



# Federal Subsistence Management Program 2016-2018 Wildlife Proposals

*Comment period open through May 28, 2015*



## **Comment period open through May 28, 2015**

Send your written comments on the enclosed proposals to:

Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199  
E-mail: [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov)  
Fax: 907-786-3898 (attn: Theo Matuskowitz)

# INTRODUCTION

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) invites your comments on the enclosed proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife hunting and trapping regulations for the 2016–2018 regulatory years (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018). These proposals seek changes to existing Federal subsistence regulations for the taking of wildlife on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska.

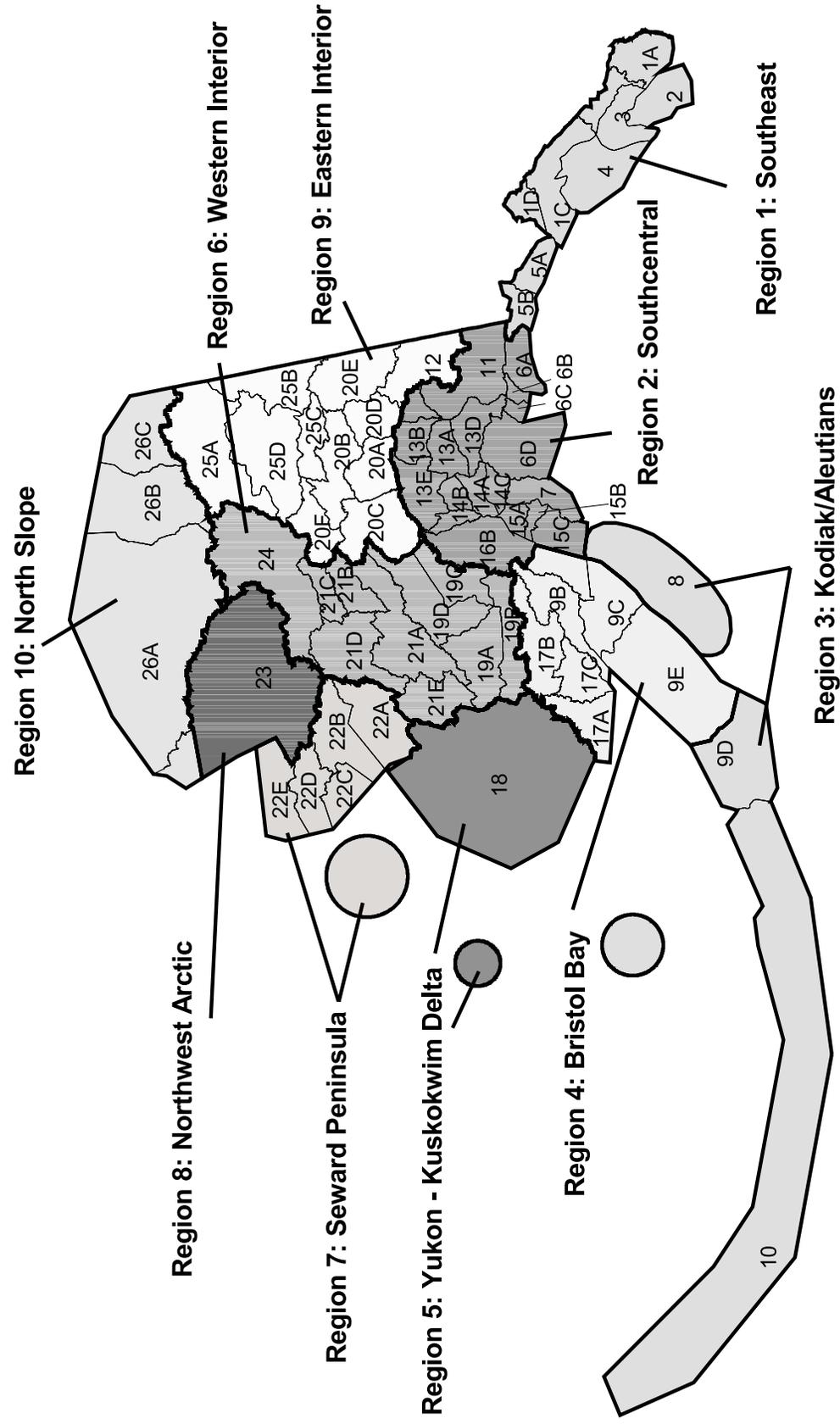
You may mail your comments to the Federal Subsistence Board at the address on the previous page of this book, fax them to (907) 786-3898, or E-mail them to [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov). Please refer to a specific proposal number in your comments. All comments received by **May 28, 2015** will be included in the meeting materials for the appropriate Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to discuss at their fall meetings and the Board at its spring meeting.

Before making decisions on these proposals, the Board considers technical analyses prepared by its staff, recommendations from the 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, and any written public comments and oral testimony it receives on the proposal, along with Tribal and Alaska Native Corporations' comments received during government to government consultations. The Board may consider and act on alternatives that address the intent of a proposal while differing in approach. Once the Board makes its decisions, it will publish the changes as final regulations for the 2016–2018 regulatory years, effective July 1, 2016, and distribute the regulation book throughout Alaska.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or 907- 786-3888, visit our website at [www.doi.gov/index.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](http://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

*Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing:*  
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# Federal Subsistence Resource Regions and Units



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Federal Subsistence Board

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

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

## Regional Advisory Councils

The Federal Subsistence Management Program divides Alaska into 10 subsistence resource regions, each represented by a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. These 10 Councils provide an opportunity for Alaskans to contribute in a meaningful way to the management of subsistence resources. Subsistence users have the opportunity to comment and offer input on subsistence issues at Council meetings. Councils meet a least twice a year. The Councils develop proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations and review and make recommendations on proposals submitted by others.

## Council membership

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

## Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Coordinators

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

### Southeast Region

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### Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula Regions

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### Western Interior and Northwest Arctic Regions

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### Eastern Interior and North Slope Regions

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Proposal Number	Affected Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
<b>Southeast</b>				
WP16-01	SE	Deer	Change season dates for Unit 2 deer; <i><b>NOTE: The harvest limit portion of this submitted wildlife proposal was deemed invalid</b></i>	1
WP16-02	SE	Deer	Change in season dates for Unit 1C	3
WP16-03	SE	Goat	Revise designated hunter possession limit for Units 1-5	4
WP16-04	SE	Moose	Change in harvest limit for Units 1C and 5B by removing the term “antlered”	6
WP16-05	SE	Deer	Change to the delegation of authority for deer in Unit 2	7
WP16-06	SE	N/A	Add area descriptor for “Nunatak Bench” in Unit 5	8
WP16-07	SE	Beaver	Allow trappers to harvest beaver with a firearm in Units 1-5	9
WP 16-08	SE	Deer	Clarify use of permits in Unit 2	10
WP16-09	SE	Marten	Close trapping season for marten on Kuiu Island in Unit 3	11
<b>Southcentral</b>				
WP16-10	SC	Moose	Create Federal season; revise C&T determination in Unit 6D	13
WP16-11	SC	Deer	Revise season and harvest limit in Unit 6D	14
WP16-12	SC	Deer	Increase harvest limit in Unit 6	16
WP16-13	SC	Black Bear	Change season date for Unit 6D	17
WP16-14	SC	Goat	Change season date for Unit 6D	18
WP16-15	SC	Caribou	Harvest quota change in Unit 7 by separating Hope and Cooper Landing permits	20

Proposal Number	Affected Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
WP16-16	SC	All species	Request to close the Paxson Closed Area	22
WP16-17	SC	Caribou	Remove restrictions in Unit 13 to hunt within the Trans-Alaskan Oil Pipeline right-of-way	23
WP16-18	SC, EI	Brown Bear	Allow the use of bait in Units 11 and 12	25
WP16-19	SC	Moose, Caribou	Revise the permit for the Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture Camp	26
WP16-20	SC, EI	Sheep	Change in harvest limit for Unit 11	28
<b>Kodiak/Aleutians</b>				
None submitted				
<b>Bristol Bay</b>				
WP16-21	BB	Caribou	Rescind closure and create a “To be announced” season for Units 9C and 9E	30
WP16-22	BB	Moose	Revise permit requirements for Unit 9C	32
WP16-23	BB	Brown Bear	Revise permit requirements and harvest quota in 9B	34
WP16-24	BB	Moose	Closure in Units 9B, 9C and 9C remainder	36
WP16-25	BB	Caribou	Change in season and harvest limit for portion of Units 17A and 17C	39
WP16-26	BB	Caribou	Change in season and harvest limit for portion of Units 17A and 17C	40
WP16-27	BB	Moose	Change in season date and harvest limit for Unit 17A	41
WP16-28	BB	Moose	Change in season date and harvest limit for Unit 17A	42
WP16-29	BB	Caribou	Change in season dates for Units 9B, 17A, 17B and 17C	43
WP16-30	BB	Caribou	Change in season dates for Units 9B, 17A, 17A remainder 17B, 17C and 17C remainder	45
WP16-31	BB	Ungulate, Bear, Wolf, Wolverine	Change in methods and means for portions of Unit 17A and 17C	47

Proposal Number	Affected Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
WP16-32	BB	Ungulate, Bear, Wolf, Wolverine	Change in methods and means for portions of Unit 17A and 17C	48
<b>Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta</b>				
WP16-33	YKD, SP	Caribou, Moose	Change in Customary and Traditional Use for Unit 18	49
WP16-34	YKD	All species	Closure for Unit 18 to non-Federally qualified users	51
WP16-35	YKD, SP	Black Bear, Brown Bear	Allow the use of artificial lights in Unit 18	52
WP16-36	YKD, WI	N/A	Revise boundary descriptors Units 18, 19, 21, and 21E	53
<b>Western Interior</b>				
WP16-37	WI, NS, SP, NWA and EI	Caribou	Revise harvest season and limits for Units 21D, 22, 23, 24 25, 26A and 26B	58
WP16-38	WI	Moose	Remove the half-mile corridors along the Innoko and Yukon rivers in Unit 21E	70
WP16-39	WI	Moose	Change in hunt area descriptor for Unit 21B	73
WP16-40	WI	Black Bear	Allow the use of artificial lights in Units 24A, 24B and 24C	74
WP16-41	WI	Sheep	Change harvest limits for Units 24A and 24B	76
WP16-42	WI	Moose	Change in season dates; create new hunt area for Unit 24B	77
<b>Seward Peninsula</b>				
WP16-43	SP, YKD	Caribou	Closure for Units 18, 22A	79
WP16-44	SP	Brown Bear	Revised season dates in Unit 22C; establish new hunt area in Unit 22D	81
WP16-45	SP	Caribou	Change in hunt area descriptor for a portion of Unit 22E	82

Proposal Number	Affected Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
WP16-46	SP	Moose	Rescind closure for Unit 22E	83
WP16-47	SP	Moose	Create antlerless moose season and revise season dates for Unit 22E	84
<b>Northwest Arctic</b>				
WP16-48	NWA	Caribou, Wolf, Wolverine	Allows the use of snowmachines to position animals in Unit 23	85
WP16-49	NWA	Caribou	Harvest limits change for Unit 23	88
WP16-50	NWA	Muskox	Change in resident zone community descriptor for Unit 23	90
WP16-51	NWA	Muskox	Establish a season in a portion of Unit 23	92
WP16-52	NWA	Caribou	Harvest limit change for Unit 23	93
WP16-53	NWA	Sheep	Revise harvest quotas; close season in parts of Unit 23	97
WP16-54	NWA	Sheep	Revise harvest quotas; close season in parts of Unit 23	100
<b>Eastern Interior</b>				
WP16-55	EI	Coyote	Change in trapping season date for Unit 25	103
WP16-56	EI	Beaver	Change in season date and harvest limit for Units 25A, 25B and 25D	104
WP16-57	EI	Lynx	Change in trapping season date for Unit 25	105
WP16-58	EI	Wolverine	Change in trapping season date for Unit 25C	106
WP16-59	EI	Moose	Change in season date for Unit 25D remainder	107
WP16-60	EI, SC	Caribou	Rescind closure for Unit 12	108

Proposal Number	Affected Region(s)	Species	General Description	Page
<b>North Slope</b>				
WP16-61	NS, NWA	Caribou	Establish new hunt area and season for portion of Unit 23	110
WP16-62	NS, NWA	Caribou	Establish new hunt area and season for portion of Unit 24B	112
WP16-63	NS, NWA	Caribou	Establish new hunt area and season for portion of Unit 26A	114
WP16-64	NS, NWA	Caribou	Establish new hunt area and season for portion of Unit 26B	116
WP16-65	NS	Moose	Revise harvest quota in 26B remainder and 26C	118
WP16-66	NS	Sheep	Revise harvest quota and close season	120

The proposals are published as submitted by the proponents and vary in color, format, size, and type.

## WP16-01

**Craig Tribal Association**

P.O. Box 828

Craig, AK 99921

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March 18, 2015

Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
C/o Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

**RE: Unit 2 Deer Harvest Limit Proposal**

Dear Mr. Matuskowitz,

The Craig Tribal Association (CTA) is submitting a proposal with support documentation to the Federal Subsistence Board for consideration on the Unit 2 deer harvest limit.

**Current Unit 2 Harvest Limits:**

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

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the Southeast portion (land south of West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound draining into Cholmondeley Sound or draining eastward into Clarence Strait) are closed to hunting of deer from August 1-August 15, except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

**Proposed Unit 2 Harvest Limits:**

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

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the Southeast portion (land south of West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound drainage into Cholmondeley Sound or drainage eastward into Clarence Strait) are closed to hunting of deer from August 1-August 15, except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island will be limited to 2 deer except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Extend Deer Season to January 31 for Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

**Statement of Necessary:**

Title VIII of ANILCA and the ability of the Rural Federal Subsistence Users of Prince of Wales Island ability to get their needs fulfilled hunting under these regulations. This would also assist in the conservation concerns that the Rural Federal Subsistence Users of Prince of Wales Island have and sustain this resource.

**Submitted By:**

Craig Tribal Association  
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## WP16-02

**Organization:** Monte Mitchell

**Address:** 9 Old Buoy Road, PO Box 74, Gustavus, AK 99826

**Phone:** 907-321-7700

**E-mail:** mossy\_hollow@hotmail.com

### 1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

*§242.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife (n) Unit regulations (1) Unit 1 (vii) Unit-specific regulations:*

Deer: Unit 1C – 4 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15-Dec. 31. Aug. 1-Dec 31.

### 2: How would the new regulation read?

*§242.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife (n) Unit regulations (1) Unit 1 (vii) Unit-specific regulations:*

Deer: Unit 1C – 4 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15-Dec. 31. Aug. 1-~~Dec 31~~  
Jan 31.

### 3: Why should this regulation change be made?

There are many people in northern SE Alaska that could make use of the deer in their vicinity and because of weather cannot get the full season benefit of harvesting their deer on bordering open units.

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

There might be four less mainland deer in 2015/16

### 5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This will increase available federal lands for use as the intent and spirit of subsistence.

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

**This will not impede or change any of the above mentioned uses except for the extension of federal deer season for hunters.**

## WP16-03

**Organization:** Monte Mitchell

**Address:** 9 Old Buoy Road, PO Box 74, Gustavus, AK 99826

**Phone:** 907-321-7700

**E-mail:** mossy\_hollow@hotmail.com

### **1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

§242.25 (e) *Hunting by designated harvest permit.* If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient), you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou, and in Units 1-5, goats, on your behalf unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system or unless unit-specific regulations in §242.26 preclude or modify the use of the designated hunter system or allow the harvest of additional species by a designated hunter. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time except for goats, where designated hunters may have no more than one harvest limit in possession at any one time, and unless otherwise specified in unit-specific regulations in §242.26.

### **2: How would the new regulation read?**

§242.25 (e) *Hunting by designated harvest permit.* If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient), you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou, and in Units 1-5, goats, on your behalf unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system or unless unit-specific regulations in §242.26 preclude or modify the use of the designated hunter system or allow the harvest of additional species by a designated hunter. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time except for goats, where designated hunters may have no more than **one three mountain goats harvest-limit** in possession at any one time, and unless otherwise specified in unit-specific regulations in §242.26.

