



WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*March 3-4, 2015
Fairbanks, Alaska*



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On the cover...

A bull moose happily grazes on tender greens.



USFWS

WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 3-4, 2015
8:30 a.m-5 p.m.
Pike’s Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, AK

Joint meeting with the Eastern Interior Council to be held March 4

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-877-638-8165, then when prompted enter the passcode: 9060609

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Council chair. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

+ Plus sign identifies an item to be covered at the joint meeting on March 4

- 1. Roll Call and Establish Quorum (Secretary)..... 4**
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Call to Order (Chair)**
- 4. Welcome and Introductions (Chair)**
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda* (Chair) 1**
- 6. Election of Officers***
 - Chair (DFO)
 - Vice-Chair (New Chair)
 - Secretary (New Chair)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes* (Chair) 5**
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report

9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items (available each morning)

10. Old Business (Chair)

- a. Rural Determination Process Review – Secretarial Proposed Rule +* (*Anthropology*) Supplemental
- b. Customary & Traditional Use Determination – Southeast Council Proposal + (*Anthropology*) Supplemental
- c. Refuges Proposed Rule on Hunting+* Supplemental
- d. National Park Service *Subsistence Collections and Uses of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts and Plants from Park Areas in Alaska** 47

11. New Business (Chair)

- a. Wildlife Closure Review*
 - 1. Wildlife Closure Review Briefing 25
 - 2. WCR14-39 26
- b. Call for Federal Hunting and Trapping Regulatory Proposals+* (*OSM Wildlife*) 15
- c. Funding Notification – Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program+ Supplemental
- d. Review and Approve FY2014 Annual Report* (*Council Coordinator*) 20
- e. Charter Revisions* (*Council Coordinator*) 16
- f. Appointment of Representative to Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel.... Supplemental

12. Agency Reports

(All biological and population updates/briefings from agency staff to be provided prior to New Business)

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

Kuskokwim Native Association

Tanana Chiefs Conference +

USFWS

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Briefing (*Mike Spindler*) 30

Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuge Update (*Kenton Moos/Jeremy Havener*) 43

Yukon Fisheries Management + (*in-season managers*)

NWRS Statewide Regulations Proposal +

NPS

Gates of the Arctic National Park Updates (*Marcy Okada*)

BLM

Anchorage Field Office Update (*Staff*)

Central Yukon Field Office Update (*Staff*)

ADF&G

Moose Drawing Permit Reports (*Glenn Stout*)

Wood Bison Update + (*Rita St. Louis*)

OSM +

YRDFa Update + (*Wayne Jenkins*)

NPFMC + (*staff*)

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm date and location of fall 2015 meeting22

Winter 2016 All-Council Meeting Update (*Meeting Committee*)

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (*Chair*)

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-877-638-8165, then when prompted enter the passcode: 9060609

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Melinda Burke, 907-786-3885, melinda_burke@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 20, 2015.

REGION 6
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	2001 2016	Robert A. Walker Anvik
2	2004 2016	Donald Victor Honea Jr. Ruby
3	2010 2016	Pollock Simon Sr. Allakaket
4	1993 2017	Raymond L. Collins McGrath
5	1993 2017	Jack Reakoff Wiseman Chair
6	2014 2017	Darrel M. Vent, Sr. Huslia
7	2008 2017	Timothy P. Gervais Ruby
8	2007 2015	James L. Walker Holy Cross
9	2005 2015	Jenny K. Pelkola Galena
10	1997 2015	Carl M. Morgan Aniak

MEETING MINUTES
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
October 28-29, 2014
Traditional Council Community Services Center: McGrath

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Jack Reakoff at 8:56AM

Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Secretary Jenny Pelkola called the roll. WIRAC Council members present: Jack Reakoff, Timothy Gervais (via teleconference), Raymond Collins, Eleanor Yatlin, Donald Honea
Excused: Carl Morgan, Robert Walker, James Walker, Pollock Simon Sr.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Reakoff welcomed guests and staff members.

The following personnel and members of the public were in attendance:

Government Agency Employees

Trevor Fox	U.S. FWS OSM
Palma Ingles	U.S. FWS OSM (via teleconference)
Pippa Kenner	U.S. FWS OSM (via teleconference)
Trent Liebich	U.S. FWS OSM
George Pappas	U.S. FWS OSM (via teleconference)
Donald Rivard	U.S. FWS OSM (via teleconference)
Jeremy Havener	U.S. FWS Koyukuk Nowitna (via teleconference)
Vince Matthews	U.S. FWS Kanuti
Heather Tonneson	U.S. FWS RO (via teleconference)
Pat Petrivelli	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Erin Julianus	BLM
Dan Sharp	BLM (via teleconference)
Jeff Estensen	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Sabrina Garcia	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Christy Gleason	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Brad Pollock	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Aaron Tiernan	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Jennifer Yuhas	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Mary McBurney	National Park Service
Kyle Joly	National Park Service (via teleconference)
Marcy Okada	National Park Service (via teleconference)

NGOs/Public

Catherine Moncreif	YR DFA (via teleconference)
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Wayne Jenkins
Lisa Feyereisen

YRDFA
Chuathbaluk Village (via teleconference)

Tribal Organizations

Goodwin Semaken Jr.
Ben Stevens
Frank Miller

Kaltag
Tanana Chiefs Conference
First Chief, McGrath

Review of Agenda

Jenny Pelkola made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Second by Raymond Collins; unanimous approval to adopt the motion.

Review/Adoption of Minutes

Jenny Pelkola made a motion to adopt minutes as seconded by Eleanor Yatlin. Motion approved unanimously.

Council Reports

Eleanore Yatlin (Huslia): Lots of smaller moose. Enforcement concerns. There is a desire to see local people and villages involved with resource management.

Jenny Pelkola (Galena): The community is still re-building and recovering from the flood. Moose population decline is evident and there is concern from local people who rely on the resources about the large number of outside hunters and wanton waste. Meat has been wasted and spotter planes have been flying right over the hunting areas. Meat donated to school sometimes is not fit for human consumption. Poor fishing this year; we have been sacrificing king salmon. Trapping: complaints about federal workers trapping on local people areas. Not the first time we are hearing about this.

Raymond Collins (McGrath): Kuskokwim River Fish Management Group representative. Severe Chinook closures this year, but it paid off in terms of escapement. Buy in from the villages is important. Trying to get information out that we allowed fish to reach the spawning area. Openings to catch some kings. Attended the pipeline hearings for Donlin and discussed concerns with the development plans and effects on the land and resources. (The Council voted to draft a letter transmitting these concerns) Other issue is closure of the refuge. Presence of staff allowed for presence to work closely with hunters and state biologists and there was good relationships established. Rationale included flooding—but government buildings have never been affected by flooding in McGrath. Yet they are moving to Galena where they are still recovering from flooding—ironic. Taking the families and kids out of the community has an impact. No consultation prior to decision; hearings were held later, but decision was made in anchorage ahead of time without initial consultation or input from the communities.

Tim Gervais (Ruby-Via Teleconference): When the council is evaluating acceptable bycatch “national standards”—NPFMC not matching up with intent of the law. When western AK is cut off from king salmon harvest opportunity, why are trawl fisheries still operating at a normal level? Additional king salmon protection must be incorporated if total allowable catch is

increased. Encourage this council and local groups (ACs, Tribes, etc.) to communicate often and make the message clear, effective, and prominent. Would like to see wanton waste adequately addressed by FWS and ADF&G. Hunters need communication regarding the education on field dressing meat and realize they need to change flight plans if they do harvest successfully. Meat is the priority rather than trying to fill harvest tickets.

Donald Honea (Ruby): Not notified about the Innoko refuge move initially before decisions were announced. Government-to-Government consultation did not take place. No option to choose—the decision was made by the time Councils and communities heard about the issue. Do not agree with the drawing permits in the Koyukuk refuge. Taking stock and breeder bulls out of the population. Fishing issues: we had to sacrifice, but it irritates me someone on the river is being made out to be a criminal. We have to take advantage of the fall chum. We got summer chum too—very oily. We have to take advantage of what we have.

Jack Reakoff (Wiseman): Attended the mid-April FSB meeting. 2 new public members have been added and there are now 3 rural users. Valid comments are coming from those members and it makes a big difference on how the board works. Last year we had a late spring. In the northern part of the region, the moose, caribou and Dall sheep had real hardships—late spring especially on those grazing animals. Breakup not until late May and lambs were born in the snow. Many yearlings and lambs lost. The spring of 2013 Caribou were emaciated. Calves lost. Not one lamb born in May 2014; one born in June out of 37 ewe sheep I watched. Right now there are no 2 year olds, yearlings, or lambs. This year it was on time but rained all summer long. Pollinating of flowers affected, allowing sheep and caribou to have longer use of high protein. Health of animals looks good, if we do not get another bad winter, I hope to see good lamb and caribou calf production. Moose are in excellent shape. With 3 years of no recruitment of sheep lambs into the population and with hunting guides pounding the population; in 4 years we will have NO rams. We will not have any breeding component. WACHMG: concerned about Western Arctic caribou numbers dropping. Teshekpuk herd as well. Concerned about unit 26b management changes. Hunters changed from not being able to take cow caribou until after Oct.1 before 2010 to cow caribou harvest on July 1. High harvest of caribou lead cows when they are migrating has deflected herd use away from some villages. Regarding salmon management on the Yukon in 2014, there were a lot of closures, folks sat on the beach, or had to use dipnets, manned wheels or 4” mesh gear restrictions. The Tanana was allowed to use 7.5 inch King gear, when all other users had severe restrictions. Would like to transmit to the state that there should not be despairing management actions taken during times of fishing shortage. All users should be share the burden of conservation.

