



International AEWA Single Species Action-Planning Workshop for the management of Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*)

Population size, trend , distribution, threats, hunting,
management, conservation status and possible actions in

RUSSIA

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RAS
Russia**





Breeding and staging Population

- The geese of West-Siberian population the latter breed and migrate in Russia; this subpopulation's number declines since 1990-s (reports from Karelia, YANAO, KHMAO-Yougra, Tiumen Oblast & Kola peninsula). This decline is caused by habitat disturbance in the breeding areas (especially in the taiga zone) and overshooting.

Anser fabalis fabalis
(AFF)

RED BOOK of Russia?
(IUCN CRITERIA
EN A4) !



National Information – Status of the species

- National legal status for the species:
 - protected species in 9 subjects (regional Red Data Books)
 - managed as a game species in other 74 subjects automatically (via the List of Game species (Annex for Federal law “About hunting”))
 - Red list status –proposed for the new edition of Federal Red Data Book
 - Ministry of natural resources is responsible for implementation
 - Federal level of implementation
 - Hunters’ lobby is the main obstacles for the effective implementation



Trend

Declining of Bean Goose number
everywhere

lack of accurate population size

Despite the intensive work of Russian scientists in Western Siberia we still know very few about the number's dynamic and biology of Taiga Bean Goose. Actually, practically all these studies mentioned the Bean Goose without the division to the subspecies.



The Taiga Bean Goose (AFF) - the local community and the economy benefits - damages

- Spring hunting is the local hunting tradition/distraction
 - AFF is non important for the national or local economy
 - AFF cause no damage/harm to Agriculture



Hunting and management

Hunting in Russia is allow on the “geese”, except whose included in the federal Red data Book

Hunting regulation

- Federal and regional Hunting Rules
- Hunting seasons, bag limits etc. are fixing each season by the Head of the subject (Governor)

Estimate of annual hunting bag

Most of data on hunting bag are – “goose or not goose”

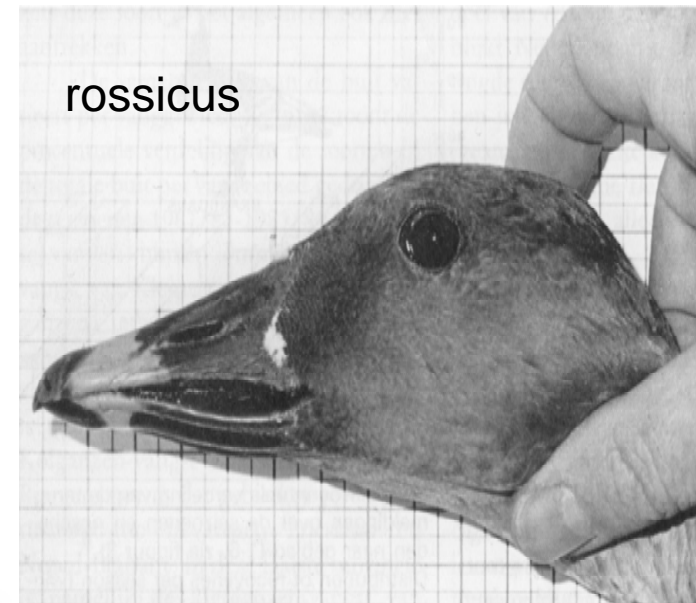
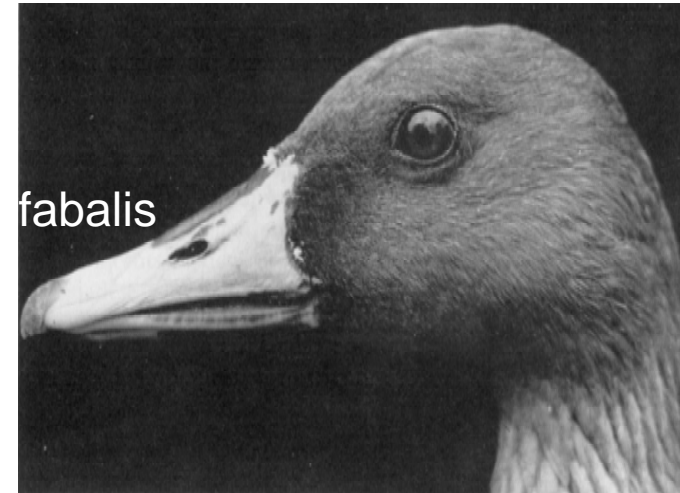
In Russia, however, no special conservation measures are taken.

- Special Spring Hunting regulation in YANAO took place in 2013



Main problem

- The recognition on the subspecies (AFF&AFR) level can be done only by the specialists in bean geese







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MAA- JA METSÄTALOUSMINISTERIÖ



Range

Spring shot recoveries of Bean Goose ringed in the Netherlands





1 AFF from 20 AF shot in Karelia during spring hunt in 2013 (1-10 of May)



Photos: A. Artemyev



National Information - Monitoring

- In Russia we need to elaborate the measures which can decrease the pressure on the AFF especially
- We don't know now even the AFF distribution at the main stopover sites
- So, by using the known data we need to find the AFF key sites within the range

monitoring programme

- UNEP/AEWA Small-Scale Funding Agreement (2012-8) "Conservation activities for the Lesser White-fronted Goose in the Ob Valley"
- Department of natural resources of YANAO: Contracts with RGG about the waterfowl resources monitoring 2012-2013



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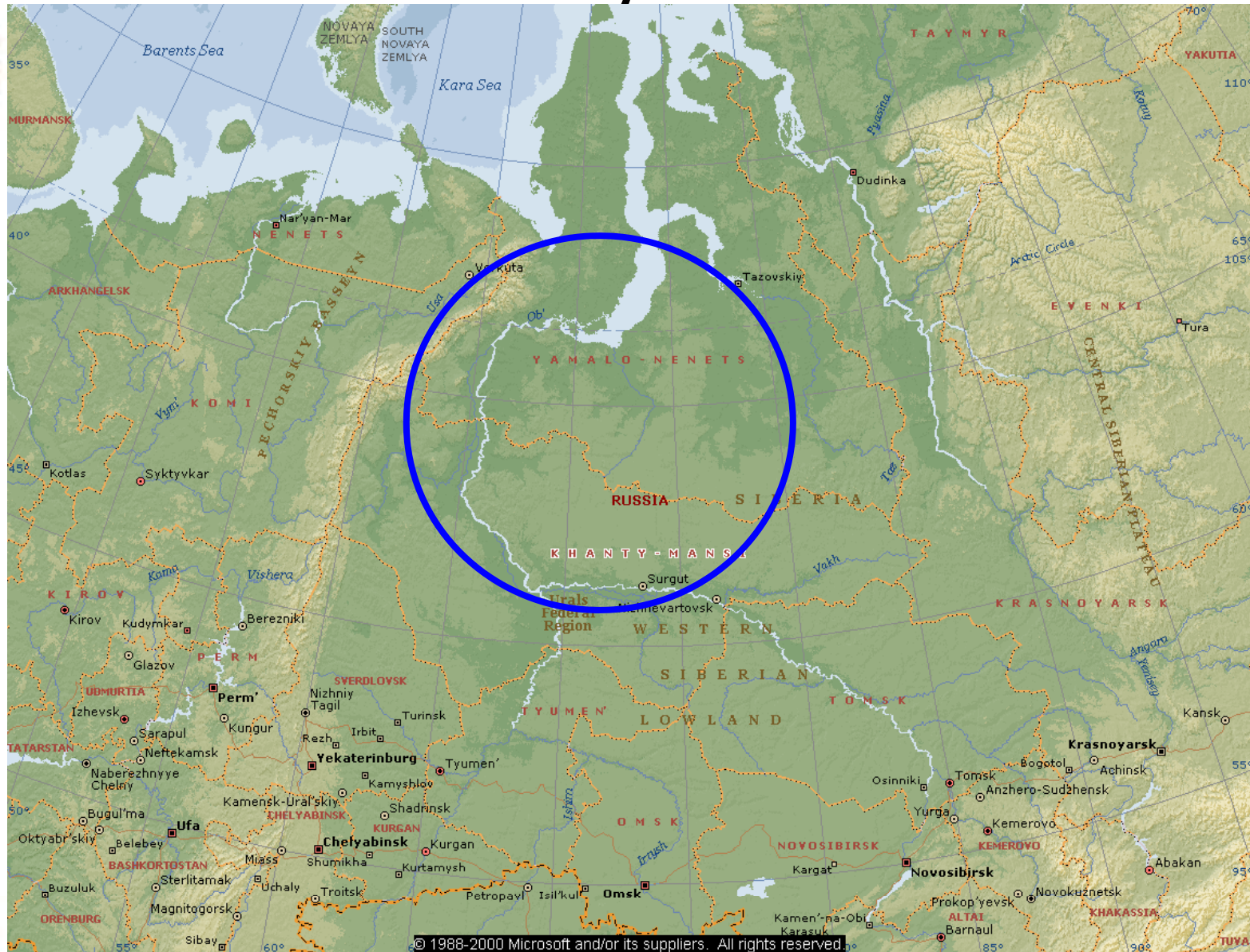
Known information