### **3: Why should this regulation change be made?**

Subsistence hunting is affected in a negative way here by requiring the delivery of a fellow goat to the tag holder before any other goats are taken by the designated hunter. The problem is when the goats are available to the federal hunter it is key to the success of the hunter to be able to fill the available tags. There should not be the one goat at a time requirement to deliver before continuing the harvest. Time distance and expense for this can make this hunt prohibitive to the subsistence hunter.

The previous concern from ADF&G that the harvest would be not controllable for their point system management standpoint should not impede the subsistence hunters' ability to fulfil their harvest. The points should be based on animals left available after subsistence priority.

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

Typically a DH is an experienced hunter and is extensively knowledgeable in His/her hunting craft tactics and ethics. An experienced DH is in a prime position know what local subsistence use the animal population can withstand. Most DH's are experienced in viewing, identifying, and taking of game that is

gender restricted and are aware of the impacts of their actions. Being aware of the fact that harvesting billies have a substantially lower impact on the overall goat population than the taking of nannies. The subsistence DH will be able to assess whether the local herd can withstand the culling of young billies or older dry nannies. Because the DH has the opportunity to hunt and take multiple goats in one season He /she can often identify the Billies from the Nannies in short order. By just a single look at the head.

As opposed to the general season state hunters who many times mistakenly harvest the wrong animal and have no idea how the taking of nannies impact the local game populations. This is why there are points assigned to subunits for management. The DH can be a good management tool because they will typically be in the field considerably more than the average state/non res hunter and often have a better grasp on the heard status than the biologists .The DH or state hunter who spends the most time pursuing and viewing the game will have the most real time information about the status of the local goat population .The impact from less hunters filling the quota could be beneficial to the heard by not taking of the wrong animals from the heard and by disrupting the heard far less than having hunters push and pursue them repeatedly while the breeding season is in progress. By having less human impact, and more nannies to successfully breed the heard numbers will increase to a more natural sustainable population. More goats means more animals can be harvested in future.

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

This change will allow the designated hunter to make use of timing and location when the goats are within accessible and reasonable range. Thus being able to fulfill the intention of the designated hunter federal program. This change will remove the impeding statute that is contrary to the spirit and intent of subsistence.

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

This will not prevent other recreational/commercial and sport hunters from pursuing their animals within the quota and season. This could undoubtedly increase the numbers and availability. With less hunting pressure the goats will frequent the lower grounds more .thus recreational viewing and photographing opportunities will increase as will quality hunting in accessible grounds .This is important for the less able bodied hunters like children and older folks .

WP16-04

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
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 Email: robertlarsen@fs.fed.us

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

Remove the term “antlered” from the moose harvest regulations in 5B, and 1C remainder.

**2: How would the new regulation read?**

Unit 1

Moose:	
Unit 1C—remainder, excluding drainages of Berners Bay—1 antlered bull by State registration permit only	Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

Unit 5

Moose:	
Unit 5B—1 antlered bull by State registration permit only. The season will be closed when 25 antlered bulls have been taken from the entirety of Unit 5B	Sept. 1-Dec. 15.

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

The term antlered bull is not effective since Federal regulation requires a hunter to obtain a State registration permit and the State regulations allows any bull (less restrictive) to be taken. With this regulatory change, State and Federal regulations would be consistent.

**4: Other Information?**

This regulatory change would have no effect on the moose population because the hunt is already managed as any-bull.

## WP16-05

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
 Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833  
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 Email: robertlarson@fs.fed.us

### 1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Remove from regulation, in the Unit 2 deer section, the following: “The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns.”

### 2: How would the new regulation read?

For Unit 2.

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

### 3: Why should this regulation change be made?

This regulation was implemented prior to the in-season managers receiving delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board. This regulation is no longer needed to manage deer in-season.

### 4: Other Information?

## WP16-06

**Organization:** Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Address:** Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833

**Phone:** 907-772-5930

**E-mail:** robertlarson@fs.fed.us

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

Add a definition of “Nunatak Bench” to the Unit 5 regulations.

**2: How would the new regulation read?**

Unit 5 specific regulations. Add the following:

**In Unit 5A Nunatak bench is defined as that area east of the Hubbard Glacier, north of Nunatak Fiord, and north and east of the East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border.**

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

There are two regulations in Unit 5 that refer to the Nunatak Bench but that area is not defined.

**4: Other Information?**

**WP16-07**

**Organization:** Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Address:** Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833

**Phone:** 907-772-5930

**E-mail:** robertlarson@fs.fed.us

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

This proposal would allow trappers to harvest beaver with a firearm in Units 1-5.

**2: How would the new regulation read?**

Add language for §\_\_26 Subsistence taking of wildlife. (d) Unit regulations.

*§ 100.26 (d)*

*(3) Taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that you may use firearms in certain Units with established seasons as identified in Unit-specific regulations found in this subpart;*

**(i) If you have a trapping license, you may take beaver with a firearm in Units 1-5.**

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

In January of 2015, the State Board of Game adopted a regulation to allow trappers to harvest beavers with a firearm in Units 1-5. Adopting the same in Federal regulation would provide consistency between State and Federal regulations. Taking beaver with a firearm under trapping license is allowed in other parts of the state. Beaver are often used for food. There are no are conservation issues with beaver in Units 1-5. Harvesting with a firearm by trappers is not likely to increase overall harvest substantially.

**4: Other Information?**

WP16-08

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
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**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

Require the use of harvest ticket number five when harvesting a female deer in Unit 2. Harvest ticket number five must be used to record the harvest of a female deer but can be used to record the harvest of a male deer. Harvest tickets must be used in order except when recording a female deer on tag number five.

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

Substitute language for §.26 (n) (2). Unit 2 Deer:

Harvest limits	Open season
<b>Hunting</b>	
Deer:	
5 deer; however, no more than one may be a female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15-Dec. 31. <b>Harvest ticket number five must be used when recording the harvest of a female deer but may be used for recording the harvest of a male deer. Harvest tickets must be used in order except when recording a female deer on tag number five.</b> The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns	July 24-Dec. 31,

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

There is concern in Unit 2 that hunters are not properly accounting for the harvest of female deer by failing to validate their harvest tickets.

**4: Other Information?**

## WP16-09



THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
Southeast Region

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March 25, 2015

Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
Office of Subsistence Management  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Subsistence Wildlife Proposal ([docket number-FWS-R7-SM-2014-0062](#))

- 1.) **What regulation do you wish to change?** This proposal would close the federal trapping season for marten on Kuiu Island in Game Management Unit (Unit) 3. The current subsistence trapping regulations for martens in Unit-3 (§.26(n)(3)(iii)) allow a December 1 to February 15<sup>th</sup> trapping season throughout Unit 3 (including Kuiu Island) with no harvest limit.
- 2.) **How should the new regulations read?** New regulation §.26(n)(3)(iii). Should read as follows: *Unit 3 (except Kuiu Island); Dec. 1-Feb. 15; No limit. Unit 3 (Kuiu Island); No open season.*
- 3.) **Why should this regulation change be made?** More than a decade of ADF&G research indicates that the Kuiu Island marten population has remained at chronically low levels since at least 2001. A recently completed 7-year study of Kuiu Island marten indicates that the island's marten population remains stagnant at low levels. The state marten trapping season on Kuiu Island was closed by emergency order in 2008 and has remained closed by regulation since 2009. The closure of the state trapping season was in direct response to chronically low marten abundance, low marten survival (particularly of juveniles), low prey (vole) abundance, and low recruitment of juvenile martens into the breeding population. Any additional mortality resulting from trapper harvest could be additive to already high natural mortality, further exacerbating the current conservation concerns for Kuiu marten.
- 4.) **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?** This action is necessary to conserve the marten population on Kuiu Island.
- 5.) **How will this change affect subsistence uses?** The proposed closure of the federal marten trapping season would prevent the subsistence harvest of marten on Kuiu Island until the population increases.

6.) **How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?** This proposal would align the Federal and State marten trapping regulations on Kuiu Island.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at (907) 465-4359 or email at [ryan.scott@alaska.gov](mailto:ryan.scott@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Scott", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Scott  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Div. of Wildlife Conservation  
Southeast Regional Supervisor

**WP16-10**

Proposal for amendment to Federal Subsistence Hunting regulation

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization- Alaska Resident

Contact Information: Po Box 8043, Chenega Bay , AK 99574

1) What regulation are you wishing to change?

HUNTING UNIT 6 Cordova-Valdez

**MOOSE**

**Customary and Traditional Use Determination**

Currently reads :

Unit 6 D - no federal subsistence priority

**Harvest limits**

Unit 6 remainder

**Open Season**

No federal open season

2) How should the new regulation read?

**Customary and Traditional Use Determination**

Unit 6 D - Residents of Unit 6D

**Harvest limits**

Unit 6 remainder- 1 bull moose

**Open Season**

September 1 to Dec 31

3)Why should this regulation change be made?

The State of Alaska Hunting regulations reads

“Unit 6D” “One bull” “Harvest Ticket” “Sept 1- Sept 30”

This is a case where the state regulations are actually more lenient than the federal subsistence regulations. With a Rural subsistence priority the federal subsistence regulations should enable federally qualified subsistence users (rural residents of 6D) to get food more readily than the state when they allow Sport hunters to obtain recreation.

Traditionally the rural residents of unit 6D harvested moose in the winter months. Previous 804 analysis of the uses of the specific moose resource of Kings Bay revealed Chenega Bay and Tatitlek as specific historically documented users of the moose resource there. Historically any moose in the remainder of 6D were also utilized in similar fashion. In addition, enabling the season to extend to December 31st reflects closer to the customary timing known for when the resource was available and harvested (which was also traditionally even in January through early spring months).

This is a very straight forward, justified, and simple regulation change proposal that at minimum reflects the state regulations, but extends the season for federally qualified subsistence users to the timing that historically enabled rural residents to utilize the resource when it was most readily available.

## WP16-11

### Proposal for amendment to Federal Subsistence Hunting regulation

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization- Rural Alaska Resident

Contact Information: Po Box 8043, Chenega Bay , AK 99574

1) What regulation are you wishing to change?

Page 40 of Subsistence Harvest of Wildlife on federal Public Lands Regulations book

HUNTING UNIT 6 Cordova-Valdez

**DEER**

**Customary and Traditional Use Determination**

Unit 6 D - all rural residents

**Harvest limits**

Currently reads:

"4 deer- however, antlerless deer may be taken only from October 1- Dec 31"

This should remain as is.

Proposed Regulations would add an additional line that would read:

"1 buck January 1 - January 31st

**Open Season**

Currently reads:

"August 1 - December 31"

2) How should the new regulation read?

No Proposed change in Open season closing date under the harvest limits column- for the 4 allowed deer.

However, an additional row added should read.

Unit 6 D - all rural residents

"1 buck, (may be only taken from January 1 - January 31)"

And

Under the open seasons column:

"Jan. 1 - Jan. 31"

3) Why should this regulation change be made?

Unit 6D Federal Qualified subsistence hunters use their State sport recreation deer harvest tickets to obtain annual meat supply to feed their families. Due to unusual climate change weather patterns (mild winters), Federal Subsistence hunters harvested very few deer under state sport harvest tickets and none federal for the entire winter of 2014/15. The deer population is recovering from a decline 2 years ago as a result of a harsh winter. No emergency closures or limits were made this past winter. Recovery is taking place, as the population has had 2 consecutive winters to increase and deer populations historically rebound quickly after a series of mild winters. Many more deer than usual are being seen by residents, this may be a combined result of declining bear population and consecutive mild winters. The mild winter however does have a detrimental affect on subsistence hunter success

rates per hunter effort as there is little snow to confine the deer to smaller range of huntable area. This decreases harvest rates per hunter effort expended.

There were federally qualified subsistence user families in need of meat that went without any harvest of deer or goats this past winter. They have many mouths to feed and most of these families are unemployed.

This regulations change proposal is for an addition to existing regulations that is similar to what is already exists and is allowed in Unit 4, however this is not a request for allowance of additional harvest of any female does like unit 4 has established. This proposal is for a very limited take minimized to the harvest of one buck at the end of season and only during the month of January for each qualified subsistence user.

It is viewed that the harvest of one buck (per the limited amount of subsistence hunters) taken from the population poses no conservation concern, especially considering this harvest would most likely be taking place during winters that were so mild that deer in the month of December had expanded range, and were less confined to the beaches during December. One buck can service many does and commonly the harvest of some bucks from the population is not considered additive mortality. A decrease of winter weather induced stress upon the entire population as a whole result in expanded range opportunity for the deer when there is less snow. Expansion of range makes less deer available to hunters in the areas they typically concentrate in winters. At times of these mild winter conditions an additional month of allowed subsistence hunting would benefit the subsistence hunters by increasing opportunity for them to try to locate at least one buck each to harvest if they are still in need of meat at that time.

**WP16-12**

Milo Burcham  
 Cordova Ranger District  
 Chugach National Forest  
 Cordova, Alaska  
 (907) 424-4759  
 mburcham@fs.fed.us

**Current regulation**

Unit 6 Deer		
All rural residents	4 deer however antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

**Proposed regulation**

Unit 6 Deer		
All rural residents	5 deer however antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

**Reason for change**

This change would reduce the potential for regulatory complexity and bring the Federal harvest limit for deer in Unit 6 to the same level as allowed in State regulation.

Currently, the State harvest limit for deer in Unit 6 is 5 deer. In most years, rural residents have harvested up to 5 deer under State regulations, and the lower Federal harvest limit has not resulted in any reduced opportunity. In recent years, since the deer population decline following the winter of 2011/12, the smaller Federal harvest limit has had the potential to create unnecessary regulatory complexity.

For instance, if the State season were to close by Emergency Order and the Federal in-season manager wanted to place a quota on the number of does taken, the Federal doe quota could only apply to the first 4 deer taken. The last (5<sup>th</sup>) deer taken would have to be a buck, regardless of whether the rural resident had taken any does up to that point. In this case, the increased Federal harvest limit would allow the Federal Special Action to apply to all 5 deer allowed, and not just the first 4, giving qualified rural residents more flexibility.

## WP16-13

### Proposal for amendment to Federal Subsistence Hunting regulation

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization- Rural Alaska Resident

Contact Information: Po Box 8043, Chenega Bay , AK 99574

#### 1) What regulation are you wishing to change?

Page 39 of Subsistence Harvest of Wildlife on federal Public Lands Regulations book

HUNTING UNIT 6 Cordova-Valdez

#### **BLACK BEAR**

#### **Customary and Traditional Use Determination**

Unit 6 D – all rural residents, except no federal subsistence priority for residents of Whittier

#### **Harvest limits**

Currently reads:

"1 bear. In Unit 6D a Federal registration permit is required to harvest black bear from June 11 to June 30."

#### **Open Season**

"September 1 to June 30" (is already what the current regulation reads in the open season column)

#### 2) How should the new regulation read?

Proposed change in Opening of season dates for valid federal registration tags in the Harvest Limits column should reflect the actual start of season date and should read:

"1 bear. In Unit 6D a Federal registration permit is required to harvest black bear from September 10 to June 30."

#### 3) Why should this regulation change be made?

Federal Subsistence hunters should have the entire federal black bear subsistence hunting season dates defined properly, and should not have to rely on State sport harvest ticket/tags for harvest of the 20 allowed black bears between September 10 to June 10, the federal registration permit is defined currently as ONLY good for June 10-30) however it should be useable throughout the earlier part of the season as well. With growing talk of the State of Alaska conducting a registration hunt in unit 6D for sport hunted black bears, the federal subsistence user needs to have their legal hunting season dates more properly defined to reflect the entire season Sept 10 through June 30.

This truly is an insubstantial regulations change proposal that is requesting the season dates reflect exactly what is already allowed, but simply to create proper season dates listed for the federal registration permit that should already have been established under the Harvest Limits column.

## WP16-14

### Proposal for amendment to Federal Subsistence Hunting regulation

Name: Andy McLaughlin

Organization- Rural Alaska Resident

Contact Information: Po Box 8043, Chenega Bay , AK 99574

1) What regulation are you wishing to change?

