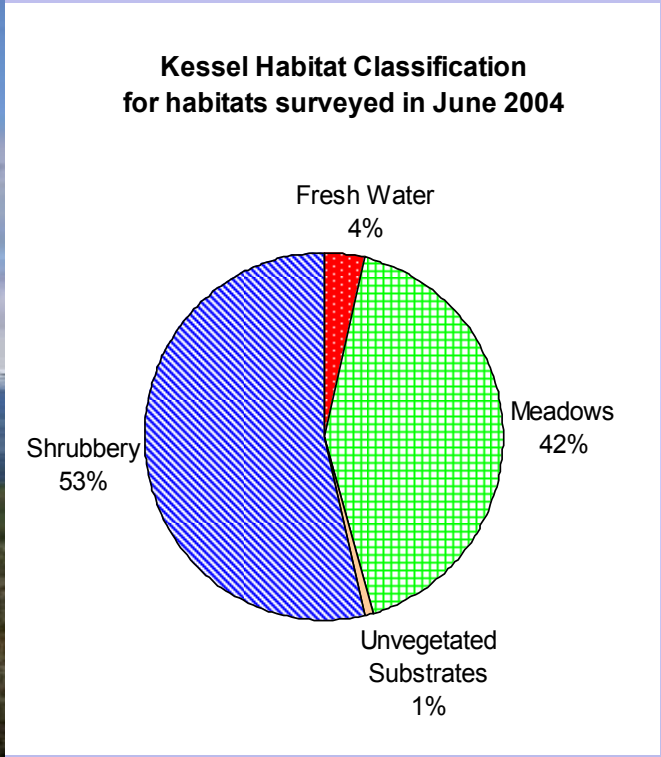
Closed Tall Scrub

Habitats Encountered



Wet Meadow

Habitats Encountered



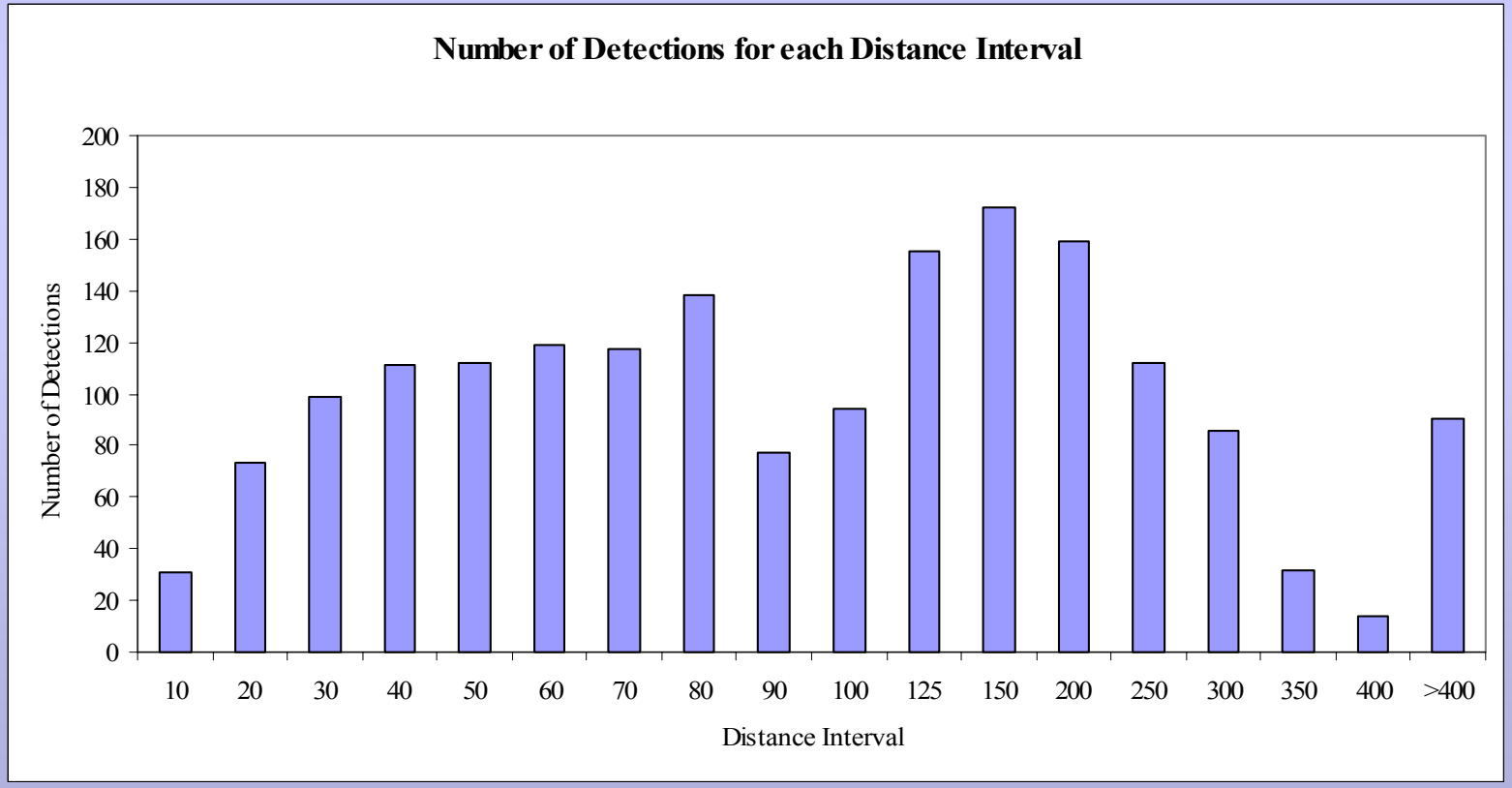
Dwarf Shrub Mat

Habitat Surveys

- 15 – 40 minutes to complete
- Efficiency increased with time
- Most habitat data were collected when the point locations were being set up, prior to the bird surveys
- 20% of habitat surveys were completed during and immediately after the point count
- Challenge – Identifying mosaics

Habitat Surveys

- Only 23.8% of all detections fell within the 50 m radius circle



Block Logistics Summary

Block Name	***Access***	***# Crew members bird (+ veg?)***	***# days Avian***	***# days Total***	***# points completed***
Chignik Lake	**Helicopter**	**2**	**2**	**7**	**15**
Dog Salmon River	**C-206 on Floats and inflatable raft**	**1 + 1**	**2**	**5**	**16**
Gertrude Creek	**Helicopter**	**2 + 2**	**2**	**4**	**25**
North King Salmon River	**Helicopter**	**2**	**3**	**6**	**19**
South Becharof Lake	**Helicopter**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**20**
Ugashik/Deer Mountain	**Helicopter**	**2**	**3**	**5**	**20**