- All the studies have been done in the frames of the LWFG NOF-Birdlife and AEWA's projects and YANAO local authority projects of the monitoring of the waterfowl resources





Study area



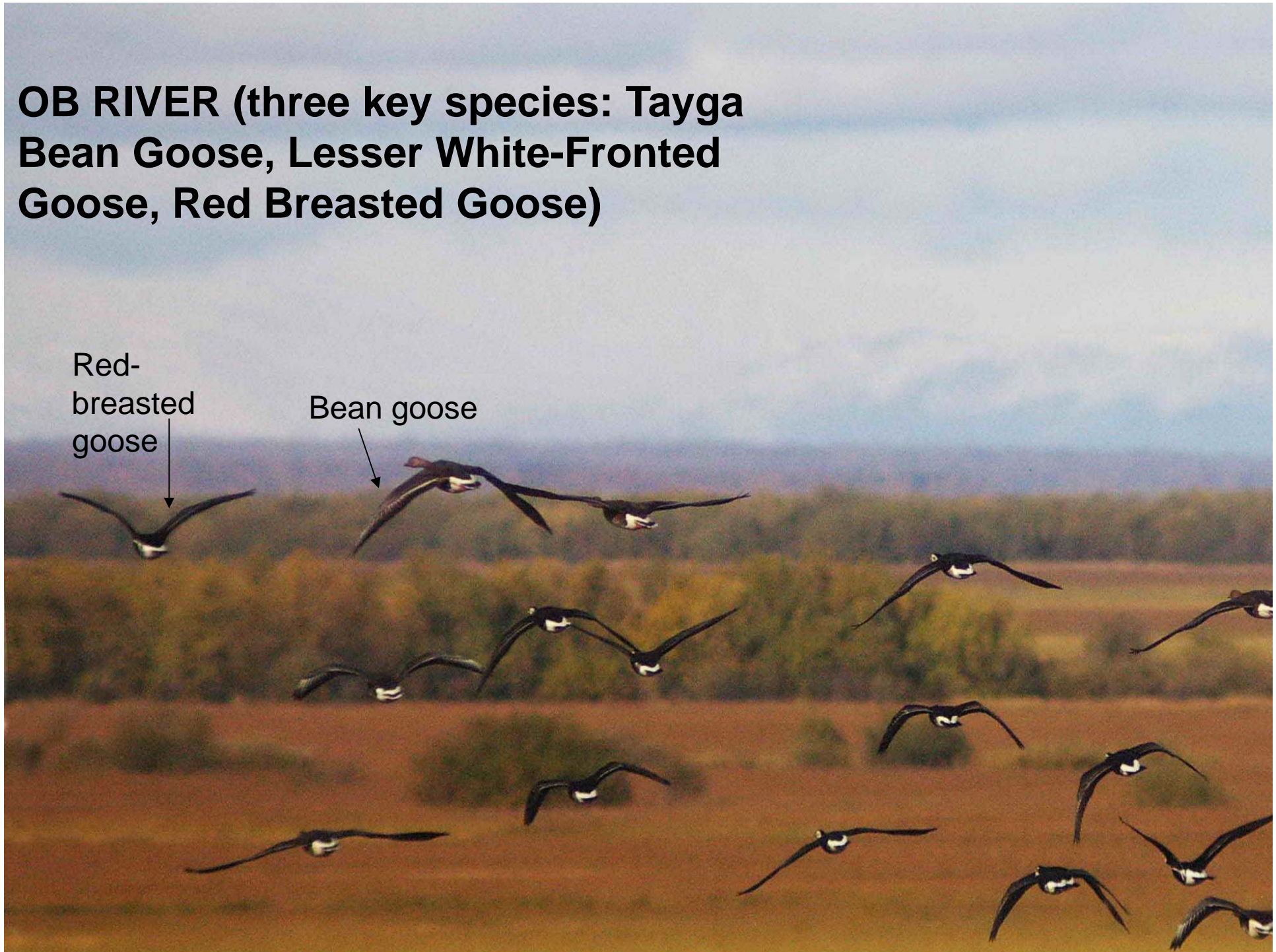




**OB RIVER (three key species: Tayga
Bean Goose, Lesser White-Fronted
Goose, Red Breasted Goose)**

Red-
breasted
goose

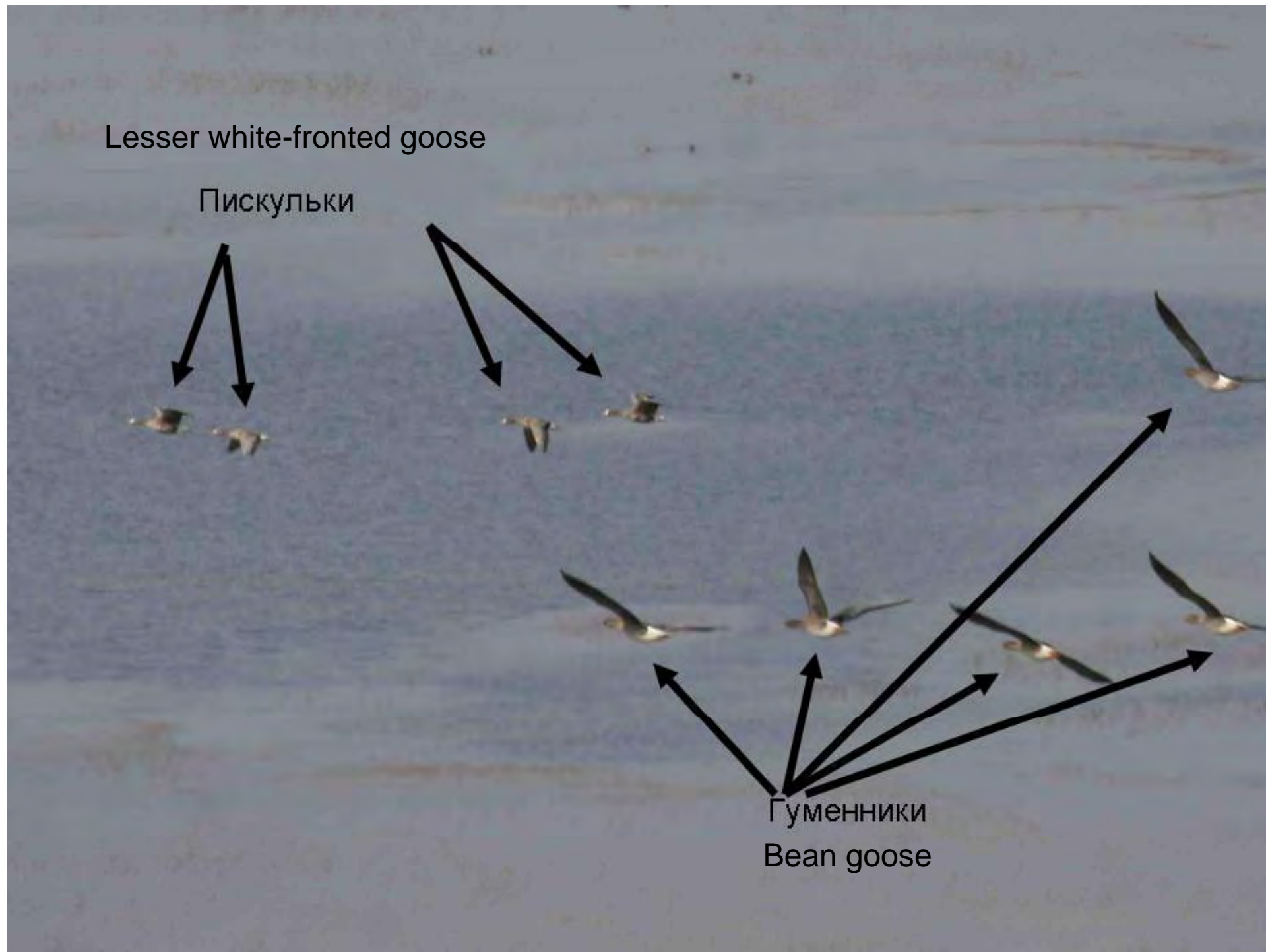
Bean goose



Lesser white-fronted goose

Пискульки

Гуменники
Bean goose









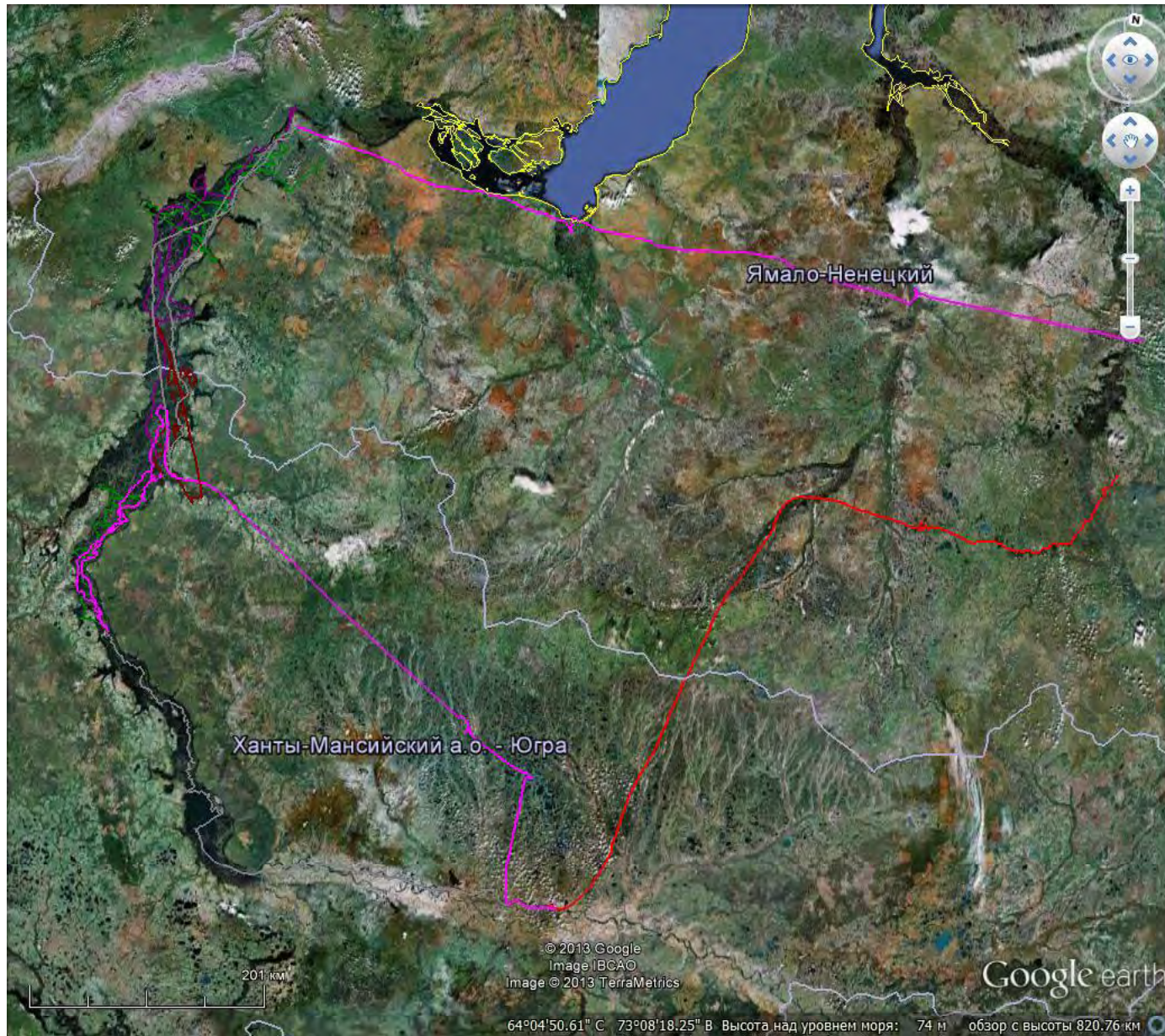
Only light aviation is possible for the monitoring





Difficult conditions in spring







Threats to the Taiga Bean Goose in RUSSIA

**Very
significant:**

—hunting,

—disturbance

- The AFF starts to nest earlier than other all northern geese species thus the dates and even the peak of spring hunt season lay at the period of nesting of AFF