HUNTING UNIT 6 Cordova-Valdez

**GOAT**

**Customary and Traditional Use Determination**

Unit 6 D - all rural residents

**Harvest limits**

Unit 6D (subareas RG242, RG243, RG 244, RG245, RG249, RG266, and RG252 only)-  
4 goats

**Open Season**

"August 20-Jan 31" (is what the current regulation reads)

2) How should the new regulation read?

Proposed change in Open season closing date- should read: "August 20- Feb 28"

3)Why should this regulation change be made?

Climate change has had an unusual affect on access to the goat range resulting in the inability for hunters to gain proximity to the resource. Highly unusual snowless/ mild winter conditions do not concentrate the goats in the range where they have been traditionally harvested. Later in the season, when snow accumulates, the goats move down from higher elevations where they are hunted. Multiple attempts by federally qualified subsistence hunters were made throughout the season, but no goats were readily available. Goats were seen, but conditions enabled the goats to be higher on the slopes in untouchable terrain, which prohibited the access that typically has been available to hunters during an average winter. Weather patterns also are increasingly unpredictable and in most recent years goats have proven to be available and in accessible terrain, but too dangerous to obtain from rough seas prohibiting safe access to shore. Lack of snow and rough seas both make goats unobtainable to subsistence hunters. Extension of the season may alleviate these issues.

The goat resource is typically relied more upon for subsistence use when deer resources are not obtainable. The previous harsh winter (2 years ago) caused a 70+ % decrease in deer population. Local rural residents of Chenega Bay rely heavily upon deer meat, with weather conditions limiting hunter success, all hunters had big plans to use goats as an alternate and much needed meat source. Several scheduled attempts to hunt goats were halted due to bad weather. On an average year, rough seas are the largest detrimental factor affecting filling of subsistence goat tags, this year when these conditions were absent it was lack of snow as well. Many times the seas are too rough for beach access and hunters are endangered, but when hunters could access the shore the goats were not there.

Extension of season dates would provide additional opportunity when previous hunt attempts were aborted due to bad weather, or if the winter was too mild and the goats were unavailable. This again proved to be a hardship for goat hunters in 2015.

During the last week of January (and the first 2 weeks of February 2015) snows came, and pushed the goats to where they are normally harvested and mild weather coincided, these conditions are ideal. Subsistence hunters held tags (hunt# FG0604), but the federal subsistence season had closed as of January 31. Resident qualified subsistence users held tags that were not able to be used, not from a lack of desire to hunt or lack of previous hunter effort, but due to premature season closure. With unpredictable weather patterns abounding in the past few years, extension of the harvest season to the end of February will increase possibility of harvest tags being able to be filled. In 2015, there were multiple families that needed the meat, they were unable to fill their State Sport Deer harvest tickets, and had hoped to turn to the federal subsistence goat tags as a plan B option for feeding their families. Several years ago, the same mild winter conditions occurred as well only to be followed by ideal conditions that arrived after the goat season had closed.

Then and more recently the winter snow increased in February which enables optimal conditions for goat hunting success rates more than likely to be higher, but with the goat season closed, no hunting was allowed and no meat was obtained.

Subsistence on the 6D goat resource occurs optimally when harvest rates increase in direct proportion to hunter effort expenditure. New weather patterns are preventing that from happening. Goat hunting is a time honored practice and a tradition. The methods outlined are in the manner customary to our unit 6D rural residents. The federal season has repeatedly proven to already be closed in February when the long awaited opportunity has finally presented itself. A longer-lasting season would have alleviated this issue and provided meat for people.

The take is very limited, and 4 subsistence goat tags are issued to Chenega Bay Residents annually and in person by Milo Bercham of the Chugach National Forest. This extension of federal subsistence goat season dates would detrimentally affect no other user groups and would simply enable a viable option for those tags unable to be filled earlier in the season to become filled and recorded during times in the future if similar unfavorable seasonal conditions repeat themselves.

## WP16-15

### Wildlife Regulatory Proposal March 24, 2015

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

Jim Skogstad, President  
Hope Village Council  
P.O. Box 101 Hope, Alaska 99605  
782-3521 Hm  
229-1430 cell  
782-3505 fax  
[akskogstad@aol.com](mailto:akskogstad@aol.com) email

On behalf of the community of Hope I am requesting a change in the current regulations regarding the caribou harvest limits in unit 7.

#### Existing Regulation Caribou

Unit 7-north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway—-1 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC0702) only. The Seward Ranger District will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Federal registration permit.

#### Proposed New Regulation

**by Federal registration permit (FC0702) only. The Seward Ranger District will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Hope subsistence users and 5 caribou are harvested from Cooper Landing subsistence users by Federal registration permit.**

This regulation change should be made to assure that subsistence users in both communities have an opportunity to potentially harvest a caribou.

The potential impact on wildlife populations this change would have should be minimal. This is due to the inaccessibility of this game population.

The affect this will have on subsistence uses is significant. It will assure that users in each community have the ability to harvest a caribou.

This change will have minimal impact on other users due to the small number of local subsistence users qualified for this hunt.

Page 2

The reason I am requesting this change, is that last year when Cooper Landing was included in the hunt a group from that community harvested the limit on the first day of the season eliminating any chance of Hope subsistence users of harvesting a caribou.

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

Ray Tringler  
Henry Math  
Dan Dub  
Douglas Hope  
Jim Skystad 3/25/15

## WP16-16

Paxson Closed Area

Dear Sirs;

The Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee has major concerns with the recent opening of the Paxson Closed Area.

The Paxson Closed Area, a relatively small strip of land between Paxson Mountain and the Richardson and Denali Highways, has been in existence for almost fifty years. It was established by the State of Alaska at the request of the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee for two primary reasons.

1. To create a readily available viewing area for moose, caribou and the grizzlies which regularly access that small portion of the Gulkana in search of salmon. Non-consumptive wildlife users also have a very important role in our wildlife utilization and the PAC recognizes that.

2. To insure that the Nelchina caribou herd has a relatively unimpeded migration path off of Paxson Mountain, which is one of their primary routes during most years. The recent Oct. season opens can be very disruptive during fall migration and it has been documented that migration routes can be changed or disrupted due to stressful conditions. Two years ago was the perfect example with trucks and cars lining the road waiting for animals to cross. Fortunately, the Paxson Closed Area was then still in effect, (or at least we supposed it was), and 8-10,000 Nelchina caribou were able to pass with only a minor disruption. (The other side of the Richardson is open to hunting, but it is hilly and brushy with little immediate opportunity for hunters.)

We feel that opening a small part of the Closed area serves no practical purpose for subsistence hunters but does create a huge enforcement issue for both the State and for Federal enforcement personnel. The area is swampy with no clear defining landmarks. Opening 1500 acres in the middle of this area for Federal hunters only has created enforcement issues and some very hard feelings from those State hunters who regularly hunt in the area.

The Paxson Closed Area is also has State signage indicating it is a closed area. Confusion! The entity (BLM) charged with enforcement of the Closed are, put up no signage, or explanations of any kind indicating parts of the area might be open and to whom they would be open..... More confusion.

We of the Paxson Advisory Committee ask that the Federal Subsistence Council respect the wishes of the subsistence hunters you are charged with helping, and keep this small strip of land closed for both biological and esthetic reasons.

Please keep us informed as to the date of the meeting at which tis proposal will be discussed and we will send a representative.,

Thank you, John Schandelmeier, Chair; Paxson Fish and Game Advisory

## WP16-17

2016-2018	Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Proposals
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a. (the requestor) name, address and telephone number;

Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
909-786-3629

b. Quote the current regulation(s) with section and paragraph number, if known;

**Caribou Unit 13**

Unit 13 remainder-2 bulls by Federal  
registration permit (FC1302) only.

Open Season

Aug. 1 – Sept 30  
Oct. 21 – Mar 31

*You may not hunt within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.*

c. A description of the regulatory change(s) desired;

Remove restrictions for Unit 13 remainder.

**Caribou Unit 13**

Unit 13 remainder-2 bulls by Federal  
registration permit (FC1302) only.

Open Season

Aug. 1 – Sept 30  
Oct. 21 – Mar 31

*~~You may not hunt within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.~~*

d. A statement explaining why the change is necessary;

The current restriction for Unit 13 remainder is an undue burden to Federally qualified subsistence users and the current restriction/closure is not related any conservation concerns for the Nelchina Caribou Herd. Hunting violations may be issued under the current restrictions within the pipeline corridor. As a result, subsistence hunters can be cited whereas current State regulations do not restrict hunting within the corridor.

e. Proposed wording changes; and

Harvest Limit

Unit 13 remainder-2 bulls by Federal  
registration permit (FC1302) only.

Open Season

Aug. 1 – Sept 30  
Oct. 21 – Mar 31

*~~Hunting within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.~~*

## 2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

### Southcentral

f. Any additional information that you (the requestor) believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board in evaluating the proposed change(s).

Removing the restrictions to Federally qualified subsistence hunters, hunting under the Federal subsistence regulations, within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way will remove differences between the State and Federal regulations. It is not anticipated that this change would impact the caribou population or other uses in the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way.

**WP16-18**

Submitted to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) on 19Mar2015

Proposal for federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations

Name

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

Contact information (Address, Phone, Fax or Email) PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573.

Questions may be submitted c/o [barbara\\_cellarius@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_cellarius@nps.gov) or 822-7236.

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.

Management Unit: Unit 11 and Unit 12

Species: Brown bear

Current regulation:

Unit 11: 1 bear, August 10 to June 15

Unit 12: 1 bear, August 10 to June 30

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

Proposed regulation: Add a special provision that parallels the current provisions (season) for the harvest of black bears over bait:

Unit 11: You may use bait to hunt brown bear between April 15 and June 15.

Unit 12: You may use bait to hunt brown bear between April 15 and June 30.

3.Why should this regulation change be made?

This regulation change will provide additional opportunity for local rural residents to harvest brown bears for food in the spring, especially in heavily forested areas where there are not places that bears concentrate.

WP16-19

Regulatory Year	Subject	Ending Date
2016-2018	Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Proposals	March 25, 2015

**a. Your (the requestor) name, address and telephone number**

Ahtna Heritage Foundation  
 P.O. Box 213  
 Glennallen, Alaska 99573  
 (907) 822-5778

**b. Quote the current regulation(s) with section and paragraph number, if known**

Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture Camp

Upon written request from the Ahtna Heritage Foundation to the Glennallen BLM Field Office, either 1 bull moose or 2 caribou, sex to be determined by the Glennallen Field Office Manager, may be taken from August 1-September 20 for 1 moose or August 1- September 30 for 2 caribou by Federal registration permit for the Ahtna Heritage Foundation’s culture camp. Hunting efforts are to cease when the camp event ends. No combination of caribou and moose is allowed. The animals may be taken by any Federally qualified hunter designated by the Camp Director. The hunter must have in their possession the permit and a designated hunter permit while hunting.

**c. A description of the regulatory change(s) desired**

Upon written request from the Ahtna Heritage Foundation to the Glennallen BLM Field Office, either 1 bull moose or 2 caribou, sex to be determined by the Glennallen Field Office Manager, may be taken from July 15 – August 31 for 1 bull moose or July 15 – August 31 for 2 caribou by Federal registration permit for the Ahtna Heritage Foundation’s culture camp.

**d. A statement explaining why the change is necessary**

This culture camp usually occur during the months of July and August. At what time Ahtna Heritage Foundation culture camp is held depends on weather conditions and circumstances beyond the Camp Director’s control. July month and early part of August month is the ideal time to hold a culture camp. July month is usually the warmest month, which is good for the health of the Elders. Fish wheels are still in operation and salmon can be shared at the Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture Camp. August month is the ideal time to hunt for wild game, pick berries and other plants.

An earlier season is needed to hold Ahtna Heritage Foundation’s culture camp. Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture camp instructs younger generation how to cut, dry, care for and preserve salmon. Soup made from Sockeye and Chinook is also prepared for meals at the culture camp. Moose or caribou is also prepared for dinner. Meals are made from meat, organs, head, front and back legs. The hide is preserved for handicrafts. Blue berries, cranberries and other wild plants and berries are also picked, eaten or preserved and given to elders at the camp.

**e. Proposed wording changes**

Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture Camp:

Upon written request from the Ahtna Heritage Foundation to the Glennallen BLM Field Office, either 1 bull moose or 2 caribou, sex to be determined by the Glennallen Field Office Manager, may be taken from July 15 – August 31 for 1 bull moose or July 15 – August 31 for 2 caribou by Federal registration permit for the Ahtna Heritage Foundation's culture camp. Hunting efforts are to cease when the camp event ends. No combination of caribou and moose is allowed. The animals may be taken by any Federally qualified hunter designated by the Camp Director. The hunter must have in their possession the permit and a designated hunter permit while hunting.

**f. Any additional information that you (the requestor) believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board in evaluating the proposed change(s)**

Ahtna Heritage Foundation Culture Camp is needed to teach the younger generation Ahtna's way of life. Preservation and teaching Ahtna's culture to the younger generation and others is imperative to keep our way of life. Each summer this culture camp is held to teach and instruct young adults and others on Ahtna's preservation of language, history, stories and legends. Instruction is also given on preserving, cooking, handling, caring for and teaching usage of wild game, fresh water fish and plants.

The Elders enjoy teaching the younger generation and it is good for them to get out of the house and visit with each other. It is also good for their health and well-being. Younger generation will learn about the Ahtna's way of life and pass on this knowledge to their children and others. Ahtna Culture will continue to stay alive.

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

**WP16-20**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 5, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?** Hunting regulations for Sheep in Unit 11

**Existing Hunting Regulation: Unit 11 – Sheep**

<i>Sheep:</i>	
<i>1 sheep</i>	<i>Aug. 10-Sept. 20.</i>
<i>1 sheep by Federal registration permit only by persons 60 years of age or older. Ewes accompanied by lambs or lambs may not be taken.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Oct. 20.</i>

**Proposed Hunting Regulation: Unit 11 – Sheep**

<i>Sheep:</i>	
<i>1 <del>sheep</del> ram with ¾ curl horn or larger</i>	<i>Aug. 10-Sept. 20.</i>
<i>1 sheep by Federal registration permit only by persons 60 years of age or older. Ewes accompanied by lambs or lambs may not be taken.</i>	<i>Aug. 1-Oct. 20.</i>

**Why the regulation should be changed?** There is concern about the health of Dall sheep populations statewide. A conservative approach to sheep management is needed. Given the current low density of sheep and the harvest pressure on a Unit 11 sheep population that is relatively easy to access from the road system, a harvest limit of “any sheep” is not appropriate. A harvest limit of 1 ram with ¾ curl horn or larger will give federal subsistence users a meaningful priority over people hunting under the state of

Alaska's general hunting regulations while at the same time protecting ewes and younger rams from harvest.

No change is proposed for the harvest limit for the elder hunt. Participation in that harvest opportunity is very limited and there are already provisions that protect lambs and ewes with lambs from harvest.

The Council referred to subsistence hunters they know in the area and Unit 11 that hunt sheep usually take rams for conservation reasons and therefore the proposal would not pose undue hardship on subsistence users but would further support allowing the sheep population to rebound from the recent declines.

## WP16-21

### Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulations Proposal

**Organization:** Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Address:** c/o Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503

**Contact:** Nanci Morris Lyon – Vice Chair

**Phone:** 907-469-0622 **Email:** [gofish@bristolbay.com](mailto:gofish@bristolbay.com)

**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.”**

Current Federal Regulation

Unit 9 - Caribou

*Unit 9C remainder – Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou*                      *No open season*

*Unit 9E – Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou*                      *No open season*

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

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 9 – Caribou

*Unit 9C remainder – ~~Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou~~ 1 bull by Federal registration permit or State Tier II permit. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Units 9C and 9E, hunting under these regulations.*                      *~~No open season~~ To be announced*

*Unit 9E – ~~Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou~~ 1 bull by Federal registration permit or State Tier II permit. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Units 9C and 9E, hunting under these regulations.*                      *~~No open season~~ To be announced*

*Federal permits may be issued in conjunction with the State Tier II hunt. Both Federal and State agencies will decide how many total permits to issue for both subunits to make sure that the actual harvest will not significantly exceed the harvestable surplus. Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with ADF&G.*

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

- The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (NAPCH) population status has been slowly improving and in the most recent survey the bull:cow composition index suggests there are more bulls available than are needed to grow the herd.
- The caribou season has been closed since 2005-2006 season. Subsistence users should have an opportunity to harvest the available surplus while still allowing the herd to grow.
- At the Feb. 25, 2015 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting it was reported by the State area biologist that he may open a Tier II hunt in the fall of 2016 if NAPCH survey results continue to show positive composition counts and population estimates.
- This change will allow the Manager, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge to provide opportunities for local subsistence users and open a Federal hunt concurrent with a State Tier II hunt.

