

Federal Subsistence 2014–2016 Wildlife Proposals



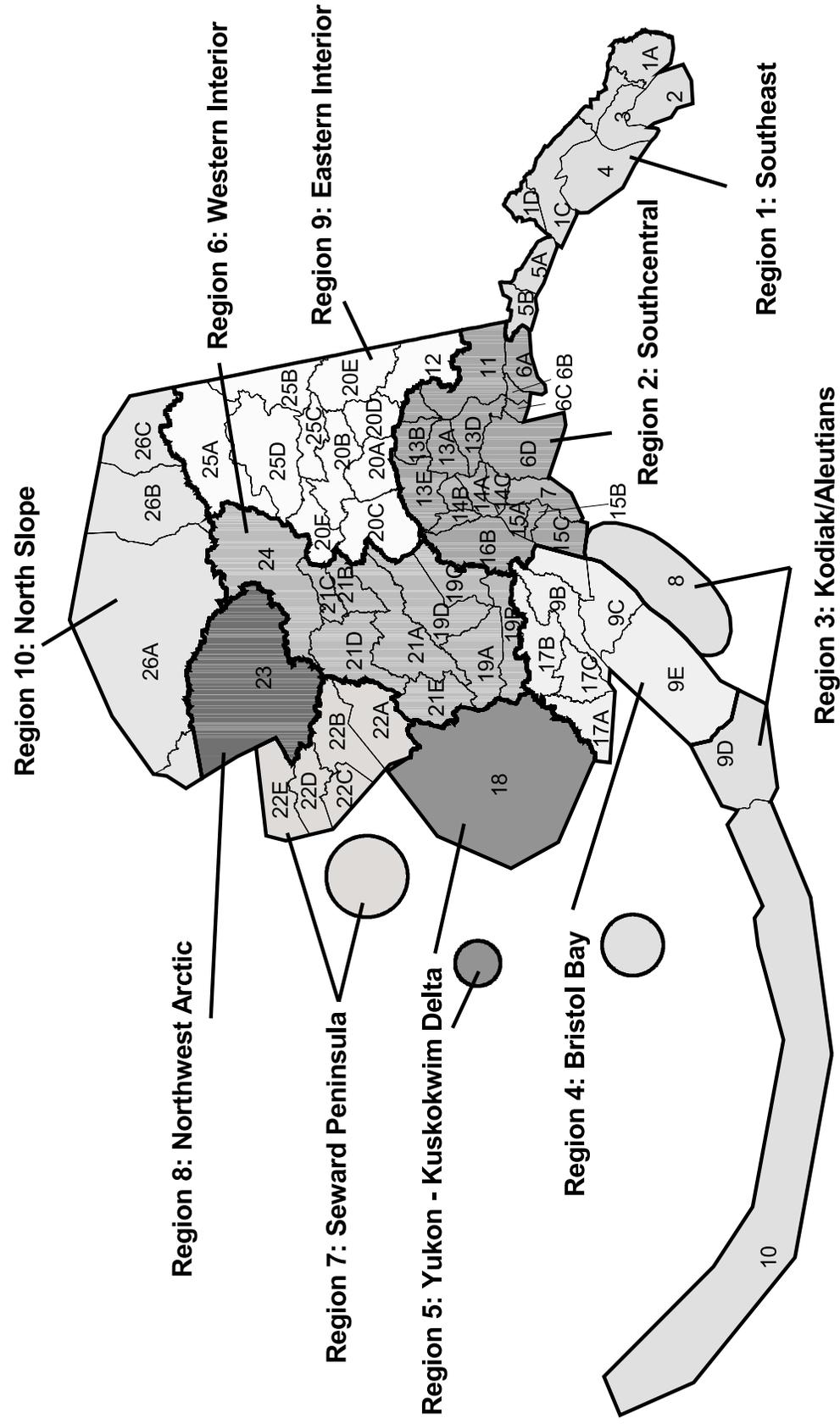
Ryan Hagerly/USFWS

Comment period open through July 12, 2013

Send your written comments on the enclosed proposals to:

Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
E-mail: subsistence@fws.gov
Fax: 907-786-3898 (attn: Theo Matuskowitz)

Federal Subsistence Resource Regions and Units



INTRODUCTION

The Federal Subsistence Board invites your comments on the enclosed proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife hunting and trapping regulations for the 2014–2016 regulatory years (July 1, 2014 to June 31, 2016). These proposals seek changes to existing Federal subsistence regulations for the taking of wildlife on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska.

You may mail your comments to the Federal Subsistence Board at the address shown on the front cover of this book, fax them to (907) 786-3898, or E-mail them to subsistence@fws.gov. Please refer to a specific proposal number in your comments. All comments received by July 12, 2013 will be included in the meeting materials for the appropriate Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to discuss at their fall meetings. Comments received after the fall Regional Council meetings will be submitted to the Board at its spring meeting.

Before making decisions on these proposals, the Board considers technical analyses prepared by its staff, recommendations from the 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, and any written public comments and oral testimony it receives on the proposals. Be advised, the Board may consider and act on alternatives that address the intent of a proposal while differing in approach. Once the Board makes its decisions, it will publish the changes as final regulations for the 2014–2016 regulatory years, effective July 1, 2014, and distribute the regulation book throughout Alaska.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3888 or visit the website <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.cfm>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Federal Subsistence Board

The Federal Subsistence Board oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Board members include the Alaska directors of five Federal agencies: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Forest Service. The Chair is a representative of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. Two additional public members are appointed by the Secretaries to represent rural subsistence users.

Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, State of Alaska representatives, and the general public play an active role in the regulatory process. You can find information about the Federal Subsistence Board on the Subsistence website at: <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.cfm> or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3888.

Regional Advisory Councils

The Federal Subsistence Management Program divides Alaska into ten subsistence resource regions, each represented by a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. These ten Councils provide an opportunity for Alaskans to contribute in a meaningful way to the management of subsistence resources. Resource users have the opportunity to comment and offer input on subsistence issues at Council meetings. Councils meet a least twice a year. The Councils develop proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations and review and make recommendations on proposals submitted by others.

Council membership

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture appoint Council members. Members must reside in the area they wish to represent and have knowledge of subsistence uses and needs. Each year the Office of Subsistence Management accepts applications and nominations for membership during August–February. If you are interested in applying for membership, please contact Carl Johnson or the Council Coordinator for your region.

Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Coordinators

Council coordinators facilitate communication between the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board. Each coordinator is responsible for one or two regions and serves as a contact for the Councils, Federal agency staff, and the public. Contact a coordinator for more information on the activities of each Council.

Southeast Region

Robert Larson
PETERSBURG
(907) 772-5930
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Bristol Bay and Southcentral Regions

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carl_johnson@fws.gov

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula Regions

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Western Interior and Northwest Arctic Regions

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Eastern Interior and North Slope Regions

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or (907) 786-3358
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For information on Regional Advisory Council membership, contact:

Carl Johnson
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3676
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carl_johnson@fws.gov

Proposal Number and Proponent	Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
Statewide				
WP14-01	All	Furbearers	Require trap marking, establish a time limit for trap/snare checks, and require harvest reports.	5
WP14-02	All	Black Bear	Align federal regulations with less restrictive state regulations for use of black bear parts.	6
Southeast				
WP14-03	SE	Deer	Eliminate the taking of female deer.	7
WP14-04	SE	Deer	Establish an elder/disability season.	9
WP14-05	SE	Deer	Establish a hunt in a newly defined portion of Unit 3. Reduce season and harvest limit within the Lindenberg Peninsula portion of Unit 3.	11
Southcentral				
WP14-06	SC, SE	Goat	Revise harvest quotas in subareas of Unit 6D.	12
WP 14-07	SC	Moose	Revise customary and traditional use determination.	13
WP 14-08	SC	Caribou	Revise customary and traditional use determination.	16
WP14-09	SC	Black Bear	Revise baiting restrictions and extend the season in Unit 6.	19
WP14-10	SC	Moose	Include residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek in the customary and traditional use determination.	21
WP14-11	SC	Moose	Establish a season for community harvest in the portion of Unit 7 draining into Kings Bay.	22
WP14-12	SC	Deer	Revise the cultural/educational permit for the annual Old Chenega Memorial.	24
WP14-13	SC	Moose	Require antler destruction.	25
WP14-14	SC, EI	Goat	Revise customary and traditional use determination.	27
WP14-15	SC, EI	Caribou	Revise the list of eligible residents exempt from the closure.	29
WP14-16	SC, EI	Moose	Establish a hunt in a newly defined portion of Unit 11.	32
WP14-17	SC	Moose	Open the Resurrection Creek Closed Area.	35

Proposal Number and Proponent	Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
Southcentral (Continued)				
WP14-18	SC	Moose	Revise the issuing of permits and close public lands to nonsubsistence users.	38
WP14-19	SC	Moose	Establish a cow-only hunt.	40
Kodiak/Aleutians				
WP14-20	KA	Brown Bear	Increase the number of permits to be issued to communities.	42
Bristol Bay				
WP14-21	BB	Moose	Revise harvest limit restrictions and extend season.	44
WP14-22	BB, YKD, WI	Caribou	Require State registration permits.	46
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta				
WP14-23	YKD, SP, WI	Moose	Lengthen the season and remove bulls-only restriction.	49
WP14-24	YKD, SP, WI	Moose	Revise the hunt area descriptor.	51
WP14-25	YKD, SP, WI	Moose	Revise the hunt area descriptor.	53
WP14-26	YKD, WI	Caribou	Require a permit, revise season dates, and grant closure authority to the refuge manager.	56
WP14-27	YKD, WI	Moose	Establish a new fall season.	58
WP14-28	YKD, WI	Moose	Extend the season dates and revise the harvest limit.	59
Western Interior				
WP14-29	WI	Moose	Remove expiration date from winter bull moose hunt (permit FM2402).	60
WP14-30	WI	Sheep	Revise horn size restrictions.	62
WP14-31	WI, YK	Moose	Establish a community winter hunt for residents of Nikolai.	64
WP14-32	WI, YK	Moose	Redefine the descriptor of the Paradise Controlled Use Area.	65

Proposal Number and Proponent	Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
Seward Peninsula				
WP14-33	SP	Muskox	Revise harvest limit and clarify permit requirements.	68
WP14-34	SP	Muskox	Revise harvest limit and clarify permit requirements.	70
WP14-35	SP	Muskox	Revise permit requirements and land manager, limit the number of permits issued.	72
WP14-36	SP	Muskox	Revise harvest limit and clarify permit requirements.	75
WP14-37	SP	Muskox	Revise harvest limit and clarify permit requirements.	77
WP14-38	SP	Muskox	Revise permit requirements, land manager, and limit the number of permits issued.	79
WP14-39	SP	Muskox	Revise permit requirements, land manager, and limit the number of permits issued.	83
Northwest Arctic				
WP14-40	NWA, EI	Brown Bear	Rescind the requirement for a state registration permit.	87
WP14-41	NWA	Muskox	Revise harvest limit, season dates, and clarify permit requirements.	89
Eastern Interior				
WP14-42	EI	Sheep	Establish a Federal subsistence priority and recognize the customary and traditional use of sheep for residents of Units 20E, 25B, and 25C.	91
WP14-43	EI	Sheep	Establish a harvest limit and season for Units 20E, and 25B, 25C, 25D.	93
WP14-44	EI	Moose	Extend the fall season.	94
WP14-45	EI, SC	Caribou	Revise the closure restrictions.	95
WP14-46	EI	Caribou	Revise customary and traditional use determination.	97
WP14-47	EI	Caribou	Revise customary and traditional use determination.	99
WP14-48	EI	Moose	Revise harvest limit; require a Federal permit; close Federal lands to non-Federally qualified users.	101
WP14-49	EI, SC	Caribou	Revise season dates for fall season and establish a winter season.	106

Proposal Number and Proponent	Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
Eastern Interior (Continued)				
WP14-50	EI	Brown Bear	Allow the use of bait.	108
WP14-51	EI, NS	Sheep	Rescind closure in portions of Actic Village Sheep Management Area.	110
North Slope				
WP14-52	NS	Brown Bear	Rescind the requirement to have a State registration permit.	112
WP14-53	NS	Moose	Revise the area descriptor.	114
WP14-54	NS	Moose	Increase the quota and lengthen the season.	116
WP14-55	NS	Moose	Rescind the closure.	118

The proposals are published as submitted by the proponents and vary in format.

WP14-01

2014-2016 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Hunting and Trapping Proposal

(Attach additional pages as needed).

Name: KEVIN BOPP
Organization:
Address: POBOX 1356
Nome, AK. 99762
Phone: 907-443-6699 Fax:
E-mail: antlerskev@gmail.com

Submit proposals by March 29, 2013
Questions?
Call: (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888
E-mail: subsistence@fws.gov
Information on submitting proposals is also available on the Office of Subsistence Management website: http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/public.cfm

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest season
Harvest limit
Method and means of harvest
Customary and traditional use determination

- 1 What regulation do you wish to change? I recommend state wide Trapper Identification tags on all traps + snares and a time limit on how often traps + snares should be checked.
2 How should the new regulation read? ALL traps + snares must have metal tag attached to the trap chain or cable as it was made when bought, with trappers name and trapping licence number.
3 Why should this regulation change be made? For the furs to be in good condition so the fur animal does not remain in the trap or snare too long.
4 What impact will this change have on wildlife populations? better chance of live release for non target species.
5 How will this change affect subsistence uses? Not at all
6 How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? I would probably stop some trappers from setting traps + snares close to peoples homes and high public use areas

WP14-02

Name: US Fish and Wildlife Service; Office of Subsistence Management

Date: March 29, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Address: 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Pippa Kenner

Phone: 907-786-3883

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Simplify the federal regulations concerning the use of black bear and their parts to make them consistent with state regulations, especially concerning the sale of handicrafts. Currently, federal regulations are more strict. This is an attempt to make things easier for federal subsistence users

2: How would the new regulation read?

The sell of a handicraft incorporating any part of a black bear is allowed.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

This is an attempt to make things easier for federal subsistence users

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This is an attempt to make things easier for federal subsistence users

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No affect.

WP14-03

Area**WMU 1-5****1. Contact information**

Ronald Leighton

Address: PO Box KXA, Kasaan, AK 99950-0340

Phone: 907 617 2089

Fax: None

E-mail: akdilligas@starband.net

2. The regulation you wish to change, including management area and species.**Existing regulation:**

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Region WMU 1-5

Deer:

5 deer; however, no more than one may be a female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15 – Dec. 31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns July 24 – Dec. 31. The Federal public lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the southeastern portion (lands south of the West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound draining into Cholmondeley Sound or draining eastward into Clarence Strait), are closed to hunting of deer from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

3. Proposed regulation:

Eliminate the female deer hunt on Prince of Wales! The first portion will then read 5 male deer; may be taken July 24 – Dec. 31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns.

4. Why the regulation change should be made.

Under the current regulation, a family of 8 can legally take 8 female deer. This has and will continue to put a hardship on all subsistence users, as the deer populations decline. We in Kasaan area are currently experiencing difficulty in getting our Customary and Traditional harvest levels of deer. Another area is that the state tags that are used don't have designated doe tags!

5. The impact of the change on deer population.

There will be no impacts, only enhancements of deer populations.

6. The effect on subsistence uses.

None, the deer harvester will get the same amount of deer!

7. The effect on other users, such as sport/recreational and commercial.

None

WP14-04**Area**

WMU1-5

1. Contact information

Ronald Leighton

Address: PO Box KXA, Kasaan AK 99950-0340

Phone: 907-617-2089

Fax: None

E-mail: akdilligas@starband.net**2. The regulation you wish to change, including management area and species.****Existing regulation:**

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Region WMU1-5

Deer:

5 deer; however, no more than one may be a female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15-Dec. 31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns July 24-Dec. 31.

The Federal public lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the southeastern portion (lands south of the West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound draining into Cholmondeley Sound or draining eastward into Clarence Strait), are closed to hunting of deer from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulation

3. Proposed regulation:

Persons 60 years or older or with disabilities that limit their physical ability and said ability recognized by a doctor, government disability compensation boards, disabled Veterans will be allowed to start their hunt for deer starting June 15 and ending November 30

4. Why the regulation change should be made.

This proposal will enable persons 60 years or older and persons with debilitating disabilities to hunt early. This will give them a chance to obtain their customary and traditional levels of deer without the competition of young and disability free hunters. The deer are also not as spooked and can be found at much lower elevation's and or on beaches. The elder or disabled, will feel much personal worth if they can provide their own family food!

5. The impact of the change on deer populations.

There should not be any change as the hunt will only enable the person a better chance to get their own venison rather than someone proxy hunting for them.

6. The effect on subsistence uses.

This proposal will allow a more fair opportunity to gather subsistence deer for a disadvantaged group of gathers of subsistence foods!

7. The effect on other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial.

No effect is anticipated.

WP14-05

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
 Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833
 Phone: 907-772-5930 Fax: 907-772-5995
 Email: robertlarson@fs.fed.us

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- X Harvest season Method and means of harvest
 X Harvest limit Customary and traditional use determination

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

This proposal would amend the harvest season and harvest limit for deer within the Lindenberg Peninsula portion of Unit 3 (Kupreanof Island, east of the Portage Bay – Duncan Canal Portage). The season would be reduced from the current 4 month season (Aug. 1 – Nov. 30) to a 2-week season (Oct. 15 – Oct. 31), and the harvest limit reduced from 2 bucks to 1 buck in this area.

2. How should the new regulation read?

Substitute language for §.26 (n) (3). Unit 3 Deer:

Unit 3—Mitkof, Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands—1 antlered deer Oct. 15–31.

Unit 3—Kupreanof Island, that portion east of the Portage Bay-Duncan Canal Portage—1 antlered deer Oct. 15–31.

Unit 3—remainder—2 antlered deer Aug. 1–Nov. 30.

Dec. 1–31, season to be announced.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The combined effects of habitat loss, three consecutive deep snow winters (2006/2007, 2007/2008, and 2008/2009) and predation by wolves and black bears has reduced the deer population on the Lindenberg Peninsula to low levels. Hunters have excellent access to the interior as well as beach front portions of the area. There are currently 73.4 miles of existing road on the southern Lindenberg Peninsula (Tonka Road System), and the proposed timber harvest plan will add 1.7 miles of new USFS road and 7.6 miles of temporary road.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The reduced season and harvest limit is necessary to allow the currently critically low deer population to rebuild after reductions due to winter mortality, habitat loss, predation, and hunting mortality.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This change would reduce subsistence opportunity.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

There would be no effect on other users because the State Board of Game enacted similar restrictions in January 2013.

WP14-06

Name: Milo Burcham
Organization: U.S. Forest Service, Cordova Ranger District
Address: P.O. Box 280, Cordova, AK 99574
Phone: 907-424-4759
Fax: 907-424-7214
E-mail: mburcham@fs.fed.us

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest season Method and means of harvest
 Harvest limit Customary and traditional use determination

1 What regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 6D (sub areas RG242, RG243, RG244, RG249, RG252, RG266) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit.

In each of the Unit 6D subareas, goat seasons will be closed when harvest limits for that subarea are reached. Harvest quotas are as follows: RG242 – 2 goats, RG243 – 4 goats, RG244 – 2 goats, RG249 – 4 goats, RG252 – 1 goats, RG266 – 4 goats,

2 How should the new regulation read?

Unit 6D (sub areas RG242, RG243, ~~RG244~~ **RG245**, RG249, RG252, RG266) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit.

In each of the Unit 6D subareas, goat seasons will be closed when harvest limits for that subarea are reached. Harvest quotas are as follows: RG242 – 2 goats, RG243 – 4 goats, ~~RG244 – 2 goats~~ **RG245 – 2 goats**, RG249 – 4 goats, RG252 – 1 goats, RG266 – 4 goats,

3 Why should this regulation change be made? Most of mountain goat unit RG244 consists of non-federal land. In fact, most of the mountain goat habitat in RG244, except the north aspect of a ridge on the south side of Jack Bay, is non-federal land, therefore, not legal for federal subsistence hunters.

