

2026 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Unit 26A Update

Teshkepuk Caribou Herd:

1) Population Estimate:

- The late spring and cool summer did not allow for insect accumulation to facilitate a photocensus in 2026
- Photocensus Estimate (2022): 61,600

2) Spring Short Yearling Surveys

- Observed 3,674 caribou 17% were short yearlings (April 2026)
-10-year average 15% Average

3) Summer Calving Surveys:

- 57% pregnant, 6 calves were observed (females ages 3 or older June 2026)
-10-year average 66%

4) Adult Female Mortality:

- (2025-2026): TBA mortality
- TBA 10-year average

Colville Moose:

- The most recent minimum count survey was conducted in 2026 the minimum count was 557 moose 10% of those were short yearlings with four sets of twins in comparison to the 2021 minimum count where there were 427 moose and 20% of those were short yearlings with 18 sets of twins (4.2%). The moose population is showing some modest growth at low numbers. The next trend count survey is planned for spring of 2027, and the next minimum count will be in 2029.

Western 26A Musk Ox:

- There were 547 muskoxen observed in Western 26A and Unit 23 (Kotzebue area) in 2025 compared to 605 muskoxen observed in 2020.

Table 1. 2025 Composition of the Cape Thompson muskox population.

	≥3- year- old cows	≥3year- old bulls	2- year- old cows & bulls	Short yearlings	Neonates	Unknown	Total
Total	214	189	39	25	6	74	547
Percentages	39	35	7	5	1	13	100