

WP24-19

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0024

Comment from Native Village of Kwinhagak

Submitter Information

Email: andye@lbblawyers.com

Government Agency Type: Tribal

Government Agency: Native Village of Kwinhagak

General Comment

See attached file.

Attachments

NVK Unit 18 Moose FSB Proposal

Name and Contact Information

Jacqueline Cleveland
 Native Village of Kwinhagak
 149 Carter Road
 Quinhagak, AK 99655
 (907) 556-8166
 Jcleveland.nvk@gmail.com

Current Regulation

Unit 18, Moose, 50 C.F.R. § 100.26(n)(18):

Moose: Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W 162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage—1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season;

Sept. 1 to
 Oct. 15

Or

1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season

May be
 announced
 between
 Dec. 1 to
 Jan. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, and Kalskag.

Unit 18, south of the Eek River drainage and north of the Goodnews River drainage - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit

Sept. 1 to
 Sept. 30

Unit 18, Goodnews River drainage and south to the Unit 18 boundary - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit

Sept. 1 to
 Sept. 30

Or

1 moose by State registration permit

A season
 may be
 announced
 between
 Dec. 1 and
 the last day
 of Feb.

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Unit 18, remainder - 3 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may not be harvested from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30

Aug. 1 to
Apr. 30

Proposed New Regulation

Unit 18, within the Kanektok and Arolik drainages Sept. 1 to Oct. 15

Explanation

Moose are an important subsistence resource for members of the Native Village of Kwinhagak. Because of increases in food costs, the village’s remote location, and changing environmental factors, food security is a significant and growing concern. Importantly, since 2020, subsistence hunters have not hunted caribou from the Mulchatna Herd due to low population numbers. The Mulchatna Herd has historically been one of the village’s primary food sources. Thus, there is an increased reliance on moose hunting to meet subsistence needs, and coincidentally the moose population in the area near Quinhagak (the Arolik River and Kanektok River drainages) is increasing.

The current season dates of September 1 to September 30 do not provide an adequate opportunity for Quinhagak’s subsistence needs. Poor weather during the month of September for the past two years has resulted in the failure to reach moose quotas before the hunting season closed. Other areas adjacent to Quinhagak, such as the Goodnews and Eek Rivers, have moose hunts that are open for longer seasons, September 1 to October 15. The Native Village of Kwinhagak proposes that its season be extended by 15 days to match those seasons and provide a more meaningful opportunity for Quinhagak residents to meet subsistence needs. Previously, the Federal Subsistence Board has extended Quinhagak’s moose hunting season by emergency action request.

WP24-20

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-DRAFT-0029

Comment from DOI

Submitter Information

Email: spencer_rearden@fws.gov

Government Agency Type: Federal

Government Agency: DOI

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

Yukon Delta NWR 2023 Kusko Moose proposal

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

Issue: The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) requests the Federal Subsistence Board modify the harvest limit and the delegation of authority letter for moose in the Unit 18 Kuskokwim hunt area. The requested modifications are for the may-be-announced winter moose season and to allow the Yukon Delta NWR refuge manager to do the following:

1. Set the number of moose permits based on the left over quota from the fall hunt with permit conditions that encourages reporting in a timely manner.
2. Allocate and limit the number of tags based on either a first-come-first-serve basis OR through a random drawing for Federally qualified subsistence users.
3. Determine the bag limit (1 antlered bull; 1 bull; or 1 cow).

Existing Federal Regulations

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season *Sept. 1-Oct. 15.*

Or

1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season *May be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.*

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, and Kalskag.

¹Referred to as the Kuskokwim hunt area throughout the analysis.

Proposed Federal Regulations

*See **Scope of Delegation** section in the attached Delegation of Authority letter.

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season

Sept. 1-Oct. 15.

Or

~~1 antlered bull~~ **Up to one moose** by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season

May be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, and Kalskag.

¹Referred to as the Kuskokwim hunt area throughout the analysis.

The Yukon Delta NWR manages a Unit 18 Kuskokwim hunt for Federal lands that include many of the tributaries to the Kuskokwim River. The moose population has increased over the years and so has the quota. In recent years the quota has not been met for the fall hunt likely due to the difficulty and expense to travel to the hunt area by boat. The may-be-announced winter hunt was implemented to help allow for harvest of the remaining moose quota. To help keep harvest under control for this small population and to help stay within the quota, we request that the Yukon Delta NWR refuge manager be allowed to set the number of moose permits along with permit conditions intended to encourage timely reporting.

We are asking for flexibility in using either a first-come-first-serve registration permit system or a random draw permit system to allocate permits. We are trying to figure what system is best to fairly allocate a limited number of permits where we have multiple villages and limited staff to spend time on managing the winter hunt.

We are faced with the challenge of trying to manage a winter hunt during a time that moose lose antlers that makes it more difficult for hunters to find antlered bulls. However, limiting the harvest to antlered bulls helps ensure cow moose are not harvested at this time when the population can still sustain more

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growth. We ask for flexibility in setting the bag limit so that we can adapt to hunter behavior and the ability to identify bulls without antlers.

Given the steady growth, we are also anticipating that we may need to harvest cows in the future as this population continues to increase. Therefore, we are asking for flexibility to set the bag limit for cows for future hunts.

Refuge Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 346
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Dear Refuge Manager:

This letter delegates specific regulatory authority from the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to the manager of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to issue emergency or temporary special actions if necessary to ensure the conservation of a healthy wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of wildlife, for reasons of public safety, or to assure the continued viability of a wildlife population. This delegation only applies to the Federal public lands subject to Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Title VIII jurisdiction within Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60° 59.412 Latitude; W 162° 22.142 Longitude), continuing upriver along a line ½ mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet of Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage for the management of moose on these lands.

It is the intent of the Board that actions related to management of moose by Federal officials be coordinated, prior to implementation, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), representatives of the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), and the Chair of the affected Council(s) to the extent possible. The Office of Subsistence Management will be used by managers to facilitate communication of actions and to ensure proposed actions are technically and administratively aligned with legal mandates and policies. Federal managers are expected to work with managers from the State and other Federal agencies, the Council Chair or alternate, local tribes, and Alaska Native Corporations to minimize disruption to subsistence resource users and existing agency programs, consistent with the need for special action.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

1. Delegation: The manager of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is hereby delegated authority to issue emergency or temporary special actions affecting moose on Federal lands as outlined under the Scope of Delegation. Any action greater than 60 days in length (temporary special action) requires a public hearing before implementation. Special actions are governed by Federal regulation at 36 CFR 242.19 and 50 CFR 100.19.