- Probably if AFR nests within the not populated places area, AFF nesting is dispersal, with very low density and along the rivers, all this enhances the influence of disturbance factor (motor boats etc.)



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NASA WORLDVIEW

Active +

Base Layers

Earth at Night 2012
Suomi NPP / VIIRS via NASA Earth Observatory

Overlays

National Boundaries
SEDAC / National Boundaries

Medium:
habitat destruction and degradation
Oil and Gas development

2013-11-05

500 km
200 mi
62.512°, 60.586°

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Ночное небо.png Show all downloads...



Spring hunt influence



The proportion of spring / fall shot recoveries of the Bean Goose and percentage of fall recoveries





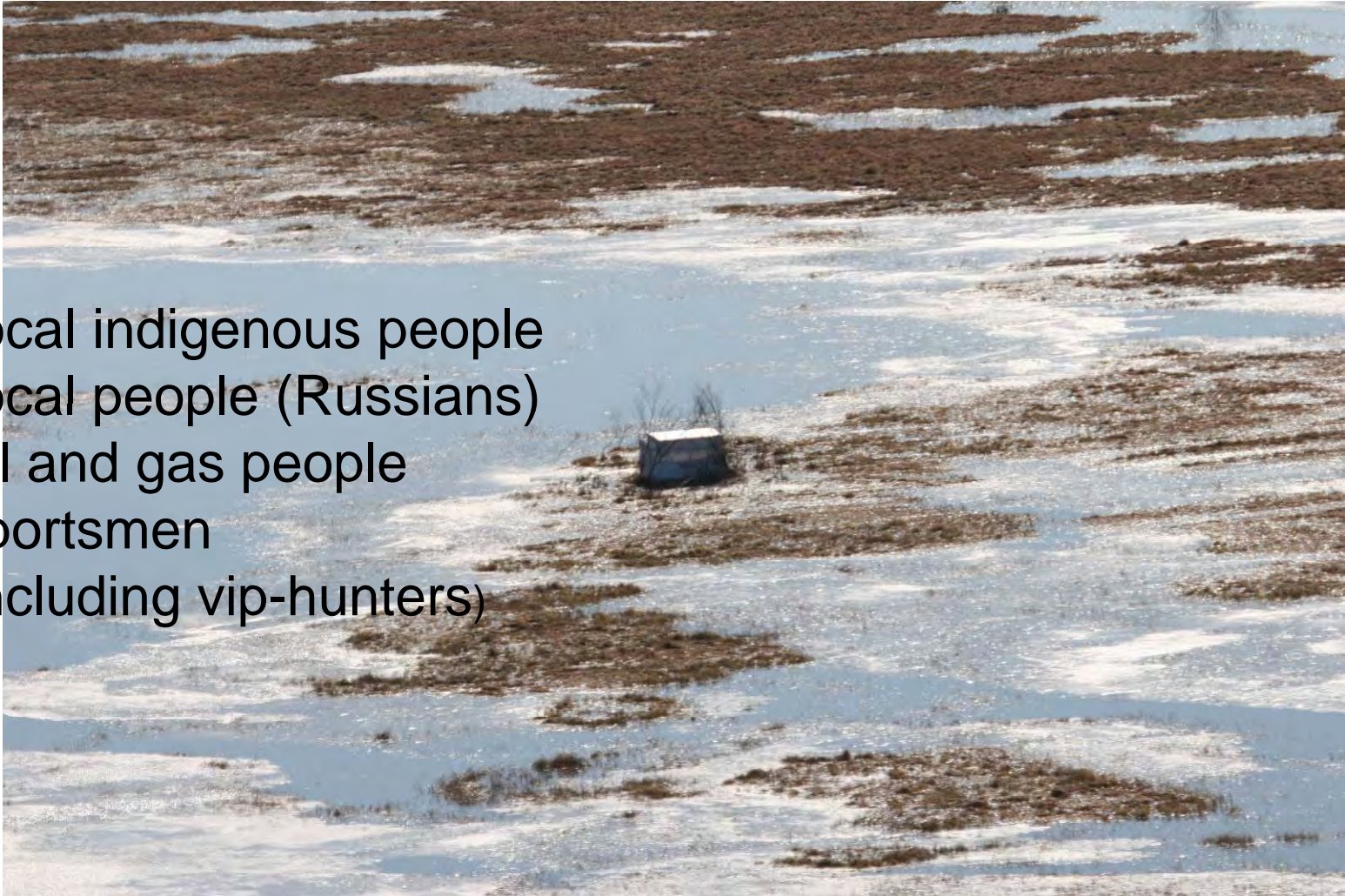
Possible activities for the AFF conservation in Russia taking in account the powerful hunting lobby

