

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Recognize the customary and traditional uses of wood bison in Units 12, 20, and 25 by the residents of Units 12, 20 and 25

Existing Federal Regulation:

None

Proposed Federal Regulation:

§ 100.24(a)(1) **Wildlife Determinations.** The rural Alaska residents of the listed communities and areas have a customary and traditional use of the specified species on Federal public lands within the listed areas:

Area	Species	Determination
<i>Unit 12</i>	<i>Wood Bison</i>	<i>Residents of Units 12, 20, and 25</i>
<i>Unit 20</i>	<i>Wood Bison</i>	<i>Residents of Units 12, 20, and 25</i>
<i>Unit 25</i>	<i>Wood Bison</i>	<i>Residents of Units 12, 20, and 25</i>

Why Should this regulation be changed?

Wood bison were traditionally hunted for subsistence by Alaska Native peoples for thousands of years. Their use was interrupted only because of their unfortunate extirpation from Alaska, not because of a change in patterns of use. Evidence of their traditional use exists in oral histories and the archeological record.

Wood bison are currently being reintroduced to the Eastern Interior region and are listed as an experimental population under the Endangered Species Act. Although no hunting can be allowed until they are delisted, the Council believes their customary and traditional use nevertheless should be recognized. The reintroduction of wood bison provides a chance for cultural practices and use of wood bison to be revitalized in the future.