4 What impact will this change have on wildlife populations? This proposal would not change the number of mountain goats harvested. It would remove the temptation to hunt a unit which is largely illegal for federal subsistence hunters to hunt mountain goats

5 How will this change affect subsistence uses? It would point federally qualified mountain goat hunters to a unit where there is more mountain goat habitat which falls on federal public land

6 How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? None

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7 Which communities have used this resource?

8 Where has this resource been harvested? Indicate specific areas if possible.

9 In what months has this resource been harvested?

WP14-07

Federal Subsistence Board
 Office of Subsistence Management
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121
 Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

To change regulations during the two-year regulatory cycle, submit a request to change the regulations by providing the following information:

- Name: Robert Gibson
- Organization
- Address P.O. Box 650, Cooper Landing, AK 99572
- Phone 907-598-2000
- Fax
- E-mail ananuuk@hotmail.com

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species.

Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state "new regulation.")

Existing Regulation for Unit 15

MOOSE		
Units 15A and 15B—Rural residents of Cooper Landing, Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, and Seldovia	Unit 15A Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area	No Federal open season
Unit 15C— Rural residents of Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, and Seldovia	Units 15A remainder, 15B, and 15C—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit <u>(FM1505)</u> only.	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
<i>Federal permits are available from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge office in Soldotna, or the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge office in Homer. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i>	Units 15B and 15C—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit <u>(FM1505)</u> only. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the Oct./ Nov. season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.	Oct. 20–Nov. 10

2. How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)

The regulation change being requested is to ADD the rural community Cooper Landing to the moose hunt in Unit 15C

MOOSE		
Units 15A and 15B—Rural residents of Cooper Landing, Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, and Seldovia	Unit 15A Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area	No Federal open season
Unit 15C— Rural residents of Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, Seldovia, and Cooper Landing	Units 15A remainder, 15B, and 15C—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit <u>(FM1505)</u> only.	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
<i>Federal permits are available from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge office in Soldotna, or the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge office in Homer. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i>	Units 15B and 15C—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit <u>(FM1505)</u> only. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the Oct./ Nov. season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.	Oct. 20–Nov. 10

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

To be consistent with the Customary and Traditional Use Determination for the rural community of Cooper Landing for the moose hunt in Unit 15C.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

No negative impact will occur with the wildlife population.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will provide more opportunity for subsistence users to harvest moose for subsistence purposes within the rural community of Copper Landing.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

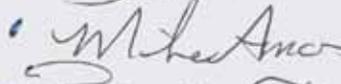
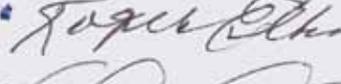
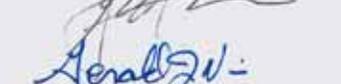
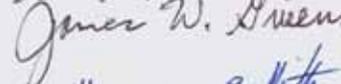
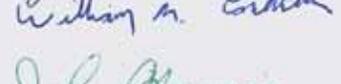
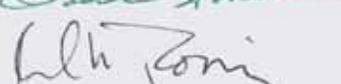
Other user groups will not be affected by this regulation change.

Theo Matuskowitz

page 3

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

The following signatures signify support for this proposal within the rural community of Cooper Landing

-  Daniel Osborn Box 891 Cooper Landing 99572
-  Mike Amos Box 652 Cooper Landing 99572
-  Robert Elkins PO 597 CL. "
-  Aaron Duchene Box 717 C.L. "
-  WAYNE KOEHLER BOX 537 CL
-  Bryan Fuller Box 566 CL
-  GEORGE HEIM Box 725 COOPER LANDING 99572
-  GERALD J NEIS Po Box 595 Cooper Landing 99572
-  John Pearson Po Box 560 Cooper Landing 99572
-  Ed Hobster PO BOX 710 " 99572
-  William Shuter PO Box 683 " 99572
-  Lisa Sweeney PO 647 99572
-  Alex Kime PO 648 99572
-  JAMES W. STEVENS Box 838 99572
-  William M. Coull. etc Box 632 99572
-  John Harris Box 513 99572
-  Todd Duvall PO BOX 788 99572
-  KARL W. J. Romig Po Box 762 CL 99572

WP14-08

Federal Subsistence Board
 Office of Subsistence Management
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121
 Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

To change regulations during the two-year regulatory cycle, submit a request to change the regulations by providing the following information:

- Name: Robert Gibson
- Organization
- Address P.O. Box 650, Cooper Landing, AK 99572
- Phone 907-598-2000
- Fax
- E-mail ananuuk@hotmail.com

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species.

Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)

Existing Regulation for Unit 7

CARIBOU		
Unit 7—Rural residents of Hope	Unit 7—north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway—1 caribou by Federal registration permit (<u>FC0702</u>) only. The Seward Ranger District will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 10–Dec. 31
Unit 7 remainder		No Federal open season

Theo Matuskowitz

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2. How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)

The regulation change being requested is to ADD the rural community Cooper Landing to the caribou hunt in Unit 7

CARIBOU		
Unit 7—Rural residents of Hope and Cooper Landing	Unit 7—north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway—1 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC0702) only. The Seward Ranger District will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 10–Dec. 31
Unit 7 remainder		No Federal open season

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Both rural communities of Hope and Cooper Landing have Customary & Traditional Use Determination for the moose hunt in Unit 7 remainder so we ask that Cooper Landing be granted this for the caribou hunt as well.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Without a change to the present harvest limit there should be no negative impact to the caribou herd population.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will provide more opportunity for subsistence users to harvest caribou for subsistence purposes within the rural community of Cooper Landing.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Other user groups will not be affected by this regulation change since at the time of the hunt August 10 - December 31 the area is extremely difficult to access. The area is in a limited motorized use area of the Chugach National Forest, but not limited to subsistence uses.

Theo Matuskowitz

page 3

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

State Regulations under a draw permit allows harvest of caribou for 2011 250 permits were issued, 93 of these permits hunted and 26 caribou were harvested. The reason for this proposal is to give opportunity to harvest under Federal Subsistence hunt.

Karl W.J. Ramis PO Box 762 Cooper Landing 99572
The following signatures signify support for this proposal within the rural community of Cooper Landing

- D. Oslorn Daniel Oslorn Box 891 Cooper Landing 99572
- Mike Amos Mike Amos Box 652 Cooper Landing 99572
- Robert Kerkine Robert Kerkine PO 597 C.L. ""
- Bryon Fuller Bryon Fuller P.O. Box 566 C.L. 99572
- Paron Duchene Paron Duchene Box 717 C.L. ""
- Wayne Koehler Wayne Koehler Box 537 C.L.
- George Herd GEORGE HERD PO BOX 725 COOPER LANDING 99572
- Gerald J Neis GERALD J NEIS PO BOX 595 COOPER LANDING 99572
- John Pearson John Pearson PO Box 568 Cooper Landing 99572
- Ed Hobsten Ed Hobsten PO BOX 790 CL 99572
- William Shuster William Shuster PO 693 CL 99572
- Lisa Sweeney Lisa Sweeney PO 647 CL 99572
- Alex Kime Alex Kime Box 857 C.L. 99572
- JAMES W. BEVENS JAMES W. BEVENS BOX 838 C.L. 99572
- William M. Coulliette William M Coulliette Box 632 C.L. 99572
- John Harris John Harris Box 513 C.L. 99572
- TRAD DUMMUS TRAD DUMMUS PO BOX 788 CL 99572

WP14-09

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization:

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Phone: 907-573-5092

Fax: 907-573-5092

E-mail: mclaughlinandy@yahoo.com

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest season | <input type="checkbox"/> Method and means of harvest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest limit | <input type="checkbox"/> Customary and traditional use determination |

1. **What regulation do you wish to change?** Federal Subsistence Black Bear Season unit 6 on Federal public lands: Special Provisions for Unit 6 states Bait may only be used to hunt black bear between April 15 – June 15.

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

Special provisions for Unit 6 : Bait may be used to hunt black bears between April 15 - June 30.

3. **Why should this regulation change be made?** In the past (early 90s), we used to be able to hunt and bait black bears until June 30th. In unit 6 most subsistence black bears were harvested under state sport hunting regulations that ended June 30th. After the opening of the Whittier Tunnel, due to conservation concerns, the state shortened the unit 6 black bear season to end on June 10th which coincided the baiting season to end on that date as well. This consequently made it less likely for our resident hunters to get their bear on years with heavy snowfall and a late spring. Increased hunting pressure did occur with an influx of many hunters from the road system consequently putting more effort and hunting pressure primarily into NW PWS. The shortened state season consequently made less bears harvestable for the PWS residents in 6D due to decreased baiting opportunity. Baiting increases the likelihood of harvesting a bear. On years when winter snow is deep and spring melt comes late, the bears remain longer in their winter dens and have been proven to be unavailable before the baiting season closes. We would like to have the federal black bear baiting season last until June 30th. This will enable the extremely limited number of resident subsistence black bear hunters in Prince William Sound to be more likely to harvest their bear. On normal years, the bears, both sport and subsistence harvested, are commonly taken earlier in May after they emerge from their dens at normal timing.

We would simply like to see the spring season for hunting and baiting of federal subsistence black bears in unit 6 be extended by two weeks to coincide with the last day of the federal subsistence black bear hunting season. There were multiple black bear hunters last spring (May and June 2012) that were unable to harvest their bear. Few bears had emerged before the baiting season closed. Extending the federal subsistence baiting season to June 30th would likely ensure residents the capability to succeed in obtaining their bear meat and would have no significant impact on the bear population.

This baiting season extension request is supported by Federal regulations from 1991-92 which states that Chenega residents were the only ones with Customary & Traditional Use designation for black bear in unit 6D and there was no baiting prohibition at that time.

4. **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?** This proposal would not significantly change the number of bears harvested. It would only allow black bear to be baited for a period of 2 more weeks, which still remains during the current federal black bear subsistence hunting season that ends June 30th. The potential mortality could be considered compensatory and not additive.

5. **How will this change affect subsistence uses?** Personal supplies of black bear meat would more likely be harvested in years when bears emerge late from their dens, otherwise the subsistence users will likely harvest their meat earlier under state regulations.

2014–2016 Wildlife Proposals

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? Little to none, most black bears on normal years are harvested under state sport regulations in May and early June. Few, if any, bears are harvested under federal subsistence regulations when this occurs.

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7 Which communities have used this resource?

8 Where has this resource been harvested? Indicate specific areas if possible.

9 In what months has this resource been harvested?

— Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal. —

WP14-10

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization:

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Phone: 907-573-5092

Fax: 907-573-5092

E-mail: mclaughlinandy@yahoo.com

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

Harvest season

Method and means of harvest

Harvest limit

X Customary and traditional use determination

1. What regulation do you wish to change? UNIT 7 Customary and Traditional Use Determination -Federal Subsistence Moose on Federal public lands: Unit 7 remainder- rural residents of Cooper Landing and Hope

2. How should the new regulation read? UNIT 7 Customary and Traditional Use Determination -Federal Subsistence Moose on Federal public lands: Unit 7 remainder- rural residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, Chenega Bay, and Tatitlek.

3. Why should this regulation change be made? In the past the villages of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek historically had hunted moose in Kings Bay drainages. A proposal was made at the last cycle to allow harvest of one cow moose per village. Consequently the board opted to create a “no federal open season” for that subsistence resource, while adding “rural residents of Cooper Landing and Hope to the list of communities included under Customary and Traditional Use Determination.

With no open federal season in the Kings Bay drainages and with new addition of those 2 communities to the list of customary and traditional users. It is only fair that the rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek be added to the list of communities (Cooper Landing and Hope) that are designated for the remainder of Unit 7.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations? This proposal would not significantly change the number of moose harvested. It would only allow subsistence moose to be harvested by rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, who are extremely limited in number. The potential mortality to the moose population could be considered compensatory and not additive.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses? Personal supplies of moose meat would more likely be harvested in years when rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek expand their focus to Unit 7 for subsistence moose hunting.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? Little to none. Most of the moose the rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek utilize are harvested under state sport hunting in other zones or on the Copper River drainage out of Cordova both federally and by state regulations.

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7. Which communities have used this resource? Historically the residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, and others in Prince William Sound were nomadic. At times when the resources became scarce the people ranged farther to obtain the resources they hunted for. They were known to move far onto the Kenai peninsula and Copper river drainages to obtain resources for hunting and trade.

8. Where has this resource been harvested? Kenai Peninsula, Turnagain Arm, North Coast of Gulf of Alaska.

9. In what months has this resource been harvested? Whenever necessary and whenever possible.

WP14-11

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization:

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E-mail: mclaughlinandy@yahoo.com

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest season
- Harvest limit
- Method and means of harvest
- Customary and traditional use determination

1. **What regulation do you wish to change?** UNIT 7 Open Season Subsistence Moose on Federal public lands: Unit 7 , that portion draining into Kings Bay- Federal Public Lands are closed to the harvest of moose.” This is for C&T designation for Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, as well as the newly designated Cooper Landing and Hope communities. For a current status of “No Federal Open Season”.

2. **How should the new regulation read?** UNIT 7 Open Season Subsistence Moose on Federal public lands: Unit 7 , that portion draining into Kings Bay- Federal Public Lands are open to harvest of moose as one bull per every 4 regulatory years per each community.” This is was a long standing C&T designation for Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, and now listed as well for the newly designated Cooper Landing and Hope communities under current status of “No Federal Open Season” that needs to be reopened for a limited harvest opportunity for the Communities to enable each community to harvest one bull per every 4 regulatory years.

3. **Why should this regulation change be made?** In the past the villages of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek historically had hunted moose in Kings Bay drainages. A proposal was made at the last cycle to allow harvest of one cow moose per village. Consequently the board opted to create a “no federal open season” for that subsistence resource, while adding “rural residents of Cooper Landing and Hope to the list of communities included under Customary and Traditional Use Determination. The villages would like to point out that no recent population surveys have taken place and that historical average harvest of moose from the Kings Bay Drainage for Tatitlek and Chenega Bay has been approximately one bull moose every 10 years (or more). The villages do not want to see the occasional opportunity for hunting closed to federal moose season that their ancestors commonly utilized even though current use is rare and opportunistic. Use of the resources has been known to skip common use from generation to generation, however it is still taken advantage of from time to time as a valued resource for the Prince William Sound Communities. Penalizing the past historical C&T users from use of a resource by closing federal season cannot be proven to be pertinent when there has been no recent population survey and it is simply presumed the resource is limited and that it exists at unharvestable population levels. We understand the federal managers have tried to use the state to make surveys that have yet to take place. We understand conservation concerns, and feel previous actions taken under federal regulations to restrict use altogether must be proven to be warranted. We feel allowing one bull moose to be harvested per each community once every 4 regulatory years will allow a sustainable population to exist in perpetuity when using local knowledge for considering historical use of the resource. Moose commonly move freely into the area on an annual basis.

4. **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?** This proposal would not significantly change the number of moose harvested. It is general knowledge that the moose population of the Kings Bay Drainage on the Prince William Sound side is approximately 10 or 12 animals. These moose are known to immigrate from the Seward area of habitat from the west and emigrate as well. A residual group of a limited number of moose is known to overwinter in the drainage and historically the people’s of Prince William Sound harvested moose there after accessing the coastline there by skin boat baidarka kayaks as well as by modern boats. The potential mortality to the moose population could be considered compensatory and not additive when considering habitat limitations and the annual immigration and emigration of moose to and from the area from the source of more suitable moose habitat to the west where they presumably originate from.

5. **How will this change affect subsistence uses?** Personal supplies of moose meat would more likely be harvested in the rare years when rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek (and Cooper landing and Hope) expand their focus to hunt moose at the mouth of the Kings river on once every 4 regulatory years.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? Little to none. Most of the moose the rural residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek utilize are harvested under state sport hunting in other zones or on the Copper River drainage out of Cordova both federally and by state regulations.

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7. Which communities have used this resource?

8. Where has this resource been harvested?

9. In what months has this resource been harvested?

— Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal. —

WP14-12

Name: Andy McLaughlin
Address: P.O. Box 8043, Chenega Bay, AK 99574
Phone: 907-573-5092
E-mail: mclaughlinandy@yahoo.com

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest season** **Method and means of harvest**
 Harvest limit **Customary and traditional use determination**

1. What regulation do you wish to change? Up to five permits will be issued by the Cordova District Ranger to the Native Village of Chenega annually to harvest up to 5 deer total from Federal public lands in Unit 6D for their annual Old Chenega Memorial. Permits will have effective dates of July 1 – June 30

2. How should the new regulation read? Up to five permits will be issued by the Cordova District Ranger to the Native Village of Chenega annually to harvest up to 5 deer total from Federal public lands in Unit 6D for their annual Old Chenega Memorial **and other traditional memorial potlatch ceremonies**. Permits will have effective dates of July 1 – June 30

3. Why should this regulation change be made? Chenega Bay holds an annual memorial to the old village site to commemorate the people lost and the loss of the old village during the 1964 earthquake. However other potlatches are held throughout the summer, fall, and winter, often on short notice. The village would like the flexibility to use deer taken under these permits at other traditional ceremonies in the village

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations? This proposal would not change the number of deer harvested. It would only allow harvested deer to be used in traditional ceremonies other than the Old Chenega Memorial Potlatch

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses? Personal supplies of harvested deer would not need to be used for potlatch ceremonies.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial? none

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7. Which communities have used this resource?

8. Where has this resource been harvested? Indicate specific areas if possible.

9. In what months has this resource been harvested?

— Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal. —

WP14-13

Docket: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104](#)

2014–15 and 2015–16 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104-0001](#)

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska: 2014-15 and 2015-16
Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Document: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104-0003](#)

Submitted Electronically via eRulemaking Portal

Submitter Information

Name: Dan K Presley

Address:

Anchor Point, AK, 99556

Government Agency Type: Federal

General Comment

Units 15B and 15C-1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50" antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit only.

Please add to the regulation for subsistence moose hunting in 15-B and 15C to read "Any subsistence harvested bull moose will have the antler cut in half on one side" of which Fish&Wildlife will keep.

Why-This is done on the Koyukuk and other places where people subsist. If a person is truly subsistence hunting, it won't matter if the antler is cut.

What will it save- This will eliminate using a subsistence hunt for trophy hunting, thus preserving breeding bulls. 15B and 15C have many predators-bears and wolves that have severely impacted the moose population. Allowing "trophy subsistence" hunting only further impacts the moose population.

Who will it impact-no one, for the subsistence hunters will still get to take the moose. Most true subsistence hunters will be after young bulls any way.

How will this affect sport recreational hunters-It will help them because the breeding bulls will increase the moose population.

Docket: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104](#)

2014–15 and 2015–16 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Comment On: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104-0001](#)

Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska: 2014-15 and 2015-16
Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

Document: [FWS-R7-SM-2012-0104-0004](#)

Submitted Electronically via eRulemaking Portal

Submitter Information

Name: Dan K Presley

Address:

Anchor Point, AK, 99556

General Comment

Additional clarification to my proposal(Dan Presley)- the "one antler of a subsistence harvested bull in 15B and/or 15C must be cut through the palm, with Fish and Wildlife retaining the cut piece"

Again this would limit the seeking of large bulls for trophy purposes. If some one says we carve- well you still can carve the remainder. Thank you

WP14-14

Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Name _____

Organization Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource CommissionAddress PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573Phone (907) 822-7236 (message)Fax (907) 822-3281 (message)

E-mail address _____

This proposal suggests a change to: Customary and traditional use determination for goat in Unit 11

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”**

This proposal would modify the list of communities with a positive customary and traditional use determination for goat in Unit 11.