805(c) Report

WP 14-32: says “rejected” in the enclosure; should be “adopted”.

2013 Annual Report Reply

The Council provided positive feedback on the 2013 Annual Report Reply from the Federal Subsistence Board. OSM actively looking for avenues to address concerns and the council is encouraged.

Chair’s reports

The late Secretarial Appointments to the Councils is still a big concern and we have seen no

response yet from the Secretary.

My community is highly opposed to the BLM giving lands to the State in the Dalton Highway area around Wiseman Village, under the Resource Management Planning. Effects on the area would be great, including losing access to areas in the Gates of the Arctic Park, which we currently use, for hunting and trapping. The icy winter of 2013-14 has had a negative effect on the sheep and caribou.

Federal Fish Proposals

FP 15-01

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support with modification to define a fishing hook as with or without a barb. This recommendation would align Federal and State definitions of a hook:

JUSTIFICATION: The Council supports the proposal to align with the state to maintain continuity (with or without barb); this action allows user choice and provides clarification.

FP 15-02

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose

JUSTIFICATION: Existing regulations are adequate to provide opportunity for users on the river. Jack: current state regulatory management provides for two 48-hour periods. There are small areas of federal public waters, and they are distant from Rampart. Another concern is the 5C area (haul road bridge), lots of potential fishing pressure from Fairbanks fishers.

FP 15-03

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose

JUSTIFICATION: The Council believes this proposed action is detrimental to subsistence users. Mechanisms already exist for the in-season managers to eliminate drift gillnet if necessary and the Council feels the existing system is adequate to address the conservation concerns of this resource. If the Chinook run is marginal, Federally qualified users should retain the opportunity to utilize drift gillnets as a tool under most circumstances. In times of severe restrictions, the in-season managers should look at elimination of drift gillnets, and allow only beach oriented gear to protect salmon to the highest degree.

FP 15-04

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose

JUSTIFICATION: The Council is opposed to this proposal and feels that this proposed action is not warranted and should not be re-visited. The in season manager already has this authority. We feel taking no action would give the FSB a neutral feeling, which is not the position of this Council.

FP 15-05

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose

JUSTIFICATION: The proposed action allows a privilege to people at the mouth of the Kuskokwim full harvest, and everyone else pays the price of conservation up river. The salmon don't spawn in the lower river—they spawn in the upper drainage. Taking unlimited fish at the lower river is not a good practice; there needs to be equitable harvest and conservation up and down the river. The harvest capacity in Unit 1B, is massive. This proposed action would be extremely detrimental to the resource and subsistence users above 1B. This is a shared resource and all users must be protected.

FP 15-06 & 07

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support FP15-06, Take No Action on FP15-07

JUSTIFICATION: The Council recognizes there was reluctance in some portions of the river to the new gear type, but it is important to have the dip net as an additional tool. This Council is inclined to align with YKD recommendations and actions since they spent so much time deliberating on these proposals.

2014 Draft Annual Report List to the FSB

- Sheep
- Galena: no initial consultation regarding Innoko Refuge move.
- Incidental harvest mortality issue into the annual report. There are no scientific indices to evaluate to drop out loss of King salmon when using much smaller gillnet for Chum salmon. TEK says there would be high and unanticipated mortality managers are not taking into account.
- Follow up item regarding Innoko move: providing “options” after the fact when they cannot be meaningfully commented on.

Service Awards

Raymond Collins (McGrath) was presented with a 20-year service award and Don Honea (Ruby) was presented with a 10-year service award. The Council expressed their thanks and appreciation of the years of volunteer service these council members have provided to their region and their communities.

Miscellaneous Presentations and Updates

Frank Miller (First Chief, McGrath Native Village Council) expressed concerns about fly-in hunting on the Innoko River. This fall we had a very warm hunting season and hunters were bringing spoiled meat back to the community. Nine or ten spoiled animals that came back to McGrath; this is a big insult to the community when spoiled meat is given to McGrath residents. If they cannot properly take care of meat on the river, we cannot allow the fly-in hunters to continue these instances. We were distraught with the move of the Innoko refuge to Galena. There was a need to keep the refuge here in McGrath; taking the employees out was uncalled for. Good relationships with the local workers had been established, and a minimum number of staff should remain here in McGrath for counting and monitoring of resources.

Ben Stevens (TCC) provided an overview of his work with TCC to help implement the strategies developed with the hunting and fishing task force. Comments from rural AK go to the various boards and are received with sincerity, but we still have many of the same concerns from year to year.

Pippa Kenner (OSM) provided an update on the Rural Review process. The Council is pleased the aggregation process is being eliminated and did not agree with the aggregation of Saxman and Ketchikan. The direction the FSB is taking will be beneficial to subsistence users.

Pippa Kenner (OSM) provided an update on the review of the Customary and Traditional Use Determinations Process. The Council reiterated concerns with “blanket” C&T determinations.

- If there are Customary and Traditional Use determinations that overlap into other regions, how would that be accommodated? Do both councils have to agree with those determinations? Reality is this could open massive can of worms. Southeast is flush with resources in closed populations with natural borders. The whole state is not broken up by ocean and geography. There are overlapping use of Regional resources that have been delineated through the current Customary and Traditional Use determination process.
- Concerned with how OSM will address these issues of basically giving a blanket Customary and Traditional Use determination to the whole state for rural residents. Priorities: certain people will be eliminated who utilize resources on a yearly basis and have a long history of use. Large ramifications need to be discussed. Are we willing to go to have massive numbers of 804 every cycle to accommodate the users who have truly customarily and traditionally used local resources? Blanket statewide eligibility would increase competition for limited resources, by people who live locally to the resources.
- There is concern with the 8 criteria being struck out. In the future, we will have to use that more and more with increased numbers of outside people settling in rural Alaska. Do the individuals meet the 8 criteria? What if the criteria are eliminated? Some of those things being struck out are key to evaluate findings for Customary and Traditional Use. Critical elements and criteria are being eliminated that are going to be needed in the future. So what if the state developed them? The eight criteria originate from 804. The eight criteria are just expanding what ANILCA is saying. They reflect what 804 is... it protected the people who have a long term pattern of use.

Carl Johnson (OSM) provided an overview of recommended changes to the Council nominations/appointment process. The Council voiced support for alternate appointments and carryover terms and going from 3-4 year appointments. The Council plans to draft a letter to the FWS Regional Director requesting coordination with DOI to address and explore solutions to this issue which has had direct negative effects on Council processes across all regions.

The Council feels an all- Chairs meeting prior to the FSB meeting is beneficial to go over common issues with administration. Park Service does it for the SRCs and it has been beneficial for the information knowledge building. The Council is also supportive of a meeting cycle with all councils gathering jointly. This is an excellent idea to find out what each area is doing and mutually work on issues—our regions are so different.

Rita St. Louis (ADF&G) provided an update on the Management Plan in anticipation of the wood bison release which is planned for the Shageluk area in March or April 2015. Council

member Robert Walker has been representing the WIRAC at the planning meetings.

Mike Spindler (USFWS) provided the update on activities in the Kanuti Refuge, including moose season, permits, enforcement, and research activities.

Kyle Joly (ADF&G) provided an update on caribou populations. The Council requested a letter to be developed for member Pollock Simon Sr. transmitting concerns and recommendations to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting in December 2015.

NPS Updates: Marcy Okada provided an update for Gates of the Arctic New chair of Gates SRC is Louis Komack. Kumi Rattenbury provided an update on research in the Brooks Range. The Council outlined observations of the population decline in conjunction with full extirpation of all legal rams. Council expressed a desire for managers to begin thinking about strategies to protect rams to provide healthy breeding and recruitment. There are only 4-7 year old rams currently in the Central Brooks Range BLM and State lands. Within 4 years there will be very few rams in the population.

Trent Liebich (OSM) provided an update on the Partners Program strategic plan, which is currently being crafted and solicited input from the Council on any changes that should be made before the next notice of funding opportunity is sent out.

- Major component the Council wishes to see is specific game surveys done in conjunction with household fisheries harvest data.
- The Council recommended exploring research for other resources such as climatic change, wildlife, berries, and other wild renewable resources to truly assess the overall health of the landscape. The partners program should incorporate the ability to gather information on the other resources as outlined ANILCA. TEK also needs to be incorporated into the program.

