

## FEDERAL WILDLIFE PROPOSAL

### MOOSE, 22B West of the Darby Mountains

#### 1) CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### 2) REGULATION(S) TO CHANGE

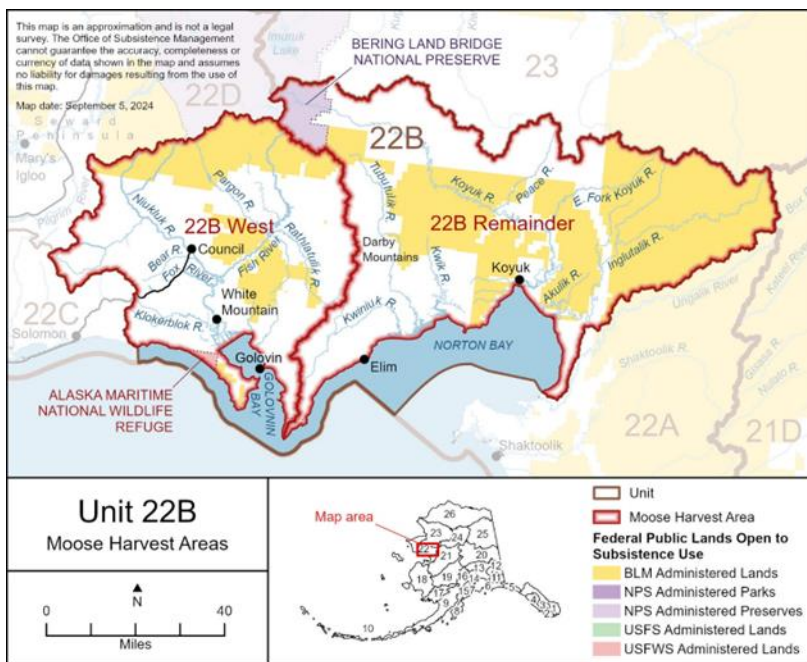
##### Current Federal Regulation

##### Unit 22B—Moose

*Unit 22B, west of the Darby Mountains—1 bull by State registration permit. Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Anchorage Field Office Manager of the BLM, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G*

*Sep. 1-14.*

*Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations*



### 3) PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGE

#### Unit 22B—Moose

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*Sep. 1–14. 6–20*

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### 4) JUSTIFICATION

The current moose hunting season for Unit 22B West of the Darby Mountains is structured in a way that significantly limits the opportunities for local subsistence hunters in White Mountain. The season start date of September 1 coincides with poor hunting conditions that make it difficult for local hunters to access moose effectively.

Early September in the White Mountain region brings warmer temperatures, resulting in moose staying in higher elevations or more forested areas, which are difficult for hunters to access. Wet conditions and frequent high-water events during this time also make travel by boat or ATV hazardous, as hunters must cross rivers and marshlands that can become impassable. Dense vegetation at the start of the season reduces visibility, making it harder to spot moose.

Additionally, local subsistence hunters are facing inefficiency in their use of fuel. During the first five days of the season, it is rare for hunters in 22B West to successfully catch moose. As a result, significant amounts of fuel are wasted as hunters drive up and down the Niukluk and Fish River and its tributaries searching for moose without success. By shifting the start of the fall hunt to start September 6, the likelihood of catching a moose would increase, thereby improving the efficiency of fuel use for local hunters.

This proposal seeks to address these challenges by changing the season start date to September 6 to better align with local hunting conditions, allowing White Mountain residents a fairer chance to harvest moose for subsistence.

### 5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City of White Mountain is actively involved in this issue. Through ongoing discussions with local hunters, the city council, and community members, we have identified the challenges posed by the current moose hunting regulations. This proposal is submitted on behalf of the local subsistence hunters, who are significantly affected by the current regulations and seek an adjustment to ensure they can meet their subsistence needs.