Unit 11 Goat

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 11, Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina, Tok Cutoff Road (mileposts 79-110 Mentasta Pass), Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46) and Tonsina	Unit 11—that portion within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve that is bounded by the Chitina and Nizina rivers on the south, the Kennicott River and Glacier on the southeast, and the Root Glacier on the east—1 goat by Federal registration permit (FG1101) only.	Aug. 25–Dec. 31
	Unit 11—the remainder of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve—1 goat by Federal registration permit only (FG1101).	Aug. 10–Dec. 31
	Unit 11, that portion outside of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	No Federal open season

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

Add Kenny Lake to the list of communities with a positive customary and traditional use determination for goat in Unit 11.

Unit 11 Goat

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 11, Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake , Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina, Tok Cutoff Road (mileposts 79-110 Mentasta Pass), Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46) and Tonsina	Unit 11—that portion within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve that is bounded by the Chitina and Nizina rivers on the south, the Kennicott River and Glacier on the southeast, and the Root Glacier on the east—1 goat by Federal registration permit (FG1101) only.	Aug. 25–Dec. 31
	Unit 11—the remainder of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve—1 goat by Federal registration permit only (FG1101).	Aug. 10–Dec. 31
	Unit 11, that portion outside of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	No Federal open season

3. Why should this regulatory change be made?

Kenny Lake residents have customarily and traditionally harvested goat in Unit 11, however their use of this resource has never been recognized with a positive customary and traditional use determination. This proposal would correct this omission.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Not applicable. This question is not relevant to the request to recognize a community’s customary and traditional use of the resource.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal would recognize the customary and traditional subsistence uses of this resource by residents of Kenny Lake.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

Minimal. Subsistence goat harvests in Unit 11 are consistently low.

Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal.

WP14-15

Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Name _____

Organization Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource CommissionAddress PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573Phone (907) 822-7236 (message)Fax (907) 822-3281 (message)

E-mail address _____

This proposal suggests a change to: ANILCA Section 804 analysis

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”**

This proposal would modify the list of communities eligible to participate in the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place east of the Nabesna River and Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.

Unit 12 Caribou

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 12, Chistochina, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake	Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border —1 bull by Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, and Tok.	Sept. 1-Sept. 30

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

Add residents of the hunt area and residents of the Unit 12 portion of the Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46) to the list of communities and areas eligible for this hunt (results of 804 analysis).

Unit 12 Caribou

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 12, Chistochina, Dot Lake, Healy	Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier	Sept. 1-Sept. 30

<p>Lake, and Mentasta Lake</p>	<p>and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border —1 bull by Federal registration permit only.</p> <p>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, Tok, <u>Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46), and that portion of Unit 12 east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.</u></p>	
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3. Why should this regulatory change be made?

Like residents of Chisana, other residents of the hunt area similarly depend for their subsistence on resources close to where they live. They should be included in the ANILCA Section 804 determination for this hunt.

Prior to the closure of the Chisana caribou herd hunt in 1994, residents of Nabesna harvested caribou in that part of Unit 12 that is east of the Nabesna River/Glacier and south of the Winter Trail. (For clarity, this proposal defines Nabesna as Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road (MP 25-46)). Nabesna is one of the closest communities to the hunt area. Like residents of Chisana, they live in a remote location relatively close to the hunt area and depend for their subsistence on resources close to where they live. They should be included in the 804 determination for this hunt.

In our October 20, 2011, letter to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding the 2012-2014 wildlife proposals, the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission recommended including Nabesna in the 804 analysis for this hunt (Proposal WP12-66). The Eastern Interior RAC made a similar recommendation. Perhaps these recommendations came too late in the process for a more thorough consideration of Nabesna. Due to its small population (about nine households) and fact that it shares a zip code with the much larger community of Gakona, harvest patterns for Nabesna are sometimes difficult to see in the harvest data. We continue to believe that residents of Nabesna should be eligible to participate in this harvest, based on their proximity to and dependence on this resource, and would like to see them specifically analyzed for inclusion in the 804.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

No effect. The harvest quota would not change.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal would recognize that residents of the Nabesna Road in Unit 12 along with residents of the hunt area have traditionally harvested this resource, as much or more than the other communities included in the 804 determination for this hunt.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

No effect. This harvest opportunity is only open to federally qualified subsistence users from those communities most dependent on the resource.

Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal.

WP14-16

Name _____

Organization Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission _____

Address PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573 _____

Phone (907) 822-7236 (message) _____

Fax (907) 822-3281 (message) _____

E-mail address _____

This proposal suggests a change to: harvest season and harvest limit

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”**

New Regulation: This proposal would establish a new winter hunt for moose in the southern portion of Unit 11.

Unit 11 Moose

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Unit 11 north of the Sanford River—Rural residents of Units 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D, Chickaloon, Dot Lake, and Healy Lake	Unit 11—that portion draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage—1 antlered bull by joint State/Federal registration permit.	Aug. 20–Sept. 20
Unit 11 remainder—Rural residents of Units 11, 13A, 13B, 13C and 13D, and Chickaloon	Unit 11 Remainder—1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit (FM1106) only.	Aug. 20–Sept. 20

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

Unit 11 Moose

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Unit 11 north of the Sanford River—Rural residents of Units 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D, Chickaloon, Dot Lake, and Healy Lake	Unit 11—that portion draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage—1 antlered bull by joint State/Federal registration permit.	Aug. 20–Sept. 20

Unit 11 remainder—Rural residents of Units 11, 13A, 13B, 13C and 13D, and Chickaloon	<i>Unit 11 – that portion south and east of a line running along the north bank of the Chitina River, the north and west banks of the Nazina River, and the west bank of West Fork of the Nazina River, continuing along the western edge of the West Fork Glacier to the summit of Regal Mountain</i> —1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit (FM1106) only.	Aug. 20–Sept. 20
	<i>Unit 11 – that portion south and east of a line running along the north bank of the Chitina River, the north and west banks of the Nazina River, and the west bank of West Fork of the Nazina River, continuing along the western edge of the West Fork Glacier to the summit of Regal Mountain – 1 bull by federal registration permit. The annual harvest quota will be announced by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.</i>	Nov. 20--Dec. 20
	Unit 11 Remainder—1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit (FM1106) only.	Aug. 20–Sept. 20

Note: No change is being proposed to the hunt area, season, or harvest limit for the existing fall season. Because the hunt area for the current FM1106 is described using the term “remainder”, we are trying to clarify that the proposed area for the new winter hunt would be open both during the existing fall season and during the proposed winter season.

3. Why should this regulatory change be made?

The proposed hunt would provide subsistence users with a harvest opportunity on a moose population that is difficult to access during the current fall season. During the fall hunting season, most moose in the proposed hunt area are at high elevations and therefore inaccessible. In addition, subsistence users in remote areas often live off the electrical grid and consequently do not have freezers to store their meat. The proposed winter season addresses both of these issues. During the winter season, the moose move down in elevation and snowmachines can be used to access the valleys where they winter. Thus the winter season would allow for better access to this largely remote hunt area. In addition, with cooler weather later in the year, meat could be stored without the need for a freezer.

In the body of the proposal, we list season dates of Nov. 20 to Dec. 20. River crossings are better later in the season, however, and additional discussion of the dates might be warranted. For example, would a hunt during the month of December provide better access for subsistence users?

The proposed hunt area is a large area with relatively minimal harvest. To ensure that harvest levels are sustainable, the hunt would require a federal registration permit with a harvest quota announced by the National Park Service based on current population data. A month-long season will provide hunters with more flexibility in the event of bad weather (e.g., extreme cold). The proposed harvest limit is one bull, rather than one antlered bull, because by early to mid-December, many bulls have dropped their antlers.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Minimal. A limited, bulls-only quota will protect against impacts to the resource.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The hunt will provide an opportunity for local rural residents to access a resource that is not otherwise accessible.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

Minimal. The harvest quota will ensure that harvest levels are sustainable. In addition, the vast majority of the hunt area is in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, which is only open to hunting by NPS qualified local rural residents hunting under federal subsistence regulations. These communities include Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina and Tonsina. In the area that falls within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, residents of all the communities with an existing C&T determination would be able to utilize the season.

Please attach any additional information that would support your proposal.

We are also submitting a map that shows the proposed hunt area boundary.

WP14-17

Federal Subsistence Board
 Office of Subsistence Management
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121
 Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

To change regulations during the two-year regulatory cycle, submit a request to change the regulations by providing the following information:

- Name: *Jim Skogstad, President*
- Organization *Hope Village Council*
- Address *Box 101, Hope, Alaska 99605*
- Phone *782-3521*
- Fax *782-3505*
- E-mail *akskogstad@aol.com*

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species.

Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)

Existing Regulation for Unit 7

Special Provisions

Resurrection Creek Closed Area, which consists of Resurrection Creek down stream from Rimrock and Highland creeks including Palmer Creek, **is closed** to the taking of moose.

MOOSE

Unit 7, that portion draining into Kings Bay—Rural residents of Chenega Bay, Cooper Landing, Hope and Tatitlek	Unit 7—that portion draining into Kings Bay. <i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose.</i>	No Federal open season
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Unit 7 remainder—Rural residents of Cooper Landing and Hope	Unit 7 remainder—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM0004) only.	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
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2. How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)

The regulation change being requested is to ADD the rural community Cooper Landing to the caribou hunt in Unit 7

Special Provisions

Resurrection Creek Closed Area, which consists of Resurrection Creek down stream from Rimrock and Highland creeks including Palmer Creek, is OPEN to the taking of moose.

MOOSE

Unit 7, that portion draining into Kings Bay—Rural residents of Chenega Bay, Cooper Landing, Hope and Tatitlek	Unit 7—that portion draining into Kings Bay. <i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose.</i>	No Federal open season
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Unit 7 remainder—Rural residents of Cooper Landing and Hope	Unit 7 remainder—1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM0004) only.	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
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Theo Matuskowitz

page

3

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

To be consistant with the Alaska Board of Games regulations.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

To mirror the Alaska Board of Games regulations this change will have minimal, if any, impact.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This will allow local subsistence users ten earlier days to hunt.

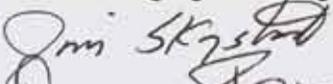
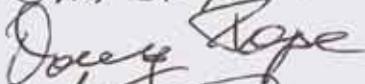
6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The small number of local subsistence hunters will have minimal impact on other users in this area. The real impact is when it opens August 20 to all Alaska hunters.

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

The Community of Hope submitted a proposal, 151, to the Alaska Board of Game in 2013 to change this area back to a closed to the taking of Moose area. The Board voted down this proposal leaving it open to the taking of Moose. We feel it would be consistant for the Federal regulations to be consistant with the state regulations.

The following signatures signify support for this proposal within the rural community of Hope

 Jim Skogstad Box 8 Hope, AK
 Doug Pope Box 27 Hope, AK 99605
 Guy Rimmington Box 3 Hope, AK 99605

WP14-18

Name: Tom Carpenter
 Address: P.O. Box 1663, Cordova, AK 99574
 Phone: H 907-424-3101
 C 907-429-3354
 E-mail: whiskeyridge@ctcak.net

This proposal suggests a change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest season Method and means of harvest
- Harvest limit Customary and traditional use determination

1) What regulation do you wish to change?

Harvest Limit – Moose

Unit 6C – 1 antlerless moose by Federal drawing permit only	Sept. 1 – Oct.31
Unit 6C – 1 bull by Federal drawing permit only.	Sept. 1 – Dec.31
<i>Only one moose permit may be issued per household. A household receiving a State permit for Unit 6C moose permit may not receive a Federal permit. The annual harvest quota will be announced by the U.S. Forest Service, Cordova Office, in consultation with ADF&G. The Federal harvest allocation will be 100% of the antlerless moose permits and 75% of the bull permits</i>	

2) How should the new regulation read?

Unit 6C – 1 antlerless moose by Federal drawing permit only	Sept. 1 – Oct.31; <i>permits for the portion of the antlerless moose quota not harvested Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 may be available for redistribution Nov. 1 – Dec. 31</i>
Unit 6C – 1 bull by Federal drawing permit only.	Sept. 1 – Dec.31
<i>Only one moose permit may be issued per household. A household receiving a State Unit 6C moose permit may not receive a Federal permit. The annual harvest quota will be announced by the U.S. Forest Service, Cordova Office, in consultation with ADF&G. The Federal harvest allocation will be 100% of</i>	

<p><i>the antlerless moose permits and 75% of the bull permits. Federal Public Lands shall be closed to the harvest of moose except by Federally qualified hunters holding a Federal Subsistence permit for Unit 6C moose, November 1 through December 31.</i></p>	
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3) Why should this regulation change be made?

At their Southcentral Region Meeting in Kenai, March 15-19, 2013, the Alaska Board of Game passed the amended Proposal 129 to authorize a State registration hunt for moose in Unit 6C, with a bag limit of 1 moose, November 1 – December 31 at the request of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The amendment to Proposal 129 was unanimously rejected by the Copper River/Prince William Sound State Advisory Committee on February 1, 2013. The State’s proposal was intended to harvest moose allocated to the Federal quota that may not be taken during the Federal subsistence hunt.

The current Federal regulation, generated with great community support, has worked well since it was approved in its current form by the Federal Subsistence Board in 2001. The intention of the current Federal regulation is clear: that all antlerless moose harvest and 75% of the bull moose harvest in Unit 6C will take place by Federally qualified rural residents of Units 6A, 6B, and 6C, specifically, residents of Cordova.

4) What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This proposal would not change the number of moose available for harvest. The total allowable harvest would still be determined, using sound biological principles, by U.S. Forest Service, Cordova office, in consultation with the ADF&G.

5) How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal would ensure that the intentions of ANILCA and the Federal Subsistence Board would be met by allowing only Federally qualified rural residents to harvest antlerless moose in Unit 6C.

6) How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

Non-rural Alaska residents and non-qualified rural residents of Alaska (those living outside of Units 6A, 6B, and 6C) would be unable to hunt moose on Federal Lands in Unit 6C from November 1 through December 31. There would remain opportunity for these hunters to participate in the State registration hunts for moose in Units 6A and 6B.

Answer questions 7–9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

7) **Which communities have used this resource?**

8) **Where has this resource been harvested?** Indicate specific areas if possible.

9) **In what months has this resource been harvested?**

WP14-19

To change regulations during the two-year regulatory cycle, submit a request to change the regulations by providing the following information:

- Name- Richard Greg Encelewski, President/Chairman
- Organization- Ninilchik Traditional Council
- Address- P.O. Box 39070, Ninilchik, AK 99639
- Phone- 907-567-3313
- Fax- 907-567-3308
- E-mail- ninilchik@hotmail.com

1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Moose:

Ninilchik rural residents-

Units 15A remainder, 15B, and 15C- 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM1505) only. Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Units 15B and 15C- 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM1505) only. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the Oct./Nov. season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Oct. 20-Nov. 10

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

Moose:

Ninilchik rural residents-

Units 15A remainder, 15B, and 15C- 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM1505) only. Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Units 15B and 15C- 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by Federal registration permit (FM1505) only. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the Oct./Nov. season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Oct. 20-Nov. 10

Units 15B and 15C- 1 cow by Federal registration permit only. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the Oct./Nov. season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Oct. 20-Nov. 10 – Not to exceed 15 cows taken per year.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Due to the recent restrictions in the bull moose hunting regulations, many subsistence users have not been able to harvest meat. The lack of moose harvested in the community has an adverse impact on the conditional, social and spiritual well-being of the community. This will also help in providing a meaningful preference for Ninilchik subsistence users.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This will not have an adverse impact on wildlife populations. Cows are plentiful in Units 15B and 15C. A registration hunt that can be limited in total take per year, along with the small number of cows requested, will not have an impact on wildlife populations.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will provide a meaningful preference for the community of Ninilchik, allowing moose to be harvested and thereby fully benefiting subsistence uses.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

It will not affect other uses, due to the limited number of moose taken.

WP14-20

To change regulations during the two-year regulatory cycle, submit a request to change the regulations by providing the following information:

Name: Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Rd., MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503

Contact: Thomas Jennings, Council Coordinator, thomas_jennings@fws.gov

Phone: 907-786-3364; 907-786-3898 fax

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)**

Unit 8: Brown Bear Harvest Limits

Current Regulation:

1 bear by Federal registration permit (FB0802) only, issued by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager and per community as follows:

Akhiok—1 permit;
Karluk—1 permit;
Larsen Bay—Up to 3 permits;
Old Harbor—Up to 2 permits;
Ouzinkie—Up to 2 permits; and,
Port Lions—Up to 2 permits.

2. **How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)**

Proposed Regulation:

1 bear by Federal registration permit (FB0802) only, issued by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager and per community as follows:

Akhiok—~~1 permit~~ **Up to 2 permits**;
Karluk—1 permit;
Larsen Bay—Up to 3 permits;
Old Harbor—~~Up to 2 permits~~ **Up to 3 permits**;
Ouzinkie—Up to 2 permits; and,
Port Lions—Up to 2 permits.

3. **Why should this regulation change be made?**

This regulation should be changed to allow for increased interest in subsistence brown bear hunting. Old Harbor used both permits that were issued last season and there are more hunters interested in obtaining a permit. The subsistence harvest of bears is used to mentor young hunters

and families in the traditional use of bears and provides an added nutritional food source. In both old Harbor and Akhiok there are more hunters interested in a permit than what is available. Another permit would provide more opportunity for other hunters to harvest a brown bear.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Little impact, brown bears are numerous and the population is healthy.

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

This proposed change would be positive. It will provide more opportunity to harvest brown bear(s), to share traditional food, and to teach butchering and skin sewing. It will provide an added nutritional food source for the community and reinforce the culture of sharing.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No impact.

WP14-21

DATE: *March 19, 2013*

REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:

*Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
Attn: Donald Mike
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503*

PHONE NUMBER: (907) 786-3629

FAX NUMBER: (907) 786-3898

REGULATION AFFECTED:

Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:

Year: 2012-2014

Page: 79

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

Moose, Unit 17A -1 antlered bull by State registration permit. Up to a 14-day season during the period Dec. 1-Jan.31 may be opened or closed by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

Open season: Winter season to be announced

2. How should the new regulation read?

Moose, Unit 17A – up to 2 moose by State registration permit. Up to a 31-day season during the period Dec. 1-Jan. 31 may be opened or closed by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

Open season: Winter season to be announced

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

These regulation changes should be made to align with State seasons and harvest limits.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

These changes are intended to slightly reduce the Unit 17A moose population to keep it in a healthy and productive state and to prevent over-browsing of the habitat.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This change will allow subsistence moose hunters up to 17 extra days (up to 31 days total) during December/January to hunt in Unit 17A. This proposal will also allow additional opportunity by an increased harvest limit that includes taking a limited number of female moose only during the winter.

6. How will this change affect other uses?

This change is not anticipated to have any affects on other uses.

WP14-22

DATE: March 19, 2013

REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:

Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
 Office of Subsistence Management
 1011 East Tudor Road
 Anchorage, AK 99503

PHONE NUMBER: (907) 786-3888 FAX NUMBER: (907) 786-3898

REGULATION AFFECTED:

Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:
 Year: 2012-2014
 Page: 50, 78, 81, 86

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

<i>Caribou Unit 9A-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9B-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder- Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced.</i>	<i>Season to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1 - Mar. 31.</i>
<i>The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar.31.</i>	
<i>Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 18-that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull; no more than 1 caribou</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Dec. 20-last day of February</i>

<i>may be taken Aug. 1-Sept. 30 and Dec. 20-Jan. 31.</i>	
<i>Unit 18 remainder-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 19A north of Kuskokwim River-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Units 19A south of the Kuskokwim River and 19B (excluding Lime Village)- 2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

<i>Caribou Unit 9A-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9B-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder- Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou by State registration permit will be determined at the time the season is announced.</i>	<i>Season may be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.</i>
<i>The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.</i>	
<i>Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 18-that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Dec. 20-last day of February</i>

<i>may be a bull; no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug.1-Sept.30 and Dec. 20-Jan. 31.</i>	
<i>Unit 18 remainder-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Unit 19A north of Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>
<i>Units 19A south of the Kuskokwim River and 19B (excluding Lime Village)- 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Mar. 15</i>

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

These regulation changes should be made to have a consistent hunt structure (State registration permit) recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game. Changing to a registration hunt throughout the herd’s range would allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to better assess hunter harvest.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

These changes are not anticipated to have any affects on wildlife populations.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

These season changes will: 1) reduce potential confusion about the correct harvest limit for Mulchatna caribou (the statewide general caribou harvest card contains 5 harvest tickets, but the present harvest limit for Mulchatna caribou is only 2 caribou), and 2) require hunters obtaining registration permits to report on the outcome of their caribou hunting efforts, whether or not they have hunted (most hunters in the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd are already familiar with other registration permit hunts and the reporting system).