Donnie Fleagle and Jessica Evans (URS) provided an outline of the Donlin Gold project EIS and outreach efforts within the region. The Council expressed appreciation for the efforts of Donlin and URS in communication and actively researching identified concerns thus far. The Council discussed concerns about monitoring, barge traffic, and increased pressure on the resources if the roads and gas line pad are used for hunting and recreating. Gas line routing should avoid high quality habitat in the forest transition zone. Council is concerned about toxic dam release into the Kuskokwim flood plain miles below salmon fry studies completed. The Council intends to draft a letter outlining concerns to URS and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Trent Liebich (OSM) provided a briefing on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

- The lower Yukon test fishery needs to eliminate using 8.5" gear because it is selecting large Chinook and especially female fish, while there are none to spare. The gear they use is not actually taking what is present, but only large Chinook. The impact to the Chinook needs to be re-evaluated, as a significant number of female Chinook salmon could be collected and killed in this test fishery. 7.5 inch is the optimum gear size for analyzing run composition.
- Lacking also are incidental harvest mortality indices for drop-out salmon from gillnet. The managers are assuming and making a huge leap of faith with no scientific basis

that salmon bounce off and swim away from 6” gear. NO! It kills them—they die in the gear and fall out, not retrieved, and not in harvest data. Want OSM to work with JTC and ISC to design a study to develop indices for king salmon mortality using a 6” net. This is a huge information need! ANILCA says you use recognized scientific principles. Want this firm on the record for an information priority. This is priority one for our council at the top of the list—ahead of burbot and everything else. The Council intends to draft a letter to the Board of Fish with a cc to the Regional Director outlining this concern and information need. Want this at the top of the list for Yukon and Kuskokwim.

Methods of restriction and effectiveness at meeting escapement needs and maintenance of quality stocks.

Chris McKee (OSM) provided an update with regard to staffing. The Council requested a brief description of the jobs when staffing changes are being outlined.

Kenton Moos (USFWS) provided a report from the Innoko/Koyukuk-Nowitna NWR. Including a flood update, biological surveys, and staffing updates. The Council expressed the desire to see RIT’s interacting more with tribal councils who are the decision makers. More face to face as much as possible, at least once or twice a year at tribal council meetings. Want all the agencies to have more interaction. There should also be some educational materials developed for the novice hunter to ensure meat does not spoil when hunting in the area.

Erin Julianus (BLM) provided the Anchorage Field Office and Central Yukon Field Office Reports. The Council expressed concerns in the scoping process and conveyance of lands to the State in the Dalton Highway Corridor. This would be extremely detrimental to subsistence use if access to the GOA National Park via snow machine is restricted. The Council is also displeased with the increasing number of concession permitted guides hunting sheep. The declining sheep population cannot support the increased commercial harvest. What happened to the guide capacity process the BLM was reviewing? There is a capacity. The Central Yukon issuing more permits to hunt Dall sheep where there is a limited resource cannot continue. Want this conveyed back to the central Yukon office. There should be a reduction in permits, not an increase. It is critical to work on that process and ensure guides given permits will treat resources in the area respectfully, report all sheep taken, and are hunting in the properly designated area. There are problems with all of these guides competing heavily on State and BLM lands. They have economic incentives to go where they need to go to get these sheep.

Gerald Maschmann (USFWS) provided an overview of the salmon season. The Council noted that Tribal offices and communities should be notified where the pulse is, and was pleased with the low take of Chinook in the commercial harvest.

Wayne Jenkins (YRDFA) provided reports on YRDFA projects and upcoming meetings. The Council wishes to draft a letter of endorsement to the NPFMC supporting the YRDFA position on reducing bycatch in the Bering Sea. The Council also wishes to transmit a letter to the BLM supporting various nominations to the Area of Critical Environmental on BLM lands.

Jeff Park (ADF&G) provided a research update.

Tracy McDonald (USFWS) provided an overview regarding pre-scoping process proposed

regulatory changed that would clarify allowable practices for take of wildlife, some public uses and closure restrictions on National Wildlife Refuge lands.

Regional Director Bert Frost and Mary McBurney (NPS) provided an overview of the National Park Service proposed rule regarding taking of wildlife in Preserve areas.

- Ray: need to look at wording carefully. What is applying to sport? Subsistence? How does it impact them? If they are not differentiating, and lumping into sport, it is not what ANILCA intended. Clear wording is needed to recognize C&T practices where there is longstanding history of certain practices. There has to be a way to allow the practice without being specific, especially since there are not that many hunters engaging in the practices anymore but the ability should remain.
- The Council recognizes Customary and Traditional taking of sows with cubs, the use of light to assist taking in dens, discussions about avoiding moms with very small babies needs to be analyzed this process. The NPS should retrieve the BOG transcripts of testimony taken from Koyukon hunters. Participation of family members who return home from urban places should be able to help participate in bear denning harvest.
- The council is not in favor of baiting bears, especially brown bears habituated to getting food from humans. Continual feeding at bait stations leads to problem bears. We could see a situation where a problem bear needs to be removed legally; there are times and situations where you need to be able to take bears. We must ensure healthy balances for resources.
- If the state allows certain practices (such as taking a sow with cubs) and we preclude them on federal regulations, we are going to need FSB proposals to provide for use of those resources to recognize and provide avenue to carryout customary and traditional practices. Where we have the C&T practices, those practices should continue. The agencies that move forward with this and adopt the proposed rule should be burdened with submitting the proposals in the federal system.
- Harvest of wood, berries by non-rural users is generally OK, except if there was too much competition near villages that rely on these other renewable resources.

Future Meeting Dates

WIRAC Winter 2015 meeting dates: March 3-4, 2015 in Fairbanks

WIRAC Fall 2015 meeting dates: The community of Kaltag invited the Council to meet in their community; moose issues on the Kauai are an important topic. Nov. 2-3, 2015

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the forgoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Melinda Burke, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Jack Reakoff, Chair

These minutes will be formally considered by the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next public meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.

DRAFT

We are currently excepting proposals for:
Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Ending Date: March 25, 2015

How to Prepare Your Proposal

When preparing your proposal, it is important that you include the following information:

- Name
- Organization
- Contact information (Address, Phone, Fax or Email)

Your proposal must include the following information:

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.”
2. How should the new regulation read? Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
3. Why should this regulation change be made?

You should also provide any additional information that you believe will help the Board in evaluating the proposed change.

How to Submit a Proposal

By mail or hand delivery:

Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503

**In person at any Federal Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council meeting:**

www.doi.gov/subsistence/calendars/index.cfm

On the Web:

Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal:
www.regulations.gov and search for FWS-R7-
SM-2014-0062, which is the docket number for
this rulemaking.

Questions? Call (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888

All proposals and comments, including personal information provided, are posted on the Web at
www.regulations.gov.

**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is reestablished by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)) Title VIII, and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the region.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region.

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.
 - e. Appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
 6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
 7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council’s functions are estimated to be \$160,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 staff years.
 8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee’s and subcommittees’ meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region represented by the Council. To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the region and three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Members will be appointed for 4-year terms. If no successor is appointed on or prior to the expiration of a member's term, then the incumbent member may continue to serve until the new appointment is made or 120 days past the expiration of term, whichever is sooner. A vacancy on the Council will be filled by an appointed alternate, if available, or in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Council members will elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member may participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO’s approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Secretary of the Interior

Date Signed

Date Filed

ANNUAL REPORTS

Background

ANILCA established the Annual Reports as the way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in the Annual Report.

The Annual Report provides the Councils an opportunity to address the directors of each of the four Department of Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is required to discuss and reply to each issue in every Annual Report and to take action when within the Board's authority. In many cases, if the issue is outside of the Board's authority, the Board will provide information to the Council on how to contact personnel at the correct agency. As agency directors, the Board members have authority to implement most of the actions which would effect the changes recommended by the Councils, even those not covered in Section 805(c). The Councils are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Report Content

Both Title VIII Section 805 and 50 CFR §100.11 (Subpart B of the regulations) describe what may be contained in an Annual Report from the councils to the Board. This description includes issues that are not generally addressed by the normal regulatory process:

- an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;
- an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations from the public lands within the region;
- a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs related to the public lands; and
- recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

Please avoid filler or fluff language that does not specifically raise an issue of concern or information to the Board.

Report Clarity

In order for the Board to adequately respond to each Council's annual report, it is important for the annual report itself to state issues clearly.

- If addressing an existing Board policy, Councils should please state whether there is something unclear about the policy, if there is uncertainty about the reason for the policy, or if the Council needs information on how the policy is applied.
- Council members should discuss in detail at Council meetings the issues for the annual report and assist the Council Coordinator in understanding and stating the issues clearly.

- Council Coordinators and OSM staff should assist the Council members during the meeting in ensuring that the issue is stated clearly.

Thus, if the Councils can be clear about their issues of concern and ensure that the Council Coordinator is relaying them sufficiently, then the Board and OSM staff will endeavor to provide as concise and responsive of a reply as is possible.

Report Format

While no particular format is necessary for the Annual Reports, the report must clearly state the following for each item the Council wants the Board to address:

1. Numbering of the issues,
2. A description of each issue,
3. Whether the Council seeks Board action on the matter and, if so, what action the Council recommends, and
4. As much evidence or explanation as necessary to support the Council's request or statements relating to the item of interest.