2. Authority: This delegation of authority is established pursuant to 36 CFR 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6), which state: “The Board may delegate to agency field officials the authority to set harvest and possession limits, define harvest areas, specify methods or means of harvest, specify permit

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requirements, and open or close specific fish or wildlife harvest seasons within frameworks established by the Board.”

3. Scope of Delegation: The regulatory authority hereby delegated is limited to the following authorities within the limits set by regulation at 36 CFR 242.26 and 50 CFR 100.26:

- To close the fall season
- Open and close a season between December 1 and January 31
- Determine annual harvest quotas
- **Announce sex and antler restrictions for the winter hunt**
- **Determine the permit allocation system on an annual basis (i.e. set the number of permits to be issued through a limited registration or random drawing hunt).**
- **Set any needed permit conditions for moose on Federal public lands. Permit conditions must be approved by OSM and in accordance with the current OMB information collection.**

This delegation also permits you to close and reopen Federal public lands to nonsubsistence hunting, but does not permit you to specify methods and means, permit requirements, or harvest and possession limits for State-managed hunts.

This delegation may be exercised only when it is necessary to conserve moose populations, to continue subsistence uses, for reasons of public safety, or to assure the continued viability of the populations. All other proposed changes to codified regulations, such as customary and traditional use determinations or adjustments to methods and means of take, shall be directed to the Board.

The Federal public lands subject to this delegated authority are those within Unit 18 that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60° 59.412 Latitude; W 162° 22.142 Longitude), continuing upriver along a line ½ mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet of Arhykot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage.

4. Effective Period: This delegation of authority is effective from the date of this letter until **January 31, 2023**.

5. Guidelines for Delegation: You will become familiar with the management history of the wildlife species relevant to this delegation in the region, with current State and Federal regulations and management plans, and be up-to-date on population and harvest status information. You will provide subsistence users in the region a local point of contact about Federal subsistence issues and regulations and facilitate a local liaison with State managers and other user groups.

You will review special action requests or situations that may require a special action and all supporting information to determine (1) consistency with 50 CFR 100.19 and 36 CFR 242.19, (2) if the request/situation falls within the scope of authority, (3) if significant conservation problems or

subsistence harvest concerns are indicated, and (4) what the consequences of taking an action or no action may be on potentially affected Federally qualified subsistence users and non-Federally qualified users. Requests not within your delegated authority will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. You will maintain a record of all special action requests and rationale for your decision. A copy of this record will be provided to the Administrative Records Specialist in OSM no later than sixty days after development of the document.

For management decisions on special actions, consultation is not always possible, but to the extent practicable, two-way communication will take place before decisions are implemented. You will also establish meaningful and timely opportunities for government-to-government consultation related to pre-season and post-season management actions as established in the Board's Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy (Federal Subsistence Board Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy 2012 and Federal Subsistence Board Policy on Consultation with Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act Corporations 2015).

You will immediately notify the Board through the Assistant Regional Director for OSM, and coordinate with the Chair(s) or alternate of the affected Council(s), local ADF&G managers, and other affected Federal conservation unit managers concerning emergency and temporary special actions being considered. You will ensure that you have communicated with OSM to ensure the special action is aligned with ANILCA Title VIII, Federal Subsistence regulations and policy, and that the perspectives of the Chair(s) or alternate of the affected Council(s), OSM, and affected State and Federal managers have been fully considered in the review of the proposed special action.

If the timing of a regularly scheduled meeting of the affected Council(s) permits without incurring undue delay, you will seek Council recommendations on the proposed temporary special action(s). If the affected Council(s) provided a recommendation, and your action differs from that recommendation, you will provide an explanation in writing in accordance with 50 CFR 100.10(e)(1) and 36 CFR 242.10(e)(1).

You will issue decisions in a timely manner. Before the effective date of any decision, reasonable efforts will be made to notify the public, OSM, affected State and Federal managers, law enforcement personnel, and Council members. If an action is to supersede a State action not yet in effect, the decision will be communicated to the public, OSM, affected State and Federal managers, and the local Council members at least 24 hours before the State action would be effective. If a decision to take no action is made, you will notify the proponent of the request immediately. A summary of special action requests and your resultant actions must be provided to the coordinator of the appropriate Council(s) at the end of each calendar year for presentation to the Council(s).

You may defer a special action request, otherwise covered by this delegation of authority, to the Board in instances when the proposed management action will have a significant impact on a large number of Federal subsistence users or is particularly controversial. This option should be exercised judiciously and may be initiated only when sufficient time allows for it. Such deferrals should not be considered when immediate management actions are necessary for conservation purposes. The Board may determine that a

special action request may best be handled by the Board, subsequently rescinding the delegated regulatory authority for the specific action only.

6. Support Services: Administrative support for regulatory actions will be provided by the Office of Subsistence Management.

Sincerely,

Anthony Christianson
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Federal Subsistence Board

Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Interagency Staff Committee

Administrative Record

WP24-21

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0022

Comment from Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

Submitter Information

Email: brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov

Organization: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

General Comment

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council is submitting three proposals. Please see the attached files for copies of the proposals.

Attachments

1. YKDRAC_Unit_18_Moose_proposal_final
2. YKDRAC_Unit18_Muskox_CTproposal_final
3. YKDRAC_Unit18_Muskox_hunt_proposal_final

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

Issue: Add *Kwigillingok*, *Kongiganak*, *Quinhagak* to the communities eligible to harvest moose within the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 under Federal regulations.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season

Sept. 1-Oct. 15.

Or

1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season

May be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, and Kalskag.

¹Referred to as the Kuskokwim hunt area

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then

Sept. 1-Oct. 15.

north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season

Or

1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season

May be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.

*Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, **Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, Quinhagak**, Lower Kalskag, and Kalskag.*

¹Referred to as the Kuskokwim hunt area

Why Should this regulation be changed?

Residents of Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, and Quinhagak hunt moose for subsistence. Although these communities are located outside of the Kuskokwim hunt area, residents of these communities do travel to hunt moose within the boundaries of the hunt area, especially in years when it is more difficult to harvest a moose near their communities.

WP24-22

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Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Recognize the customary and traditional use of muskox by residents of Unit 18 for the mainland area of Unit 18

Existing Federal Regulation:

Customary and Traditional Use Determination - Muskox

Unit 18

No Federal subsistence priority.

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Customary and Traditional Use Determination - Muskox

Unit 18, Nelson and Nunivak Islands

No Federal subsistence priority.

Unit 18 Mainland

Residents of Unit 18.

Why Should this regulation be changed?