6. How will this change affect other uses?

These changes are not anticipated to have any affects on other uses.

WP14-23

Date: March 27, 2013

Name: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 786-3888

Fax: (907) 786-3898

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)

Unit 18—Moose

Unit 18—That portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village—2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may only be harvested from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30. Aug. 1 – the last day of February

2. How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)

Unit 18—Moose

Unit 18—That portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village—2 moose, ~~only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may only be harvested from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.~~ Aug. 1 – ~~the last day of February~~ Mar. 31

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The moose population is growing fast, and people are starting to worry about the population becoming too abundant and subsequently crashing. Extending the season from Aug. 1—the last day of February to Aug. 1–Mar. 31 will provide Federally qualified subsistence users additional opportunity to harvest their limit of moose in Lowest Yukon portion of Unit 18. The population can support a higher cow harvest, so the bull-only restriction from Aug. 1–Sept. 30 should be removed to allow the harvest of two moose throughout the season.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The change in the regulation will accommodate concerns about overpopulation of moose in the area.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The extended season will provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest their limit of moose in Lowest Yukon portion of Unit 18. Some people wait to go hunting later on in the winter, when travel conditions are a little more comfortable and there is more daylight. Subsistence users will also be able to harvest cows in the fall, if they want to.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This change should have no impact on sport/recreational users.

WP14-24

Date: March 27, 2013

Name: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 786-3888

Fax: (907) 786-3898

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)

Unit 18—Moose

Unit 18—That portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village—2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may only be harvested from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

Aug. 1 – the last day of February

2. How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)

Unit 18—Moose

*Unit 18—That portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to ~~the old village~~ of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village **the Yukon River, then north of the Andreafsky River drainage—** 2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may only be harvested from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.*

Aug. 1 – the last day of February

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The boundary should be changed to include the Kashunuk River and the North Fork of the Andreafsky River, which are recognizable landmarks. Landmarks are ideal for creating boundaries, because you can see where you are. Using a drainage for a boundary line is more ideal than going

from one point to another, because many subsistence users do not have a GPS or know how to use one.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

There is potential for more moose to be harvested as a result of this expanded hunt area, but moose populations in the area are healthy and should be able to sustain increased harvest pressure.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

Changing the hunt area boundaries to the Kashunuk River and the North Fork of the Andrafsky River will open new areas of harvest for subsistence users.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This change should not impact sport/recreational users.

WP14-25



ASA'CARMIUT TRIBAL COUNCIL
 P.O. Box 32249
 Mountain Village, AK 99682
 Phone (907) 591-2814
 Facsimile (907) 591-2811

Lower Yukon Boundary Proposal

GMU#:18 Species: Moose Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No

1. What regulations do you wish to change?

Modify boundary for Lower Yukon segment of Unit 18 Moose.

2. How should the new regulation read?

Unit 18—that portion North and West of the Kashunuk River continuing upriver along a line ½ mile South and East of, and paralleling a line along the Southerly bank of the Kashunuk River to the confluence of the South bank of Driftwood Slough, continuing upriver to the confluence of the Yukon River, across, ending the ½ mile buffer, then following the North Bank of the Yukon river to Pitkas Point and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Pitkas Point—2 moose, only one of which may be antlered.
Antlered bulls may only be harvested from Aug. 1-Sept. 30.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

To clear up concerns from hunters about which bank of the Kashunuk is legal for the taking of moose (hunters can harvest moose in the early and late part of the season from the North

bank, but not the South bank). The change also follows the entire length of the Kashukuk River, making it clearer for hunters without a GPS. This proposal would also liberalize harvest for a small area upriver of Mountain Village that was previously (if adopted) in the boundaries of Unit 18 Remainder.

4. *What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?*

With public participation this should have the desired effect of reducing the moose density in the lower Yukon and reduce hunter angst about bank orientation when hunting moose.

5. *How will this change affect subsistence uses?*

This proposal if adopted would allow a continuous season and a two moose bag that would be partially directed at cows in the expanded border. This would increase opportunity for subsistence users hunting the area around Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, Saint Marys, and Pilot Station between October 1 and December 20.

6. *How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?*

The Native Village of Mountain Village will submit a similar proposal before the Alaska Board of Game.



James C. Landlord 1st Chief,
Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council

ASA'CARSA'MIUT TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 32249
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, AK 99632
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Theo Matuskowitz	FROM:	Daphne Lee
COMPANY:	OSM	DATE:	3/28/13
FAX NUMBER:	907-786-3898	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	(3)
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	
RE:	Lower Uken Boundary Proposal	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

WP14-26

Wildlife Proposals
Robert.Sundown@fws.gov
 907-543-3151 Office

GMU#: 18 **Species:** Caribou **Season and Bag:** Yes **Method and Means:**
 No

1. What regulations do you wish to change?

Unit 18—that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River—2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull; no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1–Sept. 30 and Dec. 20–Jan. 31. Season Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 and Dec. 20 – last day of February

2. How should the new regulation read?

Unit 18—that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River—2 caribou by a joint ADF&G and USFWS registration permit. Aug 1 to **March 15** to the last day of February

Through a letter of delegation: The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager has the authority to close or re-open Federal public lands to all users for this hunt if necessary for conservation concerns, after consultation with ADF&G, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager, and the chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

This proposal would align Federal subsistence regulations with the recent BOG changes. The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) has adopted similar season dates and harvest limits for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH). These regulations primarily modify the hunt from a general season caribou hunt available with “harvest tickets” to a registration hunt. The proposed language would also eliminate the 1 bull harvest limit and season limitations. The registration permit will allow for better end of season harvest estimates and should make it easier for subsistence hunters to harvest caribou. The Unit 18 caribou population is near the bottom of its management objectives set forth by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Because the MCH is near the bottom of the management objectives there may be situations when refuge manger needs to close Federal public lands to all users quickly for conservation reasons.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

No change in harvest is expected, but the registration hunt is expected to give managers better harvest estimates to manage the Mulchatna herd. While the managers at the Yukon Delta

National Wildlife Refuge still have concerns about the MCH, this proposal would give managers much needed data while liberalizing certain aspects of the hunt without affecting total harvest.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal if adopted would align the Federal subsistence regulations with the State of Alaska regulations and would establish a joint registration permit which will help foster better cooperation and management. Subsistence users will be required to use the State registration permit starting July 1, 2013. Subsistence users will no longer have to be concerned about the sex of a caribou prior to harvest, nor would they have to wait until February 1 to harvest their second caribou. The season modification would also remove the temporary season closure in October, November and part of December. Providing the refuge manager the authority to close the season to all users would only be used in emergency situations when quick action is necessary to address conservation concerns.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

A similar State proposal concerning 1 bull requirement and limiting the dates in which both caribou can be harvested is expected to be submitted before the Alaska Board of Game for Unit 18. The State registration hunt will become law July 1, 2013 as it has already passed the Board of Game process.

WP14-27

Wildlife Proposals
Robert_Sundown@fws.gov
907-543-3151 Office

GMU#: 18 **Species:** Moose **Season and Bag:** Yes **Method and Means:** No

1. What regulations do you wish to change?

Establish a fall season for moose in Unit 18 “Kuskokwim” by setting season dates and harvest limits by registration permit with a quota.

2. How should the new regulation read?

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 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 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 Joint ADF&G/USFWS registration permit RM 615 available at license vendors in the hunt area from August 1 to August 25. Quota is to be announced. Hunt will be closed by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager by Special Action when quota is expected to be met.

September 1- September 30

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The ADF&G and USFWS currently manage a registration hunt (RM 615) jointly in the Unit 18 portion of the lower Kuskokwim. The hunt has been opened by Special Action over that last several seasons. This proposal allows for a jointly managed hunt and makes provisions for an open season by registration with a quota.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

None.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No changes.

WP14-28

Wildlife Proposals
Robert_Sundown@fws.gov
 907-543-3151 Office

GMU#: 18 **Species:** Moose **Season and Bag:** Yes **Method and Means:** No

1. What regulations do you wish to change?

Modify the fall season for moose in Unit 18 “Remainder” by extending the fall season 10 days and liberalizing the antlered requirement during the fall season.

2. How should the new regulation read?

Unit 18 remainder- 1 Antlered Bull	August 14 0 — September 30
OR a cow unaccompanied by calf	
1 Moose	December 20 – Last day of February

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The ADF&G and USFWS are jointly proposing liberalizing regulations to the Unit 18 “remainder” portion of the fall moose hunting. The healthy population justifies the liberalization of the season and liberalization of the antlered requirement.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The Unit 18 “remainder” area has as much moose as the Lower Yukon segment and yet has a smaller overall harvest in the fall. This population is a growing population, although at a much slower rate than the Lower Yukon segment. Recent surveys on the Adreafsky and the Paimute portion of the remainder unit suggest healthy growth of moose in the area.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal if adopted would allow a more liberal fall season by 10 days and remove the antlered requirement for subsistence hunters in Unit 18 by allowing a harvest of a cow unaccompanied by a calf during the early portion of the hunt.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

A similar proposal is expected to be submitted before the Alaska Board of Game for Unit 18 “remainder”.

WP14-29

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
1114 Newhouse street Wiseman Village, AK 99790
907-678-2007
wisemanwolf@gmail.com

1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Moose 24B

Unit 24B---All drainages of the Koyukuk River Downstream from and including the Henshaw Creek drainage—1 antlered bull by Federal registration Permit (FM2402).	Aug. 25-Oct. 1 Dec. 15-Apr.15 (until Jun. 30, 2014)
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2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

Unit 24B---All drainages of the Koyukuk River Downstream from and including the Henshaw Creek drainage—1 antlered bull by Federal registration Permit (FM2402).	Aug. 25-Oct. 1 Dec. 15-Apr.15
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The winter bull moose hunt (FM2402) is due to sunset in Regulatory year 2014. The Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council feels this hunt should continue to provide winter bull moose hunting opportunity in a portion of GMU 24B.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The opportunity for winter moose hunting spreads use of bull moose harvest into areas that cannot be hunted in the fall.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

Individuals who did not harvest a bull moose in the fall hunt will have additional opportunity to take an antlered bull moose while trapping or wood cutting. This is a remote area that entails expensive travel and a low density moose population.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?
Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

There is no user group adversely affected by the current regulation that is due to sunset.

WP14-30

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
1114 Newhouse street Wiseman Village, AK 99790
907-678-2007
wisemanwolf@gmail.com

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (*Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state "new regulation."*)

Dall Sheep

Unit 24A---except that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park---1 ram with 7/8 curl horn or larger by Federal Registration permit (FS2404) Aug. 20-Sept. 30

2. How should the new regulation read? (*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*)

Unit 24A---except that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park---**1 ram by Federal Registration permit (FS2404)** Aug. 20-Sept. 30

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

There is a need for a regulatory change for C&T qualified users to take 1-ram or 1-ram with ½ curl or larger in GMU 24A on Federal lands. There is no near-term change with State regulations and enforcement to address large numbers of guided and resident sport hunters taking most full curl and several of the 7/8 rams accidentally.

The BOG elected to not adopt a proposal in March 2012 to limit the number of guided hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA), in GMU 24A.

The ram groups are displaced with this kind of hunting pressure, making it harder to find 7/8 legal rams for subsistence users. There are feasibility issues when hunting Dall sheep. Legal animals driven far away from the valley corridors are not easily found without aircraft use, which subsistence users do not use to locate Dall sheep. The current Federal regulation at this time is not fully providing a reasonable opportunity to harvest Dall sheep with the high and increasing competition from sport users.

The State Dall sheep regulations for subsistence hunts in GMU's 13D, 14A, 14C, portions of 23, portions of 24 B, 25A, 26A, and 26C allow either 1 ram or 1 to 3 any sheep limits.

Current Federal regulations in GMU's 9B, 23, 24 A&B, and 26C all have either 1 sheep, 1-ram, or ¾ curl ram limits for subsistence harvest.

The 24A Federal Dall sheep harvest regulations is one of the most restrictive to C&T qualified users on Federal public lands in Alaska.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

There is no biological reason the Federal subsistence sheep regulations should only allow 7/8 curl excluding smaller rams in GMU 24A for C&T eligible users of Dall sheep. The subsistence user population and harvest is low, and well within sustainability of the Dall sheep population.

State of Alaska management feels the GMU 24A Dall sheep population is healthy enough to endure unlimited harvest of all adult rams by sport users. The current increase in sport use has affectively reallocated the adult Dall rams away from customary and traditional users in many areas of Federal lands in GMU 24A. The State BOG process has not addressed the increased sport harvest for the past 10 years of proposals.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

A Federal regulatory change to 1-ram or 1 ram ½ curl or larger would continue to provide reasonable opportunity to harvest a Dall sheep by C&T qualified users in GMU 24A on Federal lands.

Of course subsistence users would much prefer to harvest adult rams, as there is 20%-30% more meat than on younger rams. If an adult ram cannot be found, a young ram will provide some sheep meat instead of nothing.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

If adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board, this regulatory change would not significantly affect non-subsistence users. This regulatory change would not have nearly the affect of petitioning the FSB to close portions of GMU 24A on Federal lands to non-subsistence users, as was done in the “Arctic Village sheep management Area”. This proposal does not address the sport hunters competing for, and displacing very limited Dall sheep ram bands from subsistence hunters while in the field. This regulatory change would still allow sport hunters to participate in Dall sheep harvest on Federal lands in GMU 24A.

WP14-31

1. **Organization:** Denali Subsistence Advisory Commission
Address: Denali National Park, PO Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755
Phone: (Amy Craver, Denali Subsistence Coordinator) (907) 683-9544
E-mail: amy_craver@nps.gov
2. **New Regulation.** Create a community winter hunt in GMU 19C for Dall sheep for residents of Nikolai.
3. **How would the new regulation read?** *Under Unit 19 hunting regulations, sheep:* Rural residents of Nikolai -- Create a community winter hunt for rural residents of Nkiolai (a resident zone community of Denali Park) with a quota of 3 sheep; all rams or ewes without lambs October 1 to March 30.
4. **Why should this regulation change be made?** The residents of Nikolai have a long tradition of harvesting sheep in the Alaska Range, but the current season of August 10 to September 20 does not take place at a time of year when access to the mountains is possible without aircraft. By establishing a winter community harvest, residents can resume their traditional patterns of winter travel and harvest of sheep. If this regulation is not implemented the sheep numbers could decline from loss of habitat due to overgrazing. The people who have customarily and traditionally used the resource do not have access during the August and September hunt because they traditionally hunt after it snows by dog sled or snowmachine.
5. **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?** The removal of a small number of ewes or young rams should not greatly affect local sheep populations. If possible, harvest would be shifted from year to year to avoid excessive impacts on one area. Many of the large rams are harvested by non-residents, people who are not from the immediate area. If sheep numbers are low the park superintendent will have the authority to close the season by emergency order.
6. **How will this change affect subsistence uses?** This change would provide an additional subsistence opportunity that is currently denied by the timing of the sheep hunting season before snowfall.
7. **How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?** The removal of younger rams would not affect immediate hunting opportunities, because state regulations restrict harvest to full-curl rams or larger.

WP14-32

Name: Robert Walker
 Organization:
 Address: Anvik AK
 Phone: (907) 663-6341
 Fax:
 E-mail:

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (*Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”*)

21E Paradise Controlled Use Area boundary: extend the eastern boundary to two miles along the east bank of the Innoko River and along the east bank of Paimiut Slough.

The **Paradise Controlled Use Area** is closed during moose hunting seasons to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or part of moose. However, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or part of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the controlled use area. The Paradise Controlled Use Area consists of that portion of Unit 21 bounded by a line beginning at the old village of Paimiut; then north along the west bank of the Yukon River to Paradise; then northwest to the mouth of Stanstrom Creek on the Bonasila River; then northeast to the mouth of the Anvik River; then along the west bank of the Yukon River to the lower end of Eagle Island (approx. 45 miles north of Grayling); then to the mouth of the Iditarod River; then down the east bank of the Innoko River to its confluence with Paimiut Slough; then south along the east bank of Paimiut Slough to its mouth; and then to the old village of Paimiut.

2. How should the new regulation read? (*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*)

The **Paradise Controlled Use Area** is closed during moose hunting seasons to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or part of moose. However, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or part of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the controlled use area. The Paradise Controlled Use Area consists of that portion of Unit 21 bounded by a line beginning at the old village of Paimiut; then north along the west bank of the Yukon River to Paradise; then northwest to the mouth of Stanstrom Creek on the Bonasila River; then northeast to the mouth of the Anvik River; then along the west bank of the Yukon River to the lower end of Eagle Island (approx. 45 miles north of Grayling); then to the mouth of the Iditarod River; then extending two miles easterly down the east bank of the Innoko River to its confluence with Paimiut Slough; then south along the east bank of Paimiut Slough to its mouth; and then to the old village of Paimiut.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

This would clear up the defined boundary because transporters and guides are accessing lakes within two miles of the current boundary east of the Innoko River via aircraft to circumvent the present CUA boundary to hunt moose.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This change in CUA boundary will lessen the impact of hunters on the moose population. The Paradise CUA was created to protect resources for the villages of Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, and Shageluk.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This change would strengthen the protection of resources for subsistence uses.

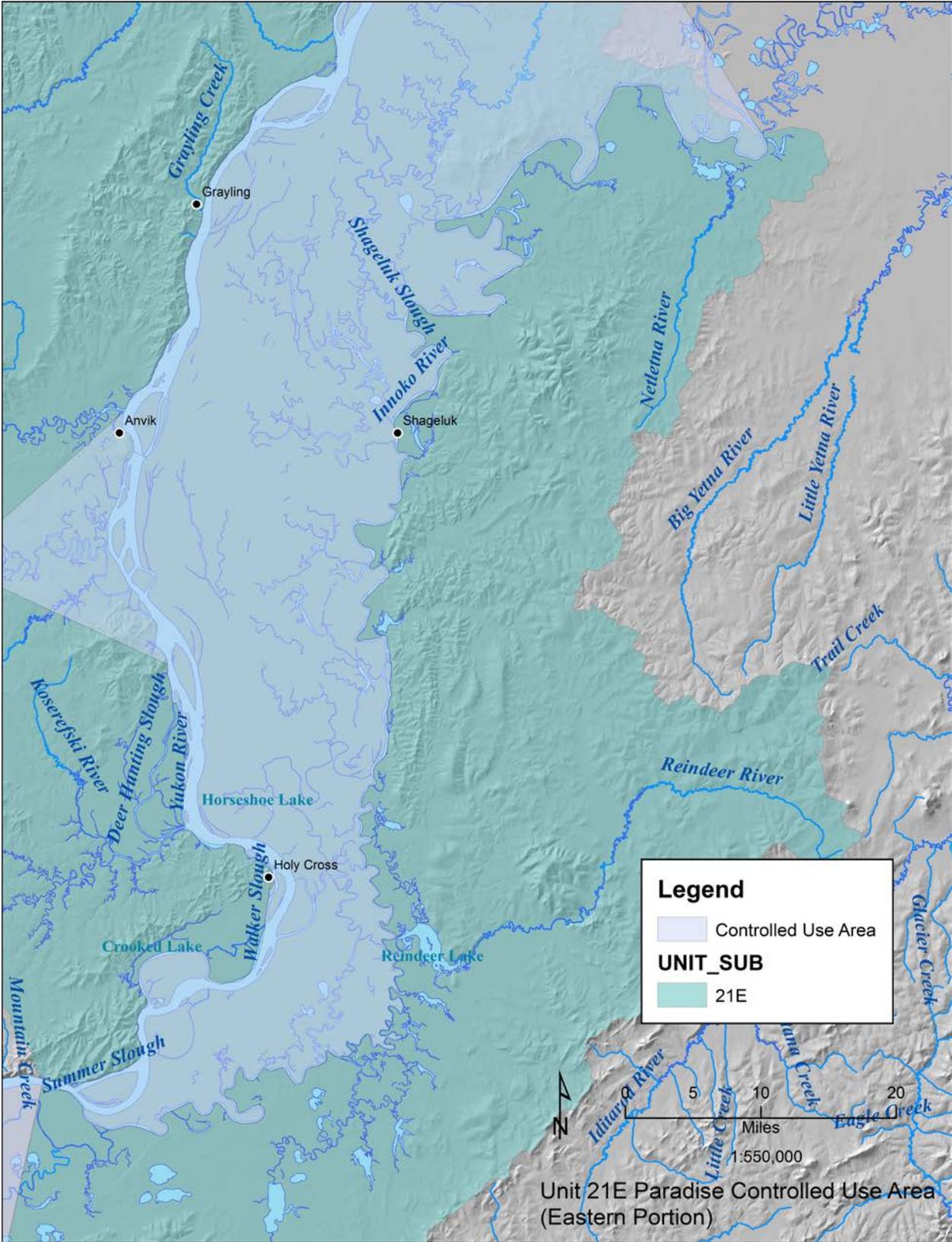
6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

There would be no effect on other uses such as sport/recreational and commercial because of existing public airports in the Paradise CUA.

