



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Meeting Advisory



Forest Service

For Immediate Release
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Public Meeting Announced for Federal Subsistence Temporary Special Action Requests for Caribou and Sheep in Northwest Arctic

A public meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m.; May 28, 2015, at the Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers in Kotzebue, to discuss temporary wildlife special action requests (WSA) received by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board). Temporary wildlife special action 15-03, WSA15-04, WSA15-05 and WSA15-06, submitted by the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, ask the Board, in summary, to recent parallel changes made to State regulations by the Board of Game. The requests were made in an attempt to reverse or slow the decline in both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds in Unit 26 and portions of Unit 23 around Point Hope. Both caribou herds have experienced a population decline of approximately 50 percent over the last decade. The four temporary special action requests, if adopted by the Board, would change the caribou harvest regulations for the 2015-2016 regulatory year and would take effect on July 1, 2015.

In addition to the caribou Special Action requests, the Board also received temporary wildlife special action 15-07, requesting, in summary, to close the Federal subsistence sheep hunts in Unit 23, except on that portion of land within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, and in Unit 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River. This temporary special action request was submitted by the National Park Service and is intended to address the continued conservation concerns on Federal public lands for the 2015-2016 regulatory year. If adopted by the Board, the regulatory change would take effect on July 1, 2015. Any additional special action requests received by the Board after the date of this release will also be addressed at the meeting.

Public Meeting information is below:

Kotzebue

6 p.m.; May 28, 2015
Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers
Teleconference: 877-638-8165
Passcode: 9060609

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to the Office of Subsistence Management by calling (800) 478-1456, by emailing subsistence@fws.gov, or (800)-877-8339 (TTY), seven business days prior to the meeting.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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