Muskox were re-introduced to Alaska with the intention that one day the population would grow enough that they could be hunted and provide food for subsistence. Muskox have migrated from the Nelson Island and Nunivak Island herds over the past twenty years to various parts of Unit 18 “mainland” and have been observed by local residents across various parts of the region to be increasing in numbers and expanding their range. Much of their current habitat is on Federal lands of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Recognizing the customary and traditional use of muskox by residents of Unit 18 is the first step to allow these animals to be potentially hunted by Federally qualified subsistence users in the region. Residents of Unit 18 desire the opportunity to harvest muskox for subsistence whenever a harvestable surplus is identified and believe the additional opportunity could help alleviate food security concerns.

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Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council (YKDRAC)

Issue: Establish Federal hunt(s) for muskox in the mainland portion of Unit 18

New Regulation: Limited registration/permit hunt(s) in known herds of Unit 18 based on known areas. Example: Kusilvak Herd (To include Kusilvak, Mud Volcanoes and the Askinuk Mountains), Kilbuck Mountain Herd, Kalskag Hills Herd

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 18 – Muskox

No Federal open season.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 18 – Muskox	
<i>Unit 18, Nelson and Nunivak Islands</i>	<i>No Federal open season.</i>
<i>Unit 18 Mainland (excluding Nelson and Nunivak Islands) – Harvest limit to be determined by permit</i>	<i>Season to be determined</i>

1. Explain why this regulation change should be made:

The YKDRAC would like to see mainland muskoxen hunting opportunities for federally qualified subsistence users residing in Unit 18. Muskoxen have migrated from the Nelson Island and Nunivak Island herds over the past twenty years to various parts of “mainland” Unit 18. Much of their current habitat is in Federal lands of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Muskox have been observed by local residents across various parts of the region to be increasing in numbers and expanding their range. Muskoxen were re-introduced to Alaska with the intention that one day the population would grow enough that they could be hunted and provide food for subsistence.

The YKDRAC suggests that harvest limits and seasons be based on the harvestable surpluses of the various mainland herds. Updated population assessments may need to be completed to determine these amounts. Even if the harvestable surplus numbers are low, any new subsistence hunt opportunity could help alleviate on-going food security concerns in the region. The YKDRAC wants to ensure that any permits are made easily accessible and available to hunters in the rural communities near the herds. Although there is not a current customary and traditional use determination for muskox in Unit 18, the YKDRAC has submitted a companion proposal seeking to recognize a C&T for muskox in Unit 18.

2. Provide any additional information that may help the Federal Subsistence Board In evaluating the proposal:

What happened to Musk Oxen in Alaska: By 1900, there were no musk oxen in Alaska. The Alaskan musk oxen were extirpated from all areas of Alaska from

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hunting and natural predation. Musk oxen, with their natural defensive mechanism, circling, were easy targets for hunters and predators alike. This natural defense led to their demise by 1900. (Source: www.nps.gov)

An epic journey from Greenland: In the year 1930, in an attempt to reintroduce the extirpated population of musk oxen in Alaska, the United States Congress appropriated \$40,000 to the U.S. Biological Survey to reintroduce musk oxen to Alaska. The appropriation led to the capture, transport, and the reintroduction of musk oxen to Alaska.

In the summer of 1930, Norwegian Sailors captured 34 musk oxen in Greenland (19 female and 15 males. They crated them for transport on an epic 8,000 mile journey from Greenland to their home in Alaska. By August of 1930, they were in Norway. In September, 1930, they passed New York city, quarantined in Athenia, New Jersey for 33 days, brought to Seattle via railway, a seven-day voyage to Seward, Alaska, from Seward, they were transported to on a four-day rail trip to Fairbanks, Alaska. From Fairbanks, they were brought to Nunivak Island via steamship from Nenana to Marshall to St. Michaels then barged to the Nunivak Island accompanied by Charles Rouse. Once arriving to Nunivak Island the musk oxen population thrived. From the Nunivak Island stock, musk oxen were transported to other areas of Alaska where they thrived in the Norton Sound, the Arctic plains, Kotzebue Sound, etc. . (Source: www.uaf.edu/news)

Musk Oxen population today: There are currently about 560 Musk Ox on Nunivak Island and 540 on Nelson Island. (Source: www.adfg.alaska.gov)

Musk Oxen population on Unit 18-Mainland: According to a memo dated July 2, 2019, from Patrick Jones regarding the mainland population of musk oxen in Unit 18-Mainland, a joint aerial was conducted along with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on June 23-25, 2019. The survey concluded with an “observable” count of 174 animals on Unit 18-mainland. (Source: Jones 2019) Although the number may appear low, the count was not statistically expanded to reflect an estimated population on Unit 18-Mainland. As time progresses, it is my hope that an official count may take place with an updated statistical estimated population.

Since musk oxen are herding animals in their natural behavior, it is my hope that the managing agencies (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/ADF&G), with consultation of tribes, corporations, State AC’s the Y-K RAC, enumerate an statistically sound estimate of the mainland musk ox population, identify the harvestable surplus, develop a Unit 18-mainland musk ox management plan and initiate a sustainable hunt.

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) Last accessed: April 5, 2023

P. Jones, memorandum, July 2, 2019

WP24-24

Submitted by: Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Regulation to change:

Request to divide Unit 19A into two subunits: 19A and 19E.

Existing Federal Regulation

50 CFR 100.26(n)(19)(i)(A) Unit 19A consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19B;

Proposed Federal Regulation

*Unit 19A consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the ~~Moose Creek~~ **George River** drainage and downstream from and excluding the **Downey Creek** drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19B;*

*Unit 19E consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from and excluding the **George River** drainage and upstream from and including the **Downey Creek** drainage*

Why change the regulation:

This proposal is being submitted because the Alaska Board of Game divided State Game Management Unit 19A into two separate subunits (19A and 19E) during their March 2022 meeting. This regulatory change would align Federal boundaries with State boundaries and reduce regulatory complexity.

WP24-25**Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal**

Submitted by: Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Regulation to change:

Reduce the sheep harvest limit in Units 24A and 24B-(excluding residents of Anaktuvuk Pass residents)-that portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park from 3 sheep, no more than one of which may be a ewe to 1 ram.