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

Please see attached map (next page).



WP14-33

Name: Ken Adkisson
 Organization: National Park Service
 Address: PO Box 220, Nome, AK 99762
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 Fax: (907) 443-6139
 E-mail: ken_adkisson@nps.gov

1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22D within the Kuzitrin River drainages: eliminate the language related to the cow hunt, add specific language authorizing the federal manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued, and clarify where appropriate federal permits may be obtained.

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (FX2210, FX2208, FX2206, and FX2205) and BLM office (FX2203) in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>Unit 22D— that portion within the Kuzitrin River drainages—1 bull muskox by State <i>Tier II permit (TX102)</i> or Federal registration permit (FX2206); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <i>the number of federal permits to be issued,</i> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Emerging conservation concerns since 2010, prompted by significant declines in several muskox population parameters (abundance, mature bull to cow ratios, and recruitment), led to major adjustments in hunt management for the 2012-2013 hunt year that are likely to persist for the next several years. These adjustments include large reductions in the allowable harvest, the elimination of the cow hunt, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one of the Seward Peninsula muskox hunt areas. As a result, the existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements leading to potential confusion for the hunters and difficulties for managers in flexibly adapting hunt requirements to the changing biological conditions. The proposed changes would reduce confusion and improve management flexibility.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Eliminating the cow season and basing the allowable harvest on a conservative 1-2 percent of the total population compared to the previous up to 8% of the population in hunt area as had been applied in some hunt areas over the past several years will help allow the population to rebuild. At the same time, allowing for a harvest of up to 10% of the mature bulls in a hunt area will help rebuild the mature bulls to cows ratio. Restricting the number of federal permits to be issued to a small number above the allowable harvest in order to compensate for lack of hunter success will aid in preventing a situation resulting in overharvesting.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The necessary reduction in allowable harvest levels due to conservation concerns will translate into decreased subsistence opportunity. However, increased regulatory flexibility will help managers maintain and provide for subsistence uses where and when they can. Over time, as the population parameters improve, opportunity can be expanded.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Over the short term, the proposed changes will not affect other users since the proposed changes only affect federally eligible users and do not add to any existing restrictions. The State has already revised its regulations and management to the effect of eliminating the drawing hunt, eliminating the cow hunt, and returning to Tier II for the Seward peninsula in all hunt areas except GMU 22E. Over the long term, as the population rebuilds it can mean increased opportunity for all user groups.

WP14-34

Name: Ken Adkisson
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 Phone: (907) 443-6104
 Fax: (907) 443-6139
 E-mail: ken_adkisson@nps.gov

1. What regulation do you wish to change? (*Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”*)

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22D SW: eliminate the language related to the cow hunt, add specific language authorizing the federal manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued, clarify where appropriate federal permits may be obtained, and specify the Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as the federal manager.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	Unit 22D —that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek—1 muskox by State or Federal registration permit (FX2205); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.	Sept. 1—Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? (*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*)

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. 	Unit 22D —that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek—1 <u>bull muskox</u> by State <u>Tier II permit(TX103)</u> or Federal registration permit (FX2205); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <u>the number of federal permits to be issued,</u> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <u>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</u> Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.	Sept. 1—Mar. 15

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Emerging conservation concerns since 2010, prompted by significant declines in several muskox population parameters (abundance, mature bull to cow ratios, and recruitment), led to major adjustments in hunt management for the 2012-2013 hunt year that are likely to persist for the next several years. These include large reductions in the allowable harvest, the elimination of a cow hunt, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one of the Seward Peninsula muskox hunt areas. As a result, the existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements leading to potential confusion for the hunters and difficulties for managers in flexibly adapting hunt requirements to the changing biological conditions. The proposed changes would reduce confusion and improve management flexibility.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Eliminating the cow season and basing the allowable harvest on a conservative 1-2 percent of the total Seward Peninsula population compared to the previous up to 8% of the population in the hunt area as had been applied in some hunt areas over the past several years will help allow the population to rebuild. At the same time, allowing the harvest of only up to 10% of the mature bulls in a hunt area will help rebuild the mature bulls to cows ratio. Restricting the number of federal permits to be issued to a small number above the allowable harvest in order to compensate for lack of hunter success will aid in preventing a situation resulting in overharvesting.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The necessary reduction in allowable harvest levels due to conservation concerns will translate into decreased subsistence opportunity. However, increased regulatory flexibility will help managers maintain and provide for subsistence uses where and when they can. Over time, as the population parameters improve, opportunity can be expanded.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Over the short term, the proposed changes will not affect other users since the proposed changes only affect federally eligible users. The State has already revised its regulations and management to the effect of eliminating the drawing hunt, eliminating the cow hunt, shortening the season, and returning to Tier II in the hunt area. Over the long term, as the population rebuilds, it can mean increased opportunity for all user groups.

WP14-35

Name: Merben R. Cebrian
 Organization: Bureau of Land Management
 Address: 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
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 E-mail: mcebrian@blm.gov

1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22D – that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek: change harvest limit to bull only, eliminate the cow season, update the reference to the relevant federal land manager, and add language authorizing the relevant federal land manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	Unit 22D— that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek—1 muskox by State or Federal registration permit (FX2205); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.	Sep.1—Mar.15

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (see directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	Unit 22D— that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek —1 muskox bull by State <i>Tier II permit (TX103)</i> or Federal registration permit (FX2205); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <i>the number of permits to be issued,</i> and any needed closures will be announced by the	Sep.1—Mar.15

	<p>Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands <i>BLM Anchorage Field Manager</i> in consultation with <i>NPS and ADF&G and BLM.</i></p>	
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The 2012 Unit 22 muskox survey indicated that the overall Seward Peninsula muskox population experienced a significant decline since 2010 and years previous (Gorn, personal conversation). The changes in the overall population estimate have resulted in large reductions in allowable harvest, the elimination of the cow season, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one (Unit 22E) of the Seward Peninsula Game Management Sub-units. The existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements on the ground. The proposed changes include a change in the relevant land manager to reflect current land status in the area, and a mechanism to limit the number of permits issued.

In a collaborative effort between Federal and State agencies to reverse the apparent decline in muskox population, these regulatory changes represent a conservative harvest management approach for muskox in Unit 22.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The changes in regulation will likely have a positive effect on muskox recruitment. The elimination of the cow season will allow for the muskox population to rebuild. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the take of mature bulls, allowing those of breeding age to contribute to muskox reproduction. And clarifying who the relevant land manager is will streamline regulatory oversight for future management action.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

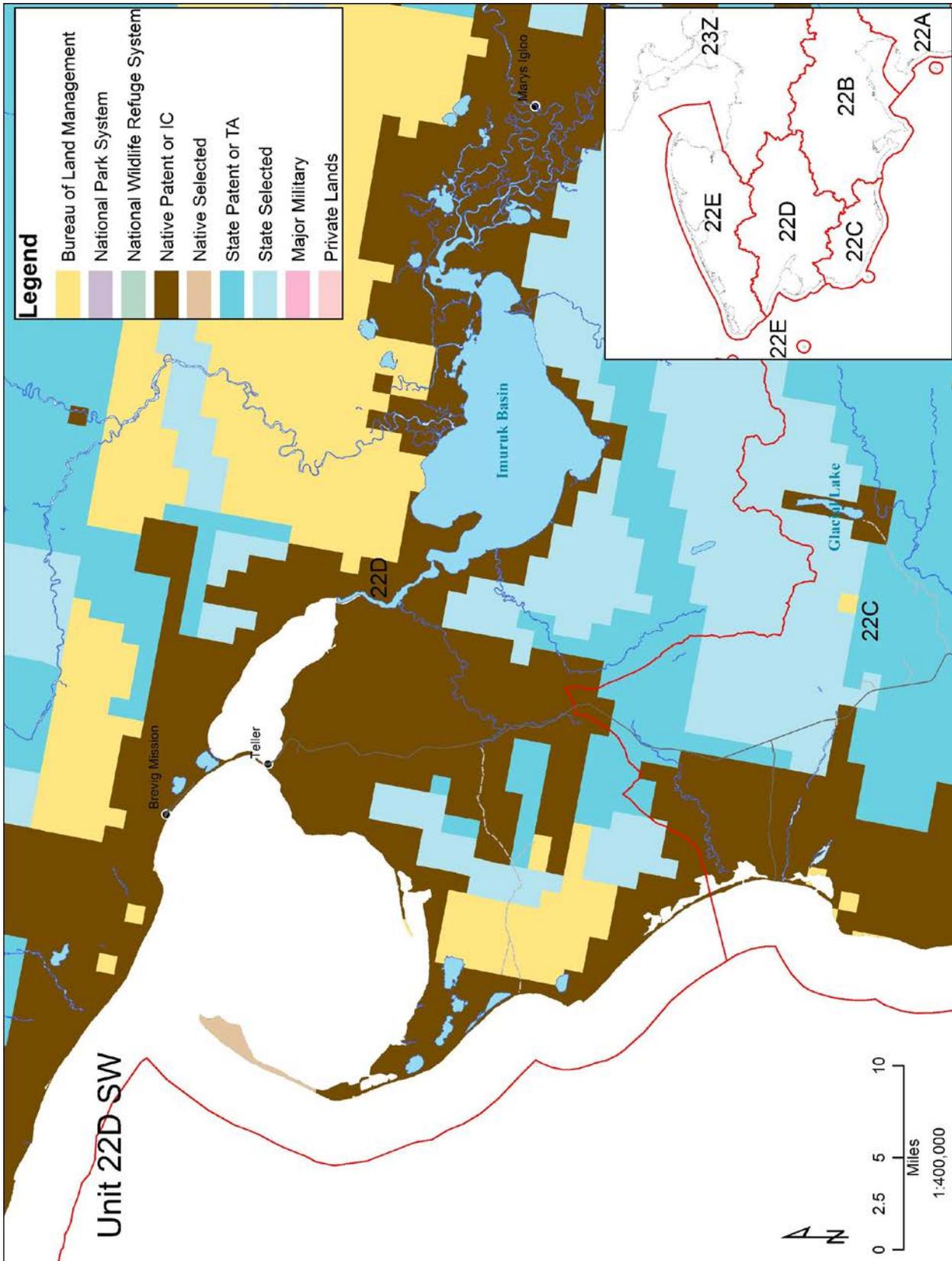
The changes will reduce subsistence opportunities for the affected rural communities to one bull per permit. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the subsistence harvest while the muskox population recovers. However, the proposed regulation retains the adaptive capacity for the land managers to provide for subsistence uses when the muskox population can support higher harvests. The change in the relevant land manager to the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager will not have a significant effect on subsistence uses and is a housekeeping measure to align the relevant land manager to the agency with significant land status in the area.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The proposed changes will primarily affect federally qualified rural residents on federal public lands. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has instituted a Tier II muskox hunt in the same area. Therefore, there is no sport/recreational muskox hunt in the area. Commercial hunting guides and transporters may operate in the area but their clients will require a valid federal or state permit to hunt muskox in the area.

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

See attached land status map (next page).



WP14-36

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 Address: PO Box 220, Nome, AK 99762
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1. What regulation do you wish to change? (*Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state "new regulation."*)

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22E: eliminate the language related to the cow hunt, add specific language authorizing the federal manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued, clarify where appropriate federal permits may be obtained, and designate the federal manager as the Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22E—Rural residents of Unit 22E (excluding Little Diomed Island). <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	Unit 22E—1 muskox by State or Federal registration permit (FX2210). Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? (*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*)

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22E—Rural residents of Unit 22E (excluding Little Diomed Island). <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (FX2210, FX2208, FX2206, and FX2205) and BLM office (FX2203) in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	Unit 22E—1 bull muskox <u>bull muskox</u> by State <u>permit (RX104)</u> or Federal registration permit (FX2210). Annual harvest quotas, <u>the number of federal permits to be issued,</u> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <u>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</u> Western Arctic National Parklands , in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Emerging conservation concerns since 2010, prompted by significant declines in several muskox population parameters (abundance, mature bull to cow ratios, and recruitment), led to major adjustments in hunt management for the 2012-2013 hunt year that are likely to persist for the next several years. These include large reductions in the allowable harvest, the elimination of a cow hunt, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one of the Seward Peninsula muskox hunt areas. As a result, the existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements leading to potential confusion for the hunters and difficulties for managers in flexibly adapting hunt requirements to the changing biological conditions. The proposed changes would reduce confusion and improve management flexibility.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Eliminating the cow season and basing the allowable harvest on a conservative 1-2 percent of the total Seward Peninsula population compared to the previous up to 8% of the population in the hunt area as had been applied in some hunt areas over the past several years will help the population to rebuild. At the same time, allowing the harvest of up to 10% of the mature bulls in a hunt area will help rebuild the mature bulls to cows ratio. Restricting the number of federal permits to be issued to a small number above the allowable harvest in order to compensate for lack of hunter success will aid in preventing a situation resulting in overharvesting.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The necessary reduction in allowable harvest levels due to conservation concerns will translate into decreased subsistence opportunity. However, increased regulatory flexibility will help managers maintain and provide for subsistence uses where and when they can. Over time, as the population parameters improve, opportunity can be expanded.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Over the short term, the proposed changes will not affect other users since the proposed changes only affect federally eligible users. The State has already revised its regulations and management to the effect of eliminating the drawing hunt, eliminating the cow hunt, and restricting the number of state permits to be issued in the Tier I hunt. Over the long term, as the population rebuilds it can mean expanded opportunity for all user groups.

WP14-37

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1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22D Remainder: eliminate the language related to the cow hunt, add specific language authorizing the federal manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued, clarify where appropriate federal permits may be obtained, and designate the Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as the federal manager.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 222D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>Unit 22D remainder—1 muskox by State Tier I or Federal registration permit (FX2208); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (FX2210, FX2208, FX2206, and FX2205) and BLM office (FX2203) in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>Unit 22D remainder—1 bull muskox by State Tier I II permit (TX102) or Federal registration permit (FX2208); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <i>the number of federal permits to be issued,</i> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <i>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</i> Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with</p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

	<p>ADF&G and BLM.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Emerging conservation concerns since 2010, prompted by significant declines in several muskox population parameters (abundance, mature bull to cow ratios, and recruitment), led to major adjustments in hunt management for the 2012-2013 hunt year that are likely to persist for the next several years. These adjustments include large reductions in the allowable harvest, the elimination of a cow hunt, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one of the Seward Peninsula muskox hunt areas. As a result, the existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements leading to potential confusion for the hunters and difficulties for managers in flexibly adapting hunt requirements to the changing biological conditions. The proposed changes would reduce confusion and improve management flexibility.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Eliminating the cow season and basing the allowable harvest on a conservative 1-2 percent of the total Seward Peninsula population compared to the previous up to 8% of the population in the hunt area as had been applied in some hunt areas over the past several years will help allow the population to rebuild. At the same time, allowing the harvest of up to 10% of the mature bulls in a hunt area will help rebuild the mature bulls to cows ratio. Restricting the number of federal permits to be issued to a small number above the allowable harvest in order to compensate for lack of hunter success will aid in preventing a situation resulting in overharvesting.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The necessary reduction in allowable harvest levels due to conservation concerns will translate into decreased subsistence opportunity. However, increased regulatory flexibility will help managers maintain and provide for subsistence uses where and when they can. Over time, as the population parameters improve, opportunity can be expanded.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Over the short term, the proposed changes will not affect other users since the proposed changes only affect federally eligible users and do not add to any existing restrictions. The State has already revised its regulations and management to the effect of eliminating the drawing hunt, eliminating the cow hunt, and returning to Tier II in the hunt area. Over the long term, as the population rebuilds it can mean increased opportunity for all user groups.

WP14-38

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1. What regulation do you wish to change? (*Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”*)

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 22D remainder: change harvest limit to bull only, eliminate the cow season, update permit requirements, update the reference to the relevant federal land manager, and add language authorizing the relevant federal land manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>Unit 22D remainder— 1 muskox by State Tier I or Federal registration permit (FX2208); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? (*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*)

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E. <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (see directory at the end of this book for</i></p>	<p>Unit 22D remainder— 1 muskox bull by State Tier II III (TX102) or Federal registration permit (FX2208); however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <u>the number of permits to be issued,</u> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic</p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

addresses.)	<p>National Parklands <i>BLM Anchorage Field Manager</i> in consultation with <i>NPS and ADF&G and BLM.</i></p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The 2012 Unit 22 muskox survey indicated that the overall Seward Peninsula muskox population experienced a significant decline since 2010 and years previous (Gorn, personal conversation). The changes in the overall population estimate have resulted in large reductions in allowable harvest, the elimination of the cow season, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one (Unit 22E) of the Seward Peninsula Game Management Sub-units. The existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements on the ground. The proposed changes include a change in the relevant land manager to reflect current land status in the area, and a mechanism to limit the number of permits issued.