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

WP16-22

Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulations Proposal

Effective: 2016-1018 Regulatory Years

Contact: Jim Wittkop, Law Enforcement Officer/Pilot, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

Address: P.O. Box 277, King Salmon, Alaska 99613

Phone: 907-246-1231 Email: jim\_wittkop@fws.gov

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

Current Federal Regulation

Unit 9 – Moose

<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the south – 1 bull. A State registration permit is required during the Aug. 20 – Sept. 20 season; a Federal registration permit is required during the Dec. 1 -31 season.</i></p> <p><i>Public lands are closed during Dec. for the harvest of moose, except by rural Alaska residents of Units 9A, 9B, 9C, and 9E.</i></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20</i></p> <p><i>Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
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2. How should the new regulation read? Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 9 – Moose

<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the south – 1 bull <b>by Federal registration permit.</b> All hunters are also required to acquire a State registration permit and report their hunt via that permit. <del>A State registration permit is required during the Aug. 20 – Sept. 20 season; a Federal registration permit is required during the Dec. 1 –31 season.</del></i></p> <p><i>Public lands are closed during December for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified</i></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20</i></p> <p><i>Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
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<i>subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i>	
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### 3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Both the State Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board have passed regulations aimed at minimizing user conflict among moose hunters in Unit 9 in recent years, including the use of a State registration permit throughout the unit. In Unit 9C, the use of this permit is creating confusion due to the differing State and Federal season dates. .

The Unit 9C Federal fall moose hunt season starts 12 days before the State season and continues 5 days beyond the end of the State season. Federally qualified subsistence users hunting with a State registration permit (as is currently required) are therefore hunting with a permit whose dates differ from that of the Federal season. This causes confusion and concern for hunters. A Federal registration permit would create a consistent requirement for both the fall and December hunts, and give hunters a permit which accurately reflects the season dates of the hunt in which they are participating.

Recently, at the February 2015 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting, the Council recommended adoption of the Emergency Special Action request to require a Federal permit during the fall moose season. At the RAC meeting, the State area biologist stated that he has reviewed the request, had several discussions with Refuge staff and State Fish and Wildlife Troopers in King Salmon and they all agree with requiring a Federal permit.

However state and federal biologists agree that requiring hunters to report via the State system yields more accurate data (due to penalties imposed for non-reporting) and that it would be beneficial to have as much of the reporting for Unit 9 in one system as possible. This is also consistent with the recommendations of the Unit 9 moose working group. For that reason, we are also proposing that users be required to report their hunt via a state permit. Because most local hunters also desire to hunt on state land, almost all subsistence hunters will already be in possession of a state registration permit when they request their Federal permit, so this requirement is unlikely to cause them to get a permit they were not already planning to acquire. To avoid confusion about reporting requirements, the Federal permit will clearly state that reporting should be done via the state permit.

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

WP16-23

Leon Alsworth

P.O. Box 107

Port Alsworth Alaska 99653

Phone # 907 781-2232

E-Mail k\_alsworth@hotmail.com

I am requesting a change in the number of permits that are available in the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve for the purpose of Brown Bear hunting.

Regulation now reads

Brown Bear hunting - In unit 9B, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, residents of Iliamna, Nondalton, Newhalen, Pedro Bay and Port Alsworth may hunt by federal registration permit (FB0911) in lieu of a resident tag. Ten permits will be available. At least 1 permit will be issued in each community, but no more than 5 permits each per community

I request that it be changed to read

Brown Bear hunting - In unit 9B, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, residents of Iliamna, Nondalton, Newhalen, Pedro Bay and Port Alsworth may hunt by federal registration permit (FB0911) in lieu of a resident tag. By announcement of the

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Superintendent the season will be closed when ~~one to~~ four females or ten bears have been taken, whichever occurs first.

why the regulatory change.

I believe it will insure that all qualified subsistence hunters have the opportunity to hunt brown bears.

This change will reflect the way permits are issued for Dall sheep.

This will keep any who may not approve of bear hunting from holding a permit and keeping others from hunting.

This fall I tried to get a brown bear permit and none were available.

I don't believe it has been often that we have reached ~~the~~ bear quota. This change would do little if any ~~to~~ impact to the population.

**WP16-24**

**Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulations Proposal**

**Contact:** Richard Wilson

**Address:** P.O. Box 237, Naknek, AK 99633

**Phone:** 907-439-6314 **Email:** [907naknek@gmail.com](mailto:907naknek@gmail.com)

**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.”**

Current Federal Regulation

Unit 9 - Moose

<p><i>Unit 9B – 1 bull by State registration permit</i></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20 Dec. 1 – Jan. 15</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the north – 1 bull by State registration permit.</i></p>	<p><i>Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the south – 1 bull. A State registration permit is required during the Aug.20 – Sept. 20 season;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p><i>A Federal registration permit (FM0904) is required during the Dec. 1 – Dec. 31 season.</i></p> <p><i>Public lands are closed during December for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20 Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C remainder – 1 bull by State registration permit.</i></p>	<p><i>Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 Dec. 15 – Jan. 15</i></p>

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

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 9 – Moose

<p><i>Unit 9B – 1 bull by State registration permit</i></p> <p><b><i>Public lands are closed for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i></b></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20</i> <i>Dec. 1 – Jan. 15</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the north – 1 bull by State registration permit.</i></p> <p><b><i>Public lands are closed for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i></b></p>	<p><i>Sept. 1 – Sept. 20</i> <i>Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C – that portion draining into the Naknek River from the south – 1 bull. A State registration permit is required during the Aug.20 – Sept. 20 season; a Federal registration permit is required during the Dec. 1 – Dec. 31 season.</i></p> <p><b><i>Public lands are closed <del>during December</del> for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i></b></p>	<p><i>Aug. 20 – Sept. 20</i> <i>Dec. 1 – Dec. 31</i></p>
<p><i>Unit 9C remainder – 1 bull by State registration permit.</i></p> <p><b><i>Public lands are closed for the hunting of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i></b></p>	<p><i>Sept. 1 – Sept. 20</i> <i>Dec. 15 – Jan. 15</i></p>

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

- This change will allow greater opportunity to Federally qualified subsistence users through lessened competition for a low density moose population.
- Moose in Unit 9 have become much more important to local hunters since the decline of caribou in the area.
- Because of repeated poor snow conditions in Units 9B and 9C for moose surveys, the current moose population estimates have been difficult to obtain. Therefore limiting the hunt to local residents in low harvestable moose populations would be a more conservation management approach.

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

Look at current state and federal moose surveys and harvest efforts to support conservation approach.

## WP16-25

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE  
2016-2018 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS**

**DATE:** 3/20/2015

**Jonathan Forsling, Chairmen**

Togiak Advisory Committee  
Po Box 306  
Togiak, Alaska 99678

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 493-5111

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 493-5005

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 78

**1. What regulation do you want changed?**

*Caribou Unit 17(A) and (C) - That portion of 17(A) and (C) consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tukulung River and Tukulung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay*

*Aug. 1 – Sept. 30*

*Dec. 1 - Mar. 31*

*Up to 2 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC1702). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekok.*

**2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?**

*Caribou Unit 17(A) and (C) - That portion of 17(A) and (C) consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tukulung River and Tukulung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay*

*Aug. 1 - Mar. 31*

*Up to 3 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC1702). Public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekok.*

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

*This regulation should be changed because: 1) a healthy and viable caribou population with a harvestable surplus exists on the Nushagak Peninsula; 2) the harvest of only 102 caribou last season (2013-2014) was well below the harvest objective of 179 caribou; 3) hunters have harvested only 16 caribou from a harvest objective of 268 with only 10 days left in the 2014-2015 season.*

**4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?**

*Expanding the current harvest limit of up to 2 caribou to up to 3 caribou would help slow the growth of caribou herd, provided adequate travel conditions exist.*

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

*Subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula would be provided a greater opportunity (up to 3 caribou and 61 more days) to harvest caribou.*

**6. Additional information to support your proposal:**

*Poor travel conditions the last 2 winters deterred many permit holders from hunting the Nushagak Peninsula for caribou.*

WP16-26

Nushagak ADFG AC Proposal to FSB C

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE  
2016-2018 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS

DATE: 3/20/2015

**REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Southwest Region Coordinator  
Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
PO Box 1030 Dillingham, AK 99576

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 842-5142

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 842-5514

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 78

**1. What regulation do you want changed?**

*Caribou Unit 17(A) and (C) - That portion of 17(A) and (C) consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tukulung River and Tukulung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay*

*Aug. 1 – Sept. 30*

*Dec. 1 - Mar. 31*

*Up to 2 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC1702). Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekuk.*

**2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?**

*Caribou Unit 17(A) and (C) - That portion of 17(A) and (C) consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tukulung River and Tukulung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay*

*Aug. 1 - Mar. 31*

*Up to 3 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC1702). Public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekuk.*

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

*This regulation should be changed because: 1) a healthy and viable caribou population with a harvestable surplus exists on the Nushagak Peninsula; 2) the harvest of only 102 caribou last season (2013-2014) was well below the harvest objective of 179 caribou; 3) hunters have harvested only 16 caribou from a harvest objective of 268 with only 10 days left in the 2014-2015 season.*

**4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?**

*Expanding the current harvest limit of up to 2 caribou to up to 3 caribou would help slow the growth of caribou herd, provided adequate travel conditions exist.*

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

*Subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula would be provided a greater opportunity (up to 3 caribou and 61 more days) to harvest caribou.*

**6. Additional information to support your proposal:**

*Poor travel conditions the last 2 winters deterred many permit holders from hunting the Nushagak Peninsula for caribou.*

**WP16-27**

**PROPOSAL to change  
2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Regulations for the  
Taking of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands**

**DATE:** *March 20, 2015*

**Jonathan Forsling, Chairmen**

Togiak Advisory Committee

Po Box 306

Togiak, Alaska 99678

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 493-5111

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 493-5005

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** *2014-2016*

**Page:** *79*

1. **What regulation do you wish to change?**  
*Moose, Unit 17A - up to 2 moose by State registration permit. Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.*
2. **How should the new regulation read?**  
*Moose, Unit 17A – up to 2 moose (one antlered bull and one antlerless) by State registration permit. Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1-end of Feb.*
3. **Why should this regulation change be made?**  
*This regulation change should be made to align with the State window.*
4. **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?**  
*This change is intended to slightly reduce the Unit 17A moose population to keep it in a healthy and productive state and to prevent over-browsing of the habitat.*
5. **How will this change affect subsistence uses?**  
*This change will allow subsistence moose hunters a longer window (28 days) in which a 31-day season could occur to hunt in Unit 17A.*
6. **How will this change affect other uses?**  
*This change is not anticipated to have any affects on other uses.*

**WP16-28**

NUSHAGAK AC proposal to FSB B winter moose in 17A align Fed & State

**PROPOSAL to change  
2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Regulations for the  
Taking of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands**

**DATE:** *March 20, 2015*

**REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Southwest Region Coordinator  
Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
PO Box 1030 Dillingham, AK 99576

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 842-5142

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 842-5514

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 79

**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

*Moose, Unit 17A - up to 2 moose by State registration permit. Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.*

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

*Moose, Unit 17A – up to 2 moose (one antlered bull and one antlerless) by State registration permit. Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1-end of Feb.*

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

*This regulation change should be made to align with the State window.*

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

*This change is intended to slightly reduce the Unit 17A moose population to keep it in a healthy and productive state and to prevent over-browsing of the habitat.*

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

*This change will allow subsistence moose hunters a longer window (28 days) in which a 31-day season could occur to hunt in Unit 17A.*

**6. How will this change affect other uses?**

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

**WP16-29**

**PROPOSAL to change  
2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Regulations for the  
Taking of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands**

**DATE:** *March 20, 2015*

**REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Southwest Region Coordinator  
Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
PO Box 1030 Dillingham, AK 99576

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 842-5142

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 842-5514

**REGULATION AFFECTED:****Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 50, 78

**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

*Caribou Unit 9B-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

*Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

*Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder-Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced.* *Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.*

*The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar.31.*

*Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

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

*Caribou Unit 9B-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

*Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

*Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder-Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou by State registration permit will be determined at the time the season is announced.* *Season may be announced by the between Aug. 1-Mar. 31.*

## 2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

### Bristol Bay

*The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar. 31.*

*Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.*

*Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

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

*These regulation changes should be made to be consistent with regulations recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game.*

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

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

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

*These season changes will: 1) reduce potential confusion about the correct season for Mulchatna caribou in Units 9B and 17*

**6. How will this change affect other uses?**

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

**WP16-30**

**PROPOSAL to change  
2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Regulations for the  
Taking of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands**

**DATE:** *March 20, 2015*

**REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Southwest Region Coordinator  
Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
PO Box 1030 Dillingham, AK 99576

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 842-5142

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 842-5514

**REGULATION AFFECTED:****Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 50, 78

**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

*Caribou Unit 9B-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

*Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

*Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder-Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced.* *Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.*

*The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar.31.*

*Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 15*

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

*Caribou Unit 9B-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

*Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.* *Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

*Units 17A remainder and 17C remainder-Selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 2 caribou by State registration permit will be determined at the time the season is announced.* *Season may be announced by the between Aug. 1-Mar. 31.*

## 2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

### Bristol Bay

*The harvest limit and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager between Aug. 1-Mar. 31.*

*Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes-2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan. 31.*

*Aug. 1-Mar. 31*

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

*These regulation changes should be made to be consistent with regulations recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game.*

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

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

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

*These season changes will: 1) reduce potential confusion about the correct season for Mulchatna caribou in Units 9B and 17*

**6. How will this change affect other uses?**

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

**WP16-31**

NUSHAGAK AC proposal to FSB D same day airborne Nush Pen. caribou.