Existing Federal Regulation**Unit 24 - Sheep**

Units 24A and 24B (excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents), that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park—3 sheep, no more than one of which may be a ewe, by Federal registration permit only, with exception for residents of Alatna and Allakaket who will report by a National Park Service community harvest system Aug. 1-
Apr. 30

Proposed Federal Regulation**Unit 24 - Sheep**

*Units 24A and 24B (excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents), that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park—~~3 sheep, no more than one of which may be a ewe,~~ **1 ram** by Federal registration permit only, with exception for residents of Alatna and Allakaket who will report by a National Park Service community harvest system* Aug. 1-
Apr. 30

Why change the regulation:

This proposal is being submitted to address the declining sheep population in Unit 24. Recent steep declines in sheep abundance concern the Council, and we feel the remaining population needs to be protected from overharvest and allowed to recover. Allowing ewe harvest from the population may slow or severely restrict the growth of the population. This reduction would be a major restriction to federally qualified subsistence users; however, allowing the harvest of one ram will still allow for some harvest, but hopefully also aid in the recovery of this declining sheep population.

WP24-26

Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal

Submitted by: Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Regulation to change:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requests that Dall’s sheep hunting on Federal public lands in Unit 24A and Unit 26B, west of the Sagavanirktok River be closed to all users for the 2024-2026 wildlife regulatory cycle. This would be a two-year continuation of the closure initiated by Wildlife Special Action WSA22-02.

Existing Federal Regulations:

Unit 24- Sheep

*Unit 24A, except that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park - 1 ram Aug. 20-Sep. 30.
by Federal registration permit only*

*Units 24A and 24B (excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents), that portion within the Aug. 1-Apr. 30.
Gates of the Arctic National Park - 3 sheep, no more than one of which may be a
ewe, by Federal registration permit only, with exception for residents of Alatna
and Allakaket who will report by a National Park Service community harvest
system*

Unit 26- Sheep

*Unit 26B, that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area - 1 Aug. 10-Sep. 20.
ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn by Federal registration permit only*

*Unit 26A, remainder and 26B, remainder, including the Gates of the Arctic Aug. 10-Sep. 20.
National Preserve - 1 ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn*

Proposed Federal Regulations:

Unit 24- Sheep

*Unit 24A, except that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park --1 ram Aug. 20-Sep. 30.
by Federal registration permit only No open season*

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep for the 2024-2026 regulatory cycle for non-Federally qualified users and Federally qualified subsistence users.

*Units ~~24A and~~ 24B (excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents), that portion within the Aug. 1-Apr. 30.
Gates of the Arctic National Park - 3 sheep, no more than one of which may be a
ewe, by Federal registration permit only, with exception for residents of Alatna
and Allakaket who will report by a National Park Service community harvest
system*

Unit 26- Sheep

~~Unit 26B, that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, west of the Sagavanirktok. – 1 ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn by Federal registration permit only~~ Aug. 10–Sep. 20.
~~No open season~~

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep for the 2024-2026 regulatory cycle for non-Federally qualified users and Federally qualified subsistence users.

~~Unit 26A, remainder and 26B, remainder, including the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve and Unit 26B, east of the Sagavanirktok River - 1 ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn~~ Aug. 10–Sep. 20.

Why change the regulation:

The Western Interior Council feels the sheep population in Units 24A and 26B, west of the Sagavanirktok River are still experiencing winter hardships in 2022/23 and a reduced population. Very few mature, breeding age rams remain in the population, and continuing this closure for two more years will contribute to the overall breeding population, thereby aiding in overall population recovery and conservation. These diminished sheep populations cannot support any harvest or intensive hunting pressure.

Additionally, we feel that incidental harvest of sub-legal rams has contributed to the low numbers of breeding-age rams. This Council is also submitting an Agenda Change Request to the Alaska Board of Game requesting that counting annual horn rings and segments be eliminated statewide as a method for determining whether or not a sheep qualifies as a legal ram (i.e. full-curl horn) for harvest. This criterion results in many illegal ram harvests because hunters miscount horn rings in the field. Eliminating this criterion would help curtail the take of sub-legal rams statewide, but especially in these units. The Council is also submitting a regional proposal to the same effect. If the BOG approves our statewide ACR or regional proposal, there may be no need to continue the closure of Federal public lands in Unit 24A and part of Unit 26B for two more years since many incidental harvests will be precluded and therefore, more mature rams will survive for breeding.

WP24-27

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-DRAFT-0014

Comment from DOI

Submitter Information

Email: kim_jochum@nps.gov

Government Agency Type: Federal

Government Agency: DOI

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

WSA22_01 follow up proposal_FINAL

Proposal Request: Change the federal muskox permit system in Game Management Units 22 and 23 from a federal registration permit to a federal drawing permit (WSA22-01 follow up proposal).

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2024–2026 Wildlife Proposals

Seward Peninsula

As a follow up to WSA22-01a and WSA22-01b, The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management request to permanently change the federal muskox permit system in Game Management Units 22 and 23 from a federal registration permit to a federal drawing permit to reflect how the permits have been issued in this area since about 1998. WSA22-01a and WSA22-01b continued to ensure the conservation of two healthy muskoxen populations and allowed for the continuation of subsistence uses of these muskoxen populations at the same time. This housekeeping change will affect five muskoxen hunts in Game Management Unit 22 and three muskoxen hunts in Game Management Unit 23 for a total of eight hunts. We further request changing the wildlife In-Season Delegation of Authority language to standardize muskoxen hunts among the federal land management agencies within Game Management Units 22 and 23. The Scope of Delegation language should include: *“Close the season, determine annual quotas, the number of permits to be issued, the method of permit allocation, and set any needed permit conditions. Permit conditions must be approved by OSM and in accordance with the current OMB information collection.”*

Current Federal Regulations

Unit 22B–Muskox

Unit 22B – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2203). Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22D–Muskox

Unit 22D – that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2205). Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by residents of Nome and Teller hunting under these regulations. Sept. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22D–Muskox

Unit 22D – that portion within the Kuzitrin River drainages – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2206). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except for residents of Council, Golovin, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22D remainder–Muskox

Unit 22D remainder – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2208). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by residents of Elim, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22E–Muskox

Unit 22E – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2210). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22 remainder–Muskox*No Federal open season***Unit 23–Muskox***Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage – 1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2302). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.**Aug. 1-Mar. 15.***Unit 23–Muskox***Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument—1 bull by Federal registration permit (FX2303). Cape Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the harvest of muskoxen except by Federally qualified subsistence users, excluding residents of Point Hope.**Aug. 1-Mar. 15.***Unit 23–Muskox***Unit 23 – that portion north and west of the Kobuk River drainage – 1 bull by State or Federal (FX2312) registration permit.**Aug. 1-Mar. 15.***Proposed Federal Regulation****Unit 22B–Muskox***Unit 22B – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2203). Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users.**Aug. 1-Mar. 15.***Unit 22D–Muskox***Unit 22D – that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2205). Federal public land are closed to the harvest of muskox except by residents of Nome and Teller hunting under these regulations.**Sept. 1-Mar. 15.***Unit 22D–Muskox***Unit 22D – that portion within the Kuzitrin River drainages – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2206). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except for residents of Council, Golovin, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission hunting under these regulations.**Aug. 1-Mar. 15.*

2024–2026 Wildlife Proposals

Seward Peninsula

Unit 22D remainder–Muskox

Unit 22D remainder – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2208). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by residents of Elim, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 22E–Muskox

Unit 22E – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2210). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 23–Muskox

Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage – 1 bull by State permit or Federal **drawing** permit (FX2302). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 23–Muskox

Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument—1 bull by Federal **drawing** permit (FX2303). Cape Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the harvest of muskoxen except by Federally qualified subsistence users, excluding residents of Point Hope. Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

Unit 23–Muskox

Unit 23 – that portion north and west of the Kobuk River drainage – 1 bull by State permit or Federal (FX2312) **drawing** permit.