1. Hunting free zones creation
2. Changing of the time and dates of the hunt
3. Quotas regulation



Hunters

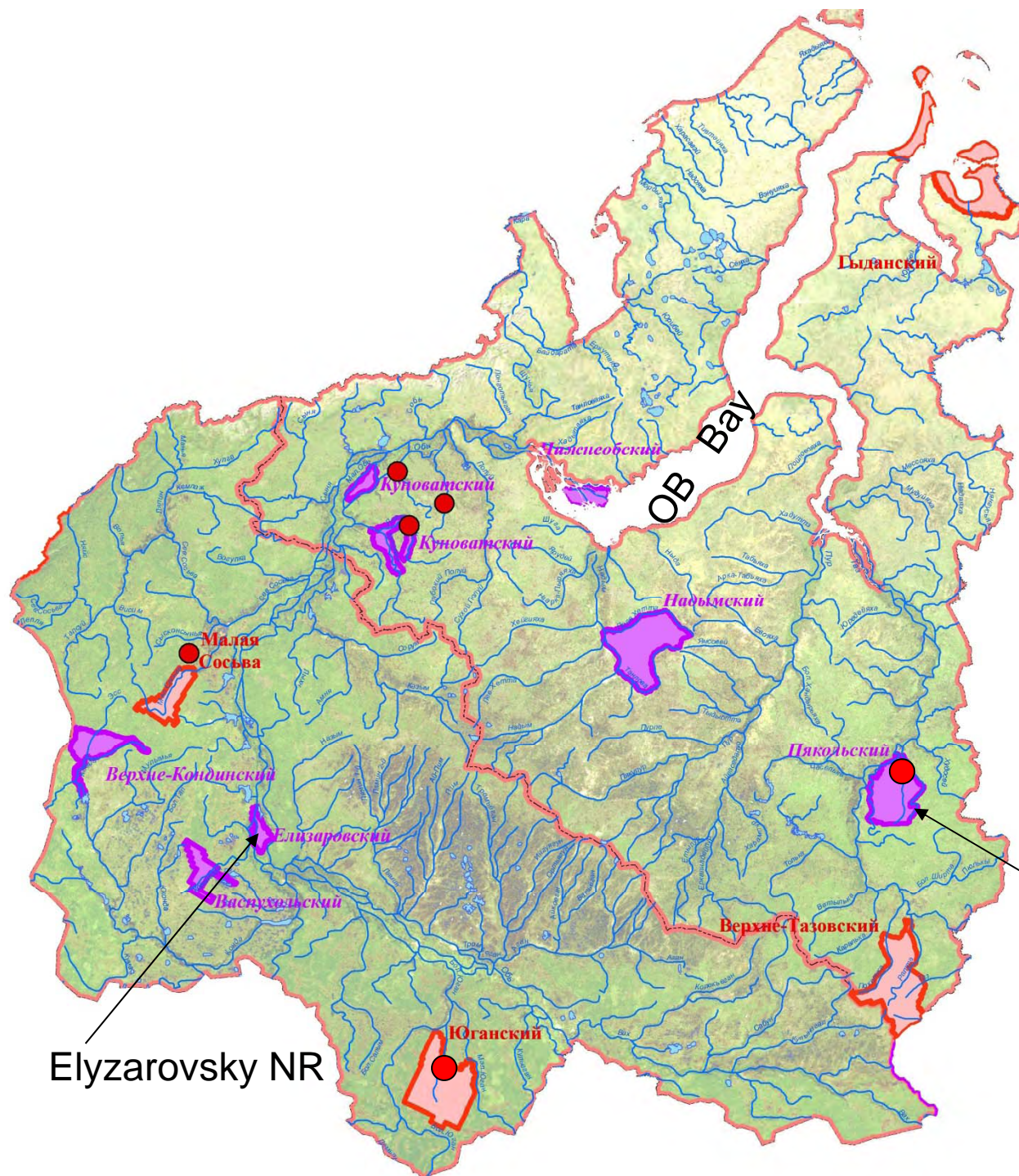
Local indigenous people
Local people (Russians)
Oil and gas people
Sportsmen
(including vip-hunters)





Approximate evaluation of hunting pressure in YANAO and KHMAO-Yougra

- The hunting pressure making worse because of the better welfare of the local hunter's population, who can nowadays afford themselves up-to-date transport and hunt technology and get to the hard-accessible regions. Important problem is the unauthorized usage by hunters of helicopters, which serve oil-development and hydraulic hookups.
- In the period of spring migration geese are not making as big flocks as in autumn. This is connected with the huge area of floods and sors. The main problem is the infraction of hunting dates from local people, the lack of knowledge of rare species and the very weak possibility of control from the rangers, because of the lack of recourses for fuel, equipment and people.



Federal
protected areas
in Khatanga-
Yamalo-Nenets
Autonomous Okrug
and
Yamalo-Nenets
Autonomous Okrug

