

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

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Region: 5

GMU(S): 22A

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1: What regulation do you wish to change?

22A Moose Hunting – Remove federal lands closure for all of Unit 22A.

2: How would the new regulation read?

All the Unit 22A seasons and bag limits would remain unchanged.

Unit 22A- that portion in the Egavik Creek drainage. **REMOVE:** *[Federal public lands are closed to hunting Sept 21 – Aug. 31 except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations]*

Unit 22A – that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of and including the Egavik Creek drainage. **REMOVE:** *[Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by federally qualified users hunting under these regulations.]* The BLM Anchorage Field Office is delegated authority to close the season in consultation with ADF&G.

Unit 22A remainder. **REMOVE:** *[Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose Oct 1 – Aug 31, except by federally qualified subsistence users].*

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

There is no biological reason to restrict moose hunting opportunity on federal public lands to federally qualified subsistence users only. A recent moose abundance survey completed in Unit 22A in spring 2025 in the Unalakleet River drainage estimated the local population to be above state management objectives at 972 moose [90% CI: 731-1212]. Additionally, the two most recent composition surveys indicate that bull:cow ratios have historically been well above management objectives (56B:100C+ since 2003). Given that all adjacent hunt areas in Units 21D, 21E, and 18Z all have high density populations of at least 1.0 moose / mi², it is likely that both 22A North and 22A Remainder have adequate populations of moose and plenty of bulls for non-federally qualified users to hunt. Harvest in Unit 22A Central is below the harvestable surplus despite several incremental liberalizations of the state regulations in the area at the 2017, 2020, and 2024 Region 5 Board meetings.

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

None. The moose population in GMU 22A is currently growing with bull:cow ratios above management objectives. Harvest is below the estimated harvestable surplus for the area and additional harvest opportunity exists.

5: How will this change affect federal subsistence uses?

Federal lands in Unit 22A are difficult to access and hunters would have to use aircraft to moose hunt on federal land so there would likely be little interaction between federally qualified subsistence users and hunters pursuing moose on federal lands.

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

State subsistence users would be able to have new hunt opportunities in an area that has been closed to moose hunting by non-local users for decades. Nonresident guided moose hunts do exist in 22A North and 22A Remainder but is regulated by the number of guides in 22A. These nonresidents often donate most of their moose meat to the local community. There is no nonresident season for moose hunting under state regulations in that portion of Unit 22A in the Unalakleet River drainage.