In a collaborative effort between Federal and State agencies to reverse the apparent decline in muskox population, these regulatory changes represent a conservative harvest management approach for muskox in Unit 22.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The changes in regulation will likely have a positive effect on muskox recruitment. The elimination of the cow season will allow for the muskox population to rebuild. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the take of mature bulls, allowing those of breeding age to contribute to muskox reproduction. And clarifying who the relevant land manager is will streamline regulatory oversight for future management action.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

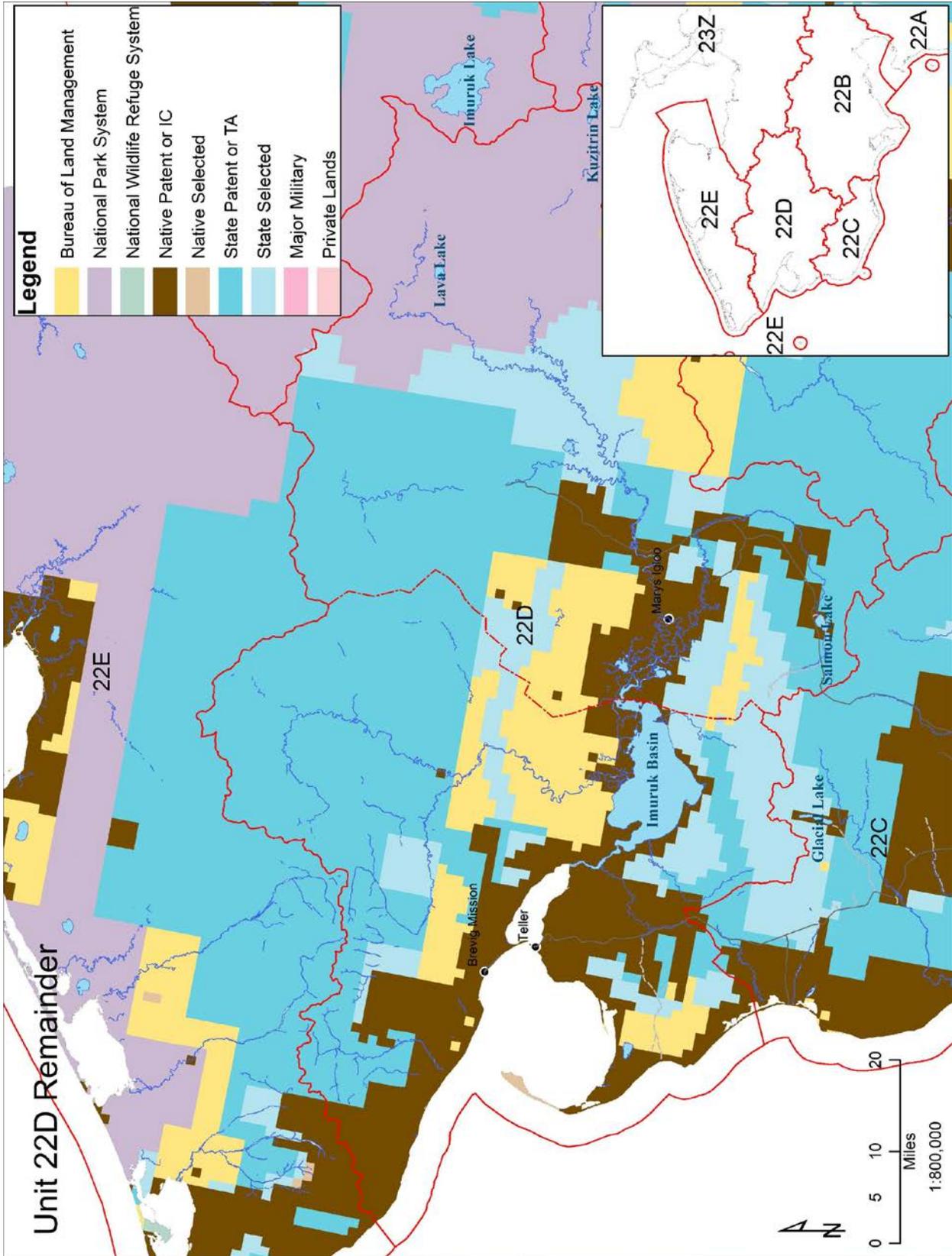
The changes will reduce subsistence opportunities for the affected rural communities to one bull per permit. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the subsistence harvest while the muskox population recovers. However, the proposed regulation retains the adaptive capacity for the land managers to provide for subsistence uses when the muskox population can support higher harvests. The change in the relevant land manager to the BLM Anchorage Field Manager will not have a significant effect on subsistence uses because it is a housekeeping measure to align the relevant land manager to the agency with significant land status in the area.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The proposed changes will primarily affect federally qualified rural residents on federal public lands. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users who hold a valid federal or state permit. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has instituted a Tier II muskox hunt in the same area. Therefore, there is no sport/recreational muskox hunt in the area. Commercial hunting guides and transporters may operate in the area but their clients will require a valid federal or state permit to hunt muskox in the area.

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

See attached land status map (next page).



WP14-39

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 E-mail: mcebrian@blm.gov

1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)*

Administration of federal permits in GMU22B: update permit requirements, update the reference to the relevant federal land manager, and add language authorizing the relevant federal land manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains— Rural residents of Units 22B and 22C Unit 22B remainder—Rural residents of Unit 22B <p><i>Federal permits are available from the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (See directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>Unit 22B—1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2203). Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Nome Field Office, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands and ADF&G.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains— Rural residents of Units 22B and 22C Unit 22B remainder—Rural residents of Unit 22B <p><i>Federal permits are available from</i></p>	<p>Unit 22B—1 bull by State <i>Tier II</i> (TX105) or Federal registration permit (FX2203). Annual harvest quotas, <i>the number of permits to be issued</i>, and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Nome <i>Anchorage</i> Field Office <i>Manager</i>, in consultation with</p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

<p><i>the NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and BLM office in Nome. (see directory at the end of this book for addresses.)</i></p>	<p>the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands and ADF&G.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p>	
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The 2012 Unit 22 muskox survey indicated that the overall Seward Peninsula muskox population experienced a significant decline since 2010 and years previous (Gorn, personal conversation). The changes in the overall population estimate have resulted in large reductions in allowable harvest, the elimination of the cow season, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one (Unit 22E) of the Seward Peninsula Game Management Sub-units. The existing regulations no longer match the actual hunt requirements on the ground. The proposed changes include a change in the relevant land manager to reflect current land status in the area, and a mechanism to limit the number of permits issued.

In a collaborative effort between Federal and State agencies to reverse the apparent decline in muskox population, these regulatory changes represent a conservative harvest management approach for muskox in Unit 22.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The changes in regulation will likely have a positive effect on muskox recruitment. The elimination of the cow season will allow for the muskox population to rebuild. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the take of mature bulls, allowing those of breeding age to contribute to muskox reproduction. And clarifying who the relevant land manager is will streamline regulatory oversight for future management action.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The changes will reduce subsistence opportunities for the affected rural communities to one bull per permit. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the subsistence harvest while the muskox population recovers. However, the proposed regulation retains the adaptive capacity for the land managers to provide for subsistence uses when the muskox population can support higher harvests. The change in the relevant land manager to the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager will not have a significant effect on subsistence uses because it is a housekeeping measure to align the relevant land manager to the agency with significant land status in the area.

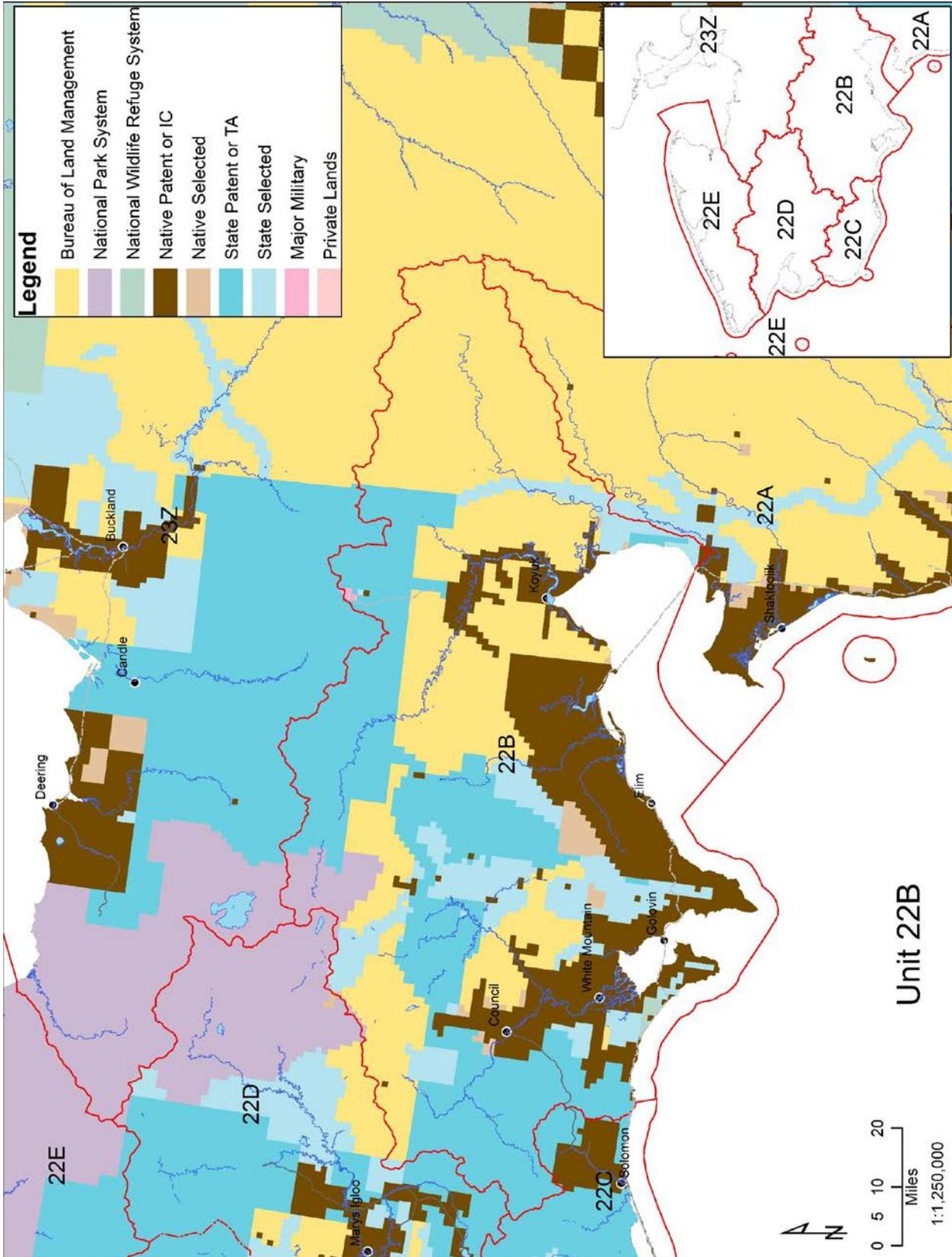
6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The proposed changes will primarily affect federally qualified rural residents on federal public lands. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users who hold a valid federal or state permit. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has instituted a Tier II muskox hunt in the same area. Therefore, there is no sport/recreational muskox hunt in the area. Commercial hunting guides and transporters may

operate in the area but their clients will require a valid federal or state permit to hunt muskox in the area.

Please attach any additional information to support your proposal.

See attached land status map (next page).



WP14-40

Date: March 27, 2013

Name: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 786-3888

Fax: (907) 786-3898

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? (Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”)**

Unit 23 – Brown Bear

*Unit 23 – 1 bear by State registration Aug.1 – May 31
permit only.*

__26(n)(23)(iii) You may hunt brown bear by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag in Unit 26A if you have a State registration permit prior to hunting. Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting under the authority of a brown bear State registration permit, including transportation of hunters, bear, or parts of bear. However, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation of aircraft to or between publicly owned airports. See page 20 for bear sealing requirements.

2. **How should the new regulation read? (Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)**

Unit 23 – Brown Bear

*Unit 23 – 1 bear ~~by State registration~~ Aug.1 – May 31
~~permit only.~~*

__26(n)(23)(iii) ~~You may hunt brown bear by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag if you have obtained a State registration permit prior to hunting.~~ Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting ~~under the authority of a brown bear State registration permit,~~ including transportation of hunters, bears, or parts of bears; however, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation of aircraft to or between publicly owned airports.

3. **Why should this regulation change be made?**

The Council wishes to eliminate the requirement for a State registration permit to take brown bear in Unit 23 on Federal lands in order to align State and Federal regulations on the taking of the species. Removing the State permit requirement would ease confusion about hunting regulations for communities on Federal lands in the Unit so that brown bear can be harvested more opportunistically without the concern of having to have a State permit for such harvest.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The season and harvest limit would remain the same under this proposed change, so there should be little impact to the brown bear population of the area. Eliminating the State permit requirement will merely help align State and Federal regulations.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This change would increase the opportunity for hunters to harvest brown bear if encountered while hunting other species of wildlife or as other opportunities arise while out in the field. Eliminating the State permit requirement would allow more flexibility to hunt brown bears opportunistically without the need to secure a permit in advance.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The proposed change should have no effect as it would only serve to align with the State for residents and non-residents alike.

WP14-41

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1. What regulation do you wish to change? *(Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state "new regulation.")*

Season and harvest limits for muskox in GMU 23SW: eliminate the language related to the cow hunt, and add specific language authorizing the federal manager to restrict the number of federal permits to be issued.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 23 South of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drain-age —Rural residents of Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage. 	Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage—1 bull by State or Federal registration permit (FX2302) Or 1 muskox of muskox by State or Federal permit. <i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures for Unit 23 will be announced by the superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands. In consultation with ADF&G and BLM.</i>	Aug. 1–Dec. 31 Jan. 1–Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read? *(Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.)*

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
MUSKOX		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 23 South of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drain-age —Rural residents of Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River 	Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage—1 bull by State <u>Tier II permit (TX106)</u> or Federal registration permit (FX2302)	Aug. 1– Dec. <u>31 Mar. 15</u>

drainage.	<p>Of 1 muskox by State or Federal permit.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by federally qualified subsistence users. Annual harvest quotas, <u>the number of federal permits to be issued,</u> and any needed closures for Unit 23 will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM.</i></p>	Jan. 1– Mar. 15
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3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Emerging conservation concerns since 2010, prompted by significant declines in several muskox population parameters (abundance, mature bull to cow ratios, and recruitment), led to major adjustments in hunt management for the 2012-2013 hunt year that are likely to persist for the next several years. These adjustments include large reductions in the allowable harvest, the elimination of a cow hunt, and the return to State Tier II hunts in all but one of the Seward Peninsula muskox hunt areas. As a result, the existing federal regulations no longer reflect the actual hunt requirements as developed through a series of Emergency Orders and Special Actions, and additionally no longer align with existing state regulations are, consequently leading to potential confusion for the hunters and difficulties for managers in flexibly adapting hunt requirements to the changing biological conditions. The proposed changes would reduce confusion and improve management flexibility.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Eliminating the cow season and basing the overall allowable harvest on a conservative 1-2 percent of the total Seward Peninsula muskox population compared to the previous 8% of the population in the hunt area as had been applied in some hunt areas over the past several years will help rebuild the population. At the same time, allowing for a harvest of up to 10% of the mature bulls in a hunt area will help rebuild the mature bulls to cows ratio. Limiting the number of federal permits to be issued to a small number above the allowable harvest in order to compensate for lack of hunter success will aid in preventing a situation resulting in overharvesting.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The necessary reduction in allowable harvest levels due to conservation concerns will translate into decreased subsistence opportunity. However, increased regulatory flexibility will help managers maintain and provide for subsistence uses where and when they can. Over time, as the population parameters improve, opportunity can be expanded.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Over the short term, the proposed changes will not affect other users since the proposed changes only affect federally eligible users and do not add to any existing restrictions. The State has already revised its regulations and management to the effect of eliminating the drawing hunt, eliminating the cow hunt, and returning to Tier II for the Seward Peninsula in all hunt areas except GMU 22E. Over the long term, as the population rebuilds it can mean increased opportunity for other user groups.

WP14-42

Name: Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 20, 2013.

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Sheep—Units 25B and 25C

No Federal subsistence priority

Sheep—Unit 20E

All rural residents.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Sheep—Units 25B and 25C

~~*No Federal subsistence priority*~~ *Rural residents of Units 25B, 25C, and Unit 20E*

Sheep—Unit 20E

~~*All rural residents.*~~ *Rural residents of Units 25B, 25C, and Unit 20E*

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

Currently, there are no open Federal subsistence seasons for sheep in Units 25B, 25C, and 20E. Establishing a rural subsistence priority for sheep is important as Chinook salmon subsistence harvests are likely to decline in the future. People will have to rely on substitute species, including sheep, and there are not a lot of other fish species in the river to harvest at that time of year.

An area in the Charley River drainage was used by subsistence hunters. Stan Galvin's father built an airstrip in the area to hunt sheep many years ago. Council member Bill Glanz, Central resident, has hunted in the Yukon Charley area for 28 years. Mr. Glanz also listed many people he knows in the community of Central and Circle who have hunted sheep in the area for 30-50 years and Athabascan families in Circle who have hunted sheep for generations. Council member Don Woodruff, Eagle resident, hunts sheep in 25B up the Tatonduck River and has been hunting there for 32 years. He also knows people in his community hunt sheep locally up Eagle Creek in Unit 25B.

Sheep have been harvested on many of the parcels of Federal public lands in the management units, and Council members are aware of this use through local oral history. The Council voted to include in the proposal all Federal public lands in the management units.

The Council acknowledged that in two of the units, currently there is no Federal subsistence priority and requested that only residents of the units should be included in the customary and traditional use determination. In another unit, the customary and traditional use determination includes all rural residents, and the Council requested that OSM staff review which rural residents have demonstrated customary and traditional uses in the unit. The Council requested OSM staff to bring their recommendation for the Council to review at its fall 2013 meeting.

In some areas, State draw permit hunts have made it difficult to obtain a permit to hunt for many years. Seasons and bag limits are to be determined (see transcript day 1 pages 94–104).

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will create an opportunity for Federal subsistence users to hunt sheep.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The State season and harvest limit may be restricted, depending on harvestable surplus.

WP14-43

Name: Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 20, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 20—Sheep

No Federal open season.

Unit 25—Sheep

Unit 25B—No regulation

Unit 25C—No regulation

Unit 25D—No open Federal season

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 20—Sheep

Unit 20E—1 ram with full-curl horn or larger. Aug. 10–Sept. 20.

Unit 20 remainder—No Federal open season

Unit 25—Sheep

Unit 25B—One ram with full-curl horn or larger. Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Unit 25C—One ram with full-curl horn or larger. Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Unit 25D—~~No Federal open season~~ One ram with full-curl horn or larger. Aug. 10–Sept. 20

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

At this time there is no Federal open season.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will give subsistence users priority over other uses on Federal public lands.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

It could change the State's harvest quota.

WP14-44

Name: Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 20, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 20F remainder—Moose

1 antlered bull. Sept. 1–25 and Dec. 1–10

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 20F remainder—Moose

1 antlered bull. Sept. 1–~~25~~ 30 and Dec. 1–10

(The Council is submitting a proposal to the State Board of Game to extend the season from Sept. 1–15 to Sept. 1–30.)

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

It is too warm in early September with temperatures in recent years reaching into the 60s (degrees F). It has been warmer than in the past. A hunter cannot shoot a moose and preserve it before it spoils, unless the harvest occurs near an electric line and freezer. The season should be extended to compensate for lost hunting days during the early season when moose should not be harvested due the warm weather.

The Council is aware that Federal public lands in the remainder area occur away from the river in a hilly to mountainous area, which requires transport of some distance to pack the meat home.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The Council did not answer this question directly, but it is assumed the Council thought the proposal would have no impact on moose populations.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

Subsistence hunters will have five additional days in which to hunt later in September when outside temperatures are cooler and meat is less likely to spoil before being preserved.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

They will not be affected.

WP14-45

Name: Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 21, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**Unit 12—Caribou**

Unit 12, that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border—1 bull by Federal registration permit only. Sept. 1–30.

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, and Tok.

2: How would the new regulation read?**Unit 12—Caribou**

Unit 12, that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border—1 bull by Federal registration permit only. Sept. 1–30.

*Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by **residents of the area and** residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, **Nebesna**, Northway, Tetlin, and Tok.*

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

The Council feels the people living in the hunting area should be eligible to hunt caribou in the area. They were overlooked in the initial consideration.

The Council notes that the people who live with the caribou year round in the hunt area should definitely qualify to hunt the animals where they live. The Council also notes that the community of Nebesna was overlooked when considering customary and traditional uses of caribou in this region even though it is located right near the herd's range and has historical use.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None. This change will not affect the caribou harvest quota.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It will allow residents of Nebesna and people who live in the hunt area to hunt caribou under Federal regulations. The change will provide opportunity to a few hunters living in this area who otherwise are not able to hunt caribou in the area.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No affects. They will not be affected by this change. The area will continue to be closed to all uses other than subsistence.