Justification

The Seward Peninsula and Cape Thompson federal muskoxen hunts in Game Management Units 22 and 23 have been managed through a shared permit system and harvest quota with the State since 1998 under historical guidance of the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators. There are not enough animals in either the Cape Thompson or Seward Peninsula population to meet subsistence needs. The State has been administering Tier hunts, which allow only limited opportunities since about 1998 for both populations. Federal managers use best management practices available to conserve and maintain healthy populations, which is through a drawing permit system to prevent overharvest. The 2021 Seward Peninsula abundance survey and the 2021 sex-age composition survey suggest a stable population since 2017. The 2022 CAKR core abundance survey and sex-age composition survey suggest the population has been stable since 2011. Results of the 2020 Cape Thompson expanded abundance survey indicate the population experienced growth between 2016 and 2020.

In November 2021 OSM staff brought to the attention of federal muskoxen hunt managers that the Delegation of Authority language was unclear, and therefore, led to misinterpretation on how federal muskoxen hunts were administered. All 8 federal hunts have been administered through a drawing permit system every regulatory year since about 1998 for the purpose of conserving natural and healthy populations while still allowing for subsistence use to federally qualified subsistence users. Approved Wildlife Special Actions WSA22-01a and WSA22-01b have addressed these discrepancies for the last regulatory cycle (RY2021 and RY2022 hunt seasons). The purpose of this proposal now is to continue these best management practices for both populations and make them permanent in federal regulations.

Administering hunts through a registration permit system, as currently written in regulation, would create significant adverse effects on the two muskoxen populations and negatively impact future hunting opportunities for federally qualified subsistence users. Without a drawing permit system in place, the nature of muskoxen behavior and winter distribution with minimal movement make it extremely easy to overharvest both populations and exceed the established harvest quota within a few hours. Another advantage of a drawing permit system is that it provides an equal opportunity for each federally qualified subsistence user to obtain a permit independent of the community in which they might be living. Neither the Cape Thompson nor Seward Peninsula muskoxen populations can support the issuance of an unlimited number of federal muskoxen registration permits.

WP24-28

4/13/23, 1:01 PM

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0019

Comment from Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group

Submitter Information

Email: holly@huddleak.com

Organization: Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group

General Comment

Data from biologists at the ADF&G illustrate that there has been continued decline in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH). The July 2022 photo census estimated 164,000 caribou in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd which is down from 188,000 in 2021. Census numbers for past years: 2020 – no census; 2019 – 244,000; 2018 – no census; 2017 – 259,000; 2016 – 201,000. In the two years between the 2019 and 2021 census, the herd declined nearly 12% per year. Additionally, data shows that the cow survival rate is at 71% in 2021, well below the herd’s average of 81% (1981-2020). ADF&G presented this information to the WACH Working Group in December 2022.

At its annual meeting the WACH Working Group assigned the management level “Preservative, Declining” to the herd based on the current census (within the range of 130,000-200,000) and adult cow survival rate less than 80%.

In doing so, the WACH Working Group sees the immediate need to address the current herd decline by limiting the harvest of both bulls and cows to allow the herd population to begin to recover.

In the units identified above, the current bag limit is set at 5 caribou per person per day during the open periods for bulls and cows. The WACH WG proposes to change regulations to 4 caribou per person per year, with no more than one cow allowed.

Attachments

WACH_WG_Federal_proposal_harvest_limit_2024

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group

Vern Cleveland, Chair

For details about this proposal please contact Holly Spoth-Torres, Working Group Facilitator

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Issue:

Reduce the caribou harvest limit across the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) from five caribou per day to four caribou per year, only one of which may be a cow. Specifically, reduce the harvest limit in Units 21D, remainder; 24B, remainder; 24C; 24D; and all caribou hunt areas within Units 22, 23, and 26A.

Existing Federal Regulation:

Units 21D, remainder; 22; 23; 24B, remainder; 24C; 24D; 26A - Caribou

5 caribou per day

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Units 21D, remainder; 22; 23; 24B, remainder; 24C; 24D; 26A - Caribou

~~5 caribou per day~~ **4 caribou per year; however, no more than 1 cow may be taken**

Why Should this regulation be changed?

Data from biologists at the ADF&G illustrate that there has been continued decline in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH). The July 2022 photo census estimated 164,000 caribou in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd which is down from 188,000 in 2021. Census numbers for past years: 2020 – no census; 2019 – 244,000; 2018 – no census; 2017 – 259,000; 2016 – 201,000. In the two years between the 2019 and 2021 census, the herd declined nearly 12% per year. Additionally, data shows that the cow survival rate is at 71% in 2021, well below the herd’s average of 81% (1981-2020). ADF&G presented this information to the WACH Working Group in December 2022.

At its annual meeting the WACH Working Group assigned the management level “Preservative, Declining” to the herd based on the current census (within the range of 130,000-200,000) and adult cow survival rate less than 80%.

In doing so, the WACH Working Group sees the immediate need to address the current herd decline by limiting the harvest of both bulls and cows to allow the herd population to begin to recover.

2024–2026 Wildlife Proposals

Northwest Arctic

In the units identified above, the current bag limit is set at 5 caribou per person per day during the open periods for bulls and cows. The WACH WG proposes to change regulations to 4 caribou per person per year, with no more than one cow allowed.

WP24-29

WILDLIFE PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Name: Northwest Arctic Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? The Council requests changing the Federal regulations for caribou in Unit 23 to reduce the caribou harvest limit in Unit 23 to 4 caribou, only one of which may be a cow per year.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 15–Apr. 30*
July 15–Oct. 14.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 31–Mar. 31*
July 31–Oct. 14.

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

*Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—~~5 caribou per day~~ **4 caribou per year, only 1 may be a cow** by State registration permit as follows:*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 15–Apr. 30*
July 15–Oct. 14.