Wide Bay	**C-185 and Husky on Wheels**	**2 + 1**	**2**	**6**	**16**

Block Logistics

- Successfully used GPS to navigate to points
- Moved points were fairly straight forward
- 1 visit to each block for ALMS
- Often camped within block
  - Camps included 2-3 tents, electric bear fence

Challenges

- Access
- Too wet
- Native Corporation land

Challenges

- Getting around
  - Steep terrain
  - Vegetation
    - Thick brush or floating bogs
  - Water obstacles
  - Bears

Challenges – Getting around

Challenges – Bird surveys

- Weather
- Distance estimation in closed habitats

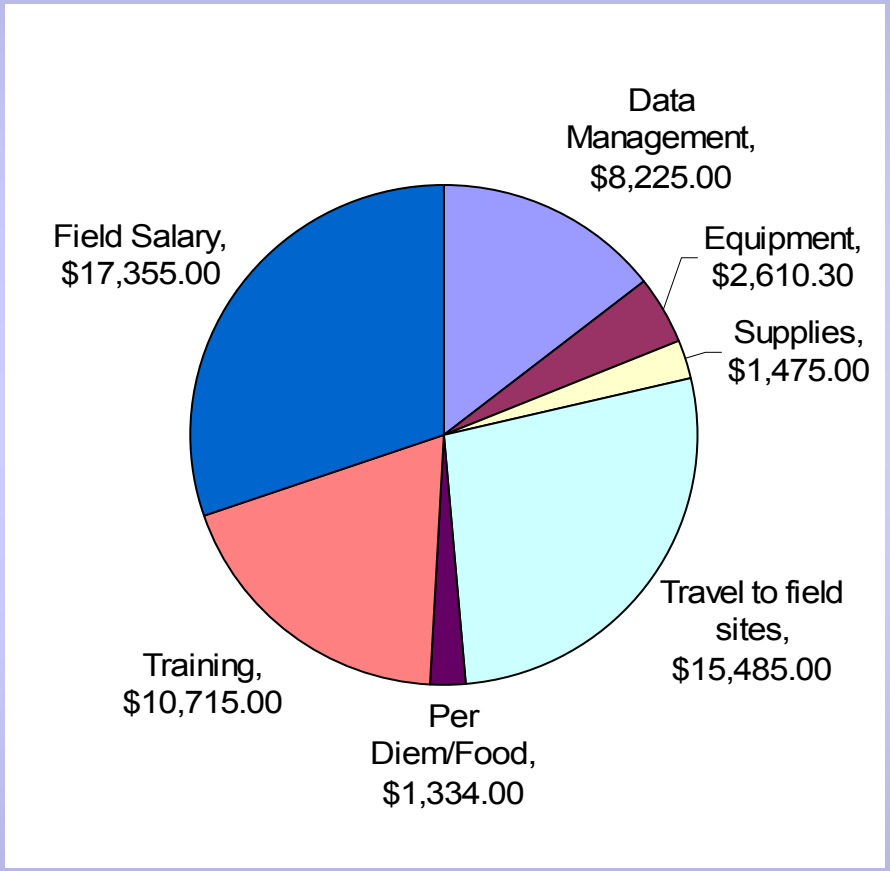
Expenses

Expenses

Total = $56,980

$8,140 per block

$435 per point



Comparison with ORPC

- ORPC surveyed atypical habitats
  - Mother Goose Lake
- ALMS much more expensive

Acknowledgements

- Colleen Handel and Melissa Cady of the Alaska Science Center for answering a multitude of questions as the field season progressed
- Susan Savage for participating in this cooperative effort
- Daryle Lons for funding this project and the entire refuge staff for supporting our work all across the peninsula this summer.