

WP14-33

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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 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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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 <del>bull muskox</del> by State <b><i>Tier II permit (TX102)</i></b> or Federal registration permit (FX2206); <del>however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15.</del> Annual harvest quotas, <b><i>the number of federal permits to be issued,</i></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in consultation with ADF&amp;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

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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 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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul>	Unit 22D —that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek—1 <b><u>bull muskox</u></b> by State <b><u>Tier II permit(TX103)</u></b> or Federal registration permit (FX2205); <del>however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15.</del> Annual harvest quotas, <b><u>the number of federal permits to be issued,</u></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <b><u>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</u></b> <del>Western Arctic National Parklands,</del> 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

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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 – 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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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 <del>muskox</del> <b>bull</b> by State <b><i>Tier II permit (TX103)</i></b> or Federal registration permit (FX2205); <del>however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1—Mar. 15.</del> Annual harvest quotas, <b><i>the number of permits to be issued,</i></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the	Sep.1—Mar.15

	<p><del>Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands</del> <b><i>BLM Anchorage Field Manager</i></b> in consultation with <u><i>NPS and ADF&amp;G and BLM.</i></u></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?

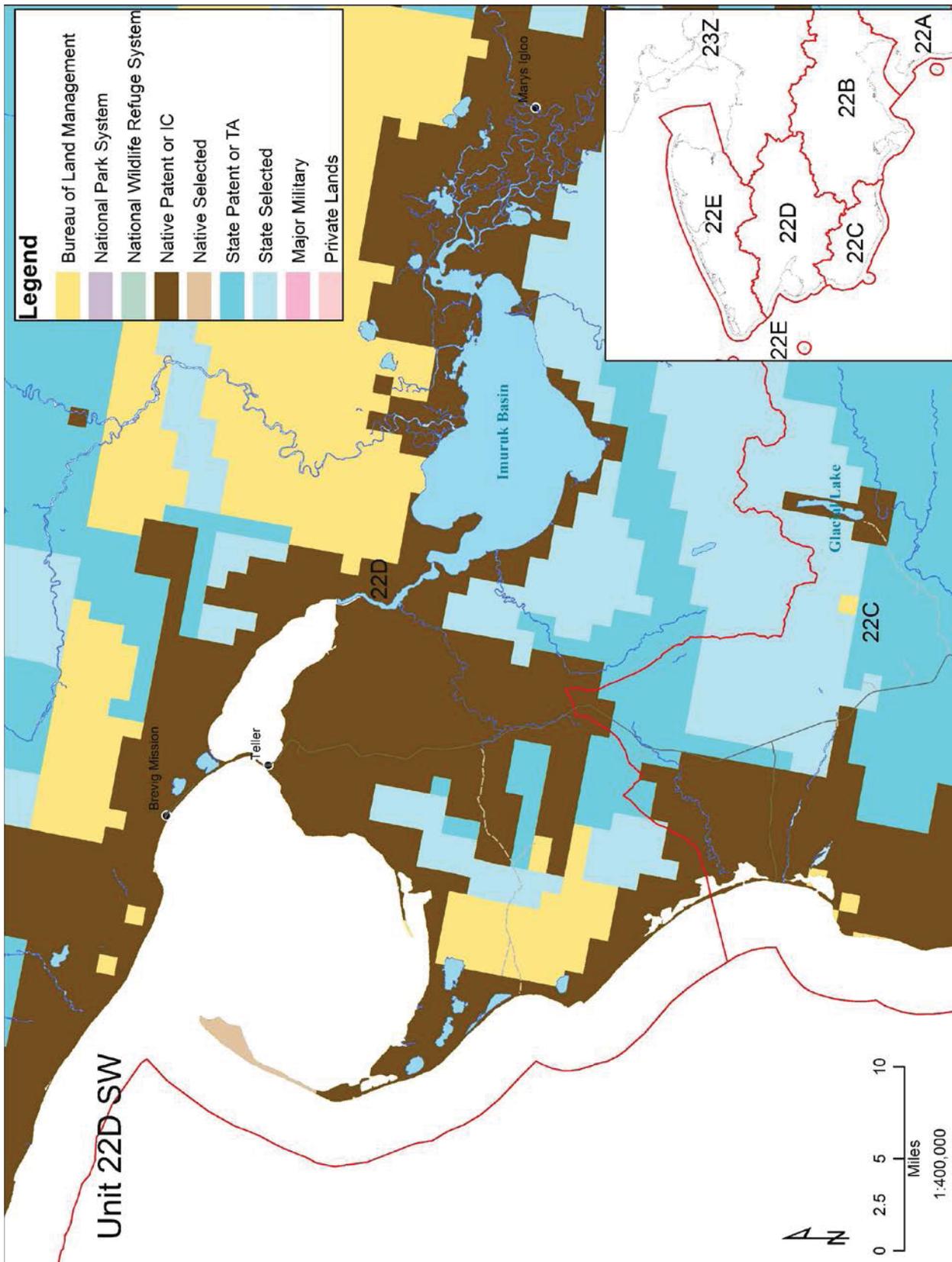
The changes will reduce subsistence opportunities for the affected rural communities to one bull per permit. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the subsistence harvest while the muskox population recovers. However, the proposed regulation retains the adaptive capacity for the land managers 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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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"> <li>Unit 22E—Rural residents of Unit 22E (excluding Little Diomed Island).</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Unit 22E—Rural residents of Unit 22E (excluding Little Diomed Island).</li> </ul> <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 <del>bull muskox</del> <b><u>bull muskox</u></b> by State <b><u>permit (RX104)</u></b> or Federal registration permit (FX2210). Annual harvest quotas, <b><u>the number of federal permits to be issued,</u></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <b><u>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</u></b> <del>Western Arctic National Parklands</del> , 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"> <li>Unit 222D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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&amp;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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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 <del>musko</del><b>bull muskox</b> by State Tier <del>II permit (TX102)</del> or Federal registration permit (FX2208); <del>however, cows may only be taken during the period</del> <b>Jan. 1—Mar. 15.</b> Annual harvest quotas, <b><i>the number of federal permits to be issued,</i></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the <b><i>Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</i></b> <del>Western Arctic National Parklands</del>, in consultation with</p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