Fall 2015 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

August–November 2015

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 16	Aug. 17 WINDOW OPENS	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22
Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29
Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5
Sept. 6	Sept. 7 HOLIDAY	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12
Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19
Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26
					K/A—Adak	
Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30 <i>End of Fiscal Year</i>	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3
Oct. 4	Oct. 5	NWA—Buckland (tent.)		Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
			YKD—TBA			
Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17
		SE—Petersburg				
			SP—Nome			
Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24
		SC - Seldovia				
Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31
		BB - Dillingham		EI - Fairbanks		
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7
		WI - Kaltag			WINDOW CLOSSES	
		NS—Kaktovik (tent.)				

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recognizes the value of the Regional Advisory Councils' role in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board realizes that the Councils must interact with fish and wildlife resource agencies, organizations, and the public as part of their official duties, and that this interaction may include correspondence. Since the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Program, Regional Advisory Councils have prepared correspondence to entities other than the Board. Informally, Councils were asked to provide drafts of correspondence to the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) for review prior to mailing. Recently, the Board was asked to clarify its position regarding Council correspondence. This policy is intended to formalize guidance from the Board to the Regional Advisory Councils in preparing correspondence.

The Board is mindful of its obligation to provide the Regional Advisory Councils with clear operating guidelines and policies, and has approved the correspondence policy set out below. The intent of the Regional Advisory Council correspondence policy is to ensure that Councils are able to correspond appropriately with other entities. In addition, the correspondence policy will assist Councils in directing their concerns to others most effectively and forestall any breach of department policy.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII required the creation of Alaska's Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to serve as advisors to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to provide meaningful local participation in the management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. Within the framework of Title VIII and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Congress assigned specific powers and duties to the Regional Advisory Councils. These are also reflected in the Councils' charters. (*Reference: ANILCA Title VIII §805, §808, and §810; Implementing regulations for Title VIII, 50 CFR 100 .11 and 36 CFR 242 .11; Implementing regulations for FACA, 41 CFR Part 102-3.70 and 3.75*)

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture created the Federal Subsistence Board and delegated to it the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. The Board was also given the duty of establishing rules and procedures for the operation of the Regional Advisory Councils. The Office of Subsistence Management was established within the Federal Subsistence Management Program's lead agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to administer the Program. (*Reference: 36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100 Subparts C and D*)

Policy

1. The subject matter of Council correspondence shall be limited to matters over which the Council has authority under §805(a)(3), §808, §810 of Title VIII, Subpart B §__.11(c) of regulation, and as described in the Council charters.
2. Councils may, and are encouraged to, correspond directly with the Board. The Councils are advisors to the Board.
3. Councils are urged to also make use of the annual report process to bring matters to the

Board's attention.

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
 - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
 - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by Federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) under §808 directly to the requesting agency. Section 808 correspondence includes comments and information solicited by the SRCs and notification of appointment by the Council to an SRC.
7. Councils may submit proposed regulatory changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting subsistence uses within their regions to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game directly. A copy of any comments or proposals will be forwarded to the ARD when the original is submitted.
8. Administrative correspondence such as letters of appreciation, requests for agency reports at Council meetings, and cover letters for meeting agendas will go through the Council's regional coordinator to the appropriate OSM division chief for review.
9. Councils will submit copies of all correspondence generated by and received by them to OSM to be filed in the administrative record system.
10. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8, Councils or individual Council members acting on behalf of or as representative of the Council may not, through correspondence or any other means of communication, attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials, any government agency, or any tribal or private organization or individual to take a particular action on an issue. This does not prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity as private citizens or through other organizations with which they are affiliated.

Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.

WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW BRIEFING

As called for in the Closure Policy, the Office of Subsistence Management is reviewing existing wildlife closures to determine whether the original justifications for closure continue to apply. These reviews are being conducted in accordance with guidance found in the Federal Subsistence Board's Policy on Closures to Hunting, Trapping and Fishing on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska, which was adopted in 2007. According to the policy, existing closures will be reviewed at least every three years, and are typically completed on a three-year rotational schedule. Most of the closures being reviewed this cycle were last reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in 2008. A summary of the current closure reviews which are applicable to your Regional Advisory Council (RAC) are provided.

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) establishes a priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters for non-wasteful subsistence uses over the taking of fish and wildlife for other purposes (ANILCA Section 804). The Federal Subsistence Board is authorized to restrict or close the taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-subsistence users on Federal public lands and waters (ANILCA Section 804 and 815(3)) when necessary for: 1) the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife; or 2) to continue subsistence users of such populations. In addition, the Board may also close Federal public lands and waters to any taking of fish and wildlife for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of such population (ANILCA Section 816(b)).

Distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based upon a variety of factors such as weather patterns, management actions, habitat changes, predation, harvest activities, and disease. Subsistence use patterns are also known to change over time in response to many factors including resource abundance, human population changes, among others. It is for these reasons that the Board decided in 2007 to conduct reviews every 3 years or earlier if new information becomes available that would potentially allow the closure to be lifted.

A Wildlife Closure Review contains a brief history of why a closure was implemented, along with a summary of the current resource condition and the OSM recommendation as to whether the closure should be continued or lifted.

Councils are asked to consider the OSM recommendation and share their views on the issue. Input from the Councils is critical to the development of regulatory proposals needed to address adjustments to regulations. After the Council reviews the closure review, they have three options, which should be in the form of an **action item**. They can recommend to:

- maintain the status quo
- modify
- rescind

If the Council recommends to modify or rescind, they should submit a proposal (**a separate action item**) at this time. Councils may choose to work with OSM staff to develop a proposal; however, proposals addressing these issues can be submitted by other individuals or organizations as well.

Regardless of the Council recommendation, closures remain in effect until changed by the Federal Subsistence Board, and any regulatory proposals that may result from this review process will be considered through the normal regulatory cycle. The current window for wildlife proposals for the 2016-2018 regulatory cycle closes on March 25, 2015.

FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW

WCR14-39

Current Location: Unit 19A—Moose

Current Federal Regulations

Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River, upstream from (but excluding) the George River drainage, and south of the Kuskokwim River upstream from and including the Downey Creek drainage, not including the Lime Village Management Area. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose.

No open season

Closure Dates: Year Round

Current State Regulations

Unit 19A—Moose

Unit 19A –remainder

Resident and Nonresident Hunters: *No open season*

Regulatory Year Initiated: 2007

Regulatory History

In March 2006, in response to the continued decline of the moose population and recommendations made by local residents, the Alaska Board of Game (ADF&G) closed the affected area in Unit 19A to all moose hunting (OSM 2007). The ADF&G subsequently submitted a Special Action request (WSA06-01) to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to limit the number of hunters and moose harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users on Federal land in Unit 19A. In September 2006, the Board adopted Special Action WSA06-01b which temporarily closed the affected area (OSM 2007). In 2007, the Board adopted Wildlife Proposal WP07-35 which closed the Federal moose season in affected area (OSM 2007).

Proposal WP08-35, submitted by Harry Jackson of Kwethluk, requested that a moose season be established with a harvest limit of one bull with spike-fork, or 50” antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side in the affected area in Unit 19 (OSM 2008). The proposal was rejected by the Board at its April 29-May 1, 2008 meeting (FSB 2008). In 2011 the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) recommended that the closure be continued (WISRAC 2011, OSM 2010).

Closure Last Reviewed: 2011 – WCR10–39.

Justification for Original Closure (Section 815(3) Criteria):

Section §815(3) of ANILCA states:

Nothing in this title shall be construed as – (3) authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than national parks and monuments) unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, for the reasons set forth in §16, to continue subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to other applicable law;

The combination of low moose population densities, low calf production and survival, low bull:cow ratios, north of the Kuskokwim River in Unit 19A and high levels of hunting pressure were factors that contributed to a declining moose population and conservation concerns for the population. In response to this concern and the need for conservative management actions, the Board established the closure in the affected area within Unit 19A in 2007 (OSM 2007).

Councils Recommendations for the Original Closure:

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils supported the closure to protect the moose population, to reduce the hunting pressure, and to give the population time to recover. Additionally the councils also supported a modification to allow the Yukon-Delta Refuge Manager to annually establish the harvest quota and number of drawing permits for Unit 19A remainder (OSM 2007).

State Recommendation for the Original Closure:

The ADF&G supported the closure of the moose season until the moose population could support sustainable harvests (OSM 2008, Seavoy 2008).

Biological Background

The State's management objectives for moose in Units 19A and 19B are (Seavoy 2010):

- Units 19A and 19B: – Achieve a moose population of 13,500–16,500 (7,600–9,300 in Unit 19A) with a harvest of 750-950.

In May 2004, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted Resolution 04-01 (FSB 2004) supporting the development of the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan (CKMMP) in response to declining moose population in Unit 19A from 1995-2002. The plan encouraged the involvement of the Federal Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils, with the goal to “carefully monitor implementation of the plan and the status of the Central Kuskokwim drainage moose populations ... and should the need arise, work cooperatively with the ADF&G and the Fish and Game Advisory Committees to develop proposals and recommendations for changes to the CKMMP and/or Federal and State regulations” (ADF&G 2004).

Objectives for Units 19A and 19B under the CKMMP are (Seavoy 2010):

- Maintain a minimum fall post hunt bull:cow ratio of 20–30 bulls: 100 cows.
- Maintain a minimum fall post hunt calf:cow ratio of 30–40 calves:100 cows.
- Maintain no fewer than 20% calves (short yearlings – 10 month old calves) in late–winter surveys.