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE  
2016-2018 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS**

**DATE:** 03/20/2015

**REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Southwest Region Coordinator  
Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
PO Box 1030 Dillingham, AK 99576

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 842-5142

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 842-5514

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 16

**1. What regulation do you want changed?**

*Take or assist in the taking of an ungulate, bear, wolf, wolverine, or other furbearer before 3:00 a.m. following the day in which airborne travel occurred (except for flights in regularly scheduled commercial aircraft). This restriction does not apply to subsistence taking of taking of deer (except within NPS areas), the setting of snares or traps, or the removal of furbearers from traps or snares.*

**2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?**

*Take or assist in the taking of an ungulate, bear, wolf, wolverine, or other furbearer before 3:00 a.m. following the day in which airborne travel occurred (except for flights in regularly scheduled commercial aircraft). This restriction does not apply to subsistence taking of caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula (a portion of Units 17A and 17C) during Jan. 1-Mar. 31, provided the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane, or to subsistence taking of deer (except within NPS areas), the setting of snares or traps, or the removal of furbearers from traps or snares.*

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

*This regulation should be changed because: 1) aircraft have been traditionally used to access subsistence resources in the Bristol Bay Region. 2) the harvest of only 102 caribou last season (2013-2014) was well below the harvest objective of 179 caribou; 3) hunters have harvested only 16 caribou from a harvest objective of 268 with only 10 days left in the 2014-2015 season.*

**4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?**

*Allowing hunting on the same day a hunter has flown would not affect the caribou herd as the harvest is controlled by the number of permits issued.*

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

*Subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula would be provided a greater opportunity to harvest caribou.*

**6. Additional information to support your proposal:**

*Poor travel conditions the last 2 winters deterred many permit holders from hunting the Nushagak Peninsula for caribou.*

## WP16-32

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE 2016-2018 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS

**DATE:** 03/20/2015

**Jonathan Forsling, Chairmen**

Togiak Advisory Committee  
Po Box 306  
Togiak, Alaska 99678

**PHONE NUMBER:** (907) 493-5111

**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 493-5005

**REGULATION AFFECTED:**

**Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:**

**Year:** 2014-2016

**Page:** 16

**1. What regulation do you want changed?**

*Take or assist in the taking of an ungulate, bear, wolf, wolverine, or other furbearer before 3:00 a.m. following the day in which airborne travel occurred (except for flights in regularly scheduled commercial aircraft). This restriction does not apply to subsistence taking of taking of deer (except within NPS areas), the setting of snares or traps, or the removal of furbearers from traps or snares.*

**2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?**

*Take or assist in the taking of an ungulate before 3:00 a.m. following the day in which airborne travel occurred (except for flights in regularly scheduled commercial aircraft). This restriction does not apply to subsistence taking of caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula (a portion of Units 17A and 17C) during Jan. 1-Mar. 31, provided the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane, or to subsistence taking of deer (except within NPS areas), the setting of snares or traps, or the removal of furbearers from traps or snares.*

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

*This regulation should be changed because: 1) aircraft have been traditionally used to access subsistence resources in the Bristol Bay Region. 2) the harvest of only 102 caribou last season (2013-2014) was well below the harvest objective of 179 caribou; 3) hunters have harvested only 16 caribou from a harvest objective of 268 with only 10 days left in the 2014-2015 season.*

**4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?**

*Allowing hunting on the same day a hunter has flown would not affect the caribou herd as the harvest is controlled by the number of permits issued.*

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

*Subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula would be provided a greater opportunity to harvest caribou.*

**6. Additional information to support your proposal:**

*Poor travel conditions the last 2 winters deterred many permit holders from hunting the Nushagak Peninsula for caribou.*

**WP16-33****Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations**

Name/Organization:

Village of Lower Kalskag

Contact Information:

Nastasia “Jackie” Levi,  
 Tribal Administrator  
 Village of Lower Kalskag  
 P.O. Box 27  
 Lower Kalskag, Alaska 99626  
 Main #: (907) 471-2300  
 Secondary #: (907) 471-2344 (best number to contact me at)  
 Fax #: (907) 471-2378  
 village\_of\_lower\_ta@yahoo.com

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.”

**Existing Federal Regulation****Customary and Traditional Use Determinations**

<b>Caribou</b>	
<i>Unit 18</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, Stebbins, St. Michael, Togiak, Twin Hills, and Upper Kalskag.</i>
<b>Moose</b>	
<i>Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of, but not including, the Tuluksak River drainage</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk</i>
<i>Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, and Upper Kalskag.</i>
<i>Unit 18, remainder</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag.</i>

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

**Proposed Federal Regulation**

**Customary and Traditional Use Determinations**

<b>Caribou</b>	
<i>Unit 18</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, Stebbins, St. Michael, Togiak, Twin Hills, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag.</i>
<b>Moose</b>	
<i>Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of, but not including, the Tuluksak River drainage</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk</i>
<i>Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag</i>
<i>Unit 18, remainder</i>	<i>Residents of Unit 18, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag.</i>

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The community of Lower Kalskag was formerly situated in Wildlife Management Unit 18 and is now in Unit 19A because the boundary was moved in Federal and State wildlife hunting and trapping regulations. Customary and traditional use determinations should be modified to indicate that that residents of Lower Kalskag continue to be Federally qualified subsistence hunters in Unit 18 hunt areas.

  
 Nastasia Levi, Vice President/Tribal Administrator

Cc: file

## WP16-34

From:  
 Leonard Landlord  
 P.O. Box 32188  
 Mountain Village, Alaska 99652

To: Federal Subsistence Board  
 Office of Subsistence Management  
 Attn: Theo Matustowicz  
 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Removal of all Sport/non-residents <sup>hunters</sup> on Unit 18 West of Mountain Village.

As a lifelong subsistence hunter & trapper, I would like to ask The Federal Subsistence Board to close a part of Unit 18 West of Mountain Village to all sport big game hunters and close to all non-residents. (including temporary residents such as teachers.) Sport hunters fly in and above local subsistence hunters and take big game from locals. Many only want antlers & skins & skulls. They often interfere in my fall hunts when I paddle to a lake north of Inriqchuk (Flat top) 15 miles west of Mountain Village. Each year I take my canoe and paddle west from north of 30 mile to hunt moose, geese, cranes & black bears only to see a floatplane already there and bluffs with several white people glassing my ancient hunting grounds. I do feel violated and unwanted by such invaders. please consider my proposal.



January, 23, 2015

WP16-35

Martin Nicolai (907)757-2260  
PO Box 70  
Kwethluk AK 99621

**GMU#:** 18      **Species:** Black and Brown Bear      **Season and Bag:** No      **Method and Means:** Yes

*1. What regulations do you wish to change?*

Add exception to artificial light use prohibition for bears in Unit 18.

*2. How should the new regulation read?*

*Unit 18: Take wildlife with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, radio communication, artificial salt lick, explosives, barbed arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical, conventional steel trap with a jaw spread over nine inches, or connibear style trap with a jaw spread over 11 inches, except coyotes may be taken in Units 6b and 6c with the aid of artificial lights, and artificial lights may be used by subsistence hunters under customary and traditional use activities at a den site for bears in Unit 18.*

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

Some residents from the Native Village of Kwethluk have traditionally travelled to the Kilbuck Mountains to harvest bears. Denning bears are targeted, and this would make this a recognized activity as are done in other units in State regulations.

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

None, this would have no impact on the total number of bears harvested.

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

This proposal if adopted would allow a traditional practice to be done safer.

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

There would be no change.

## WP16-36

### Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Name/Organization: Office of Subsistence Management

Contact Information: 907-786-3888

I. 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."

#### Existing Federal Regulation

<p><b>50 CFR 100.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.</b></p> <p><b>(n) Unit regulations.</b></p>
<p><i>(18) Unit 18. (i) Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers downstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Numivak, St. Matthew, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River.</i></p>
<p><i>(19) Unit 19. (i) Unit 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(A) Unit 19A consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19B.</i></p>
<p><i>(21) Unit 21. (i) Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River upstream from Paimiut to, but not including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to, but not including, the Tanana River drainage on the south bank; and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(E) Unit 21E consists of the Yukon River drainage from Paimiut upstream to, but not including, the Blackburn Creek drainage, and the Innoko River drainage downstream from the Iditarod River drainage.</i></p>

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

#### Proposed Federal Regulation

##### 50 CFR 100.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

##### (n) Unit regulations.

*(18) Unit 18. (i) Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers downstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Nunivak, St. Matthew, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River.*

*Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers westerly and downstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Paimiut Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then south along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River), then along the south bank of Crooked Creek downstream to the northern terminus of Crooked Creek to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage (locally known as the Mud Creek Tramway), then along the west side of the tramway to Mud Creek, then along the westerly bank of Mud Creek downstream to an unnamed slough of the Kuskokwim River (locally known as First Slough or Kalskag Slough), then along the west bank of this unnamed slough downstream to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, then southeast across the Kuskokwim River to its southerly bank, then along the south bank of the Kuskokwim River upriver to the confluence of a Kuskokwim River slough locally known as Old River, then across Old River to the downriver terminus of the island formed by Old River and the Kuskokwim River, then along the north bank of the main channel of Old River to Igyalleq Creek (Whitefish Creek), then along the south and west bank of Igyalleq Creek to Whitefish Lake, then directly across Whitefish Lake to Ophir Creek, then along the west bank of Ophir Creek to its headwaters at 61° 10.22' N. lat., 159° 46.05' W. long., and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Nunivak, St. Matthews, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River, and all seaward waters and lands within three miles of these coastlines;*

*(19) Unit 19. (i) Unit 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut.*

*Unit 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream, excluding the drainages of Arhymot Lake, from a line starting at the outlet of Arhymot Lake at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River), then along the south bank of Crooked Creek downstream to the northern terminus of Crooked Creek to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage (locally known as the Mud Creek Tramway), then along the west side of the tramway to Mud Creek, then along the westerly bank of Mud Creek downstream to an unnamed slough of the Kuskokwim River (locally known as First Slough or Kalskag Slough), then along the west bank of this unnamed slough downstream to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, then southeast across the Kuskokwim River to its southerly bank, then along the south bank of the Kuskokwim River upriver to the confluence of a Kuskokwim River slough locally known as Old River, then*

*across Old River to the downriver terminus of the island formed by Old River and the Kuskokwim River, then along the north bank of the main channel of Old River to Igyalleg Creek (Whitefish Creek), then along the south and west bank of Igyalleg Creek to Whitefish Lake, then directly across Whitefish Lake to Ophir Creek then along the west bank of Ophir Creek to its headwaters at 61o 10.22' N. lat., 159o 46.05' W. long.;*

*(A) Unit 19A consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19B.*

*Unit 19A consists of that portion of Unit 19 in the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19(B);*

*(21) Unit 21. (i) Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River upstream from Paimiut to, but not including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to, but not including, the Tanana River drainage on the south bank, and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage;*

*Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River and Arhymot Lake upstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then south along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River) drainage then to, but not including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to but not including the Tanana River drainage on the south bank, and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage;*

*(E) Unit 21E consists of the Yukon River drainage from Paimiut upstream to, but not including, the Blackburn Creek drainage, and the Innoko River drainage downstream from the Iditarod River drainage.*

*Unit 21E consists of that portion of Unit 21 in the Yukon River and Arhymot Lake drainages upstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River, then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River) drainage, then to, but not including, the Blackburn Creek drainage, and the Innoko River drainage downstream from the Iditarod River drainage;*

#### Existing State Regulation

##### 5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units

*(18) Game Management Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers westerly and downstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Paimiut Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then south along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked*

*Creek (locally known as Johnson River), then along the south bank of Crooked Creek downstream to the northern terminus of Crooked Creek to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage (locally known as the Mud Creek Tramway), then along the west side of the tramway to Mud Creek, then along the westerly bank of Mud Creek downstream to an unnamed slough of the Kuskokwim River (locally known as First Slough or Kalskag Slough), then along the west bank of this unnamed slough downstream to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, then southeast across the Kuskokwim River to its southerly bank, then along the south bank of the Kuskokwim River upriver to the confluence of a Kuskokwim River slough locally known as Old River, then across Old River to the downriver terminus of the island formed by Old River and the Kuskokwim River, then along the north bank of the main channel of Old River to Igyalleg Creek (Whitefish Creek), then along the south and west bank of Igyalleg Creek to Whitefish Lake, then directly across Whitefish Lake to Ophir Creek, then along the west bank of Ophir Creek to its headwaters at 61° 10.22' N. lat., 159° 46.05' W. long., and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north: Nunivak, St. Matthews, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River, and all seaward waters and lands within three miles of these coastlines;*

*(19) Game Management 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream, excluding the drainages of Arhymot Lake, from a line starting at the outlet of Arhymot Lake at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River), then along the south bank of Crooked Creek downstream to the northern terminus of Crooked Creek to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage (locally known as the Mud Creek Tramway), then along the west side of the tramway to Mud Creek, then along the westerly bank of Mud Creek downstream to an unnamed slough of the Kuskokwim River (locally known as First Slough or Kalskag Slough), then along the west bank of this unnamed slough downstream to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, then southeast across the Kuskokwim River to its southerly bank, then along the south bank of the Kuskokwim River upriver to the confluence of a Kuskokwim River slough locally known as Old River, then across Old River to the downriver terminus of the island formed by Old River and the Kuskokwim River, then along the north bank of the main channel of Old River to Igyalleg Creek (Whitefish Creek), then along the south and west bank of Igyalleg Creek to Whitefish Lake, then directly across Whitefish Lake to Ophir Creek then along the west bank of Ophir Creek to its headwaters at 61° 10.22' N. lat., 159° 46.05' W. long.;*

*(A) Game Management Unit 19A consists of that portion of Unit 19 in the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage on the north bank and downstream from and including the Stony River drainage on the south bank, excluding Unit 19(B);*

*(21) Game Management Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River and Arhymot Lake upstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then south along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River) drainage then to, but not including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to but not including the Tanana River drainage on the south bank, and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage;*

*(E) Game Management Unit 21E consists of that portion of Unit 21 in the Yukon River and Arhymot Lake drainages upstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River, then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Portage to its*

*intersection with Arhymot Lake, then along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River) drainage, then to, but not including, the Blackburn Creek drainage, and the Imoko River drainage downstream from the Iditarod River drainage;*

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

The regulation change should be made to coordinate the State and Federal subsistence management programs.

### WP16-37

## 2014-2016 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal

Name: Jack Reaoff

Organization: [Individual]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 907-678-2007 Fax: none

E-mail: wisemanwolf@gmail.com

**Submit proposals by  
March 25, 2015**

► **By mail or hand delivery**  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121  
Anchorage, AK 99503

► **At any Federal Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council meeting**

► **On the Web at**  
<http://www.regulations.gov>

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

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

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

**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

The Alaska Board of Game at the March 17, 2015 meeting in Anchorage adopted amend language for caribou proposal 202, submitted by ADF&G under Record copy 76. The season and bag limit change affect the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou by game management units or sub-units. I would like the Federal caribou harvest regulations for rural residents to mirror the new State regulation as stated for Alaska Resident hunters, as described by BOG RC 76 for portions of GMU’s 21D, 22, 23, 24, 26A&B.

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

Each subunit specific season for bulls and cows, and bag limits as described by BOG RC76. (See Attached BOG RC 76 for GMU specific season and bag limit changes proposed here).  
Example: **Caribou GMU 21D north of the Yukon, and west of the Koyukuk, Rural Residents of 21B, 21C, 21D, and Huslia 5 Caribou per-day, as follows: up to 5 bulls per-day: however calves may not be taken.....July 1-Oct.14 ...Feb. 1-June 30....Up to 5 cows per-day, however calves may not be taken.....Sept. 1-March 31 ...**

**Caribou...rural Residents of GMU 24, Galena, Kobuk, Koyukuk, Stevens Village, and Tanana 5 Caribou per-day, as follows: up to 5 bulls per-day: however calves may not be taken.....July 1-Oct.14 ...Feb. 1-June 30....Up to 5 cows per-day, however calves may not be taken.....Sept. 1-March 31....**

**Etcetera per each caribou season and bag limit change per GMU or sub-unit described in BOG, RC 76.**

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

There was a lot of work done to develop conservation strategies to address the recent precipitous decline of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou Herds. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, various State Advisory Committees, WIRAC, NWARAC, SPRAC, and NSRAC, Tribal Council’s and concerned Alaskan’s have all tried to come to a common agreement to conserve these herds. A Federal Regulation that is nearly identical to the new State Regulation changes will vastly reduce confusion of the rural hunters when harvesting caribou in the described GMU’s.

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

The recently adopted BOG regulations are designed to take bull and cow caribou at specific times of the year when they are of best quality for use, and to add conservation during specific times of the year. The expectation is to modulate harvest down slightly to conserve caribou, and remain within sustained yield. Eliminating taking calves will allow any calves produced to enter the population as recruitment. It is imperative to conserve caribou to maintain the health of the Western Arctic, and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds.

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

There will be restrictions placed upon rural hunters. The restrictions to protect caribou at certain times of the year will not greatly affect subsistence users from meeting their needs.

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

The Board of Game has restricted non-resident harvest of caribou severely to prioritize caribou uses. The Federal regulatory change will not affect sport uses greatly.

