

WP16-61

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: March 19, 2015

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

Name/Organization:

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Existing Regulation:

Unit 23 – Caribou

<i>15 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16 – June 30</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30</i>
---	-------------------------

Proposed Regulation:

Unit 23 – Caribou

<i>Unit 23 – That portion north of a line from the mouth of the Singoadik River east to the Boundary of the Noatak National Preserve, north to the Unit 26A boundary.</i>	<i>5 caribou per day as follows:</i>	
	<i>Up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 1 – Oct. 14 Feb. 1 – June 30</i>
	<i>Up to 5 cows per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 15 – Apr 30</i>

Why the regulation should be changed?

To align Federal regulations with amended language for State Proposal 202 submitted by ADF&G Record Copy (RC) 76, March 2015, which changes the State regulations for the Western Arctic /Teshekpuk caribou herds. Currently the Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has experienced a population decline of approximately 50% in the last decade.

Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:

To reverse the declining population trend of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:

Reduction of daily take will require more field days for harvest. This is likely to impose an additional burden to subsistence hunters due to increased costs and time required to get enough caribou for subsistence needs.

Impact of proposed regulation change to other uses such as sport/recreational uses: None

WP16-62

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: March 19, 2015

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

Name/Organization:

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Existing Regulation:

Unit 24 – Caribou

<i>Unit 24—that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River—1 caribou</i>	<i>Aug. 10 - Mar. 31.</i>
---	---------------------------

Unit 24 remainder – Caribou

<i>Unit 24, remainder - 5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30</i>
---	-------------------------

Proposed Regulation:

Unit 24B remainder and Unit 24A – Caribou

<i>Unit 24B – remainder, that portion of Unit 24B north of the south bank of the Kanuti River downstream from the Kanuti-Kilolitna river drainage.</i>	<i>5 caribou per day as follows:</i>	
	<i>Up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 1 – Oct. 14 Feb. 1 – June 30</i>
	<i>Up to 5 cows per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 15 – Apr 30</i>

Note: Unit 24B in Federal Subsistence Regulations will become that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti river, upstream from (and including) that portion of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek; then

downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti–Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River– 1 caribou

Why the regulation should be changed?

To align Federal regulations with amended language for State Proposal 202 submitted by ADF&G Record Copy (RC) 76, March 2015, changing the State regulations for the Western Arctic /Teshekpuk caribou herds. Currently the Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has experienced a population decline of approximately 50% in the last decade.

Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:

To reverse the declining population trend of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:

Reduction of daily take will require more field days for harvest. This is likely to impose an additional burden to subsistence hunters due to increased costs and time required to get enough caribou for subsistence needs.

Impact of proposed regulation change to other uses such as sport/recreational uses: None

WP16-63

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: March 19, 2015

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

Name/Organization:

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Existing Regulation:

Unit 26A – Caribou

Unit 26A—10 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30	<i>Jul. 1 – Jun. 30</i>
---	-------------------------

Proposed Regulation:

Unit 26A – Caribou

<i>Up to 5 caribou per day; however no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken</i>	<i>Jan. 1 – Mar. 15</i>
<i>Up to 5 bulls per day; however cows may not be taken; calves may not be taken</i>	<i>Mar. 16 – Jul. 15</i>
<i>Up to 5 caribou per day; however no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 16 – Oct. 15</i>
<i>Up to 3 cows per day; however calves may not be taken; no bulls may be taken</i>	<i>Oct 16. – Dec. 31</i>

Why the regulation should be changed?

To align Federal regulations with amended language for State Proposal 202 submitted by ADF&G Record Copy (RC) 76, March 2015, which changes the State regulations for the Western Arctic /Teshekpuk caribou herds. Currently the Teshekpuk Herd population has experienced a population decline of approximately 50% in the last decade.

Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:

To reverse the declining population trend of the Teshekpuk Herd.

Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:

Reduction of daily take will require more field days for harvest. This is likely to impose an additional burden to subsistence hunters due to increased costs and time required to get enough caribou for subsistence needs.