ADF&G biologists conducted surveys in the eastern portion of Unit 19A (Holitna), which includes the affected area, in March 2005 and 2008. Although the density of moose increased from 0.28 moose/mi²

in 2005 to 0.44 moose/mi² in 2008, the confidence intervals overlapped so no trend was indicated. The moose density in 2008 was not close to the estimated moose densities (0.75–0.93 moose/mi²) required to achieve the State population objectives for Unit 19A (Seavoy 2010).

The percentage of calves:100 cows from the late–winter moose composition surveys was 45% in 2007, 27% in 2008, and 36% in 2009 (Table 2C, Seavoy 2010). The number of bulls:100 cows increased significantly from 8 in 2005 to 34 in 2008. Both the calf:cow and the bull:cow ratios meet the management objectives recommended in the CKMMP for Unit 19A. Although it appears that the moose population in the affected area is recovering slowly in the absence of hunting pressure since 2006 (Seavoy 2010), it has been 5 years since the moose population in Unit 19A has been surveyed.

Harvest History

Moose harvest on the affected Federal public lands in affected area in Unit 19A have been closed to residents and non-residents since 2006.

OSM Preliminary Recommendation:

- maintain status quo**
- initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure**
- other recommendation**

Justification

Low moose numbers and densities in closure area continue to be a conservation concern. The moose population has not fully recovered and thus opening this area to harvest is not recommended at this time. Federal public lands in the affected area of Unit 19A should remain closed to residents and non–residents for the conservation of a healthy population (Section 815(3)). The closure to moose harvest on Federal public lands in the affected area will be reassessed in three years, per the Federal Subsistence Board Closure Policy (FSB 2007), or sooner if additional survey data suggest the closure should be lifted.

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Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge's Report to the Western Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council February 2015

Subsistence Updates

Federal Subsistence Moose Hunting

We received reports through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that their Allakaket household survey indicated that 14 moose were harvested by villagers in the fall 2014 season. Anecdotal reports indicate perhaps up to 20 may have been harvested, which is an improvement over past years. There is still the December 15–April 15 winter moose hunt for any bulls still showing antlers or starting to show antler growth. That remains a valuable opportunity for those hunters who missed out on a moose in the regular fall hunt.



Although this game camera deployed along a well-worn trail at Kanuti Lake wasn't very productive, we did capture this young bull going by on May 10. We estimated this bull to be 2–3 years old based on the antler buds.

Wildlife/Plant Work

Moose population surveys

This past November Kanuti staff had planned on cooperating with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service to conduct a moose population trends and composition survey, but snow depth and cover was insufficient. Reluctantly, all agencies agreed that the survey had to be postponed to fall 2015, when we hope better snow conditions might occur. Below are the results derived from surveys conducted between 1989 and 2013.

Table 1. Summary statistics for 10 moose population estimates (90% confidence interval), in the Kanuti NWR Survey Area, Game Management Unit 24B, Alaska. Surveys conducted in 1989 and 1993 employed the Gasaway method while subsequent surveys were conducted using the GeoSpatial Population Estimator method.

	1989	1993	1999	2004	2005	2007	2008	2010	2011	2013
Survey Area (sq. miles) ¹	2,615	2,644	2,715	2,710	2,710	2,714	2,715	2,714	2,714	2,714
Units Surveyed	NA ²	NA ²	108	103	82	150	80	164	151	105
Population Estimate (Range of Estimate)	1,172 (867–1,476)	1,759 (1,435–2,083)	1,003 (794–1,211)	842 (602–1,083)	1,025 (581–1,470)	588 (463–714)	872 (669–1,075)	1,068 (946–1,191)	797 (644–951)	551 (410–693)
Standard Error	NA	NA	127	146	270	76	124	74.5	93	86
Moose Density (moose/sq. mi)	0.45	0.67	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.22	0.32	0.39	0.29	0.20
Estimated Cows	NA	NA	542	403	471	276	432	569	388	283
Estimated Bulls	NA	NA	320	252	331	167	199	293	268	183
Bulls:100 Cows	64	61	59	62	70	60	46	51	69	65
Yearling Bulls:100 cows	4	8	4	9	20	13	14	7	10	11
Calves:100 Cows	17	33	30	46	43	53	58	33	41	36

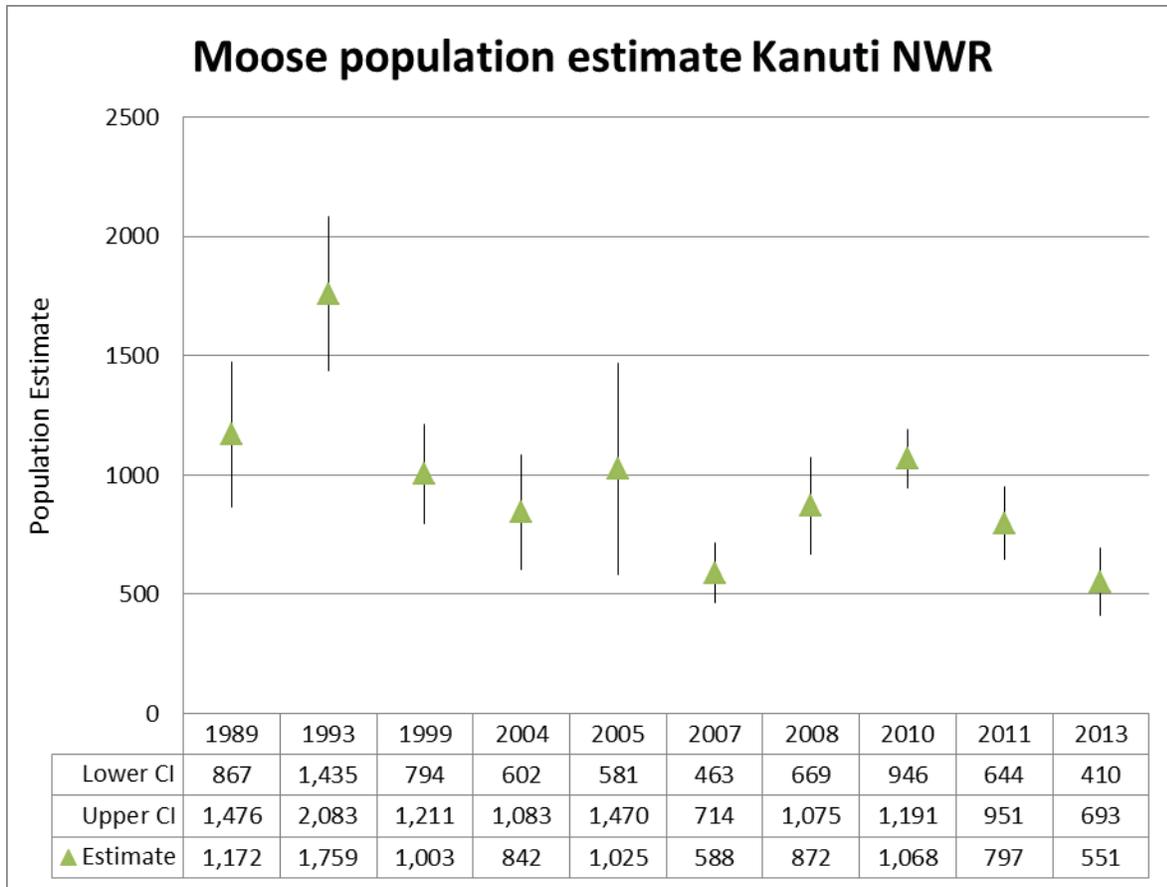


Figure 1. Observable moose population estimates by year on Kanuti NWR, Game Management Unit 24B, Alaska. Error bars represent the 90% confidence interval for each year.

Moose Browse study

Erin Julianus began a moose habitat study a couple of years ago when she was an intern for the Refuge. This project is in cooperation with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and is designed to help us understand how moose use different aged burns. Erin has since taken a job with BLM but has continued her research project on the Refuge. Erin is currently writing up the results of the project, and anticipates a completed thesis paper to be available as an internal USFWS report in 2015.

Trail camera surveys at Kanuti Lake Cabin

Wildlife Biologist Chris Harwood and a volunteer deployed nine trail cameras in vicinity of the Kanuti Lake Cabin from mid-April through late June to better document large mammal activity in the area. The most commonly “captured” animals were black bears and moose. Following are a couple of black bear images from the camera effort.



While admittedly not an award-winning photo, this image was our first (from any of the 9 cameras) of a black bear for the season. So we know that this bear was out of its den by at least April 24. Bears are probably the most curious about the cameras, as we get lots of really close head/face photos—sometimes too close like this one!



Occasionally we get a fairly good photo of the animals, like this black bear image. This camera was our most productive. We were able to confirm that several bears and even several moose used this trail.