**Amended language for Proposal 202  
Submitted by ADF&G**

**5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. (a) ...**

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
(16)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 21(D); <i>(Note to reader: this hunt area is Unit 21(D), north of the Yukon River and west of the Koyukuk River)</i>		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <b><u>5 caribou per day, as follows:</u></b>		
<b><u>up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;</u></b>	<b><u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u></b> <b><u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u></b>	
<b><u>up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken</u></b>	<b><u>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</u></b>	
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]	[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <b><u>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</u></b>		<b><u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u></b>
[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]		[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]
(17)		
<b><u>Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage</u></b>		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <b><u>5 caribou per day, as follows:</u></b>		
<b><u>up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;</u></b>	<b><u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u></b> <b><u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u></b>	

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:  
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:  
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – Apr. 30

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1 – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1 – Aug 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15 – Jan 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; AND]

[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1 – SEPT. 30, A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE

[(SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER)]

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

Western Interior

TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

[5 CARIBOU; OR]

[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

[5 CARIBOU]; during the period Aug. 1 [MAY 1] – Sept. 30,

a season may be announced by emergency order [; HOWEVER COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – June 30

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – Apr. 30

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken,

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1 – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however,

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

**cow caribou may not be taken April 1 – Aug. 31**

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; AND] [OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1 – SEPT. 30, A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[(SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER)]

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

[5 CARIBOU; OR] [OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

**1 bull; however, calves may not be taken**

[5 CARIBOU], during the period **Aug. 1** [MAY 1] – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order [; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage) and the Agiapuk River drainage, including the tributaries

## RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**5 caribou per day, as follows:****up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;****July 1 – Oct. 14**  
**Feb. 1 – June 30****up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken****Sept. 1 – Mar. 31**

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull; however, calves may not be taken****Aug. 1 – Sept. 30**

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

Western Interior

drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – June 30

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken;

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1 – Aug. 31;

bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15 – Jan. 31

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken;

(Season to be announced by

during the period Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

a season may be announced by emergency order

emergency order)

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

(18)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

**RESIDENT HUNTERS****5 caribou per day, as follows:**

<b>up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken:</b>	<u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u> <u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u>
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<b>up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken</b>	<u>Jul. 15 – Apr. 30</u>
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<b>[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]</b>	<u>[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]</u>
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS**

<b>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</b>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u>
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<b>[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]</b>	<u>[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]</u>
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**Remainder of Unit 23****RESIDENT HUNTERS:****5 caribou per day, as follows:**

<b>up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken:</b>	<u>July 1 – Oct. 14</u> <u>Feb. 1 – June 30</u>
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<b>up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken</b>	<u>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</u>
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<b>[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]</b>	<u>[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]</u>
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

<b>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken</b>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u>
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<b>[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]</b>	<u>[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]</u>
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(19)

...

Remainder of Unit 24(A) and  
Remainder of Unit 24(B)  
*(Note to reader, this hunt area is  
Unit 24(A), north of the south bank  
of the Kanuti River)*

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

Western Interior

*(Note to reader, the 'Remainder of Unit 24(B)' is Unit 24(B) north of the south bank of the Kamuti River downstream from the Kamuti-Killitna River drainage)*

**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

**5 caribou per day, as follows:**

**up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;** July 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – June 30

**up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken** Jul. 15 – Apr. 30

**[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]** [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS**

**1 bull; however, calves may not be taken** Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

**[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]** [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

...

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

**5 caribou per day, as follows:**

**up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;** July 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – June 30

**up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken** Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

**[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]** [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

**1 bull; however, calves may not be taken** Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

**[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]** [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

...

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken; July 1 – Oct. 14  
Feb. 1 – June 30

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken Jul. 15 – Aug. 30

5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30 [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS**

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30 [JULY 1 – JUNE 30]

**Remainder of Unit 26(A)**

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**  
5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken; July 1 - July 15

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken; July 16 - Oct. 15

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken; Oct. 16 - Dec. 31

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken; Jan. 1 - Mar. 15

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken; Mar. 16 - June 30

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

Western Interior

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

**1 bull; however, calves may not be taken**

**Aug. 1 – Sept. 30**

Unit 26(B), that portion north of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east bank of the Kuparuk River to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149° 04' W. long., then west approximately 22 miles to 70° 10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16 – June 30

July 1 – June 30

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou

July 1 – Apr. 30

**Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway**

**5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1 – Oct. 10**

**July 1 – Oct. 10**  
**May 16 – June 30**

**July 1 – Oct. 10**  
**May 16 – June 30**

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. **and east of the Dalton Highway**

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1 - May 15

July 1 – July 30

July 1 – June 30

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou:

July 1 – Apr. 30

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou

July 1 – Apr. 30

**5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92,080:

...

(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; however, this paragraph does not apply to

...

[(D) TAKING CARIBOU FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 15, IN UNIT 22 IF THE HUNTER IS AT LEAST 300 FEET FROM THE AIRPLANE AT THE TIME OF TAKING; ]

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WP16-38

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION PROPOSAL  
2016-2018 REGULATIONS

SUBMIT BY MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 CALL 1-800-478-1456

NAME ALFRED DEMIENTIEFF JR  
ORGANIZATION Holy Cross Tribal Council  
CONTACT INFORMATION P.O. B. 89  
HOLY CROSS AK 99602

Proposal is change to (check all that apply):

- Harvest Season     Method or Means of Harvest
- Harvest Limit      Customary and Traditional Use Determination

State CURRENT regulation needing change, including Unit # and species:

FEB 15 - MARCH 15 FEDERAL REGISTRATION PERMIT  
MOOSE HUNT MOOSE MAY NOT BE TAKEN WITHIN ONE  
HALF MILE OF THE INWOKO OR YUKON RIVER DURING  
THE WINTER SEASON

State PROPOSED regulation, including Unit # and species:

1 MOOSE CAN BE TAKEN ANY WHERE ON FEDERAL  
LAND IN UNIT 21E DURING THE FEB 15 - MARCH 15  
FEDERAL MOOSE HUNT

Reason for change:

BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONDITIONS THAT  
MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO HARVEST A MOOSE

Reason for change, continued:

CONFUSION ON THE HALF-MILE LIMIT AND MOST  
FEDERAL LANDS ARE BIG ISLANDS, CAUSING CONFUSION

Potential impact on wildlife populations:

NO IMPACT BECAUSE OF THE REGISTERED HUNT

Potential impact on subsistence users:

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS WILL HAVE A BETTER  
CHANCE OF HARVESTING A MOOSE.

Reason for change, continued:

CONFUSION ON THE HALF-MILE LIMIT AND MOST  
FEDERAL LANDS ARE BIG ISLANDS, CAUSING CONFUSION

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Potential impact on wildlife populations:

NO IMPACT BECAUSE OF THE REGISTERED HUNT

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Potential impact on subsistence users:

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS WILL HAVE A BETTER  
CHANCE OF HARVESTING A MOOSE.

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Potential impact on commercial/sport users:

NO IMPACT

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WP16-39

**2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal**

Name: Western Interior Alaska Subsistence RAC  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. MS 121 Anchorage 99503 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: 907-786-3885 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: 907- \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit proposals by  
 March 25, 2015**

► **By mail or hand delivery**  
 Federal Subsistence Board  
 Office of Subsistence Management  
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121  
 Anchorage, AK 99503

► **At any Federal Subsistence  
 Regional Advisory Council meeting**

► **On the Web at**  
<http://www.regulations.gov>

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

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

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

**1. What regulation do you wish to change?**

Unit 21B—Moose

<i>Unit 21B—that part of the Nowitna River drainage downstream from and including the Little Mud River drainage—1 bull. A State registration permit is required from Sept. 5-25. A Federal registration permit is required from Sept. 26 – Oct. 1.</i>	<i>Sept. 5 – Oct. 1</i>
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**2. How should the new regulation read? Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.**

Modify the existing hunt area in that part of the Nowitna River drainage downstream from, and including the Little Mud River drainage, in Unit 21B to include all Nowitna National Wildlife lands below the Little Mud River drainage of the Nowitna River.

<i>Unit 21B—that <del>part of the Nowitna River drainage</del> <b>portion within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge</b> downstream from and including the Little Mud River drainage—1 bull. A State registration permit is required from Sept. 5-25. A Federal registration permit is required from Sept. 26 – Oct. 1.</i>	<i>Sept. 5 – Oct. 1</i>
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**3. Why should this regulation change be made?**

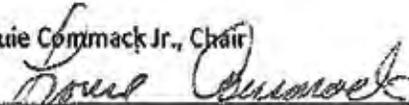
This proposed change allows increased opportunity to utilize refuge lands. The population should be able to sustain increase harvest opportunity, as the bull:cow ratio is adequate in the area and within the management objectives.

WP16-40

## FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD HUNTING PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW TAKE OF BLACK BEARS IN DENS, INCLUDING SOWS WITH CUBS, WITH THE USE OF LIGHTS IN GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

NAME: Louie Cominack Jr., Chair

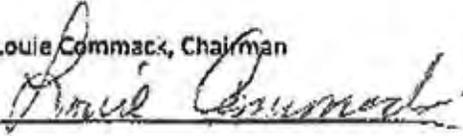
Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

CONTACT INFORMATION: (4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, (phone) 907.455.0639, (fax) 907.455.0601)

1. This proposal would be a new federal subsistence hunting regulation. The proposal would allow residents of Units 24 A, B, and C to hunt black bears in dens with the use of artificial lights, including sows with cubs, within the boundaries of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. This activity is currently not allowed in National Park System areas. The State of Alaska rule at 5 AAC 92.080 (7)(C)(iv) allows the use of artificial light, "by a resident hunter taking black bear under customary and traditional use activities at a den site from October 15 through April 30 in ... Unit 24." The State law allows any Alaskan resident to use these methods; however, this proposed rule would allow only local rural residents to hunt black bears with these methods in the park and preserve.
2. The regulation should read: "Local rural residents of Units 24 A, B, and C are allowed to take black bear with the aid of artificial lights at a den site from October 15 through April 30 in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve."
3. This regulation should be made to allow Upper Koyukuk River residents to continue a traditional and cultural practice that has been passed down for centuries. This hunting method was particularly important during times of need when fish and other game resources were scarce. The practice is planned and performed only by men under strict and confidential protocol to show respect for the bears. This new regulation would allow the legal take of black bears within this season and this type of method. Artificial lights would be allowed instead of the more traditional torches, which would be safer for hunters and the land. This regulation would be limited to local rural residents; it would not authorize all Alaska residents to partake in this activity. State rules would still apply in Unit 24 outside of park boundaries.

Name: Louie Commack, Chairman

Signed: 

Organization: Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission

This proposal suggests a change to:

Harvest Season                       Methods and means of harvest

Harvest limit(s)                       C&T use determination(s)

**1. What regulation(s) do you wish to change?**

Dall's Sheep – Units 24A and 24B, that portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park, excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents – 3 sheep, Aug 1-Apr 30

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

Dall's Sheep – Unit 24A and 24B, those portions within Gates of the Arctic National Park, excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents – 3 sheep with no more than 1 being a ewe, Aug 1-Apr 30.

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

Large declines (~60%) in the sheep population, including a decline in ewe-like sheep (ewes, yearlings and young ewes and rams) and lamb recruitment, have been detected within northeastern Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The Subsistence Resource Commission feels that at these population levels, ewe harvest must be restricted at this time, and that this measure may help ease the decline and enhance recovery of the population. This will be a temporary measure until the population has recovered.

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

Subsistence users would have to limit their harvest of ewes from a maximum of 3 to 1 ewe per season in Units 24A and 24B (except residents of Anaktuvuk Pass).

**5. How will this change affect other users?**

There should be little to no impact on other users.

WP16-41

Name: Louie Commack, Chairman

Signed:

Organization: Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission

This proposal suggests a change to:

- Harvest Season                       Methods and means of harvest
- Harvest limit(s)                       C&T use determination(s)

1. What regulation(s) do you wish to change?

Dall's Sheep – Units 24A and 24B, that portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park, excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents – 3 sheep, Aug 1-Apr 30

2. How should the new regulation read?

Dall's Sheep – Unit 24A and 24B, those portions within Gates of the Arctic National Park, excluding Anaktuvuk Pass residents – 3 sheep with no more than 1 being a ewe, Aug 1-Apr 30. Dall's sheep horns taken in Gates of the Arctic National Park are eliminated from any sealing requirements.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Large declines (~80%) in the sheep population, including a decline in ewe-like sheep (ewes, yearlings and young ewes and rams) and lamb recruitment, have been detected within northeastern Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The Subsistence Resource Commission feels that at these population levels, ewe harvest must be restricted at this time, and that this measure may help ease the decline and enhance recovery of the population. This will be a temporary measure until the population has recovered.

Subsistence hunters do not have a horn size requirement in Gates of the Arctic National Park. The current horn sealing requirement serves no benefit to managers and is an extreme burden to subsistence users to transport horns to be sealed in Fairbanks.

4. How will this change affect subsistence users?

Subsistence users would have to limit their harvest of ewes from a maximum of 3 to 1 ewe per season in Units 24A and 24B (except residents of Anaktuvuk Pass).

5. How will this change affect other users?

There should be little to no impact on other users.



There has been consistent use of the Allakaket/Alatna to Bettles/ Evansville winter trail. The Federal lands North and East of the Henshaw drainage hold accessible moose populations for subsistence harvest.

The Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds have been in decline. The caribou that have been close to Bettles in the past few years in winter, most likely will retract from using extensive ranges, and will unavailable for winter protein source by Unit 24B residents.

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

There would be minimal impact to the moose population because it is limited to only federally qualified hunters and the harvest limit of one antlered bull, and challenges of a winter hunt.

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

Re-establishing this winter hunt will give the residents of Bettles, Evansville, Alatna, and Allakaket additional hunting opportunity and an “insurance” opportunity to meet their subsistence needs when unsuccessful during the fall season. Additionally, such a hunt may expose areas underutilized during open water periods because the timing allows travel to extract the harvested animal formerly unavailable (cannot shoot what you cannot extract). Also, those without a boat (prohibitive expense) could participate effectively with other means of transportation; same for those without freezers. As an aside, but important none-the-less, it's good politics with those people living in qualified locations and the benefits reach out to those who cannot hunt anymore for whatever reasons.

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

Re-establishing this winter hunt will have little effect on other uses because of parts of the subunit federal public lands are closed to other users, it is limited only to federally qualified hunters and restricted to antlered bulls which will have little impact on the moose population associated with the subunit.

## WP16-43

Wildlife Proposals  
 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
 c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121  
 Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 786-3888

Approved for submission at a public meeting in Nome on February 19, 2015

**Seward Peninsula Management Areas: 18 & 22 Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No**

*1. What regulations do you wish to change?*

Caribou

Caribou:	
Units 22A, 22B remainder, that portion of Unit 22D in the Kougaruk, Kuzitrin (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage), American, and Agiapuk River Drainages, and Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage—5 caribou per day; cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30	July 1-June 30.

Caribou:	
Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River – 2 caribou by State registration permit;	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
Unit 18 remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit;	Aug. 1 – Mar.15

*2. How should the new regulation read?*

Caribou:	
Units 22A, 22B remainder, that portion of Unit 22D in the Kougaruk, Kuzitrin (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage), American, and Agiapuk River Drainages, and Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage—5 caribou per day; cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30.  <b><i>Unit 22A – for that portion south of Unalakleet River, Federal public lands are closed to the hunting of caribou, which can be opened by the in-season manager if caribou are present.</i></b>	July 1-June 30.

Caribou:	
Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River – 2 caribou by State registration permit;	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
Unit 18 remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit;	Aug. 1 – Mar.15
<b><i>Unit 18 – for that portion that includes all upper drainages of the Andreafsky River, Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou, but can be opened by the in-season manager</i></b>	

<i>if caribou are present.</i>	
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***3. Why should this regulation change be made?***

To prevent incidental take of privately-owned reindeer under caribou hunting regulations.

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

There would be no impact as caribou have not been present in this area for 15-20 years.

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

This proposal, if adopted, would ensure that privately-owned reindeer are not being harvested under caribou regulations when caribou are not present.

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

The proposal if passed would benefit reindeer herders in the area as their herd numbers would not be impacted by caribou hunters. There would be no adverse impact on sport, recreational or commercial users as the harvest of privately-owned reindeer under caribou regulations is illegal.

