

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management

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In Reply Refer To:

OSM.B25057

FEBRUARY 02 2025

Stephanie Kuhns
Arctic District Office
Bureau of Land Management
222 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Ms. Kuhns,

I write to you on behalf of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to request that the Arctic District Office Manager exercise the authority that has been delegated to them by the Federal Subsistence Board to increase the number of Federal subsistence permits issued for muskoxen in Unit 26A and to revise the reporting requirements to ensure the harvest quota is not exceeded.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the North Slope Region. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council held a public meeting on September 16 – 17, 2025, in Utqiagvik, and discussed the limited access to muskox harvest opportunities in Unit 26A. During the meeting, the Council provided important insights about customary and traditional hunting practices, which are centered around the opportunistic harvest of spatially dispersed big game populations. The Council recognized the importance of maintaining the current harvest quota of five muskoxen but stated that issuing only five draw permits limits rural residents' abilities to opportunistically harvest this resource. The Council requests that the number of permits issued each year be

increased from five to ten to enhance subsistence opportunities and likelihood of harvest success. The Council expressed willingness to support harvest reporting requirements and closing the hunt when the harvest quota had been reached to ensure the continued viability of the muskoxen population in the region.

The Council thanks you for considering our request. If you have any questions regarding our request or would like to discuss further, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator Gisela Chapa at (907) 310-6129 or gisela_chapa@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Brower Frantz
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Nicole Wojciechowski, Director of Wildlife, North Slope Borough
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Poetter, Fish and Game Coordinator, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record