Dalton Highway weed pulls

Refuge personnel participated in two weed-pulls along the Dalton Highway this summer in cooperation with the Bureau Land Management (BLM), and Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. The weed-pulls occurred on June 23–27 and July 21–25, and our primary goals were to remove white sweet clover and bird vetch near river crossings and from other areas, like airports, where invasive plants might be transported to remote lands. The crews worked between the Kanuti River (MP 106) and Marion Creek (MP 181), north of Coldfoot. During the June weed pull, a heavy infestation of white sweet clover was discovered at a culvert near Fish Creek. This culvert had been cleared in the past but seemed to have been neglected the past few years. Due to the severity of the infestation, we believe white sweet clover seeds may have spread into the Refuge. We will continue to monitor at this site in upcoming weed pull efforts.



Culvert at approximately mile 121, just south of the Fish Creek bridge-crossing along Dalton Highway. Flood waters may have washed mature white sweet clover plants and seeds downstream into Fish Creek. The tributary will need close monitoring in the future.

At its closest, Kanuti Refuge lies about eight miles west of the Dalton Highway; however, 6 large creeks and rivers cross the highway and then flow through the Refuge, so pulling weeds along the highway is a priority for the Refuge. A 10-week Student Conservation Association (SCA) Invasive Outreach Intern assisted with weed-pulling efforts, produced various outreach brochures and materials, and presented an interpretive program on interior Alaska’s invasive

weeds at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot. Three Friends of Alaska NWR volunteers contributed over 80 hours of work during the weed-pulls.



White-sweet clover seedlings (bottom-right) near the high water mark at the culvert near Mile 121, Dalton Highway. Refuge staff are concerned that viable seeds may have washed into Fish Creek and into Kanuti Refuge.

Alaska Bird Conference

Kanuti Refuge bird biologist Chris Harwood gave a talk at the Alaska Bird Conference in Juneau on December 10. Many ornithologists from Alaska and elsewhere attended to discuss their research and management of Alaska's birds. Chris' talk focused on his multi-year study of Whimbrels breeding in the tundra near Kanuti Lake. You may recognize this species from this photo of a Whimbrel on a nest near the Kanuti River (below).



Water Resources and Weather

Kanuti NWR Water Resource Inventory and Assessment

USFWS's Water Resources Branch (WRB) continued to monitor stream flow and other variables at nine stream gages in 2014. The gages were installed on rivers and creeks within or near Kanuti Refuge including along the main stem Koyukuk, South Fork Koyukuk, Kanuti, and Kilolitna Rivers, as well as Fish, Henshaw, and Holonada Creeks. Monitoring began in 2009 and most gauges will be removed in 2015 (to be moved to a different refuge). In December 2014 WRB completed a draft report of the *Kanuti NWR Water Resource Inventory and Assessment* (WRIA). Refuge staff members are currently reviewing the report. The purpose of Kanuti's WRIA is provide current and accurate accounting of data on water quantity and quality within/near Kanuti NWR in order to acquire, manage, and protect adequate supplies of clean and fresh water for the refuge, as required by Kanuti's establishing legislation.

Weather Station

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) established a Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) site near Kanuti Lake Cabin in August 2014. NRCS deployed an automated weather station at the site to record air and soil temperature, wind, snow depth, etc. Data from the SCAN station can be accessed remotely. The station was working until September 27 when NRCS informed us of the station's power failure. They believe that most likely some animal had visited the site and destroyed the battery connection. As of December 2014, NRCS was still looking to make a visit to begin repairs

Snow Surveys

Kanuti staff resumed monitoring the 6 snow markers on the Refuge during an early December flight. After a January hiatus, surveys resume February through May.



Sunlight over the Kanuti Flats during the December snow marker survey.

Administration

Budget

Our budget in 2015 will be similar to 2014.

Personnel changes

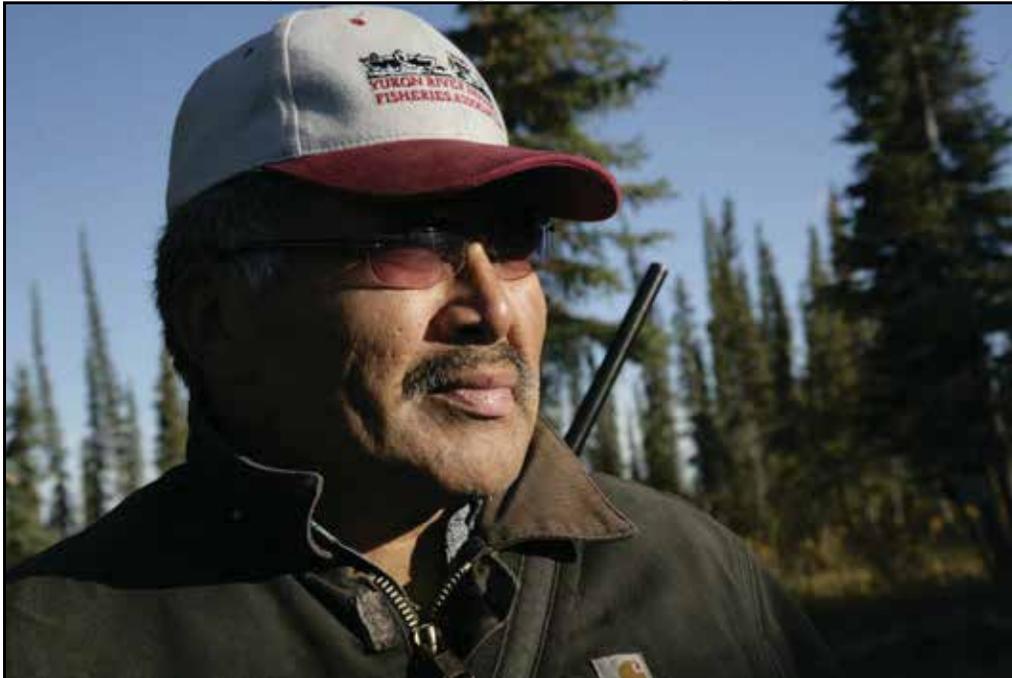
Fire Management Officer **Peter Butteri** has accepted a new position as Regional Fire Planner, a joint position for the USFWS Alaska Fire Program and BLM's Alaska Fire Service. Peter starts his new position January 11. He will still be based in Fairbanks, but no longer working for the three Fairbanks-based refuges (Kanuti, Arctic, Yukon Flats).

The Refuge hired Pilot/Biologist **Chris Daniels**, formerly of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Florida. Chris arrives in Fairbanks January 7. After completing several trainings as a pilot, Chris will move permanently to Bettles which will be his full-time duty station.



Newly hired Pilot/Biologist Chris Daniels enjoys a cup of coffee at the Kanuti Lake cabin during his first visit to the Refuge in summer 2014. Chris will be stationed in Bettles.

Allakaket resident, **Steven Bergman, Sr.**, is our contracted Refuge Information Technician. His duties include issuing moose harvest permits, and helping the refuge conduct village meetings..



Allakaket Resident Steven Bergman, Sr., provides expertise in regards to subsistence, wildlife, and fisheries to Kanuti staff. Bergman issues ADFG licenses and permits to local hunters.

In December 2014, Kanuti received a list of applicants for consideration for the recent wildlife biologist position vacancy. Staff members will be evaluating the candidates, checking references, etc., and expect to have the position filled in time for spring 2015 field season. The new biologist will be stationed in Fairbanks.

Facilities

Kanuti would not be able to accomplish our duties without facilities at our field stations and in Fairbanks.

Coldfoot Field Office Remodel

In October, Kanuti NWR Maintenance Worker Bradley Storm spent two weeks remodeling the southwest corner of the old visitor center in Coldfoot. The goal was to better insulate the office space for our Coldfoot-based Interpretive Park Ranger. The space serves as a winter outreach office allowing visitors traveling the Dalton Highway to learn more about the history and natural features of the area. After complete renovation, the facility will be shared with National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.



Kanuti NWR Visitor Services Intern Allyssa Morris displays the newly installed sign at the Coldfoot winter office. Visitors traveling the Dalton Highway are encouraged to visit with our Coldfoot-based Interpretive Park Ranger Kristin Reakoff.

Fairbanks Bunkhouse

In fall 2014, our talented Maintenance Workers, Bradley Storm (Kanuti NWR, Bettles) and Paul Banyas (Arctic NWR, Fairbanks), completed renovations of our new Fairbanks Bunkhouse. The bunkhouse is a mod-unit trailer that we rescued from Kenai NWR and it is located only 200 yards from the Fairbanks Federal building. The bunkhouse offers a convenient and inexpensive temporary lodging option for employees, volunteers, etc., coming from out of town. Bradley and Paul have done tremendous work making the bunkhouse not only functional and attractive, but energy-efficient. Below are photos of Bradley working on the bunkhouse this summer.



Kanuti NWR Maintenance Worker Bradley Storm shingles the roof of the new Kanuti bunkhouse in Fairbanks. A chain link privacy fence (not shown, installed later) now obscures some of this west-facing view. Bradley is stationed in Bettles.

Planning

Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road (AMDIAR)

Kanuti NWR was informed that the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) was considering a possible alternative for this road to cross the northern third of the refuge. In summer 2014 we hosted two field visits by fisheries biologists, aquatic ecologists, and hydrologists to examine the possible alternative across Kanuti. Useful information on permafrost depth, wetland sheet-flow, and fisheries was obtained from these field visits. Kanuti staff attended the AMDIAR all-corridor stakeholder meeting in Fairbanks December 16–17 to

listen to residents' concerns. Kanuti and other USFWS staff will be participating on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) oversight team as a cooperating agency. If WIRAC members have any concerns about this proposal, they can discuss it directly with Kanuti staff or at other upcoming public meetings related to the EIS.