**WP16-44**

Wildlife Proposals  
 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council  
 Tim Smith, Co-chair,  
 P.O. Box 747  
 Nome, AK 99762  
 907-443-5352  
 timsmith@gci.net

**Seward Peninsula Management Area: 22 Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No**

*1. What regulations do you wish to change?*

***Brown Bear***

Brown Bear:	
Unit 22A, 22B, 22D, and 22E—1 bear by State registration permit only	Aug. 1-May 31.
Unit 22C—1 bear by State registration permit only	Aug. 1-Oct. 31 May 10-25.

*2. How should the new regulation read?*

***Bear***

Brown Bear:	
Unit 22A, 22B, and 22E—1 bear by State registration permit only	Aug. 1-May 31
Unit 22C—1 bear by State registration permit only	<b>Aug. 1 – May 25</b>
<b><i>Unit 22D, , that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage, west of the west bank of the unnamed creek originating at the unit boundary opposite the headwaters of McAdam’s Creek to its confluence with Tuksuk Channel—2 bears</i></b>	<b><i>Aug. 1-July 31</i></b>

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

There are enough bears in this area to support an increased level of hunting.

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

**WP16-45**

Wildlife Proposals  
 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
 c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121  
 Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 786-3888

Approved for submission at a public meeting in Nome on February 19, 2015

**Seward Peninsula Management Area: 22 Season and Bag: No Method and Means: No**

**1. What regulations do you wish to change?**

Caribou

Caribou:	
Units 22A, 22B remainder, that portion of Unit 22D in the Kougaruk, Kuzitrin (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage), American, and Agiapuk River Drainages, and Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage—5 caribou per day; cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30.	July 1- June 30.

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

Caribou:	
Units 22A, 22B remainder, that portion of Unit 22D in the Kougaruk, Kuzitrin (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage), American, and Agiapuk River Drainages, and Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the <del>Sanaguich River drainage</del> <b>Tin Creek drainage up to the west headwaters at Ear Mountain</b> —5 caribou per day; cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30.	July 1- June 30.

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

To provide more local opportunities for subsistence caribou harvesting.

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

There are no anticipated adverse impacts on caribou.

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

This proposal if adopted provide Federally qualified subsistence users more opportunity to obtain caribou in a hunt in the Sanaguich River/Tin Creek area and around Ear Mountain.

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

The only perceived impact could be on reindeer herders in the area; however, herders who were contacted about the proposal indicated they did not object.

## WP16-46

Wildlife Proposals  
 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
 c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121  
 Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 786-3888  
 Approved for submission at a public meeting in Nome on February 19, 2015

**Seward Peninsula Management Area: 22 Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No**

**1. What regulations do you wish to change?**

**Moose**

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull.  <i>Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i>	Aug. 1-Mar. 15.
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**2. How should the new regulation read?**

**Moose**

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull.  <i>Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</i>	Aug. 1-Mar. 15.
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**3. Why should this regulation change be made?**

To provide more opportunities for subsistence users to harvest moose.

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

Little as the moose population has been increasing and no cows with calves will be taken.

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

This proposal if adopted will provide federal subsistence users more opportunity to obtain moose in the area.

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

The proposal if passed would not impact sport hunters or commercial guides, as the Federal public lands are currently closed to non-Federally qualified users. However, if the closure is lifted (see separate proposal), this change would benefit sport moose hunters and commercial guides with sport hunting clients by giving them the opportunity to hunt moose in this area.

**WP16-47**

Wildlife Proposals  
 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council  
 Tim Smith, Co-chair,  
 P.O. Box 747  
 Nome, AK 99762  
 907-443-5352  
 timsmith@gci.net

**Seward Peninsula Management Area: 22 Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No**

*1. What regulations do you wish to change?*

***Moose***

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations	Jan. 1-31. Aug. 1- Mar. 15.
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*2. How should the new regulation read?*

***Moose***

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
<b><i>Unit 22E—1 moose (except calves or a cow accompanied by a calf).</i></b>	<b><i>Jul.15 - Dec 31</i></b>

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

To provide more harvest opportunities for subsistence users.

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

Little as Moose population has been increasing slightly and no cows with calves will be taken.

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

This proposal if adopted will provide Federal subsistence users more opportunity to obtain moose in the area.

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

The proposal if passed could impact current sport/commercial moose hunters.

WP16-48



**Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations Proposal  
January 2015**

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

**RE: FWS-R7-SM-2014-0062**

**Proposal Submitted By:** Alex Whiting – Environmental Specialist  
Native Village of Kotzebue - P.O. Box 296 - Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-5303 direct - (907) 442-2162 fax - [alex.whiting@qira.org](mailto:alex.whiting@qira.org)

The Native Village of Kotzebue, the federally-recognized tribal government serving the Kotzebue area, proposes a change to the:

**Unit 23 / Hunting – Special Provisions**

- A snowmachine may be used to position a hunter to select individual caribou for harvest provided that the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.

**Proposed new regulation – modify language of special provision found in 50 CFR 100.26 (n) unit regulations (23) Unit 23. (iv) (E) to read:**

- A snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine, for harvest, provided that the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.

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This proposed regulation change would be consistent with the State of Alaska Game Regulation that went into effect as of July 1, 2014 on State managed lands:

**“5 AAC 92.080 (4) (B) (i) in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, a snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine, for harvest, and caribou, wolves and wolverines may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.”**

There was widespread support for this State regulation by the Fish and Game Advisory Committees representing the Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, and North Slope communities. In addition, formal support was provided by Kawerak, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and the Tribal governments of Kotzebue, Kiana, Kivalina, Noatak, Point Hope, Selawik, Noorvik, Buckland, and Deering.

Based on the rationale for the change provided to the Board of Game during the comment period, changes were made to allow for pursuit of fleeing caribou, wolves and wolverines to be clearly elucidated in the regulations. However, this regulatory change only applies to State managed lands and without similar changes to the Federal regulations, local people hunting these species with snowmachines on Federal public lands will continue to live with the threat of prosecution for hunting in this manner. Adopting the proposed Federal regulation would allow for consistency across unmarked state/federal boundaries in Unit 23, which in many cases are immediately adjacent to one another, avoiding confusion by hunters on the ground and unintentional regulation violations.

Using a snowmachine to pursue caribou, wolves, and wolverines, is by and large the only practical way to hunt them during the winter in GMU 23, in particular in areas with very little surface relief for miles and miles, which much of western GMU 23 is composed of. These animals are generally either first spotted way outside of shooting range, or after the hunter has been following fresh tracks in the snow for some distance, and since the hearing and vision of these species is especially acute, they are almost always well aware of the hunters presence and have begun fleeing before the hunter can get within shooting range. It is only in very rare circumstances where an exception occurs and people cannot reliably feed their families and provide fur for cultural, economic, and utilitarian purposes, based wholly on luck and chance occurrences.

Harvesting these animals using snowmachines in the manner proposed, is an integral part of the local traditions and way of life for many. Because of this widespread use, acceptance, and virtual non-enforcement, it was only after a recent high profile case which involved enforcing the prohibition against pursuing a wolverine by snowmachine near Kivalina, that many local hunters were even aware such a prohibition existed.

It should be noted that federal law already accommodates the use of both boats and snowmachines under power to pursue marine mammals to position them for harvest in exactly the manner being proposed in this regulation change (e.g. the traditional and well documented beluga **drives**). While the legal authorities governing the harvest for marine and terrestrial animals may be different, the differing allowable methods have arguably more to do with a sporting legacy heavily influencing terrestrial hunting regulations than anything else. For the people living in the region and subsisting off of the wildlife resources, there is no ethical or morale distinction made between the harvest of marine and terrestrial resources, or the methods used to do so, as long as it is done in a non-wasteful manner. This is not only borne out in the local cultural record going back generations, but also demonstrated in the resolutions, comments, and broad community support referred to above during the recent BOG regulation change process. Imposing western cultural values (i.e. fair chase) as a substitute for traditional cultural values is at the heart of the issue being discussed.

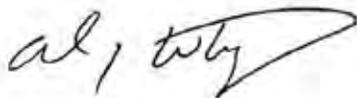
One of the ethical issues related to the proposal, where there is likely some cross cultural understanding, is in regards to the notion that animals should be killed in a non-wasteful manner, with the least amount of pain and suffering. The use of a snowmachine to get within range of fleeing caribou, wolves, and wolverines, allows for precise shot placement (back of the head shot) which kills the animal instantly and minimizes unnecessary suffering, waste of meat, and fur. This is the cleanest, least wasteful, most humane method of killing an animal with a rifle (e.g. beef ranchers dispatch cattle with head shots and not in the shoulder) and when possible is the preferred customary shot placement in the region for these reasons.

Allowing for the pursuit of these species with a snowmachine across the entire GMU 23 will also benefit wildlife enforcement officers by eliminating complicated in the field land status determinations on the borderlands and by getting rid of two sets of opposing rules for the same hunter on the same hunt. As detailed in the comments and testimony submitted to the State, it is the belief by both the supporters of the regulation change and the wildlife managers consulted, that since this widespread common practice has been occurring all along (albeit outside of the regulatory structure), that there would not be a notable affect to wildlife populations and other users if it was an allowable method in the federal subsistence wildlife regulations. That is, the same people that currently hunt in this manner would continue to do so (only without the threat of prosecution), and for those that hunt under the western sporting ethic, this should not change their behavior either.

By satisfactorily addressing a longstanding conflict between regulatory prohibitions and common local practices, integrity will be increased in the federal management system, demonstrating to local people that the system is responsive to their needs and cultural perspectives, increasing the likelihood that future federal management strategies and goals that require the cooperation of the local people will more likely succeed.

It is hard to overstate the justness of allowing people to support their families without forcing them to break the law to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.



Alex Whiting  
Environmental Specialist



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

*Dates for taking of Cows: No taking of all females from April 1-June 30; no harvesting of cows with calves starting July 1-October 10*

Female cows should carry to full-term to ensure that no interference or harassment takes place during gestation and that they are protected during that crucial first year to increase calf survival rates. Great care should be taken in the protection of cows, as calves separated from the mother often do not survive. The Council believes the ability to harvest a cow without a calf after July 1 provides an opportunity to harvest meat while engaging in other subsistence activities such as berry picking.

*Prohibition on the taking of calves*

We are intent on protecting calves and their survival is especially crucial during this decline.

*Close taking of bulls: October 10-Jan. 31; open Feb. 1*

Caribou meat is not ideal after the first of October, once the bulls go into rut. Taking a bull caribou once it has gone into rut should be considered wanton waste, as the meat is not salvageable as food. At that point, the only purpose it serves is a trophy. Those large bulls should not be taken simply for trophy antlers when the resource is in such high decline.

*Reduction of take from 15 to 5 per day*

The Council believes measures must be taken to protect the resource for future sustainability. Caribou is a vital resource for the Northwest Arctic region and conservation efforts must be put into place for all users to ensure our future generations are able to harvest our main resource which is central to our physical, spiritual, and cultural well-being.

## WP16-50

### 2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal

Name: Northwest Arctic Subsistence RAC

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd, MS 121 Anchorage 99503 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 907-786-3885 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: 907- \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit proposals by  
March 25, 2015

- ▶ **By mail or hand delivery**  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121  
Anchorage, AK 99503
  - ▶ **At any Federal Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council meeting**
  - ▶ **On the Web at**  
<http://www.regulations.gov>
- Questions?**  
Call: (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888

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

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

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

**Closure Location:** Unit 23 – Cape Krusenstern National Monument (CAKR) - Muskox

**Current Federal Regulation**

#### **Unit 23 - Muskox**

*Unit 23 - Cape Krusenstern National Monument – 1 Aug. 1 – Mar. 15  
bull by Federal registration permit (FX2303).  
Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will  
be announced by the Superintendent of Western  
Arctic National Parklands. Cape Krusenstern  
National Monument is closed to the taking of  
muskoxen, except by resident zone community  
members with permanent residence within the  
Monument or the immediate adjacent Napaktuktuk  
Mountain area, south of latitude 67°05'N and west  
of longitude 162°30'W hunting under these  
regulations.*

**Closure Dates:** Aug. 1 – Mar. 15.

2. How should the new regulation read?

#### **Unit 23 - Muskox**

*Unit 23 - Cape Krusenstern National Monument – 1 Aug. 1 – Mar. 15*

*bull by Federal registration permit (FX2303). Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands. Cape Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the taking of muskoxen, except by resident zone community members with permanent residence within the Monument or the immediate adjacent Napaktuktuk Mountain area, south of latitude 67°05'N and west of longitude 162°30'W hunting under these regulations.*

**Closure Dates:** Aug. 1 – Mar. 15.

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

This proposed change expands the pool of Federally qualified users while maintaining the closure to non-Federally qualified users until a sustainable population exists.

WP16-51

**2016-2018 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposal**

Name: Northwest Arctic Subsistence RAC

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1011 E. Tudor Rd. MS 121 Anchorage 99503 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 907-786-3885 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: 907- \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit proposals by  
March 25, 2015**

► **By mail or hand delivery**  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121  
Anchorage, AK 99503

► **At any Federal Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council meeting**

► **On the Web at**  
<http://www.regulations.gov>

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

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

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

Muskox

1. **What regulation do you wish to change?**

Unit 23 – Muskox

**Current Federal Regulation**

**Unit 23 - Muskox**

<i>Unit 23 Remainder</i>	<i>No Federal Open Season</i>
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2. **How should the new regulation read?**

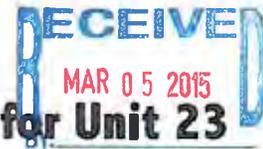
**Unit 23 - Muskox**

<i>Unit 23—that portion north and west of Kobuk River Drainage—I hunt by Federal Registration Permit.</i>	<i>Aug. 1 – Mar. 15</i>
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3. **Why should this regulation change be made?**

To improve management and simplify regulations to parallel with State regulation, and to provide for a Federal opportunity on Federal public lands where none currently exists.

WP16-52



## Federal Caribou Regulation Proposal for Unit 23



**Name: Glenn A. Miller**

**Date: 02/23/2015**

**Organization: Upper and Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee**

**Address: PO Box 133, Kiana, Alaska 99749**

**Phone: 1-907-475-2173**

**E-Mail: [glennemma2@hotmail.com](mailto:glennemma2@hotmail.com)**

**Proposal Objective: Reduce Caribou Hunting Bag Limit In Unit 23 From 15 Caribou Per Day To 7 Caribou Per Day.**

**Current Regulation: 50 CFR 100.26 (n) (23) (iv)**

<p><b>CARIBOU</b>  <b>Unit 23-Residents of Units 21D(West of Koyukuk and Yukon rivers), Galena 22, 23,24(including residents of Wiseman , but not other residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area) and 26A.</b></p>	<p><b>15 caribou Per Day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30</b></p>	<p><b>July 1-June 30</b></p>
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<p><b>CARIBOU</b>  <b>Unit 23 – Residents of Units 21D(West of Koyukuk and Yukon rivers), Galena 22,23,24(including residents of Wiseman ,but not other residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area) and 26 A.</b></p>	<p><b>7 caribou per day ; however , cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30</b></p>	<p><b>July1-June 30</b></p>
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**Proposal Change To Federal Caribou Regulation For Unit 23: 50 CFR 100.26 (n) (23) (iv)**

**Rationale: With the understanding of a declining caribou herd due to a confluence of factors that are both within our control and not, (i.e.) predator population problems,**

**members of the Upper and Lower Kobuk Fish and Game Advisory Committees with the continued advice and shared data from our Regional Biologist Mr. Jim Dau realize that we must be pro-active with solutions to improve the sustainability of our most important natural resource of the Inupiaq People of the Northwest Arctic Region, Caribou!**

**Thus, the Advisory Committees of the Upper and Lower Kobuk is proposing to limit the number of caribou per day in unit 23 from 15 to 7 in order to improve population numbers and avoid a potential crisis in the Northwest Arctic Caribou herd that is of utmost importance to the survival of the people of our region.**

**Outcome: With a reduction in Federal Caribou Harvest during season and closer alignment with the State Caribou Regulation in Unit 23, we believe that this reduction in allowable caribou harvest at the Federal level will translate over time to an increase and stabilization in the caribou population of the Northwest Arctic Caribou herd.**

**In Closing: With significant declines in caribou numbers within the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd due to predator impact, changing weather conditions, and other variables it is important that we work together at the local, state, and federal levels to create sustainability of this important natural resource that is critical to the survival of the Inupiat people as an indigenous subsistence food source in our region of the Northwest Arctic of Alaska.**

WP16-53

Wildlife Regulatory Proposal Change Request for 2016-2018 to close the Federal sheep seasons for the hunt areas of the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains in GMU 23 and adjust the harvest limits.