*Unit 23, remainder—~~5 caribou per day~~ **4 caribou per year, only 1 may be a cow** by State registration permit as follows:*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 31–Mar. 31*
July 31–Oct. 14.

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations

Why is this regulation be changed?

The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC) is requesting this change to reduce the caribou harvest limit in Unit 23 to 4 caribou (either 4 bulls or 3 bulls and 1 cow). The Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) has continued to decline with the most recent estimate being 164,000 caribou. The NWARAC is greatly concerned about the precipitous decline of the WACH and feel that this action is needed to slow the decline and prevent the herd from reaching a point of no return. NWARAC feels that the harvest recommendations set forth by the WACH working group would be a starting point for the conservation of the WACH while still allowing some harvest. The NWARAC recognizes that federally qualified subsistence users are already facing food insecurities, but this drastic reduction of caribou harvest is a means to help protect the caribou herd while still allowing some harvest.

WP24-30**WILDLIFE PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD**

Name: Northwest Arctic Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? The Council requests changing the Federal regulations for caribou in Unit 23 to close Federal public lands to non-federally qualified subsistence users from Aug. 1-Oct. 31.

Existing Federal Regulation**Unit 23–Caribou**

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 15–Apr. 30*
July 15–Oct. 14.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken *July 31–Mar. 31*
July 31–Oct. 14.

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14. *July 15–Apr. 30*

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1–Oct. 31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14. *July 31–Mar. 31*

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1–Oct. 31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why should this regulation be changed? The Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has been in decline for years and the low population level in 2022 is cause for concern. The Council wishes to adopt this proposal to close hunting of the herd to non-federally qualified subsistence users to help with conservation, while providing a meaningful subsistence priority for federally qualified subsistence users.

WP24-31

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

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Comment from North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Submitter Information

Email: jessica_gill@fws.gov

Government Agency Type: Regional

Government Agency: North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

General Comment

Proposals from North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Attachments

NSRAC Unit 25A proposal_March 2023

NSRAC Unit 23 proposal_March 2023

WILDLIFE PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Name: North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? The Council requests changing the Federal regulations for caribou in Unit 23 to close Federal public lands to non-federally qualified subsistence users from Aug. 1-Oct. 31.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14. *July 15–Apr. 30*

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14. *July 31–Mar. 31*

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14. *July 15–Apr. 30*

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1–Oct. 31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Bulls may be harvested *July 1–June 30*

Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14. *July 31–Mar. 31*

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1–Oct. 31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why should this regulation be changed? The Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has been in decline for years and the low population level in 2022 is cause for concern. The Council wishes to adopt this proposal to close hunting of the herd to non-federally qualified subsistence users to help with conservation, while providing a meaningful subsistence priority for federally qualified subsistence users.

WP24-32

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0006

Comment from Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Submitter Information

Email: brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov

Government Agency Type: Regional

Government Agency: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

General Comment

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council is submitting 3 proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations. Please see the attached files which contain the proposals.

Attachments

1. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_121920212425 Marten extend
2. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_25BCDremainder Moose extend
3. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_25Dwest moose CT

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Extend the spring trapping season for marten in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25 until March 15.

Existing Federal Regulation:

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 - Marten

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 – No limit.

Nov. 1 – Feb. 28

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 - Marten

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 – No limit.

Nov. 1 – ~~Feb. 28~~ Mar. 15

Why Should this regulation be changed?

This proposal would add an additional 15 days of opportunity to harvest marten in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25. It will align the marten season end dates with the lynx season end dates in Units 12 and 20E and add additional opportunity for harvest of marten in Units 24A and 25 where the lynx season is open until March 31. Many trappers target both species and this extension would allow trappers the opportunity to harvest a few additional marten, resulting in a small but helpful economic boost for those who sell their furs. This is important given the rising costs of food and other supplies.

Shifting climate patterns are causing warmer falls but pushing cold weather farther into the spring. Marten fur quality is still prime in mid-March. March typically has the best trail conditions for trapping. In recent years of deep snowfall, it has been difficult to access traplines in February.

There are no known conservation concerns for marten.

WP24-33

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Extend the fall hunting season for moose in Units 25B, 25C, and 25D Remainder until October 15.

Existing Federal Regulation:

Units 25B, 25C, and 25D remainder - Moose

Unit 25B—that portion within the Porcupine River drainage upstream from (but excluding) the Coleen River drainage—1 antlered bull Aug. 25 – Oct. 7
Dec. 1 – Dec. 10

Unit 25B—that portion within Yukon-Charley National Preserve—1 bull Aug. 20 - Oct. 7

Unit 25B—that portion, other than Yukon-Charley National Preserve, draining into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from (and including) the Kandik River drainage, including the islands in the Yukon River—1 antlered bull. Sept. 5 - Oct. 7
Dec. 1 - Dec. 15

Unit 25B remainder—1 antlered bull Aug. 25 - Oct. 7
Dec. 1 - Dec. 15

Unit 25C—1 antlered bull Aug. 20 - Sept. 30

Unit 25D remainder—1 antlered moose Aug. 25 - Oct. 1
Dec. 1 - Dec. 20

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Units 25B, 25C, and 25D remainder - Moose

Unit 25B—that portion within the Porcupine River drainage upstream from (but excluding) the Coleen River drainage—1 antlered bull Aug. 25 – Oct. 7 **15**
Dec. 1 – Dec. 10

Unit 25B—that portion within Yukon-Charley National Preserve—1 bull Aug. 20 - Oct. 7 **15**

Units 25B, 25C, and 25D remainder - Moose

Unit 25B—that portion, other than Yukon-Charley National Preserve, draining into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from (and including) the Kandik River drainage, including the islands in the Yukon River—1 antlered bull.

*Sept. 5 - Oct. 7 **15***
Dec. 1 - Dec. 15

Unit 25B remainder—1 antlered bull

*Aug. 25 - Oct. 7 **15***
Dec. 1 - Dec. 15

Unit 25C—1 antlered bull

*Aug. 20 – ~~Sept. 30~~ **Oct. 15***

Unit 25D remainder—1 antlered moose

*Aug. 25 - Oct. 7 **15***
Dec. 1 - Dec. 20

Why Should this regulation be changed?

This proposal would provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to hunt moose in portions of Unit 25 after the State of Alaska hunting season closes. These sub-units receive a great deal of harvest pressure, and the additional late fall season harvest opportunity would help decrease competition for this important subsistence resource.