WP14-46

Proposal to change Federal Subsistence Regulation for Customary and Traditional Use Determination for Caribou in Unit 25B

1. Submitted by: Steven Hamilton P.O. Box 9 Eagle, Alaska 99738, phone (907) 547-2295, no fax or e-mail.
2. I want to change the Customary and Traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 25B from: Unit 25B and 25C - rural residents of unit 25
3. To: Unit 25B rural residents of unit 25 and residents of Eagle. Unit 25C - rural residents of unit 25.
4. The people of Eagle have a long history of hunting both sides of the Yukon River. Therefore they should have a Customary and Tradition use determination to allow them to hunt both game management units as they have traditionally done. Without this determination the Eagle people are blocked from using one half of their traditional hunting range.
5. The population of Eagle is small enough that I don't foresee much of an impact on the caribou numbers.
6. The affect on subsistence use is, as I noted earlier, to open up to use all of the hunting area that has been traditionally used by the Eagle area residents.

7. The affect on other users of Unit 25B will be minimal because of the units remoteness, and because of the time of year when the caribou normally use Unit 25B.

Thank You

WP14-47**Name:** Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**Date:** February 20, 2013**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management**Address:****Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator**Phone:** 907-786-3358**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?****Customary and Traditional Use Determinations—Caribou**

<i>Units 20D and 20E</i>	<i>Residents of Units 20D, 20E, and 12 north of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve</i>
<i>Unit 25A</i>	<i>Residents of Units 24A and 25</i>
<i>Unit 25B and 25C</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 25</i>
<i>Unit 25D</i>	<i>Residents of Units 20F, 25D, and Manley Hot Springs</i>

2: How would the new regulation read?**Customary and Traditional Use Determinations—Caribou**

<i>Units 20D and 20E</i>	<i>Residents of Units 12 north of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, 20D, 20E, 20F, 25, and Eureka Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, and Minto</i>
<i>Unit 25A</i>	<i>Residents of Units 24A and 25</i>
<i>Unit 25B and 25C</i>	<i>Residents of Units 12 north of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, 20D, 20E, 20F, 25, and Eureka Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, and Minto</i>
<i>Unit 25D</i>	<i>Residents of Units 20F, 25D, and Manley Hot Springs</i>

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

The management of this herd follows the 2012-2018 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (harvest plan), which was developed by a coalition of the Fairbanks, Upper Tanana/Fortymile, Central, Delta Junction, Eagle, Anchorage, and Mat Valley Advisory Committees and the Eastern Central, Delta Junction, Eagle, Anchorage and Mat Valley Advisory Committees and the Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council in cooperation with Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Department of Environment, Yukon First Nations and the Alaska Management Board, and ADF&G. The Fortymile Caribou Herd has been increasing since the mid-1990s; as the population has continued to grow the herd has expanded its range into Unit 25C (the White Mountains National Recreation Area). During the last

revision of harvest plan in 2011–2012, concerns were expressed that as the herds range expands there is a potential for increased Federal harvest in the road accessible portion of Unit 25C. As part of the 2011–2012 harvest plan revision, the EIRAC intended to submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB), for their spring 2012 meeting, to change the C&T for caribou in Unit 25C from all federally qualified subsistence users to residents within the herds range. The way the 2012 FSB proposal from the EIRAC was written inadvertently asked the board to change the C&T for caribou to residents of Unit 25. What the EIRAC intended to do was only change the C&T for caribou in Unit 25C to address concerns about the Fortymile Herd specifically. This proposal will change the C&T for caribou in Units 20D, 20E, 25B, and 25C to allow all federally qualified users within or adjacent to the Fortymile Herd’s range to hunt under federal hunting regulations throughout the herds range as originally intended.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

There should be no impact to the caribou herd as harvest is controlled via a joint Federal/State registration permit and harvest quotas.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

If the C&T is expanded as recommended, it will allow federally qualified subsistence users, that live within or adjacent to the herd’s range, to hunt the herd throughout its range rather than being restricted to hunting the caribou in only a portion of its range. Because caribou move within their range, they may not be available within certain Units within their range during hunting season.

In addition, this change will continue to exclude some federally qualified subsistence users from outside the local area from harvesting Fortymile Caribou, in Unit 25C; this will address the original concerns about increased Federal harvest in the road accessible portion of Unit 25C and will benefit local federally qualified subsistence users by preventing competition for a limited resource and allowing the harvest season to stay open longer as the quota should be reached more slowly.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

There should be no impact to sport/recreational and commercial users as harvest is controlled via a joint Federal/State registration permit and harvest quotas.

WP14-48

Submitted by:

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Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 25A—Rural residents of Units 25A and 25D

Unit 25A—1 antlered bull

Dates: Aug. 25–Sept. 25, Dec. 1–Dec. 10

Current State Regulation:

25A remainder

Residents: one bull, Sept 5-Sept 25

Nonresidents: one bull with 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
Sept 5-Sept 25

Proposed Federal Regulation:

Unit 25A that portion consisting of the drainage of Sheenjek River upstream from and including Monument Creek, and the drainages of the Coleen River and Old Crow River (including Bilwaddy Creek), — 5 bulls by Federal registration permit by residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, and Fort Yukon only. Only 5 Federal registration permits will be issued. Federal public lands described above are closed to the taking of moose except by a resident of Arctic Village, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, or Fort Yukon holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under these regulations.

Dates: Aug. 25–Sept. 25

Note: Office of Subsistence Management will want to do an ANILCA 804 analysis.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Moose populations in the proposed regulation area declined significantly during 1991 to 2000 and remain at a very low level for the past 12 years (Table 1). Moose counted in the upper Sheenjek population trend area declined to only 21 moose in 2000, down 84% from a previous average of 135 moose recorded during 1977-1989. Moose counted in the upper Coleen River population trend area declined to 129 moose in 2000, down 41% from a previous average of 229 moose recorded during 1977-1991. Counts completed in fall 2012 revealed a total of 26 moose for the upper Sheenjek and moose counts for the upper Coleen have declined further to 79 moose, down 65% from earlier levels.

Table 1. Total moose counted by fall aerial surveys during 1977 to 2012, eastern Brooks Range, Alaska.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Kongakut</i>	<i>Firth</i>	<i>Coleen</i>	<i>Sheenjek</i>
1977 ¹	No Survey	No Survey	219	104
1978 ²	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	125
1979 ³	No Survey	No Survey	245	151

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1983 ⁴	174	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey
1984 ⁵	215	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey
1985 ⁶	180	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey
1986 ⁷	247	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey
1987 ⁸	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	149
1989 ⁹	No Survey	169	220	147
1991 ¹⁰	163	245	233	81
2000 ¹¹	70	88	129	21
2002 ¹²	95	132	103	21
2008 ¹³	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	22
2011 ¹⁴	127	212	No Survey	No Survey
2012 ^{15,16}	No Survey	No Survey	79 ¹⁵	26 ¹⁶

¹ Haggstrom, 1977 (ADFG)	⁹ Mauer, 1989 (Arctic Refuge)
² Spindler, 1978 (Arctic Refuge)	¹⁰ Mauer and Akaran, 1991 (Arctic Refuge)
³ Spindler, 1980 (Arctic Refuge)	¹¹ Mauer, 2000 (Arctic Refuge)
⁴ Martin and Garner, 1984 (Arctic Refuge)	¹² Bucholtz, 2002 (Arctic Refuge)
⁵ Martin and Garner, 1985 (Arctic Refuge)	¹³ Wertz, 2008 (Arctic Refuge)
⁶ Muelenhardt and Garner, 1986 Arctic Refuge	¹⁴ Caikoski, 2011 (ADFG)
⁷ Weiler and Liedberg, 1986 (Arctic Refuge)	¹⁵ Caikoski, 2012 (ADFG)
⁸ Nowlin, 1987 (ADFG)	¹⁶ Wald, 2012 (Arctic Refuge)

Studies of moose movements in the Eastern Brooks Range during 1995-1998 (Mauer 1998) and Old Crow Flats during 2007-2009 (Yukon Department of Renewable Resources) indicate that a very high proportion of moose in this region migrate in the spring to Old Crow Flats (Canada) where they give birth to calves and remain through the summer season. In late August these moose begin to move out of Old Crow Flats towards winter ranges located in the upper Kongakut and Firth River drainages of GMU 26C, and upper Sheenjek and Coleen River drainages in GMU 25A. Studies in 2007-2009 identified movement of moose from Old Crow Flats to the middle section of the Coleen River as well.

Following a widespread decline in moose populations throughout the north slope of Alaska, moose hunting was closed in 1996 for all of GMU 26C, including the upper Kongakut and upper Firth areas. Although similar declines of moose were detected for the upper Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers, these areas have remained open to moose hunting. Recent fall moose counts in trend survey areas of the upper Kongakut and Firth Rivers suggest that moose numbers in these areas may be improving (Table 1). However, no recovery of moose numbers has been detected in the upper Sheenjek and Coleen River areas.

The fall migration of moose to the upper Sheenjek and Coleen River areas occurs during the current hunting season (September 5-25). Due to the open tundra, low shrub and black spruce taiga communities found in the south slopes of the eastern Brooks Range, migrating moose are easily visible. Studies using GPS technology have indicated that moose follow the same routes, and often travel over the same trails during the fall migration (Yukon Department of Renewable Resources). Radio telemetry studies have found that individual moose have a very high fidelity to rut areas, winter ranges, calving and summer ranges (Mauer 1998). These characteristics render migratory moose of the proposal area highly vulnerable to harvest. Commonly used metrics derived in more southern moose ranges do not readily apply to this population. While ADFG reports a density of 0.2 moose per mile² for the proposal area, the reality on the ground is more complex spatially and temporally. According to observations of local residents, throughout the Coleen River drainage there are no or very few moose during late spring and

summer. During the fall moose migrate along several routes leading from Old Crow Flats, and during winter they are thinly distributed where suitable willow habitat exists. In spite of critically low numbers of moose remaining in the upper Sheenjek and Coleen areas, the vulnerability of migrating moose in open country and their concentration in well defined migratory routes result in generally high hunter success ratios, although this measurement shows a declining trend (Figures 1 and 2). A reduction of hunting pressure is necessary to conserve the existing moose, and enhance the opportunity for population regrowth in the future.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This proposal will significantly reduce harvest pressure on moose inhabiting the area, helping to conserve a population that is critically low, and provide an opportunity for growth and recovery. Moose of the upper Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers are part of a distinct population, whose migratory strategy has allowed it to achieve densities in the past that are significantly higher than would be expected for a resident population. To restore this migratory tradition to its former healthy status would be of great benefit to both local and non-local hunters, and would also be consistent with conserving wildlife in their natural diversity, a primary purpose for the establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

5. How will this change effect subsistence uses?

This proposed regulation change will not affect current subsistence use because the known level of harvest by federally-qualified subsistence users is provided for in the proposed permit system. This proposal will reduce current hunting pressure from non-local hunters. As a result, the moose population will likely increase over time, and ultimately provide greater opportunity for both local and non-local hunters.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

Sport/recreational uses in this region are not exclusively tied to moose hunting. Most sport hunting here includes several species such as caribou, Dall sheep and brown bear. This proposal will not affect hunting for these species. Other uses such as recreational hiking and river floating would also not be directly affected. As the moose population recovers, wildlife viewing would improve. Commercial services for both hunting (except for moose) and non-hunting activities would continue in the region of this proposal. Two commercial hunting guides are currently authorized to take moose within the proposal area. Commercially guided moose hunting reported in the proposal area during the period of 2004 through 2012 averaged 4.2 hunters/year and 2.4 moose harvested/year (Table 2). This proposal may have a positive effect for the hunting of moose by non-local and commercially guided hunters in the future as the moose population increases and a higher sustainable harvest quota is achieved.

Table 2. Total Reported Commercially Guided Moose Hunters and Harvest in the Proposal Area. (Source:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)

Year	Hunters	Moose Harvested
2012	2	1
2011	3	1
2010	5	2
2009	6	2
2008	4	4
2007	4	1
2006	6	4

2005	4	3
2004	4	3

Figure 1
 Number of moose hunters and moose harvested in the upper Sheenjek River drainage in GMU 25A, 1990-2012. Data from ADFG Winfonet, accessed March 2013. (upstream from and including Thluichohnjik Creek)

Year	Hunters	Kills	% success
1990	26	21	80.8
1991	24	13	54.2
1992	14	7	50.0
1993	10	3	30.0
1994	11	6	54.5
1995	13	6	46.2
1996	8	5	62.5
1997	13	11	84.6
1998	21	13	61.9
1999	10	5	50.0
2000	20	11	55.0
2001	39	15	38.5
2002	33	15	45.5
2003	17	9	52.9
2004	14	4	28.6
2005	15	9	60.0
2006	25	7	28.0
2007	27	7	25.9
2008	28	11	39.3
2009	25	9	36.0
2010	22	5	22.7
2011	11	5	45.5
2012	13	4	30.8

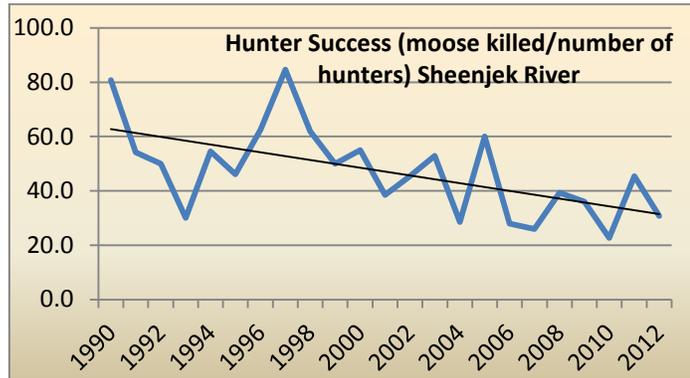
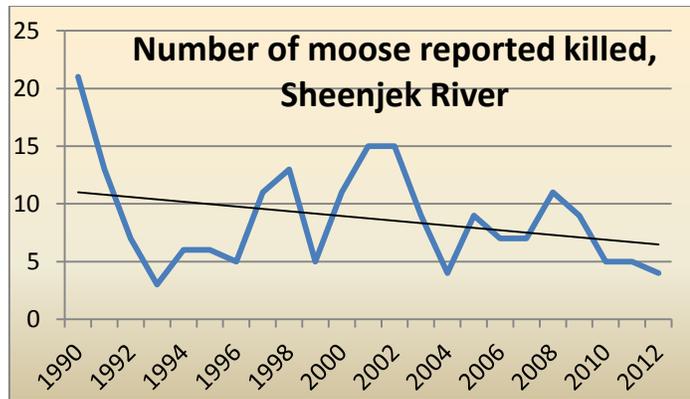
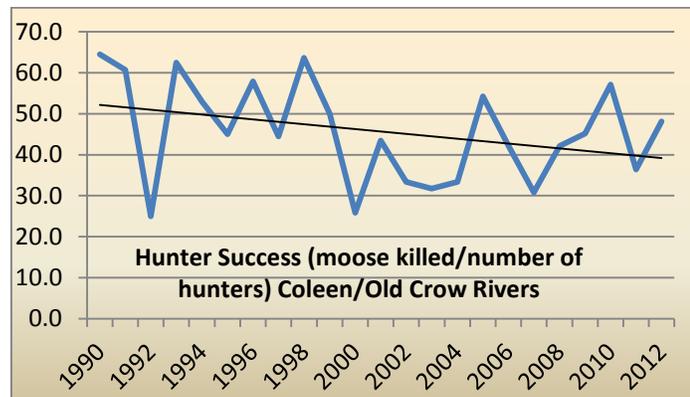
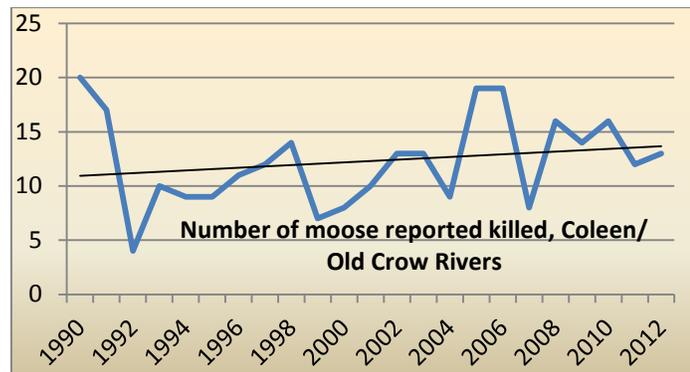
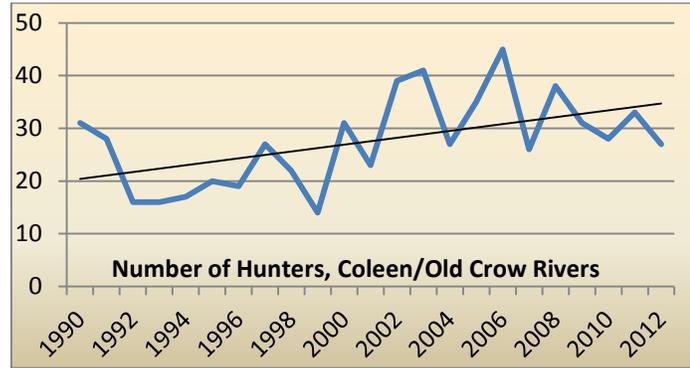


Figure 2

Number of moose hunters and moose harvested in the Coleen River and Old Crow drainages in GMU 25A, 1990-2012. Data from ADFG Winfonet, accessed March 2013.

Year	hunters	kills	% success
1990	31	20	64.5
1991	28	17	60.7
1992	16	4	25.0
1993	16	10	62.5
1994	17	9	52.9
1995	20	9	45.0
1996	19	11	57.9
1997	27	12	44.4
1998	22	14	63.6
1999	14	7	50.0
2000	31	8	25.8
2001	23	10	43.5
2002	39	13	33.3
2003	41	13	31.7
2004	27	9	33.3
2005	35	19	54.3
2006	45	19	42.2
2007	26	8	30.8
2008	38	16	42.1
2009	31	14	45.2
2010	28	16	57.1
2011	33	12	36.4
2012	27	13	48.1



WP14-49

Name: Gilliam Joe

Organization:

Address: PO Box 291, Gakona AK 99586

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Fax:

E-mail address: gjoe@cheeshna.com

This proposal suggests a change to: harvest season

1. **What regulation do you wish to change? Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”**

This proposal would modify the season dates for the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place east of the Nabesna River and Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.

Unit 12 Caribou

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 12, Chistochina, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake	Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border —1 bull by Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, and Tok.	Sept. 1-Sept. 30

2. **How should the new regulation read?**

Change the dates of the fall season to avoid the rut and add a winter season (February 1 to March 31) to the Unit 12 caribou hunt that occurs east of the Nabesna River/Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.

Unit 12 Caribou

C&T Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Seasons
Rural residents of Unit 12, Chistochina, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake	Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border —1 bull by Federal registration permit only.	Aug. 10 Sept. 1- Sept. 20 30 <u>Feb. 1- Mar. 31</u>

	<p><u>You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of the caribou until you remove the meat from the field or process it for human consumption.</u></p> <p>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, and Tok.</p>	
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3. Why should this regulatory change be made?

The fall season dates should be adjusted to provide an opportunity to harvest caribou before the rut. In late September, as the rut approaches, the meat quality declines significantly. Access to this remote hunt area is difficult. Adding a winter season to the harvest opportunity for the Chisana caribou herd will allow subsistence users more access options (i.e., use of snowmachines) and more time for their hunt.

Given the remote hunt location, the meat-on-the-bone requirement will ensure that all the edible meat is removed from the field.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

No effect. The harvest quota would remain the same. This proposal simply allows a subsistence user a longer season for his or her hunt.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal enhances subsistence opportunity by providing qualified subsistence users with additional time to access this remote hunt area. In addition, the winter season means that snowmachines may be used for access, a more viable means of access for some subsistence users than aircraft. The date change in the fall season ensures that the harvest opportunity will occur with meat quality is high.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?

No effect. This harvest opportunity is only open to federally qualified subsistence users in those communities most dependent on the resource.