Impact of proposed regulation change to other uses such as sport/recreational uses: None

WP16-64

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date: March 19, 2015

Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

Contact: Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

Phone: 907-786-3358

Name/Organization:

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Existing Regulation:

Unit 26B – Caribou

<i>Unit 26B—10 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may be taken only from Oct. 1-Apr. 30</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30</i>
--	-------------------------

Proposed Regulation:

Unit 26B – Caribou

<i>Unit 26B that portion south of 69°30' N. Lat. and west of the Dalton Highway.</i>	<i>5 caribou per day as follows:</i>	
	<i>Up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>Dec. 10 – Oct. 14 (no bulls Oct. 14 – Dec. 10)</i>
	<i>Up to 5 cows per day; however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 15 – Apr 30 (no cows Apr. 30 – Jul. 15)</i>

Note: The State regulations as modified under RC76 allow for the take of 5 bulls or cows from May 16th to June 30th and July 1 to October 10th. However, cows may be taken only from July 1 to October 10th and no bulls may be taken from Oct 10th to May 16th.

Why the regulation should be changed?

To align Federal regulations with amended language for State Proposal 202 submitted by ADF&G Record Copy (RC) 76, March 2015 which changes the State regulations for the Western Arctic /Teshekpuk caribou herds. Currently the Teshekpuk Herd population has experienced a population decline of approximately 50% in the last decade.

Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:

To reverse the declining population trend of the Teshekpuk Herd.

Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:

Reduction of daily take will require more field days for harvest. This is likely to impose an additional burden to subsistence hunters due to increased costs and time required to get enough caribou for subsistence needs.

Impact of proposed regulation change to other uses such as sport/recreational uses: None

WP16-65

2016-2018 Federal Wildlife Regulatory Proposal

Date: March 24, 2015

Name: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Address: 101 12th Ave, Room 236, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: 907-456-0250

Fax: 907-456-0428

Email: brian_glasPELL@fws.gov

1. **What regulations 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 26 – Moose

Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 5 moose. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 5 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 Jul. 1-Jun. 30.

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

Unit 26 – Moose

*Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota ~~is 5 moose~~ **will be announced annually by the Manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** ~~You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 5 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.* Jul. 1-Jun. 30.

Note: The proposal requests that the Federal Subsistence Board delegate the authority to the refuge manager to annually announce the harvest quota, announce the number of Federal registration permits to be issued, and to open and close the season.

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

Surveys conducted in April 2014 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game indicated a 50% reduction in the moose numbers and poor recruitment in Unit 26B

remainder and Unit 26C. Thus, the populations are no longer able to support the harvest quota of 5 moose that is currently listed in regulation. Due to the population decline, the harvest season was closed by temporary special action WSA14-02 in 2014/2015. Refuge staff are planning to conduct another moose survey in the affected area in April 2015. If moose numbers are similar to or have further declined from 2014, another temporary special action request will be submitted by the refuge to close the season for the 2015/2016 regulatory year.

By delegating the authority to annually announce the harvest quota and the number of Federal registration permits to be issued, and to open and close the season, the refuge manager will have the flexibility needed to effectively manage the moose population and provide subsistence harvest opportunity at a sustainable harvest level. At the current population level, no harvest will be allowed in order to help slow or reverse the overall population decline. If the population increases, the refuge manager will be able to provide harvest opportunity in an incremental fashion.

This regulatory change should have no impact on sport/recreational users, as Federal public lands the affected area are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents of Kaktovik.

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

North Slope

WP16-66

Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulatory Proposal Change Request for 2016-2018 –to adjust the harvest limits and close the federal season for Sheep in the DeLong Mountains hunt area of western GMU 26A

Name: Kenneth L. Adkisson

Organization: Western Arctic National Parklands

Address: Bering: Land Bridge National Preserve
PO Box 220
Nome, AK 99762

Telephone Number: (907) 443-6104

Proposed Change: Revise the harvest limits and close the season for sheep for the DeLong Mountains hunt areas of GMU 26A.