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP)

In order to be a cooperating agency, Kanuti staff attended a RMP training session at BLM in October 2014. We plan to participate in their alternatives selection workshop in early February 2015. The Kanuti staff looks forward to working on this cooperative relationship with BLM so we can give a voice to our concerns about habitat, water quality and quantity, and connectivity in the watersheds upstream and adjacent to the Kanuti boundary.

Environmental Education and Outreach

Allakaket Outreach Event

An outreach event for the communities of Allakaket and Alatna is scheduled for March 10-11, 2015. Kanuti staff will provide environmental education programs to students. In the evening, a community outreach event will be held at the Allakaket school that is open to everyone. There will be informative presentations, poster sessions, and games. Community members are encouraged to come and meet new staff and learn about current projects occurring in the Refuge. Contact Allyssa Morris for details: Allyssa_Morris@fws.gov or (907) 456-0213.

Environmental Education School Visit

In November, Kanuti NWR Visitor Services Intern Allyssa Morris and Subsistence Coordinator Vince Mathews visited Youth Education Support Services (YESS) Elementary and conducted an environmental education program. Students learned about the importance of snow acting as an insulator to small mammals. YESS Elementary supports students with behavioral and mental health issues.

Website

The Refuge website has been updated and contains reports, photos, maps, and other helpful information. Folks are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about Kanuti Refuge. <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kanuti/>

Facebook

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kanuti.refuge). Interesting information about happenings on the Refuge and its wildlife and habitats are contained in this regularly updated web page.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Refuge, feel free to call the refuge staff at 877-220-1853. Our headquarters office is located in the Fairbanks Federal building at 101 12th Avenue. Our field station is located near the airport at Bettles, along with the NPS ranger station and visitor center. If any WIRAC members are ever in the vicinity of Fairbanks or Bettles, we invite you to stop by for a visit!



Visit our website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kanuti>

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kanuti.refuge.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Galena, Alaska

Koyukuk/ Nowitna/ Innoko National Wildlife Refuge Update

Western Interior/ Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

2015 meeting Fairbanks

Environmental Education/ Outreach

Koyukuk/Nowitna Face Book Page

A Face Book Page has been created for Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. We hope to use this as a resource for outreach and education to local communities. Some of the things we plan on including in posts are: general research updates/notes from the field, spring bird identification, invasive plant identification., village profiles, local events (e.g., Christmas bird count, science camp), subsistence updates (e.g., open/close dates, RAC meetings), and food and medicinal use of native plants. In addition, the first of each month we'll have a "guess that object" post and the 15th of each month we'll have a 'species profile' post. If you have Facebook and are interested in what we are doing here at Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR, please look us up.

Hunters Education



Koyukuk/Nowitna staff working with Galena 7th and 8th grade students during a hunter's safety class at the shooting range

We currently have two certified hunters education instructors at the refuge. Hunter's education is a very important learning tool for any gun owner or anyone interested in getting into hunting and firearm handling. Hunter's education stresses on teaching safe gun handling techniques, wildlife conservation, proper care of game after the shot, hunting ethics, and preparation and survival skill. We are holding 2 classes this year in Kaltag and Galena. We are actively looking to put on classes. If you are located near our refuge, please contact us about setting up a class.

Koyukuk River Place Names Project

Since this project started in 2011, staff met with Elders in the Lower Koyukuk River to identify over 200 place names with historical relevance along the Koyukuk River. Meetings were then held again to verify with the Elders that the place names and locations were correctly placed on the map. This was the first phase of the 2 phase project. The second phase will include soliciting funding to produce a book (and/or website) of the completed maps. Work was completed this summer on the Koyukuk River Place Names Project. Karin Bodony went with Staff from United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) by boat to Koyukuk, Huslia, and Hughes to discuss the work that has been done so far and to receive input on information collected and future plans.

Migratory Bird Calendar

Clara Demientieff and Karin Bodony will be working with local schools to help in participating in the Migratory Bird Calendar Contest. This year's theme is "Alaska Birds-Colorful and Camouflaged". This is a project where students get to participate in a poster and literature completion with a goal of getting students to learn about migratory bird conservation. The deadline for entries is February 13, 2015.

Fire

Fire in the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuges was slow for the 2014 summer. For the summer of 2014 we had the following fire activity:

- Northern Unit Innoko Refuge
 - 2 fires that totaled 55 acres

Subsistence

Federal Subsistence Moose Hunt FM2406

Last year due to a decrease in adult moose and a reduced bull:cow ratio below the management objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows, we took a conservative approach and closed FM2406 in GMU 24D.

Federal Subsistence Moose Hunt FM2101

For the Federal Moose Hunt FM2101, which includes the Nowitna River drainage downstream from the Little Mud River and including the Little Mud River Drainage, from September 26th through October 1st, there were a total of 7 permits issued with 1 local resident on the Nowitna, 2 from Ruby, and 4 from Tanana. Only 6 permits were used. There was 1 bull moose harvested. (See Figure 1)

Nowitna Moose Hunter Check Station

From September 3rd-October 1st, refuge staff monitored moose harvests on the Nowitna River through the use of a hunter check station. A total of 98 hunters checked in and 30 moose were harvested during the state season, which runs from Sept 5-Sept 2 (See Figure 2)

Koyukuk River Check Station

For 2014 preliminary results, there were a total of 520 registered hunters within the Koyukuk Control Use Area with a total of 195 moose harvested (351 hunters and 120 moose harvested @ Koyukuk Check Station, 139 hunters and 67 moose harvested from Huslia, 30 hunters and 8 moose harvested from Hughes).

Staff:

With the complexing of the Innoko Refuge with Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuges, we had funding to hire a part time Refuge Information Technician (RIT) in the GASH area for the Innoko Refuge. We have hired Ken Chase from Anvik. We are very excited to have his knowledge and experience on our staff. He will be working out of both McGrath and Anvik.

Clara Demientieff, Lilly Seavoy , and Michael Bye will be stationed out of McGrath. They are currently working out of the leased office building. We will be closing that building and moving our office to the log cabin once it has been completely renovated.

Myra Harris our former RIT has been converted to a Refuge Operations Specialist (ROS), which is an introduction to management position where she will assume supervisory duties.

Robert Rebarchik was selected as our new Deputy Refuge Manager. Robert is coming to Galena from The National Bison Range in Montana. Robert was also formerly a Fire Management Officer in Galena back in the 90's and already has good knowledge of the area. We are very excited to have Robert and the skills and knowledge he will bring to our refuge. We are expecting Robert to start sometime in mid-January.

We have also selected Brett Nigus as our new Law Enforcement Officer. Brett is coming to Galena from Katmai National Park and Preserve. Brett will be starting sometime in mid-January.

We are also looking to hire a local RIT in Galena, which will put us at full staffing.

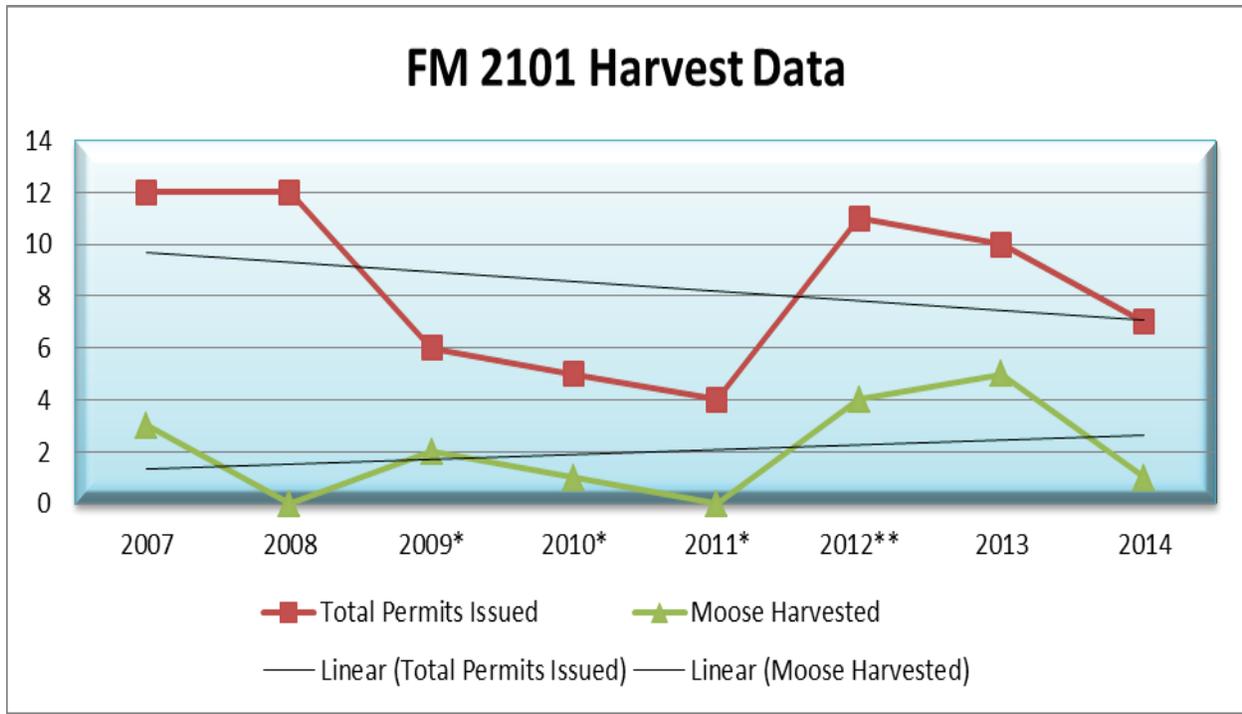


Figure 1. Harvest and permit data for Federal Hunt FM2101 in GMU21B on the Nowitna River from Sept 26-Oct 1.

