

Federal Wildlife Proposal

Proponent

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Issue

1. Recognize the customary and traditional use of muskoxen in Unit 22A by residents of Saint Michael, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, and Unalakleet.
2. Establish a Federal muskox hunt in Unit 22A to mirror the State hunt.

Current Federal regulation:

Customary and Traditional Use Determination—Muskox

Unit 22A

All rural residents.

Unit 22A- Muskox

Unit 22, remainder

No open season.

Proposed Federal regulation:

Customary and Traditional Use Determination—Muskox

Unit 22A

Residents of Saint Michael, Shaktoolik, Stebbins,, and Unalakleet, All rural residents.

Unit 22A- Muskox

Unit 22A – One bull by Federal drawing permit or State permit.

Aug 1- Mar 15

Unit 22, remainder

No open season.

Justification

The Alaska Board of Game established a muskox hunt in Unit 22A as the Seward Peninsula muskox herd has expanded into that area. This proposal would align Federal and State regulations, reducing regulatory complexity and the potential for confusion; provide additional subsistence harvest opportunity; and prevent Federal regulations from being more restrictive than State regulations. The Council stated that Unit 22A is the traditional use area for the communities of Saint Michael, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, and Unalakleet.