

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

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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 99632
 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?

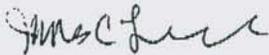
With public participation this should have the desired effect of reducing the moose density in the lower Yukon and reduce hunter angst about bank orientation when hunting moose.

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'carsarmiat Tribal Council

ASA' CARSARMIUT TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 32249
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, AK 99632
TELEPHONE (907) 591-2814
FAX (907) 591-2811

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 Ukon 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”.