● Known
breeding
and
moulting
places

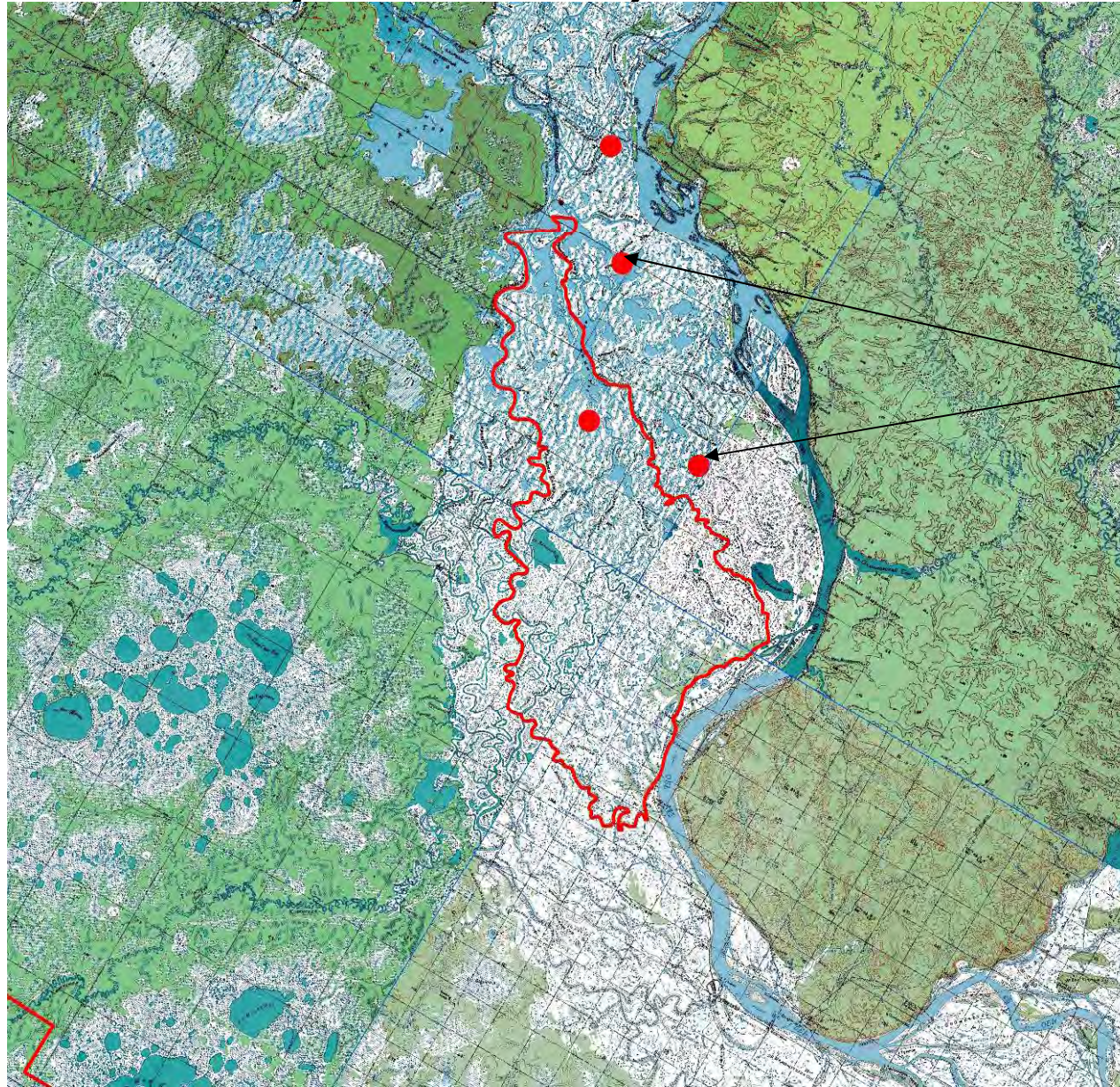
Nyakolsky NR

Elyzarovskiy NR



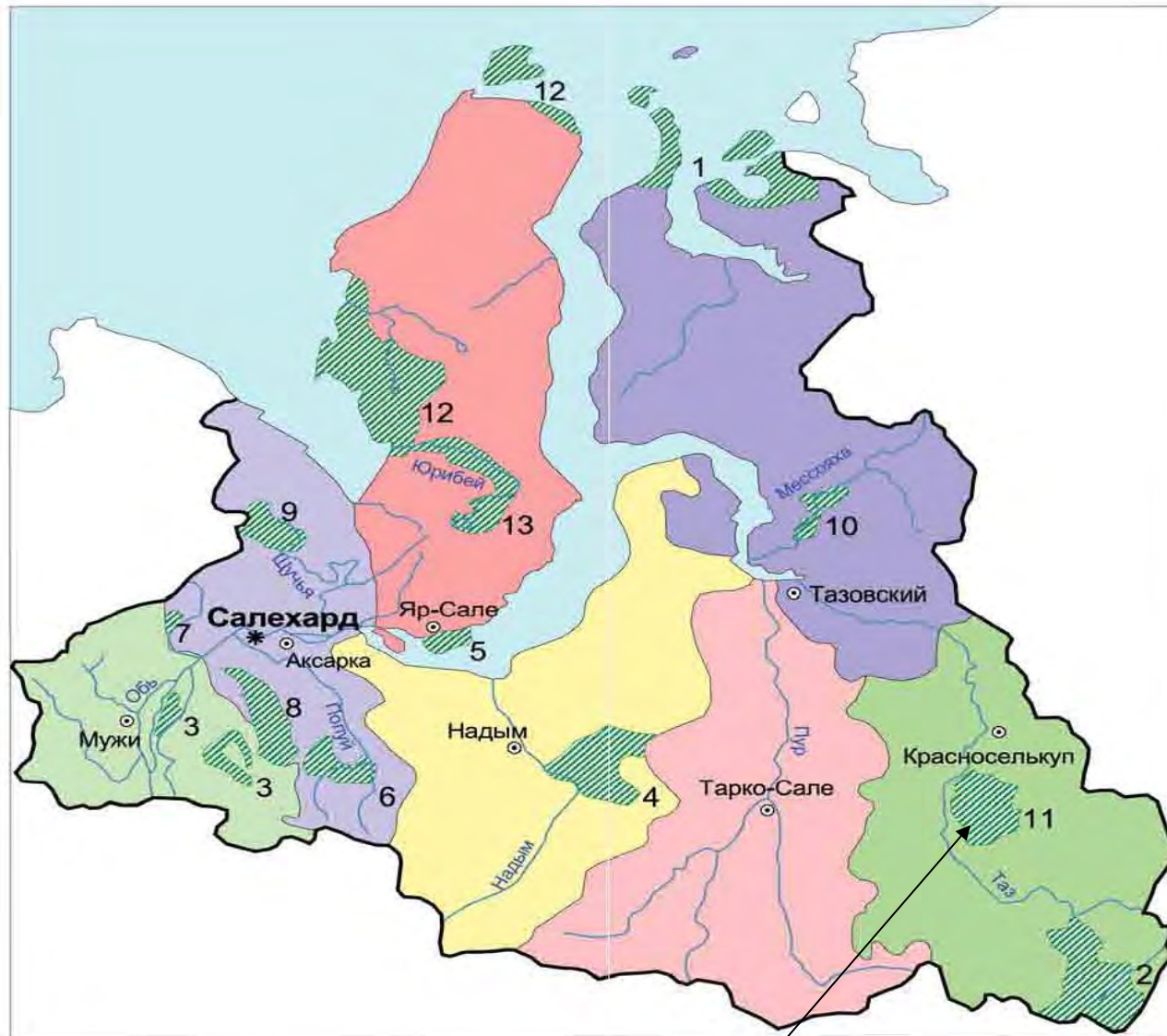
Elizarovsky reserve, KHMAO-Yougra

Spring 2013



Geese
concentrations

Protected areas in YANAO



Административные центры

- * столица округа
- районный центр

— граница

— реки

ООПТ

Административные районы

- Красноселькупский
- Надымский
- Приуральский
- Пуровский
- Тазовский
- Шурьшкарский
- Ямальский

ОСОБО ОХРАНЯЕМЫЕ ПРИРОДНЫЕ ТЕРРИТОРИИ
ЯМАЛО-НЕНЕЦКОГО АВТОНОМНОГО ОКРУГА
ЗАПОВЕДНИКИ:

1. Гыданский заповедник.

2. Верхнегазовский заповедник.

ЗАКАЗНИКИ РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКОГО ЗНАЧЕНИЯ:

3. Куноватский заказник.

4. Надымский заказник.

5. Нижне-Обский заказник.

ЗАКАЗНИКИ ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО ЗНАЧЕНИЯ:

6. Верхнеполуйский заказник.

7. Полярно-Уральский заказник.

8. Собь-Юганский заказник.

9. Горнохадатинский заказник.

10. Мессо-Яхинский заказник.

11. Пяковский заказник.