Existing Regulation:

Unit 26 – Sheep 50 CFR 100 .26(n)(26)(iv)

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 26A-Residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope 	Unit 26A-that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) – 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2607). The total allowable harvest of sheep is 8,of which 5 may be rams and 3 may be ewes	Aug. 10 - Apr 30 <i>If the allowable harvest levels are reached before the regular season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands will announce early closure.</i>

Proposed Regulation:

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season

<p>• Unit 26A-Residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope</p>	<p>Unit 26A-that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2607). Harvest quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands. [THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF SHEEP IS 8, OF WHICH 5 MAY BE RAMS AND 3 MAY BE EWES]</p>	<p>No Open Federal Season</p> <p>[AUG. 10 – APR. 30]</p> <p><i>[IF THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST LEVELS ARE REACHED BEFORE THE REGULAR SEASON CLOSING DATE, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS WILL ANNOUNCE EARLY CLOSURE.]</i></p>
--	--	--

Why is the change necessary? These changes are necessary for the following reasons: 1) they respond to conservation concerns for sheep in GMUs 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River; 2) they reduce hunter confusion across differing management authorities by better aligning Federal and State regulations; and 3) they better reflect the biological situation while providing flexibility for incrementally increasing harvest opportunity as the sheep population recovers.

Conservation Concerns:

Severe weather and snow conditions in the last few winters combined with other factors have resulted in high levels of natural mortality and rapid declines of sheep populations in the DeLong Mountains, Baird Mountains, and likely the Schwatka Mountains. Populations are currently very low, thus there is a high potential for overharvest and delayed recovery of the populations in those hunt areas if hunting continues with ‘any sheep’ harvest limits. Preliminary estimates of the sheep population from surveys in 2014 suggest a decline of about 50% from the survey in 2011 in the Baird Mountains; (40% decline in adult sheep); about an 82% decline in the DeLong Mountains (77% decline in adult sheep); and while the Schwatka mountains were not surveyed, the Itkillik Preserve of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to the east was surveyed and a declining population was detected (about 60% down in 2014 from the 2009-2012 average). The recent decline in the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains affected all age classes and rams and ewes. Lamb recruitment in the Baird Mountains in the 2014 survey was the lowest on record with the lambs to “ewe-like” sheep ratio dropping from 23:100 in 2011 down to 2:100. The decline in 2014 recruitment was even lower than the 7:100 ratio following the 1990 mortality event. The De Long Mountains lambs to “ewe-like” sheep ratio dropped from 38:100 (95% CI 27-53:100) in 2011 down to 4:100 (95% CI 0-7:100) in 2014. The significant declines in abundance, for all age-classes and in lamb recruitment in 2014 resulted in closing both the State and Federal seasons in August 2014 by Emergency Order and Special Action respectively. In March of 2015 the Alaska Board of Game adopted new regulations closing all State sheep hunting seasons in GMU 26A west of the Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) . This proposal is intended to provide an opportunity for the sheep population to recover.

Reduce Regulatory Confusion:

Unless, the federal regulations are changed accordingly, there will be a significant difference in state and federal regulations that will contribute to hunter confusion as well as to risk overharvest through continuing with existing federal seasons and harvest limits. Adopting this proposal will reduce that confusion as well enhance federal coordination with the ADF&G in regulatory decision making.

Increase Management flexibility:

Closing the season indefinitely is the best regulatory response to the significant decline in sheep numbers as well as other weak population parameters such as recruitment. When the sheep population has sufficiently recovered to support a harvest, the season can be reopened. Adjusting the individual harvest limit to 1 sheep and allowing the local National Park Service Superintendent to annually announce total allowable harvest quotas based on the most recent biological information will provide flexibility to adjust sex composition of the harvest as well as overall harvest level in response to population dynamics. These changes will also help with hunt management coordination with the State system.

Additional information:

National Park Service staff plan on monitoring the Western Baird Mountains hunt area annually and using it as an index for the other adjacent hunt areas, coordinating survey efforts with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The National Park Service also plans to increase its biological survey efforts in the adjacent hunt areas depending on the availability of funding and interagency resources for cooperative, interagency surveys. This proposal will not affect existing federal regulations in other parts of GMU 26A.