

## **DRAFT STAFF ANALYSIS WP26-01F – WESTERN INTERIOR**

### **Introduction**

Please see the WP26-01 master analysis for the Issues, Proponent Statement, Regulatory History, and Discussion and Effects sections.

### **Proposed Federal Regulations – Western Interior**

#### Caribou

**Note:** The DAL for Unit 19 caribou covers the entire range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and requires coordination with the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee (Committee). As this Committee is focused on Nushagak Peninsula caribou, not Mulchatna caribou, OSM did not include it in the entities required for coordination. OSM also added clarification that this delegated authority is for Mulchatna caribou, which explains why the Togiak NWR manager has delegated authority to manage these caribou hunts. The Board delegated authority to one Federal in-season manager to streamline management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd across its entire range.

#### **Unit 19—Caribou**

*Units 19A, 19B, and 19E (excluding rural Alaska residents of Lime Village)—up to 2 caribou by State registration permit*

*Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.*

***The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, the Yukon Delta NWR, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, and announce harvest limits, including sex restrictions for Mulchatna caribou.***

**Note:** OSM changed the season from “to be announced” to “may be announced” as this season has not been announced for years. OSM considers this an administrative change.

#### **Unit 21D—Caribou**

*Unit 21D, north of the Yukon River and east of the Koyukuk River—caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced.*

*Winter season ~~to~~ may be announced.*

***The Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is***

*authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, to set harvest limits and announce season dates.*

### Moose

**Note:** The existing DAL is for moose in Unit 19A, remainder. However, Unit 19A was split into two subunits: Unit 19A and Unit 19E in 2024. However, this change was not reflected in the existing DAL. Therefore, the authority now applies to Unit 19A (instead of Unit 19A, remainder).

The existing Unit 19A moose DAL also just specifies coordination with BLM. OSM clarified coordination should be with the BLM Anchorage Field Office.

### **Unit 19A—Moose**

*Unit 19A—1 antlered bull by Federal drawing permit or a State permit. Federal Sep. 1-20 public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and Crooked Creek hunting under these regulations.*

***The Yukon Delta NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to set annual harvest quotas and the number of permits issued, and to close the hunt early if the quota is reached.***

**Note:** OSM combined the fall and winter hunts for Unit 21B, that portion within the Nowitna NWR downstream from and including the Little Mud River to simplify regulations and reduce confusion since these hunts are in the same hunt area. OSM also changed the winter season in Unit 21B from “to be announced” to “may be announced” as this season is not announced every year. OSM considers these administrative, housekeeping changes.

Similarly, for all the Unit 21D moose regulations, OSM reformatted the regulations for clarity, and changed the “to be announced” seasons to “may be announced” seasons as they are not announced every year. OSM considers these administrative changes. The Unit 21D moose regulations also have authority already listed in the unit-specific regulations as well as in the associated DAL. Having duplicate delegated authority is not appropriate, so OSM removed the duplication when transferring the DAL authority into the unit-specific regulations. Finally, the Unit 21D moose DALs only specified coordination is required with the BLM. OSM clarified coordination should be with the BLM Central Yukon Field Office. In Unit 21D, remainder, OSM also removed some unnecessary, repetitive regulatory language regarding permit requirements to simplify regulations.

## Unit 21—Moose

*Unit 21B, that portion within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge downstream from and including the Little Mud River drainage—1 bull. A State registration permit is required Sep. 5-25. A Federal registration permit is required Sep. 26-Oct. 1*

### OR

*1 antlered bull. A Federal registration permit is required during the 5-day season and will be limited to one per household.*

*Five-day season ~~to~~ may be announced between Dec. 1 and Mar. 31*

***The Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to set season dates.***

*Unit 21D, Koyukuk Controlled Use Area—1 bull by State registration permit*

*Sep. 1-25.*

### OR

### AND

*1 antlerless moose by Federal permit ~~if authorized by announcement by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager~~. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is prohibited. ~~A harvestable surplus of cows will be determined for a quota.~~*

*Mar. 1-5 season ~~to~~ may be announced*

### OR

*1 antlered bull by Federal permit, if there is no Mar. 1-5 season ~~and if authorized by announcement by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager and BLM Central Yukon field office manager.~~*

*Apr. 10-15 season ~~to~~ may be announced.*

***The Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to announce season dates, harvest quotas and sex restrictions.***

*Unit 21D, that portion south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek—1 moose by State registration permit. Antlerless moose may be taken only during Sep. 21-25 season if authorized jointly by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR Manager and the BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager. Antlerless moose may be*

*Aug. 22-31.*

*Sep. 5-25.*

*Mar. 1-31 season ~~to~~ may be announced.*

harvested during the winter season. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is prohibited.

***The Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to announce season dates, harvest quotas and sex restrictions.***

Unit 21D, remainder—I moose by State registration permit. Antlerless moose may be taken only during Sep. 21-25 and the Mar. 1-5 season if authorized if authorized ~~jointly by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR Manager and the BLM Central Yukon Field Office Manager.~~ Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is prohibited. ~~During the Aug. 22-31 and Sep. 5-25 seasons, a State registration permit is required.~~ During the Mar. 1-5 season, a Federal registration permit is required.

Aug. 22-31.

Sep. 5-25.

Mar. 1-5 season **may** be announced

***The Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to announce season dates, harvest quotas and sex restrictions.***

## Sheep

The Unit 19C sheep regulations have authority delegated in the unit-specific regulations as well as in an associated DAL. Having duplicate delegated authority is not appropriate, so OSM removed the duplication when transferring the DAL authority into the unit-specific regulations.

### **Unit 19C—Sheep**

Unit 19C, (residents of Nikolai only) that portion within the Denali National Park and Preserve—Community harvest quota ~~set annually by the Denali National Park and Preserve Superintendent;~~ rams or ewes without lambs only.

Oct. 1-Mar. 30

***The Denali National Park and Preserve superintendent after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the Chair of the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close the season and set harvest quotas.***

## **OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION**

**Support** Proposal WP26-01f.

### **Justification**

See the WP26-01 master analysis.