

Proposal to Change
2026-2028 Federal Subsistence Regulations for the
Subsistence Harvest of Wildlife

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Region: 5

GMU(S): 22

Contact: Ben Mulligan and Mark Burch

E-mail: ben.mulligan@alaska.gov and mark.burch@alaska.gov

1: What regulation do you wish to change?

Caribou Hunting in Unit 22, seasons and bag limit.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 22A, remainder; **Unit 22B, that portion west of Golovnin Bay and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers below the Libby River (excluding the Libby River drainage and Niukluk River drainage above the mouth of the Libby River);** Unit 22C; **Unit 22D, that portion in the Pilgrim River Drainage;** Unit 22D Remainder; 22E Remainder:

Bag limit: 15 caribou, only 1 may be a cow.

Season: July 1 – June 30, Season may be announced

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

Reindeer herding has recently been renewed in Unit 22D, that portion in the Pilgrim River Drainage and in that portion of Unit 22B west of Golovnin Bay and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers below the Libby River (excluding the Libby River drainage and Niukluk River drainage above the mouth of the Libby River). Adjusting these two hunt areas to may be announced seasons during the July 1 – June 30 time period will create consistency between state and federal regulations and avoid the accidental take of reindeer. The state and federal managers will retain emergency order authority to open the caribou hunting season under state registration permit RC800 if caribou are later confirmed to be in the area.

4: What, if any, impact will this change have on the wildlife population impacted by the proposed regulatory change?

None. Caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) have not been documented in these areas since RY2015.

5: How will this change affect federal subsistence uses?

The regulations will be easier to read and understand and will be consistent between state and federal regulations.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as state subsistence/personal use, sport/recreational and commercial uses?

Same as #5 – consistency between state and federal regulations will make them easier to understand.