	<p>ADF&amp;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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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&amp;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"> <li>Unit 22D—Rural residents of Units 22B, 22C, 22D (excluding St. Lawrence Island), and 22E.</li> </ul> <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 <del>muskox</del> <b>bull</b> by State Tier <b>HI (TX102)</b> or Federal registration permit (FX2208); <del>however, cows may only be taken during the period</del> Jan. 1—Mar. 15. Annual harvest quotas, <b><u>the number of permits to be issued,</u></b> and any needed closures will be announced by the <del>Superintendent of the Western Arctic</del></p>	Aug. 1—Mar. 15

addresses.)	<p><del>National Parklands</del> <b><i>BLM Anchorage Field Manager</i></b> in consultation with <b><i>NPS and ADF&amp;G and BLM.</i></b></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?

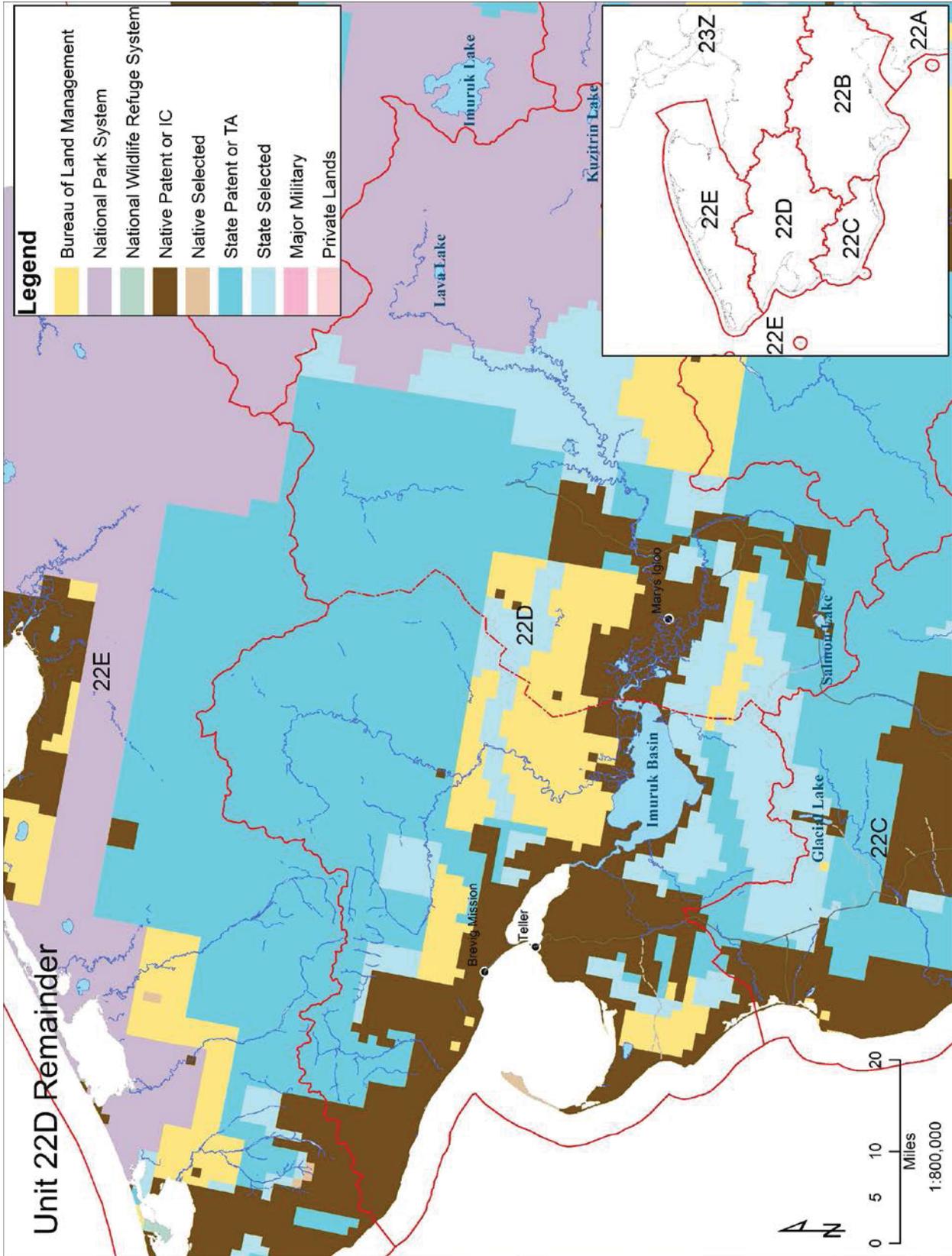
The changes will reduce subsistence opportunities for the affected rural communities to one bull per permit. Limiting the number of permits will also reduce the subsistence harvest while the muskox population recovers. However, the proposed regulation retains the adaptive capacity for the land managers 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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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"> <li>Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains— Rural residents of Units 22B and 22C</li> <li>Unit 22B remainder—Rural residents of Unit 22B</li> </ul> <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 (<u>FX2203</u>). 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&amp;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"> <li>Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains— Rural residents of Units 22B and 22C</li> <li>Unit 22B remainder—Rural residents of Unit 22B</li> </ul> <p><i>Federal permits are available from</i></p>	<p>Unit 22B—1 bull by State <b><i>Tier II</i></b> (<u>TX105</u>) or Federal registration permit (<u>FX2203</u>). Annual harvest quotas, <b><i>the number of permits to be issued</i></b>, and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM <del>Nome</del> <b><i>Anchorage</i></b> Field Office <b><i>Manager</i></b>, 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&amp;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).

