

## **2025 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Unit 26A Update**

### **Teshekpuk Caribou Herd:**

#### **1) Population Estimate:**

- Photocensus Estimate (2022): 61,600
- Teshekpuk caribou were photographed in July 2025 results will be shared at the next meeting.

#### **2) Spring Short Yearling Surveys**

- Observed 3,630 caribou 20% were short yearlings (April 2024)
- No spring short yearling surveys were conducted due to the muskox survey
- 10-year average 15% Average

#### **3) Summer Calving Surveys:**

- 60% pregnant (females ages 3 or older June 2025)
- 10-year average 68%

#### **4) Adult Female Mortality:**

- (2024-2025): 16% mortality
- 14.7% 10-year average

#### **5) Caribou Health Assessment:**

An in-depth research project began in 2022 and continues each summer for three years to look more closely at Teshekpuk caribou health including measurements of body condition, internal and external parasites, trace minerals, stress-related hormones, and a wide range of possible diseases.

#### **6) Western 26A Muskoxen:**

- There was a minimum count of 572 muskoxen observed in Units 23 and 26A. Last survey minimum count was 620 (2020).

**7) Colville Moose:** The most recent minimum count survey was conducted in 2021, and the minimum count was 427 moose and 20% of those were short yearlings with 18 sets of twins (4.2%). The moose population is relatively stable at low numbers. The next Colville wide drainage survey will be in spring of 2026.