WP14-50

Name: Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 20, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 25D

(iii)(A) (A) You may use bait to hunt black bear between April 15 and June 30 and between August 1 and September 25; you may use bait to hunt wolves on FWS and BLM lands.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 25D—Unit specific regulations

*(iii)(A) You may use bait to hunt black bear **and brown bear** between April 15 and June 30 and between August 1 and September 25; you may use bait to hunt wolves on FWS and BLM lands.*

A similar proposal will be submitted by the Council to the Alaska Board of Game for Unit 25D. These proposals are intended to align the federal regulations with state regulations currently in place in Units 12, 20C, 20E, and 21D.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

In Unit 25D, when brown bears appear at black bear baiting stations, it is illegal to harvest them. Hunters should be allowed to harvest brown bear that show up at their bait stations. The harvest limit for brown bear is two per year. Both the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge manager and the biologist described the high density of black and brown bears in the area. The proposal will increase the opportunity to harvest brown bear.

Subsistence users have harvested brown bear over their moose gut piles. The brown bear season is year round.

A council member explained that this has been done in the area for generations. He went on to explain:

In the springtime you'll find the bears just coming out of their dens and the trappers that would have their carcasses from the winter trapping would use that as bait or something along that line, whatever didn't get eaten by the dogs, they would use that for bait in the springtime to get the spring bears and you'd use whatever was left from your moose kill in the fall for bait to get a fall bear and whatever else. Generally not taken in the summer due to the weather and, of course, they're busy fishing in the summer.

But those were the two times of year that they're normally taken, which the State season reflects on, but I'd just like to see it in the Federal reg. book as well so I don't have to play that lawyer GPS “where am I game” to go from State and Federal land and bounce around, and I could leave my bait stations where they are and not have to move camp 30 miles to get back onto Federal land or back onto State land as we have a checkerboard of land ownership in the Yukon Flats (Eastern Interior Council meeting transcripts, February 21, 2013, in Fairbanks, pages 255–256).

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

None.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The proposal will increase opportunity for subsistence users to harvest brown bear.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No.

WP14-51

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Please answer the following questions. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 25A – Sheep

*Unit 25A – Arctic Village Sheep Management Area – 2 rams by Aug. 10 – Apr. 30
Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands are closed to
the taking of sheep except by rural Alaska residents of Arctic
Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik, and Chalkyitsik hunting
under these regulations.*

2. How should the new regulation read?

Unit 25A – Sheep

*Unit 25A – Arctic Village Sheep Management Area – 2 rams by Aug. 10 – Apr. 30
Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands, except the
drainages of Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek during the period
of Aug. 10-Sept. 20 in accordance with state regulation *5 AAC
92.003(h), are closed to the taking of sheep except by rural Alaska
residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik, and
Chalkyitsik hunting under these regulations.*

***5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements**

(h) A person hunting within the RED SHEEP CREEK / CANE CREEK PORTION OF ARCTIC VILLAGE SHEEP MANAGEMENT AREA (AVSMA) OF GMU 25A must possess proof of completion of a department-approved hunter ethics and orientation course (to include land status and trespass information) upon hunting in this area.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The area is currently closed unnecessarily. The closure was requested due to reports of ongoing user conflicts focused mainly on trespass. Trespass issues are not within the purview of the Federal Subsistence Board as the mission of the board is to provide for subsistence opportunities for federally qualified users. The State of Alaska proposed a compromise to the closure requiring completion of an ethics and orientation course prior to hunting sheep in this area. The state's efforts were widely supported as an acceptable alternative, however the Federal Subsistence Board met prior to the Alaska State Board

of Game; therefore, action had not yet been taken to require the aforementioned course as a condition of hunting sheep in this area at the time the Federal Subsistence board took action.

The State has acted in good faith to pursue action. The Alaska Board of Game adopted this requirement at their March 2012 meeting directly following the January 2012 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Therefore, regulations are currently in place to safeguard against user conflicts similar to those noted previously by requiring completion of an ethics and orientation course prior to exercising state hunting opportunities for sheep in this area.

State opportunity if the area is reopened is expected to be similar to previous opportunity with little to no impact to the resource.

Prior to closure action in January 2012 previous state opportunity read:

*State sheep hunting regulations for 25A east of the Middle Fork of the Chandalar River follow:
Unit 25A - One ram with full curl horn or larger with a harvest ticket between August 10 and September 20. Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by a registered guide. or*

Three sheep by permit RS595 available online or in person in Fairbanks and Kaktovik beginning September 21 for season between October 1 and April 30. The use of aircraft for access to hunt sheep and transport harvested sheep is prohibited in this hunt except into and out of Arctic Village and Kaktovik airports. No motorized access from Dalton Highway.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Harvestable surplus of sheep in this area will be made available to those who desire to regain the opportunity to harvest them. Changes in the population are expected to be de minimis as use of this resource by other users was categorically low. Since the re-opening in 2006, an average of 6 hunters harvested an average of 4 full-curl rams annually during 2006--2012.

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

Federally qualified subsistence users will benefit as other users will be educated through an ethics and orientation course prior to utilizing this area, and may be cited by law enforcement for offenses which previously required a warning prior to citation. Federally qualified subsistence users will remain able to meet or exceed their needs, which were not in question prior to the closure.

6. How will this change affect other uses, i.e. sport/recreational and commercial?

Answer questions 7-9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

Other users will regain a highly desired longstanding opportunity to harvest previously available resource and gain information to avoid user conflicts and increase respect for the resource and land owners.

7. Which communities have used this resource?

The most common communities in Alaska include Fairbanks, Anchorage, Palmer, Big Lake, and Sitka. Two non-residents hunted in these drainages during the previous 7 years.

8. Where has this resource been harvested?

Within the Red Sheep Creek / Cane Creek portion of Arctic Village Sheep management Area (AVSMA) of GMU 25A

9. In what months has this resource been harvested?

This resource has been harvested primarily in August and September.

WP14-52

Name: North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 27, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 26A —Brown Bear

Unit 26A—1 bear by State registration permit only. July 1–June 30

___.26(n)(26)(iii) You may hunt brown bear in Unit 26A by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag if you have obtained a State registration permit prior to hunting. Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting under the authority of a brown bear State registration permit, including transportation of hunters, bears, or parts of bears; however, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation of aircraft to or between publicly owned airports..

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 26A—Brown Bear

Unit 26A—1 bear ~~by State~~ registration permit only. July 1–June 30

___.26(n)(26)(iii) ~~You may hunt brown bear in Unit 26A by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag if you have obtained a State registration permit prior to hunting.~~ Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting ~~under the authority of a brown bear State registration permit,~~ including transportation of hunters, bears, or parts of bears; however, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation of aircraft to or between publicly owned airports.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

The Council wishes to eliminate the requirement for State registration permit to take brown bear in Unit 26A on Federal lands in order to align State and Federal regulations on the taking of brown bear. Removing the State permit requirement would ease confusion about hunting regulations for communities on federal lands in the Unit so that a bear could be harvested if encountered around an ice cellar or family cabin or camp site without the worry that a State permit may be required for the harvest to be legal. The Council notes that in many communities it may be difficult for residents to get clear information on overlapping State and Federal regulations; aligning them in this case would help alleviate this confusion and make the process more streamlined and efficient.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The Council notes brown bear populations are quite healthy in the area and are frequently seen. Eliminating the requirement for a State permit only reduces the regulatory burden but would not greatly increase bear harvest in the area. The season and harvest limit of one bear remains the same.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

It would increase the opportunity for hunters to hunt a brown bear if encountered while hunting caribou or if a bear was disturbing a cabin or ice cellar. Eliminating the State permit requirement would allow flexibility to hunt brown bear opportunistically without needing to plan in advance and secure a permit.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No effect – it would only align regulations with the State for residents and non-residents alike.

WP14-53

Name: North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 27, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 26A—Moose

Unit 26A – that portion west of 156°00'W. Long. and excluding the Colville River drainage – 1 moose; however you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. July 1 – Sept. 14

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 26A—Moose

Unit 26A – that portion west of ~~156°00'W. Long.~~ 155°00'W. Long. and excluding the Colville River drainage – 1 moose; however you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. July 1 – Sept. 14

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

Moving the longitude boundary to the east to 155°00'W. Long. will allow for the moose hunt to occur in the Alaktak and Chipp River drainage, which are otherwise located outside of the current regulatory boundaries. The council noted that approximately 40 people from Barrow are familiar with the Chipp River and some have camps that can be accessed by boat. Being able to hunt moose in the Chipp River drainage would help reduce the burden for hunters having to stage far away from the river in order to hunt moose, which takes a lot of time and money for gas and makes transport rigorous and difficult. Having the Chipp River included in the moose hunt area would allow people who have camps to take a moose near their cabin on the occasion a moose does come into the area.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

The Council noted that this regulation boundary change would likely not increase the harvest of the moose population by much, as they only occasionally see moose on the drainage. The Council noted that access is already limited to this area depending on when Dease Inlet ice opens up in the summer and usually high water flow does not occur to get far up river until later in the fall. The harvest allowance would remain the same thus the Council expected impact to the population would be minimal.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

The Council expressed the few moose that may be able to be accessed on the Chipp River would greatly help families who hunt in the area – making access less costly and easier to transport moose meat back.

It would allow hunters who have camps in the area harvest a moose on the occasion one does migrate by.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The moose hunt in Unit 26 is only open to Rural residents of Unit 26 (except the Prudhoe Bay- Deadhorse Industrial Complex) Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope.

It will not affect sport/recreation or commercial uses.

WP14-54

Name: North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: February 27, 2013

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 26C and 26B remainder —Moose

Harvest Limit: *Units 26B remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit (FM2606) by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 3 moose (2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex) provided that no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from Unit 26C. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf. Only 3 Federal registration permits will be issued.*

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit.

Season: *July 1–Mar. 31*

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 26C and 26B remainder —Moose

Harvest Limit: *Units 26B remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit (FM2606) by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is ~~3~~ 5 moose (~~2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex~~ provided that no more than ~~2 antlered bulls~~ may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from ~~Unit 26C~~. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf. Only ~~3~~ 5 Federal registration permits will be issued.*

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit.

Season: *July 1–~~Mar. 31~~ June 30 (open all year)*

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

Extension of season: Kaktovik residents note that in recent year's increasingly severe winter weather and storms have prevented hunters from being able to hunt safely in March due to high winds and blizzards. Often in order to reach the area where the moose are requires a long and difficult travel – the time constraint makes it challenging for hunters who have travelled far to find moose, but may run out of time before finding and harvesting a moose before the end of the season. It's very expensive to travel the long distance required to find moose and stressful to harvest moose near the end of the season. The Council concurs that the hunt itself and being alert to the environment, weather changes, and safety takes full awareness and it would be helpful to be able to focus without looking at the calendar and wondering if it is a legal day to hunt when it

nears the end of the harvest season. A season extension would allow hunters the flexibility to hunt when the weather and travel conditions are suitable and safe.

Frequently the community of Kaktovik does not harvest the full three moose permitted per year. A season extension would assist the community in being able to continue to hunt until they are able to get the full subsistence harvest quota currently allowed. The Council feels that the current harvest season time constraint is an unnecessary regulatory burden to the community that interferes with subsistence hunting.

Harvest quota: Kaktovik residents note that it would be helpful for the community to harvest a couple more moose to support additional families. The current harvest quota of only 3 moose is very restrictive and little meat to help support the whole community. The Council requests full consideration of the subsistence needs of the community and an investigation into historic harvest levels prior to any subsistence restrictions being in place. The Council further stressed the importance of documenting traditional knowledge and including it in the analysis. They noted that review of the records in recent years show reduced inclusion of cultural information in the wildlife analysis and emphasized that this needs to be improved upon.

At the December 7, 2012 meeting by teleconference the Council had discussed that a Community Harvest quota approach may better support the needs of the community.

Kaktovik residents note that caribou herds are not often close by the village so they have to travel a very long distance to search for and hunt caribou. A Council member from Barrow noted that they often send caribou meat to Kaktovik to help support family there. The Council concurs it would be helpful to the community to be able to harvest 2 more moose a year – a small number that should not impact the population but would greatly help feed more families and provide a good source of meat that can be shared and provide some diversity in the annual diet.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Extension of season: The season extension would not impact the population as the harvest quota would still be in place.

Harvest quota: The council feels the harvest quota of 3 moose is quite small and an increase to a total harvest of 5 moose per year is still minimal enough to not impact the moose population.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

A season harvest extension will greatly assist the community in being to hunt safely and have the flexibility to hunt when weather and scheduling allows. The extended season will support the community in being able to harvest the full annual moose quota allowed.

Two additional moose harvests per year will help feed more families and support the sharing networks in the community. In addition to a needed food source; moose is also important for its spiritual and cultural aspects of life for Kaktovik residents.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

No impact – no sport/recreational or commercial harvest is allowed on Federal lands in this unit.

WP14-55

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Please answer the following questions. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

Current Location: Units 26B remainder and 26C—Moose

Current Federal Regulations

Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 3 moose (2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex.) provided that no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from Unit 26C. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 3 Federal registration permits will be issued. 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.

July 1–Mar. 31

Closure Dates: July 1–Mar. 31

This proposal seeks to rescind the federal closure to non-federally qualified users in the Firth and Mancha River and upper Kongakut river drainages in Unit 26C in to provide for a conservative regulated opportunity as afforded by recently adopted (March 2012) state regulations which reads:

Unit 26C—Moose

*Unit 26(C), that portion in the drainages of Firth River and Mancha Creek and the upper Kongakut River, upstream from and including Drain Creek**

Resident Hunters: 1 bull by Sept. 1–Sept. 25
drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued;

Nonresident hunters: 1 bull with Sept. 1 – Sept. 25

50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side; by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued;

Unit 26(C) remainder

No open season

2. How should the new regulation read?

Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.

Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 3 moose (2 antlered bulls and 1 of either sex,) provided that no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C and cows may not be harvested from Unit 26C. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 3 Federal registration permits will be issued. 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 **EXCEPT AS PERMITTED UNDER STATE OF ALASKA REGULATIONS 5AAC 92.110 and 5AAC 92.115.**

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The area is currently closed unnecessarily. Unit 26C state hunting seasons were closed beginning in 1996 in response to a North Slope-wide (Units 26A, 26B, and 26C) moose decline in the early 1990s. Moose seasons were also closed in Unit 26B and substantially restricted in Unit 26A. Gradually, during the 2000s, the North Slope moose population increased beginning in Unit 26A and subsequently in Unit 26B. In Unit 26A, hunting seasons were liberalized during that time and in 2006, resident-only moose hunting seasons were re-opened in Unit 26B. The Unit 26C moose season remained closed to non-federally qualified subsistence users because moose surveys conducted by Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) staff along most drainages of the coastal plain in Unit 26C indicated the moose population had not recovered. During 2003–2009, 5 surveys were conducted, indicating a low and stable moose population ranging from 47–61 moose in northern Unit 26C. However, the upper Kongakut and Firth–Mancha drainages of Unit 26C were not surveyed and these areas historically contained the best moose habitat and the greatest number of moose.

Unit 26 has a positive finding for customary and traditional use of moose. In 2006, the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) was revised from 60–80 moose to 21–48, including 15–30 in Unit 26A.

Currently, a resident hunters-only drawing permit (DM996; up to 30 permits may be issued) and a general season moose hunt (Feb. 15–April 15, up to a 14–day season may be announced by emergency order) occur in Unit 26B. Combined harvest from those hunts averaged 6 bulls annually during 2006–2011. A federal hunt occurs in Unit 26B and Unit 26C by residents of Kaktovik for 3 moose, provided no more than 2 antlered bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C, and no cow moose may be harvested from Unit 26C. This results in a harvest quota of 2 antlered bulls for Unit 26C. Three permits are issued annually and, on average, 1 moose is harvested per year in Unit 26C.

The 2011 moose population estimate for Units 26B and 26C combined is 850–1,000 moose (observable moose=854). In Unit 26B, annual moose surveys conducted by the Department in April during 2003–2011 indicated a stable population between 400–600 moose. As mentioned previously, surveys conducted by ANWR during 2003–2009 indicated approximately 55 moose on the coastal plain in Unit 26C. No ratio data are associated with these surveys because they were conducted in the spring. In fall 2011, the Department conducted a moose survey of the Firth–Mancha and upper Kongakut drainages in

Unit 26C. In the Firth–Mancha, we observed 212 moose (60 bulls:100 cows, 27 calves:100 cows). In the upper Kongakut, we observed 127 moose (90 bulls:100 cows, 38 calves:100 cows). Prior to 2011, the most recent survey of the Firth–Mancha and upper Kongakut drainages was conducted by ANWR staff in 2002 when a total of 132 moose were observed in the Firth–Mancha and 95 moose were observed in the upper Kongakut. The 2011 survey resulted in an increase in observable moose from 227 moose in 2002 to 339 moose in 2011, indicating that there is a harvestable surplus of moose in Unit 26C above the 2 antlered bull harvest quota provided by the federal system for residents of Kaktovik. A 3% harvest rate of 850–1000 moose results in a harvestable surplus of 26–30 moose for Units 26B and 26C. As a result, additional but limited nonsubsistence hunting opportunity is feasible in the Firth–Mancha and upper Kongakut drainages of Unit 26C.

The harvestable surplus for the Firth-Mancha and upper Kongakut is 10 bull moose based on a 3% harvest rate of the 339 moose observed in 2011 in the area.

Closures under the federal program are intended for the purpose of conservation measures under ANILCA 8.15, and not as a measure to unduly impact other users through the restriction of access to resources in perpetuity. The original closure has met its intended effect, and warrants rescinding to recognize its success.

The Alaska Board of Game adopted an amended proposal at its March 2012 meeting to allow limited hunting in this specific area. However, the state moose season would remain closed by federal regulation (except for federally qualified subsistence hunters) and the Department will not issue any drawing permits. The Department intends to request a federal closure review specifically for the Firth–Mancha and upper Kongakut portion of Unit 26C at the next Federal Subsistence Board meeting in 2014. If the federal closure is removed, the Department may issue drawing permits.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		

...

Unit 26(C), that portion in the drainages of Firth Creek and Mancha Creek and the upper Kongakut River, upstream from and including Drain Creek

RESIDENT HUNTERS
1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 30 permits may be issued;

Sept. 1–25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or

Sept. 1-25

**antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on at least one side; by
drawing permit only; up to 30
permits may be issued;**

Remainder of Unit 26(C)

No Open Season

No Open Season

The Alaska Board of Game adopted this opportunity at their March 2012 meeting with the passage of an amended proposal (174). The State fully recognizes the importance of continued conservation within its desire to restore this opportunity, and has outlined an extremely conservative plan for issuance of drawing permits. While the regulation stipulates up to thirty permits may be issued, the department has developed an extremely conservative structure to dictate how many permits may in fact be issued for a given season which is outlined in the supporting documents attached to this proposal.

Passage of the proposal reinstating this lost opportunity was not contested or opposed by representatives of the federal program at the March 2012 Board of Game meeting.

Please see attachments for additional information.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Harvestable surplus of moose in this area will be made available to those who desire to regain an opportunity to harvest them which was previously available. Changes in the population are expected to be de minimis as use of this resource by other users will be regulated through a highly structured process. Should the area be reopened to other users, federally qualified subsistence users would of course retain preference, and in the event of decline of the population other users would be the first to be restricted or excluded from this opportunity. Historically in the Firth–Mancha and upper Kongakut portion of Unit 26C, an average of 2 hunters hunted per year during 1985-1995.

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

Federally qualified subsistence users who have relied on this population will continue to harvest moose from this population.

How will this change affect other uses, i.e. sport/recreational and commercial?

Answer questions 7-9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.

Other users will regain a highly desired lost opportunity to harvest this previously available resource and be assured that the federal program does not intend for closures to remain in perpetuity once adopted. They may regain confidence that state and federal managers are in fact working together for the benefit of all users and the resource and may refrain from accusations that the process exists simply to limit access.

6. Which communities have used this resource?

Anchorage, Fairbanks, North Pole, Central, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Utah, Pennsylvania, North Dakota

7. Where has this resource been harvested?

Within the Firth, Mancha, and Upper Kongakut drainages of GMU 26C.

8. In what months has this resource been harvested?

This resource has been harvested in

__September__



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



FOREST SERVICE

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