

DRAFT STAFF ANALYSIS WP26-01J – NORTH SLOPE

Introduction

Please see the WP26-01 master analysis for the Issues, Proponent Statement, Regulatory History, and Discussion and Effects sections.

Proposed Federal Regulations – North Slope

Moose

Unit 26—Moose

Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit May be announced by residents of Kaktovik only.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under these regulations

The Arctic NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Arctic Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to set or adjust annual harvest quotas, set any needed sex restrictions, determine the number of permits issued, and set season dates.

Muskox

Unit 26—Muskox

Unit 26A, that portion west of the eastern shore of Admiralty Bay where the Alaktak River enters, following the Alaktak River to 155°00' W longitude south to the Unit 26A border—1 muskox by Federal drawing permit Aug. 1-Mar. 15

The BLM Arctic District Office manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to close the season, and determine annual harvest quotas, the number of permits issued, and the method of permit allocation between State and Federal permits.

Unit 26C—1 muskox by Federal registration permit only

*May be
announced
between
July 15-Mar. 31*

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

The Arctic NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to announce season dates, determine the number of permits issued annually, and set sex restrictions.

Sheep

Note: The DAL for sheep in Unit 26A specifies setting harvest limits. However, as the harvest limit for the Unit 26A sheep hunt is “one sheep”, OSM clarified this authority includes setting sex and horn-curl restrictions.

Also, the Unit 26A sheep DAL only specifies coordination with BLM. OSM clarified coordination should be with the BLM Arctic Field Office. The Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR) superintendent has delegated authority for sheep in Unit 26A because the Units 23 and 26A sheep hunts were combined in one DAL as the sheep populations cross unit boundaries. OSM retained the WEAR superintendent as the Federal in-season manager for sheep in Unit 26A to maintain consistency in sheep population management.

Unit 26A—Sheep

Unit 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains)—1 sheep by Federal registration permit

*Season may be
announced.*

The Western Arctic National Parklands superintendent after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, BLM Arctic Field Office, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to set season dates and set or adjust annual harvest quotas and harvest limits, including sex and horn-curl restrictions.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Support Proposal WP26-01j.

Justification

See the WP26-01 master analysis.