Additionally, climate change is shifting weather patterns and it is not becoming cool until later in the fall. Hunting later in the fall during cooler weather reduces the chance for meat spoilage. It is colder during the end of September/October time frame which is more conducive to hanging and drying meat for those who don't have a freezer and continue to do it the traditional way.

WP24-34

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0006

Comment from Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Submitter Information

Email: brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov

Government Agency Type: Regional

Government Agency: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

General Comment

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council is submitting 3 proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations. Please see the attached files which contain the proposals.

Attachments

1. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_121920212425 Marten extend
2. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_25BCDremainder Moose extend
3. EIRAC_Federal Wildlife Proposal_25Dwest moose CT

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Recognize the customary and traditional use of moose in Unit 25D west by residents of Circle and Fort Yukon.

Existing Customary and Traditional Use Determination:

Units 25D west - Moose

Unit 25D west—Residents of Unit 25D west

Proposed Customary and Traditional Use Determination:

Units 25D west - Moose

*Unit 25D west—Residents of Unit 25D west, **Circle, and Fort Yukon***

Why Should this regulation be changed?

Residents of Circle and Fort Yukon have historically hunted for moose throughout the Yukon Flats including within the hunt area described as Unit 25D west. People from Circle and Fort Yukon have Native Allotments in the 25D(west) area. However, these two communities are currently excluded from the customary and traditional use determination because their communities lie outside the boundaries of Unit 25D west. Adopting this proposal would allow residents of Circle and Fort Yukon to be able to hunt on their traditional ancestral lands.

WP24-35

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0007

Comment from Pope, Amanda

Submitter Information

Name: Amanda Pope

Address:

Circle, AK, 99733

Email: Apope2009@outlook.com

Phone: 907-687-8360

General Comment

Please see the attached file that contains a proposal to change hunting regulations in Unit 25D for moose

Attachments

Pope - Unit_25D_west_moose_proposal

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent:

Amanda Pope
 P.O. Box 136
 Circle, AK 99733
 (907) 687 -8360
 Apope2009@outlook.com

Issue

Allow moose hunting in Unit 25D(west) by everyone with a customary and traditional use determination for moose in Unit 25D(west). This is a companion proposal to the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council’s proposal to recognize the customary and traditional uses of moose in Unit 25D(west) by residents of Circle and Fort Yukon.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 25D–Moose

Unit 25D (west), that portion lying west of a line extending from the Unit 25D boundary on Preacher Creek, then downstream along Preacher Creek, Birch Creek, and Lower Mouth of Birch Creek to the Yukon River, then downstream along the north bank of the Yukon River (including islands) to the confluence of the Hadweenzic River, then upstream along the west bank of the Hadweenzic River to the confluence of Forty and One-Half Mile Creek, then upstream along Forty and One-Half Mile Creek to Nelson Mountain on the Unit 25D boundary—1 bull by a Federal registration permit. Aug. 25-Feb. 28

Permits will be available in the following villages: Beaver (25 permits), Birch Creek (10 permits), and Stevens Village (25 permits). Permits for residents of 25D (west) who do not live in one of the three villages will be available by contacting the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Office in Fairbanks or a local Refuge Information Technician.

Moose hunting on public land in Unit 25D (west) is closed at all times except for residents of Unit 25D (west) hunting under these regulations. The moose season will be closed by announcement of the Refuge Manager Yukon Flats NWR when 60 moose have been harvested in the entirety (from Federal and non-Federal lands) of Unit 25D (west)

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 25D–Moose

Unit 25D (west), that portion lying west of a line extending from the Unit 25D boundary on Preacher Creek, then downstream along Preacher Creek, Birch Creek, and Lower Mouth of Birch Creek to the Yukon River, then downstream along the north bank of the Yukon River (including islands) to the confluence of the Hadweenzic River, then upstream along the west bank of the Hadweenzic River to the confluence of Forty and One-Half Mile Creek, then upstream along Forty and One-Half Mile Creek to Nelson Mountain on the Unit 25D boundary—1 bull by a Federal registration permit. Aug. 25-Feb. 28

*Permits will be available in the following villages: Beaver (25 permits), Birch Creek (10 permits), ~~and~~ Stevens Village (25 permits), **Circle (xx permits), and Fort Yukon (xx permits)**. Permits for residents **with a customary and traditional use determination for moose in ~~of~~ 25D (west)** who do not live in one of the ~~three~~ **five** villages will be available by contacting the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Office in Fairbanks or a local Refuge Information Technician.*

*Moose hunting on public land in Unit 25D (west) is closed at all times except for ~~residents of Unit 25D (west)~~ **Federally qualified subsistence users** hunting under these regulations. The moose season will be closed by announcement of the Refuge Manager Yukon Flats NWR when 60 moose have been harvested in the entirety (from Federal and non-Federal lands) of Unit 25D (west)*

Why should this regulation be changed?

Residents of Circle and Fort Yukon have historically hunted for moose throughout the Yukon Flats including within the hunt area described as Unit 25D(west). People from Circle and Fort Yukon have Native Allotments in the 25D(west) area. However, these two communities are currently excluded from the customary and traditional use determination because their communities lie outside the boundaries of Unit 25D west. A separate proposal has been submitted by the EIRAC seeking to recognize the customary and traditional uses of moose in Unit 25D west by residents of Circle and Fort Yukon. If the Board recognizes the customary and traditional use of moose by residents of Circle and Fort Yukon in Unit 25D west, residents of those communities would still not be able to hunt unless the regulatory language is further modified as suggested in this companion proposal. It was brought to the EIRAC’s attention after the Winter 2023 meeting that an additional proposal would need to be submitted to go along with the C&T proposal. I am submitting this companion proposal as an individual since the EIRAC cannot submit additional proposals that were not voted on at their meeting. Adopting these two proposals would allow residents of Circle and Fort Yukon to be able to hunt on their traditional ancestral lands.

WP24-36

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0017

Comment from North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Submitter Information

Email: jessica_gill@fws.gov

Government Agency Type: Regional

Government Agency: North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

General Comment

Proposals from North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Attachments

NSRAC Unit 25A proposal_March 2023

NSRAC Unit 23 proposal_March 2023

WILDLIFE PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Name: North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? The Council requests to rescind the customary and traditional use determination of sheep in Unit 25A for the residents of Kaktovik.

Existing Federal Regulation

Customary and Traditional Use Determination—Sheep

Unit 25A

Residents of Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik, and Venetie.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Customary and Traditional Use Determination—Sheep

Unit 25A

Residents of Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, ~~Kaktovik~~, and Venetie.