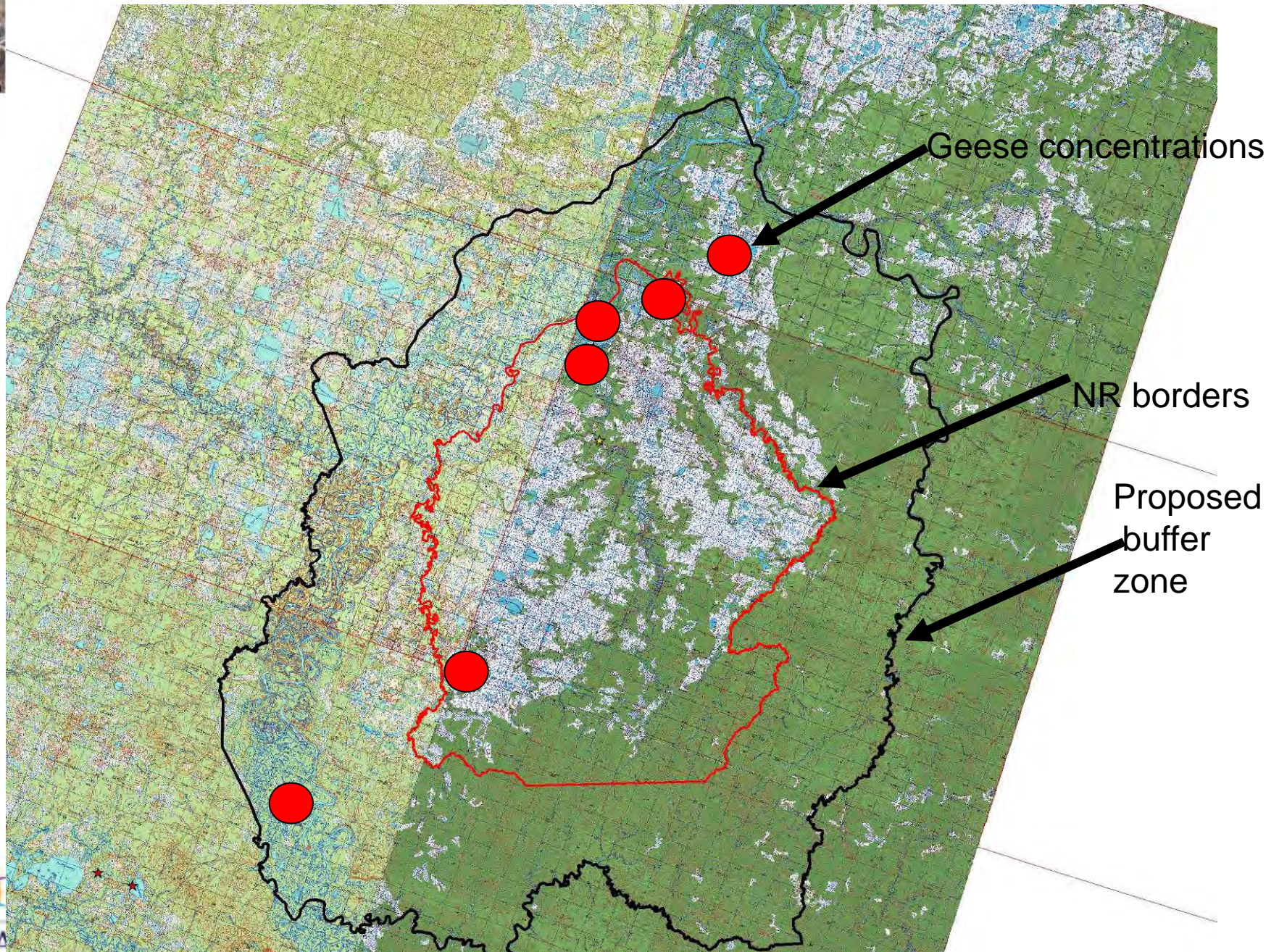
РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ПРИРОДНЫЕ ПАРКИ

12. Ямальский заказник.

13. Природный парк «Юрибей».

Pyakolsky NR

Pyakolsky NR buffer zone

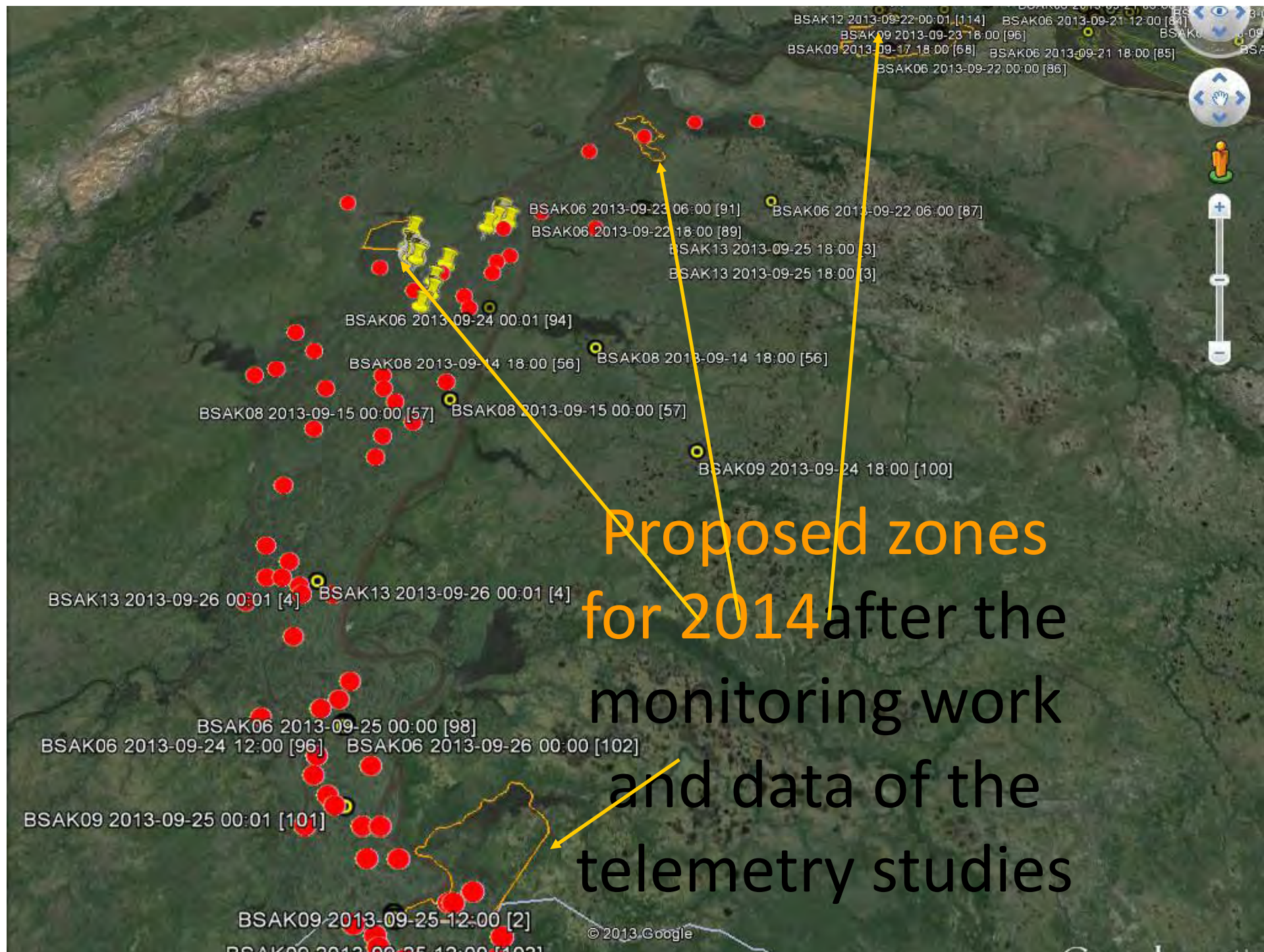




Hunting free zones in 2013

(Governor order # 256-RP from 16.05.2013)







Hunting bag estimation Pilot project

- The estimated number very often can be made at stopover sites where the estimation of geese number is usually made as Anser sp. or “grey geese”. Most of data on hunting bag are the same – “goose or not goose”
- It is necessary to carry out a comprehensive review of the hunting bag. An adequate assessment of the goose hunting bag could be made only on the basis of the large-scale interviewing of the hunters.