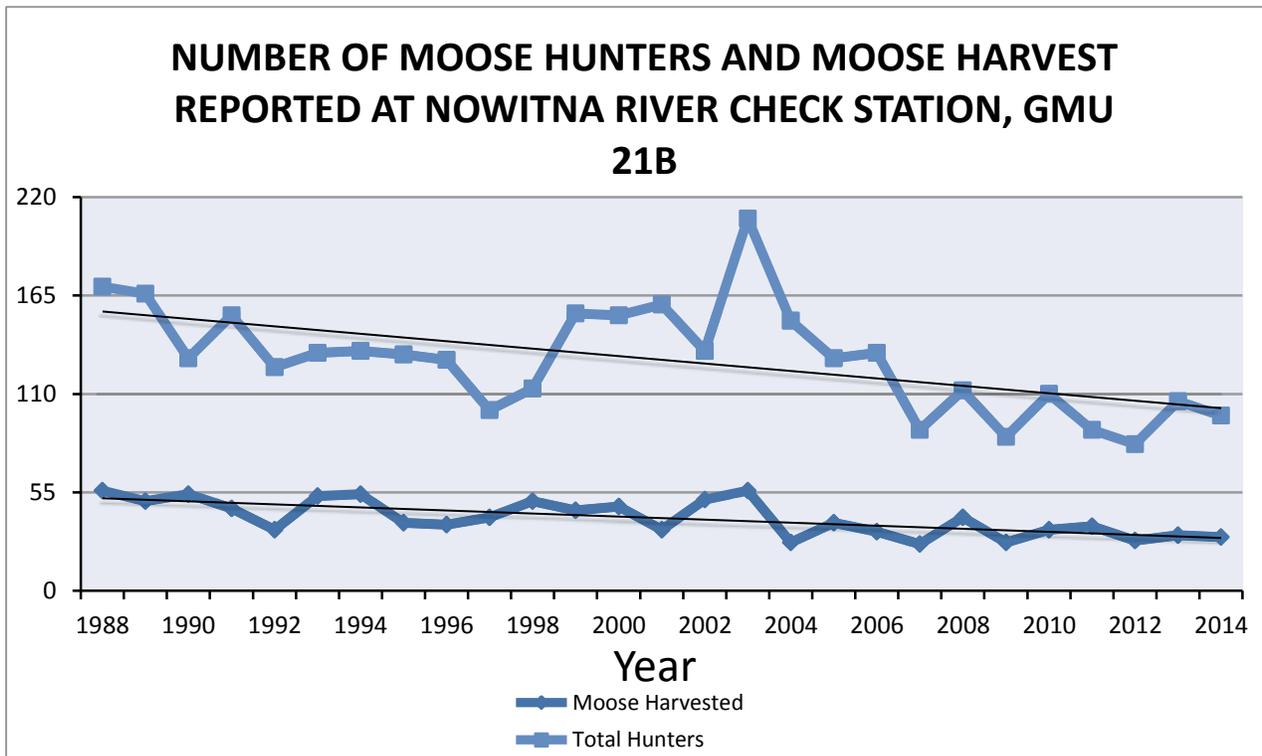


Figure 2. Number of hunters and moose harvested through the Nowitna River Check Station since 1988.

To: Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
Date: December 2014
Subject: Scoping for Regulations to Allow *Subsistence Collections and Uses of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts & Plants from National Park System Areas in Alaska*

Issue:

The National Park Service (NPS) selected a modified Alternative D to implement its April 2014 decision regarding the environmental assessment (EA) on *Subsistence Collections and Uses of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts and Plants from Park Areas in Alaska*. The selected alternative will allow subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded animal parts and plants to make into handicrafts for personal or family purposes, to barter, or to sell as customary trade. NPS-qualified subsistence users are residents of communities and areas with federally-recognized customary and traditional (C&T) use determinations for each species in each game management unit within the affected park areas. Subsistence users who have C&T eligibility for animal species will also be allowed to collect plant materials from those areas to make and use or sell handicrafts. The decision clears the way for the NPS to promulgate regulations to authorize such subsistence collections and resource uses on park areas in Alaska. The NPS has attempted to address concerns expressed by several Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) and federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

Alaska-specific regulations are needed to overcome the general nationwide NPS regulation at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.1, which prohibits: “Possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state: Living or dead wildlife and fish, or their parts or products thereof, such as antlers or nests; Plants or the parts or products thereof.” ANILCA Titles II and VIII authorize in park areas subsistence uses “of wild, renewable resources for direct or family consumption ...; for making and selling handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of wildlife resources taken ...; for barter ...; and for customary trade.”

The NPS indicated in a press release it would begin the process of drafting new regulations within a year of the decision. That process is underway, and we have a preliminary draft rule to available for review during the winter/spring 2015 SRC and RAC meetings. Once proposed regulations are published in the Federal Register, they are available for a 60-day public comment period. The final rule would be published after consideration of the public comments.

These regulations will provide a general framework for authorizing federally-qualified subsistence collections with provisions allowing Superintendents to customize the implementation as needed for local conditions through unit-specific regulations or compendia. NPS will continue consulting with SRCs, RACs, and tribes as the regulations and associated provisions to implement them are developed. Two-way discussions are needed to identify key concerns for the regulations and their implementing provisions such as appropriate types of written authorizations, specific local resource concerns that may need to be addressed in each

park area, and flexibility to address changing conditions in park areas regarding subsistence collections.

Discussion Points:

The EA decision specified the following:

- NPS-qualified subsistence users must have written authorization from the area Superintendent. Such authorization can take many forms. For example, individual permits could be issued to qualified subsistence users or written authorizations could be provided for specific resident zone communities or for areas with customary and traditional use findings for various resources.

Which type of written authorization would be best for your area and why?

- The decision adopted mitigating measures to minimize potential adverse effects on resources and values of affected NPS areas, including visitor use and enjoyment. Mitigating measures may include conditions and limits for collection activities, such as allowable quantities, locations, timing restrictions, or other restrictions to reduce resource impacts or user conflicts. Examples of areas that may be subject to restrictions of subsistence collections include archeological and historic sites; public facilities and travel corridors such as roads, airports and landing strips; and commonly used trails, rivers, and shores of ocean coasts and large lakes. Education programs and materials could be developed to inform the public and qualified subsistence users about the authorized collections.

Which areas and resources should be opened or not opened to subsistence collections and why?

What should be included in a public education program?

Contacts:

Bud Rice, Subsistence Manager, Alaska Regional Office, bud_rice@nps.gov, 907-644-3597

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Section 13.420 is amended as follows:

By adding the following definitions:

Handicraft article is a finished product in which the shape and appearance of the natural material has been substantially changed by the skillful use of hands, such as sewing, carving, etching, scrimshawing, painting, or other means, which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material(s). This term does not include a trophy or European mount of horns or antlers.

Wild renewable byproducts of wildlife means the nonedible antlers, horns, bones, teeth, claws, hooves, hides, fur, hair, feathers and quills, that have been:

- (1) Naturally shed,
- (2) Discarded from a lawfully hunted or trapped animal, or
- (3) Occur through natural mortality.

By revising the definition of *Subsistence uses*, subparagraphs (2) and (3) as follows:

(2) “Barter” shall mean the exchange of handicraft articles or fish or wildlife or their parts taken for subsistence uses—

- (i) For other fish or game or their parts; or
- (ii) For other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature; and

(3) “Customary trade” shall be limited to the exchange of handicraft articles or furs for cash (and such other activities as may be designated for a specific park area in the applicable special regulations of this part).

Section 13.482 is added as follows:

§ 13.482 Subsistence collection and use of animal parts

(a) Local rural residents may collect wild renewable byproducts of wildlife, excluding migratory birds and marine animals, for subsistence uses in park areas where subsistence uses are allowed, provided that:

- (1) The resident has a federal customary and traditional use determination for the species collected in the game management unit where the collecting occurs (50 CFR Part 100), and
- (2) The resident has written authorization from the superintendent.

(b) The superintendent may establish conditions, limits, and other restrictions on collection activities. Areas opened to collections will be identified on a map posted on the park website and available at the park visitor center. Violating a condition, limit, or restriction is prohibited.

(c) Non-conflicting State regulations regarding the use of bear claws that are now or may later be in effect are adopted as a part of these regulations.



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