Why should this regulation be changed? The Council does not believe that the residents of Kaktovik have demonstrated customary and traditional use of sheep in Unit 25A and thinks that the customary and traditional use determination was a mistake. The Council member from Kaktovik noted that Unit 25A and the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area is over the Brooks Range and hunters from Kaktovik do not harvest in that area. Community members typically harvest sheep in Unit 26C in the Brooks Range.

WP24-37

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: April 13, 2023 Received: March 29, 2023 Status: Do_Not_Post Tracking No. Ifu-447r-dypk Comments Due: April 12, 2023 Submission Type: Web
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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001
Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-DRAFT-0009
Comment from DOI

Submitter Information

Email: Nathan_Hawkaluk@fws.gov
Government Agency Type: Federal
Government Agency: DOI

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

Unit 26C musk ox FSB Wildlife Proposal

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or e-mail address)

- Nathan Hawkaluk, 907-456-0549, Nathan_Hawkaluk@fws.gov

Your organization (if applicable)

- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Issue:

- Unit 26C muskox regulations. Specifically, remove the regulatory language stipulating the number of permits will not exceed 3% of the number of muskox counted in Unit 26C; change the season to “may-be-announced”; and delegate authority to the Arctic NWR manager to announce a season between Nov. 1-Mar. 31 and determine the number permits issued via delegation of authority letter only.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 26C–Muskox

Unit 26C—1 bull by Federal registration permit only. The number of permits that may be issued only to the residents of the village of Kaktovik will not exceed three percent (3%) of the number of musk oxen counted in Unit 26C during a pre-calving census. July 15-Mar. 31

Public lands are closed to the taking of musk ox, except by rural Alaska residents of the village of Kaktovik hunting under these regulations

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Unit 26C–Muskox

Unit 26C—1 bull by Federal registration permit only. ~~The number of permits that may be issued only to the residents of the village of Kaktovik will not exceed three percent (3%) of the number of musk oxen counted in Unit 26C during a pre-calving census.~~ July 15-Mar. 31

May be announced between Nov. 1-Mar. 31

Public lands are closed to the taking of musk ox, except by rural Alaska residents of the village of Kaktovik hunting under these regulations

The Arctic NWR manager may announce season dates between November 1 and March 31 and the number of permits issued annually via delegation of authority letter.

An explanation of why this regulation change should be made:

- Musk oxen populations in the Central North Slope are now abundant enough to allow harvest through state regulations in Unit 26B. Some of the musk oxen in the eastern portion of 26B spend time in both 26B on state lands and 26C on Federal lands on either side of the Canning River. Since the adjacent state lands and hunt unit are allowing a musk ox hunt and some portion of those animals periodically occupy neighboring Federal land (Arctic NWR) then it would be desirable to provide subsistence opportunities to Federally qualified users in Kaktovik for one bull musk ox harvest on Federal lands in 26C. The population in this unit is historically low, but stable. However, animals frequently use and occupy of the Canning River drainage on the far western side of the unit. A harvest of a single bull annually would not imperil conservation of the herd, would be minimally additive to the overall harvest afforded by the State of Alaska open seasons in 26B, and would provide additional subsistence harvest opportunity.

Any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change:

- Due to low abundance of musk oxen on Arctic Refuge lands, and the low priority conservation status as a refuge value, biologists do not annually survey the musk ox population. Given the low priority of dedicated, annual surveys for musk ox, the Refuge supports removing the requirement of achieving a specific population threshold within Unit 26C before allowing the opening of a limited musk ox hunt opportunity.

WP24-38

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2024–25 and 2025–26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0001

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands: Alaska; Taking of Wildlife

Document: FWS-R7-SM-2022-0105-0011

Comment from North Slope Advisory Committee

Submitter Information

Email: Brian.Person@north-slope.org

Government Agency Type: Local

Government Agency: North Slope Advisory Committee

General Comment

See attached file(s)

I am uploading this on behalf of the North Slope Advisory Committee

Attachments

Federal Wildlife Proposal- muskox 26C

Federal Wildlife Proposal- Muskox harvest in GMU 26C

Contact Information: Lucy Leavitt or Brian Person, 907-852-0350, Lucy.Leavitt@north-slope.org, Brian.Person@north-slope.org

Organization: North Slope Advisory Committee

Issue: Unit 26C muskox regulations

Remove the regulatory language stipulating the number of permits will not exceed 3% of the number of muskox counted in GMU 26C; change the season to “may-be-announced”, and delegate authority to the Arctic NWS manager to announce a season between November 1 - March 31 and delegate the number of permits issues via delegation of authority letter only.

Current Federal Regulation:**Unit 26C- Muskox**

Unit 26C- 1 bull by federal registration permit only. The number of permits July 15- March 31 that may be issued only to the residents of the village of Kaktovik will not exceed three percent (3%) of the number of musk oxen counted in Unit 26C during a pre-calving census.

Public lands are closed to the taking of musk ox, except by rural Alaska residents of the village of Kaktovik hunting under these regulations.

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Unit 26C- Muskox (Strike-out is language to be deleted, and **bold** language is proposed)

Unit 26C- 1 ~~bull muskox~~ **muskox** by Federal registration permit only. ~~The number of permits July 15- March 31 that may be issued only to the residents of the village of Kaktovik will not exceed three percent (3%) of the number of musk oxen counted in Unit 26C during a pre-calving census.~~ **may be announced Arctic NWS manager between July 15 – March 31.**

Public lands are closed to the taking of musk ox, except by rural Alaska residents of the village of Kaktovik hunting under these regulations. **The Arctic NWS manager may announce season dates between July 15-March 31 and the number of permits issues annually via delegation of authority letter.**

Rationale for proposed regulation change:

The population of musk ox in the Western and Central Arctic coastal plain have increased and remained stable enough to allow a hunt in these regions through State regulations. A portion of the musk ox population in GMU 26B at times occupies the region in 26C on Federal lands either side of the Canning River. Because the adjacent State lands and GMU allow for a limited musk ox hunt and some of those animals occupy neighboring Federal land (Arctic NWS) it would be desirable to provide a subsistence opportunity to Federally qualified users of Kaktovik for the

harvest of one musk ox on Federal lands in GMU 26C. This population of musk ox is low but stable and the potential harvest of one musk ox would not represent a conservation concern and would unlikely be considered additive mortality to this herd given the harvest allowed on State lands in in 26B. This would allow federally qualified residents of Kaktovik an opportunity to provide this nutritional resource to the community of Kaktovik. Because the Arctic NWR does not conduct an annual population census of musk ox in refuge lands, management of this population can not be based on annual pre-calving surveys and a specific population threshold, allowing a limited hunt for the residents of Kaktovik is appropriate.

DRAFT



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Subsistence Management
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