Даты охоты _____

Район охоты _____

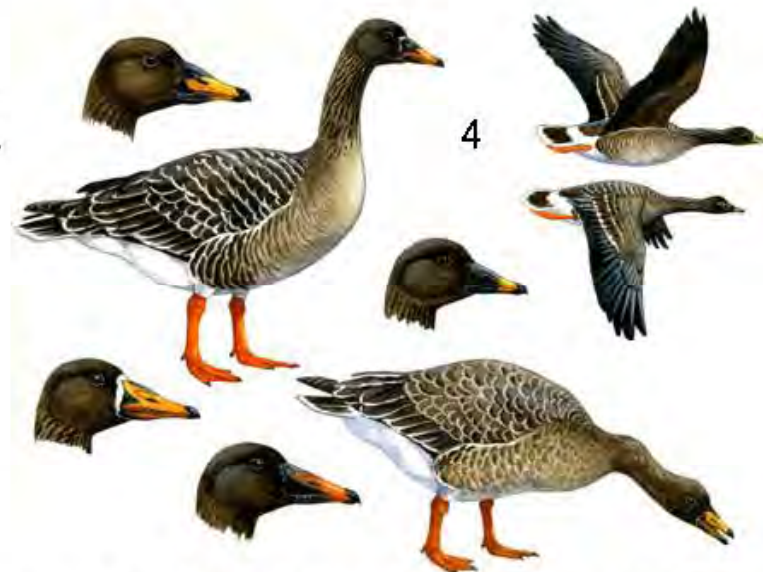
1
Видел _____
Добыл _____

2
Видел _____
Добыл _____



3
Видел _____
Добыл _____

4
Видел _____
Добыл _____

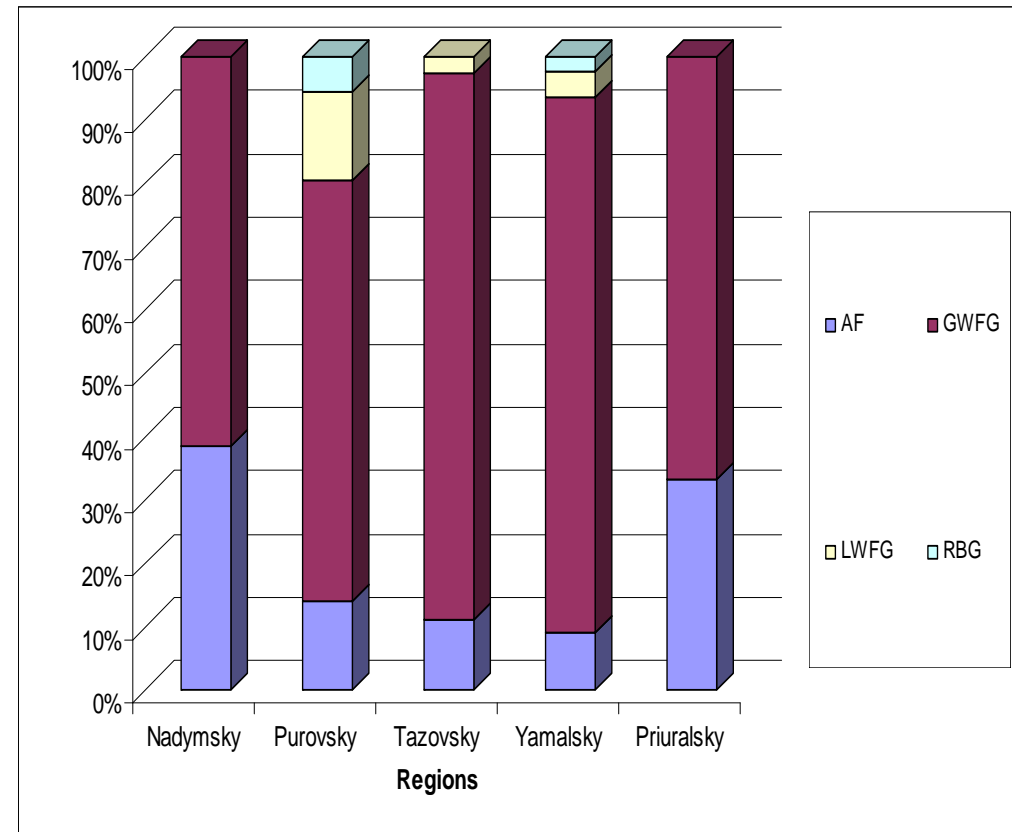
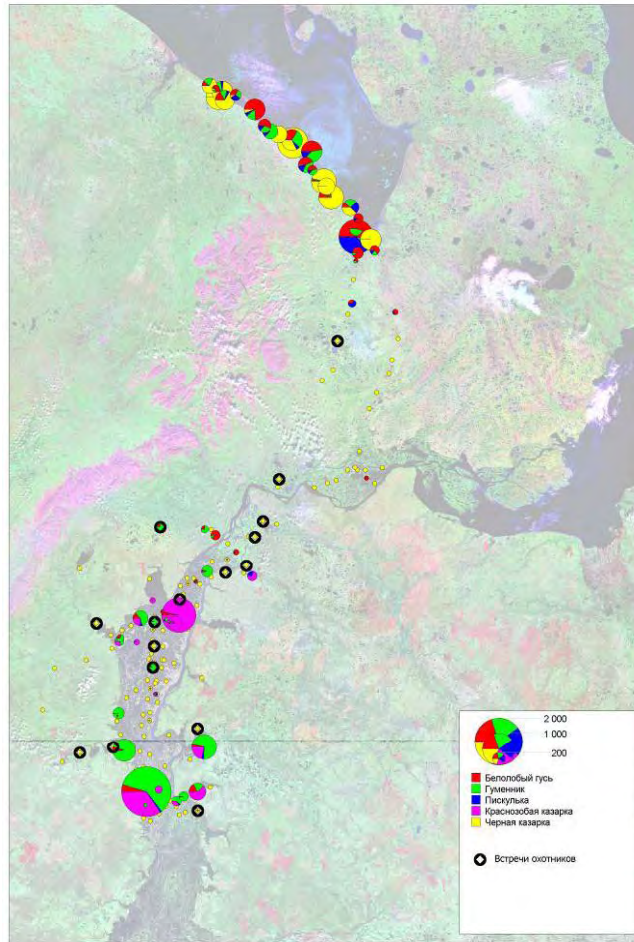


Не смог определить: увиденных _____ особей
добытых _____ особей



Bag estimation (n=195)

Nadymsky region – 0.6% of passed geese was shot, AFF – 4% of AF





Recent changes in Hunting rules

- **Spring hunt – 10 days instead of 16 but with division for the north, south and central regions**
- **Forbidden to hunt on the water (from the boats)**



Future activity for the hunting legislation To make the following relevant changes to Federal hunting rules:

- To define the dates for the spring and autumn hunt;
- Hunting for the wildfowl starts from the 1st of March till 31st of May and lasts for 10 days. Exclude the division for the North, South and Central departments;
- Quotas should be made according the day (1 goose per day) not according the all season as at the moment (10 days – 10 geese);
- To create the new hunting free zones in each administrative region;
- To provide the poaching control



The concrete measures to solve the abovementioned problems and mitigate the hunting pressure on the Taiga Bean Goose:

- To alter the terms of the hunting seasons:
 - Autumn hunting season should be opened no earlier than 1 October;
 - Spring hunting season should be opened no earlier than 1 of May
 - Hunting free zones should be established in Yamalskiy, Priuralskiy, Shuryshkarskiy, Nadymskiy, Tazovskiy, Krasnoselkupskiy and Purovskiy districts;
 - Administration of KHMAO-Yougra should be addressed with the request for imposing the hunting free zones creation in Beriozovskiy, Beloyarskiy, Oktiabrskiy, Khanty-Mansiyskiy, Neftejuganskiy, and Surgutskiy districts;



- To improve the protection measures and organize seasonal patrolling on the Specially Protected Natural Territories (SPNT) in particular, in the Kunovat zakaznik, Pyakolskiy zakaznik, Elizarovski y zakaznik, Messo-Yakhinskiy zakaznik, Nadimskiy zakaznik, Verkhne-Tazovsky zapovednik and Yuganskiy zapovednik; all these territories suffer from the lack of financial support from the authorities, fuel, special transport for field and people for organize the constant patrolling.
- To establish a network of SPNT (or reproduction areas) in the following area in the entire floodplain of the Ob River from the mouths of the Kazym and Vogulka rivers;
- To enforce the control over illegal transportation of hunters by helicopters and airplanes in the regions of oil and gas exploration and production; to prohibit the operating staff exploiting the oil and gas deposits and attending drilling units to carry arms, hunt in the area of oil and gas deposits, “just walk with a gun”, etc.



Actions and Planning

- Collecting the data from literature on the geese number at the stopovers' sites and the proportion White-fronted / Bean Goose
 - Special research of ring recoveries in hunted geese with special focus on the places with very high hunting pressure on AFF&AFR
 - Collecting data on the status of AFF&AFR on IBAs and nature reserves
 - To create a database and GIS with information about number, status and trends of AFF&AFR
 - Using the collected information on the key points and areas
- EM1
- From this database we can recognize main known concentrations of AFF in Russia

Dia 44

EM1

I have left this question as an additional one to the former questions. If there are no WGs, then they will leave the space blank. If there much more information than one slide can contain, it can be continued on another slide.

Evelyn Moloko (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat); 16.8.2012



All this we need to start the pilot field works at the few chosen areas where the following activities will be done:

- Migration dynamics and estimation of proportions of AFF and AFR at the field (for this we need the training courses for observers)
- Avian counts on known spring stopovers + Hunting bag estimation + Estimation of local specific of these areas for implementing the AFF conservation measures on regional level



Other possible activities

- AFF nesting in not easy to reach areas in the taiga zone of Western Russia thus very few data about the ecology of this subspecies and the molting places are still unknown

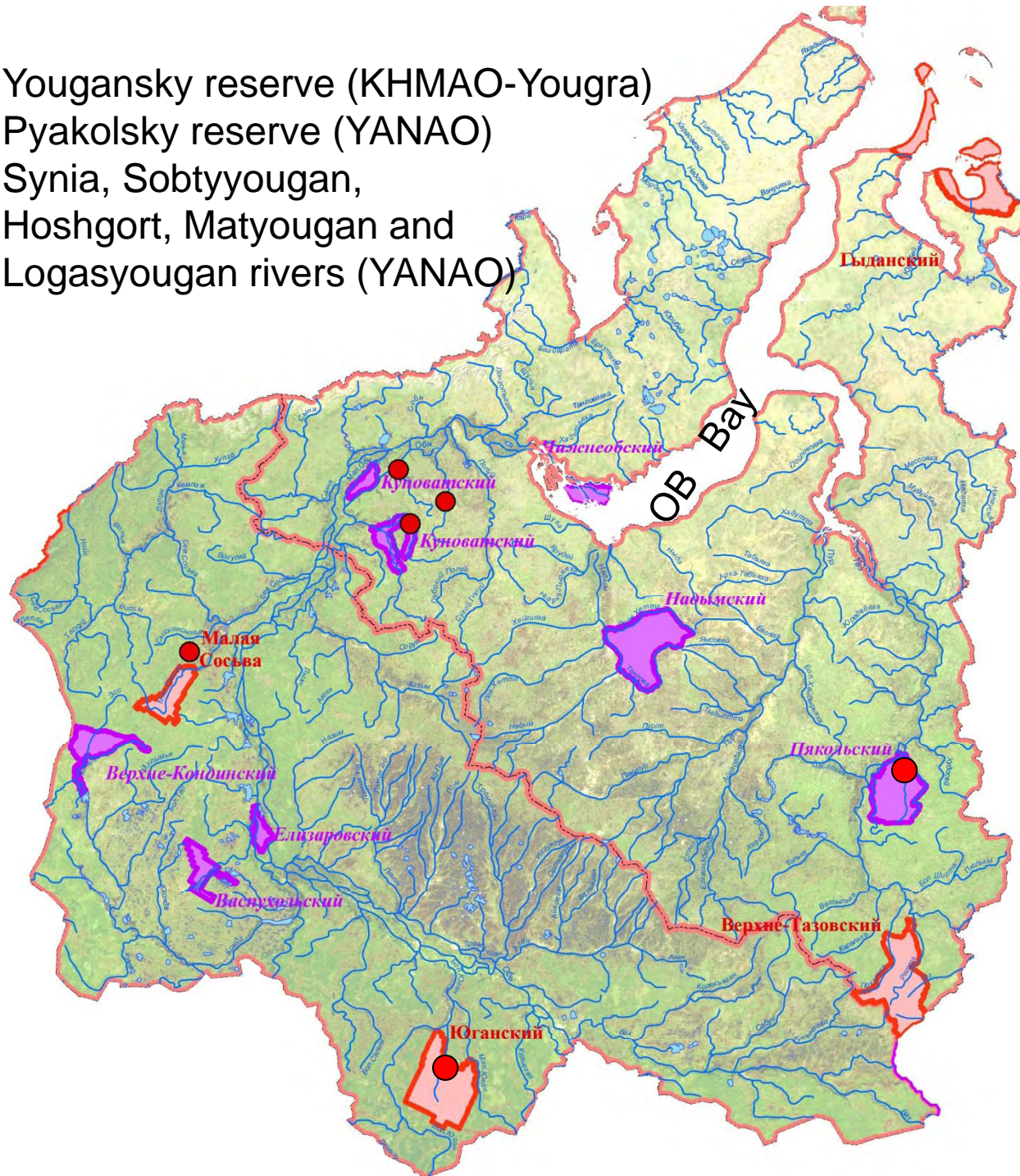


Breeding biotopes of AFF





Yougansky reserve (KHMAO-Yougra)
 Pyakolsky reserve (YANAO)
 Synia, Sobtyyougan,
 Hoshgort, Matyougan and
 Logasyougan rivers (YANAO)



Federal
 protected areas
 in KHMAO-
 Yougra and
 YANAO

● Known
 breeding
 and
 moulting
 places

**To find the places convenient for AFF
catching&marking at the places of
stopovers or moulting places**



Ideally we need to mark the AFF in Russia not only by metal rings and neck collars but also by the satellite transmitters





- Taking into account the recent experience on WFG&LWFG tagging we can conclude that only this method can give us quickly the information about breeding sites and moulting areas of AFF





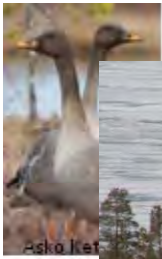
The result of this work will be

- Spring and autumn hunt regulation at the key sites for AFF including quotation; timing depended of migration pattern, complete net of hunting free zones (according the effective experience in Kalmykya)





Thanks for the attention!





Proposed changes in the Russian federal hunting legislation

To make relevant changes to the Law of 24.07.2009 № 209-ФЗ “About hunting and conservation of the hunting resources and about inclusion of the changes to certain legislative acts of Russian Federation” for:

- To transfer the key privileges (authorities) on migrating birds resources management to the federal level (including the definition of the hunting season limit time, dates of the hunting seasons, the size/quotes of bag, daily norms of bag);
- To implement the term “waterfowl population” as an elementary bird resources’ management unit and the term “flyway” as a territorial bird resources management unit;
- To restore the official exam for hunters “Hunting minimum”;
- To make the revision of the “List of hunting species”;
- To include the quotas of possible withdrawal of waterfowls depending on their population belonging into the Standards of Possible Withdrawals from the Nature, approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources at the 30th of April 2010, #138;
- To include the waterfowls to the list of species, hunting for whom is limited by the Ministry of Nature Resources (decree date 17th of May 2010, #164)
- To restrain all the fowling after the 1st of June at North regions (tundra, forest-tundra, and the north-taiga regions);
- To exchange information on conditions and timing of wintering and migration of selected populations of goose species on the flyway as an initial step for international coordination of hunting regulations including setting quotas in Russia and European countries;
- To Intensify the international cooperation within the scope of various international agreements for:
- Competent assessment of hunting bag on the population level on migration flyways for appropriate quotation;
- Hunting regulation and restriction at the key stopovers, breeding and wintering sites for rare species;
- Develop a state program for joint finance of projects, devoted to the protection, study and monitoring of population status and use of this project’s data for the conservation of the rare species.



To add to the point 54.3.

“The fowling for the geese during spring hunt is restricted : on
geese during the spring hunt”

- the following points:54.3.1. on the hunting grounds located on Arctic Ocean and it's seas islands; on hunting grounds located out of 50 km radius of the center of settlements with the community less then 1 000 people and out of 100 km radius of the center of settlements with the community more then 1 000 people;
- 54.3.2. at the distance less then 200 meters from water's edge and on the floods at the moment of hunting on the rivers mentioned in a list from Table 1 with a glance of their spring flood;
- 54.3.3 at the distance less then 1 kilometer from the shore line at the reservoir storage, made by the rivers, mentioned in the clause 54.3.2 of these rules;
- 54.3.4. At the distance less then 1 kilometer from the shore line of the lakes, mentioned in the list from table 1;
- 54.3.5. on the islands of the water bodies, mentioned in the list from table 1;54.3.6. at the distance less then 1 kilometer from the sea shores;
- 54.3.7. at the territories, mentioned in Annex 2 of these rules;
- 54.3.8. at the territory of Yuzhnyi (South) and Severokavkazskiy (North-Caucasus) Federal Areas.