Name: Kenneth L. Adkisson

Organization: Western Arctic National Parklands

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

Telephone Number: (907) 443-6104

Proposed Change: Revise the harvest limits and close the Federal seasons for sheep in the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains hunt areas of GMU 23.

Existing Regulation:

Unit 23 – Sheep 50 CFR 100 .26(n)(23)(iv)

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season
<p>• Residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.</p> <p><i>Federal permits for the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains sheep hunts are available from the local Federal land manager listed in the directory at the end of this book.</i></p>	<p>Unit 23 south of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2301). The total allowable harvest of sheep is 21, of which 15 may be rams and 6 may be ewes.</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of sheep except by Federally qualified subsistence users.</i></p> <p>Unit 23 north of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniuk River (DeLong Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2304). The total allowable harvest of sheep for the DeLong Mountains is 8, of which 5 may be rams and 3 may be ewes.</p>	<p>Aug. 10 - Apr 30</p> <p><i>If the allowable harvest levels are reached before the regular season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands will announce an early closure.</i></p> <p>Aug. 10 – Apr. 30</p> <p><i>If the allowable harvest levels are reached before the regular season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands will announce an early closure.</i></p>

2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

Northwest Arctic

Proposed Regulation:

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season
<p>• Residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.</p> <p><i>Federal permits for the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains sheep hunts are available from the local Federal land manager listed in the directory at the end of this book.</i></p>	<p>Unit 23 south of Rabbit Creek, <b>Kiyak [KYAK]</b> Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2301). <b>Harvest quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands.</b> [THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF SHEEP IS 21, OF WHICH 15 MAY BE RAMS AND 6 MAY BE EWES]</p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of sheep except by Federally qualified subsistence users</i></p> <p>Unit 23 north of Rabbit Creek, <b>Kiyak [KYAK]</b> Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniuk River (DeLong Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2304). <b>Harvest quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands.</b> [THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF SHEEP FOR THE DELONG MOUNTAINS IS 8, OF WHICH 5 MAY BE RAMS AND 3 MAY BE EWES.]</p>	<p><b><u>No Open Federal Season</u></b></p> <p>[AUG. 10 – APR. 30]</p> <p><i>[IF THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST LEVELS ARE REACHED BEFORE THE REGULAR SEASON CLOSING DATE, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS WILL ANNOUNCE AN EARLY CLOSURE.]</i></p> <p><b><u>No Open Federal Season</u></b></p> <p>[AUG. 10 – APR. 30]</p> <p><i>[IF THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST LEVELS ARE REACHED BEFORE THE REGULAR SEASON CLOSING DATE, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS WILL ANNOUNCE AN EARLY CLOSURE.]</i></p>

Why is the change necessary? These changes are necessary for the following reasons: 1) they respond to conservation concerns for sheep in GMU2s 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River; 2) they reduce hunter confusion across differing

management authorities by better aligning Federal and State regulations; and 3) they better reflect the biological situation while providing flexibility for incrementally increasing harvest opportunity as the sheep population recovers.

#### Conservation Concerns:

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

#### Reduce Regulatory Confusion:

In March of 2015, the Alaska Board of Game adopted new regulations closing all state general season and registration subsistence hunts for sheep in GMU 23. Unless, the Federal regulations are changed accordingly, this will result in a significant difference in State and Federal regulations that will contribute to hunter confusion as well as likely require a series of Federal Special Actions in order to prevent an overharvest of sheep. Dual management is a reality in GMU 23 and total allowable harvest quotas are often shared between the State and Federal systems. While GMU 23 contains large blocks of Federal public lands, there are also significant areas of State managed lands as well including some private lands within some of the conservation system units.

#### Increase Management Flexibility:

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

#### Additional information:

National Park Service staff plan on monitoring the Western Baird Mountains hunt area annually and using it as an index for the other adjacent hunt areas. The National Park Service also plans to increase its biological survey efforts in the adjacent hunt areas depending on the availability of funding.

WP16-54

Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulatory Proposal Change Request for 2016-2018 – to partition the sheep hunt area in GMU 23 Remainder (Schwatzka Mountains) into two hunt areas and adjust season and harvest limits to respond to the significant decline in the sheep population

Name: Kenneth L. Adkisson

Organization: Western Arctic National Parklands

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

Telephone Number: (907) 443-6104

Proposed Changes: Split the Sheep hunt area within GMU 23 currently designated as “Unit 23 Remainder (Schwatzka Mountains)” into two areas by establishing a new hunt area identified as “Unit 23 Remainder (Schwatzka Mountains) - that portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park”; and revising the harvest limits and seasons.

Existing Regulation:

Unit 23 – Sheep 50 CFR 100 .26(n)(23)(iv)

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season
• Residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.  <i>Federal permits for the Baird Mountains and Delong Mountains sheep hunts are available from the local Federal land manager listed in the directory at the end of this book</i>	Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains)—1 ram with ¾ curl horn or larger	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20
	Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains)—1 Sheep	Oct. 1 - Apr. 30

Proposed regulation:

Unit 23-Sheep

• Residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.  <i>Federal permits for the Baird Mountains and Delong Mountains sheep hunts are available from the local Federal land manager listed in the directory at the end of this book</i>	Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains), <b><u>that portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park</u></b> —1 ram with ¾ curl horn or larger	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20
	Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains), <b><u>that portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park</u></b> —1 Sheep	Oct. 1 - Apr. 30
	<b><u>Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains) except for that portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park – 1 Sheep by Federal permit. Annual harvest quotas will be announced by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands.</u></b>	<b><u>No Open Federal Season</u></b>

Why is the change necessary? These changes are necessary for the following reasons: 1) they respond to conservation concerns for sheep in GMU 23 Remainder; 2) they improve Federal management by addressing the complex biological and jurisdictional situation in the Schwatka Mountains hunt area.

#### Conservation Concerns:

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

#### Schwatka Mountains Hunt Area Management:

The Schwatka Mountains hunt area poses a unique set of management challenges for federal managers. Biologists tend to view the sheep in the overall region as comprised of three relatively distinct geographical groupings: 1) in the DeLong Mountains in Units 23 and 26A in the area west of Howard Pass north of the Noatak River and Kiyak Creek including the Wulik Peaks; 2) in the Baird Mountains in Unit 23 in the area south and east of the Noatak River and west of the Cutler and Redstone rivers; and 3) in the Schwatka Mountains in Units 23 (the area east of Howard Pass and the Cutler and Redstone rivers). Managers tend to believe that exchanges of sheep between these three populations are likely minimal resulting in separate management strategies for each area. The same biologists generally regard the sheep in the Schwatka Mountains as more aligned with sheep in the Central Brooks Range than with those in the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains hunt areas. In terms of managing the Schwatka Mountains hunt area, there currently appears to be overlapping management interests between Regions 3 and 5 on the State side, and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Western Arctic National Parklands on the federal side. This proposal would address the federal side clarifying management responsibility. It would also better align management with potential hunting pressure on the sheep. The only sheep hunting currently allowed within the Gates of the Arctic National Park portion of Unit 23 Remainder is limited to residents of the communities of Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk; thus potential harvests in that hunt area will likely remain low. By contrast, the Noatak National Preserve portion of Unit 23 Remainder has a much larger pool of potentially eligible hunters under federal subsistence regulations – all the residents in Unit 23 north of the arctic circle and the residents of Point Lay in GMU 26A. This also includes the regional hub community of Kotzebue. Given the potential demand for sheep hunting in the Noatak National Preserve portion of Unit 23 Remainder (Schwatka Mountains) hunt area under an open season or more liberal harvest limit scenarios when the adjacent hunt areas of the DeLong Mountains and Baird Mountains hunt areas are closed or under more restrictive harvest limits could result in excessive hunting pressure put on the sheep in the Noatak National Preserve portion of Unit 23 Remainder. This proposal addresses that concern by aligning management of the Noatak National Preserve portion of Unit 23 Remainder with the management of the adjacent Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains hunt areas. Overall, this proposal will enhance Federal coordination of management decision making with that of the ADF&G.

#### Additional information:

National Park Service staff plan on monitoring the Western Baird Mountains hunt area annually and using it as an index for the other adjacent hunt areas, coordinating survey efforts with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The National Park

## 2016–2018 Wildlife Proposals

### Northwest Arctic

Service also plans to increase its biological survey efforts in the adjacent hunt areas depending on the availability of funding and interagency resources for cooperative, interagency surveys.

## WP16-55

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board****Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**Date:** March 5, 2015**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management**Address:** 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator**Phone:** 907-786-3358**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?** Trapping regulations for coyote in Unit 25.**Existing Trapping Regulation: Unit 25 – Coyote**

<i>Coyote: No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31.</i>
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**Proposed Trapping Regulation: Unit 25 – Coyote**

<i>Coyote: No limit</i>	<i><del>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31</del> October 1 - Apr. 30</i>
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**Why the regulation should be changed?** Changing the coyote trapping season in Unit 25 to October 1 – April 30 would align the coyote trapping season with the wolf trapping season currently in Federal regulation for Unit 25. Extending the coyote season to April 30 would also coincide with the current closing date for the *hunting* of coyote under Federal regulations in Unit 25. This proposed season change would provide more opportunity for subsistence trappers and simplify regulations by aligning the coyote trapping season with the current federal trapping season for wolf in Unit 25. The Council notes that coyote are abundant and increasing in the region.

WP16-56

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 5, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?** Hunting regulations for beaver in Unit 25.

**Existing Hunting Regulation: Unit 25 – Beaver**

<i>Beaver:</i>	
<i>Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D—1 beaver per day; 1 in possession</i>	<i>Apr. 16 - Oct. 31.</i>
<i>Unit 25C</i>	<i>No open season.</i>

**Proposed Hunting Regulation: Unit 25 – Beaver**

<i>Beaver:</i>	
<i>Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D—1 beaver per day; 1 in possession No limit</i>	<i>Apr. 16 - <del>Oct. 31</del> June 10.</i>
<i>Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D—1 beaver per day; 1 in possession</i>	<i><del>Apr. 16</del> June 11 – Oct. 31</i>
<i>Unit 25C</i>	<i>No open season.</i>

**Why the regulation should be changed?** Changing the federal beaver hunting regulations in Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D to allow for no harvest limit from April 16<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> and then revert back to 1 beaver per day; 1 in possession June 11 – October 31 would align the Federal regulations with the State regulations. This regulation change will allow greater harvest opportunity for federal subsistence hunters in an area of abundant beaver and simplify regulations for Federal subsistence hunters in Unit 25.

**WP16-57****Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board****Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**Date:** March 5, 2015**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management**Address:** 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator**Phone:** 907-786-3358**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?** Trapping regulations for Lynx in Unit 25D**Existing Trapping Regulation: Unit 25 – Lynx**

<i>Lynx: No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - Feb. 28</i>
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**Proposed Trapping Regulation: Unit 25 – Lynx**

<i>Lynx: No Limit</i>	<i>November 1 – <del>Feb. 28</del> March 31</i>
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**Why the regulation should be changed?** Changing the Lynx trapping season to extend to March 31 would align the Lynx season with the current federal regulations for wolverine trapping season in Unit 25. Aligning the federal regulations for trapping of lynx and wolverine in Unit 25 would simplify the regulations for rural subsistence trappers and help avoid the potential circumstance of catching lynx out of season while targeting wolverine.

Council discussion with public attending from Fort Yukon (Walter Peter) highlighted that locally there most people do not start trapping until last week of November or first week of December because the fur is short and brown prior to that time and the lynx fur doesn't fully come into prime until later. The Council confirmed with public input that the prime fur conditions extend beyond the current trapping end date of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Weather typically remains very cold throughout the Month of March and fur is nice, thick and silver. Extending the season would allow more opportunity for local trappers and their family and community to trap lynx when their fur is on prime condition.

**WP16-58**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 5, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name:** Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?** Trapping regulations for wolverine in Unit 25C

**Existing Trapping Regulation: Unit 25C – Wolverine**

<i>Wolverine:</i>	
<i>Unit 25C—No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - Feb. 28.</i>
<i>Unit 25, remainder—No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31.</i>

**Proposed Trapping Regulation: Unit 25C – Wolverine**

<i>Wolverine:</i>	
<i>Unit 25C—No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - <del>Feb. 28.</del> March 31</i>
<i>Unit 25, remainder—No limit</i>	<i>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31.</i>

**Why the regulation should be changed?** Extending the current federal wolverine trapping season in Unit 25C to March 31 would align Unit 25C with the federal trapping season for wolverine in the rest of Unit 25, remainder; thereby reducing confusion and increasing opportunity for rural residents trapping throughout federal lands in Unit 25.

**WP16-59****From: Paul Shewfelt, Fort Yukon, Alaska****Phone: 907-662-3071****Email: citymanger@fortyukon.us****1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

<i>Unit 25D remainder</i>	<i>Moose</i>	<i>Season: Aug. 25–Oct. 1</i>
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**2: How would the new regulation read?**

<i>Unit 25D remainder</i>	<i>Moose</i>	<i>Season: <del>Aug. 25–Oct 1</del> <u>Sept. 10–Oct. 1</u></i>
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**3: Why should this regulation change be made?**

Due to the decline of Yukon River king salmon, residents of the Yukon Flats area must wait for the fall chum salmon run to meet their salmon needs. Currently the Unit 25A remainder open season date for federal subsistence moose hunting conflicts with the arrival of the fall chum run. Changing the federal open season date for subsistence moose hunting in Unit 25D remainder from August 25 to September 10 will provide subsistence users the time they need to harvest salmon for their families when they are plentiful in the river. It will also alleviate confusion for all users by having the federal and state moose hunting seasons open on the same date. A common opening date is especially helpful due to the checkerboard nature of federal, state, and private land in the Yukon Flats area

**4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations? None.****5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?**

This change will allow subsistence users the time they need to harvest fall chum salmon and alleviate confusion when it comes time to hunt for their moose.

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

None.

WP16-60

Date Posted [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): 19Mar2015

From: Upper Tanana–Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Tok, Alaska  
 1300 College Rd; Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 459-7263

**1: What Regulation do you wish to change?**

Allow all hunters with a C&T for Chisana Caribou to participate in the Chisana Caribou Hunt and issue an unlimited number of Chisana (FC1205) permits (currently limited to 18 total permits that are allocated among qualified communities).

<p><i>Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border</i></p>	<p><i>Caribou</i></p>	<p><i>1 bull by Federal registration permit (FC1205) only.</i></p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, Tok, Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46), and that portion of Unit 12 east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.</i></p>
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**2: How would the new regulation read?**

<p><i>Unit 12—that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border</i></p>	<p><i>Caribou</i></p>	<p><i>1 bull by Federal registration permit (FC1205) only.</i></p> <p><i>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin, Tok, Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46), and that portion of Unit 12 east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.</i></p>
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**3: Why should this regulation change be made?**

This hunt has been open for 3 years now and the hunt has been under subscribed (less than 18 permits issued, only 7-8 hunters hunting and only 2-3 caribou harvested, *see Table 1 below*) in all years. Based on this information, and with an annual quota of 7 bulls, it is clear that there is no reason to exclude anyone that has a C&T from hunting this herd, and no reason to limit the

number of permits issued for this hunt. This herd is extremely remote and logistically very difficult to access. These changes are unlikely to have any effect on total annual harvest, but will eliminate restrictions that have been proven to be unnecessary.

Table 1. Chisana Caribou Hunt (FC1205) Summary 2012–2014 (from WRST Spring 2015 Subsistence Report).

	2012	2013	2014
Permits Issued	9	9	11
Individuals Hunting	8	7	7
Animals Harvested	2	3	2
Success Rate (%)	25.0	42.9	28.6

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

None. These changes are unlikely to have any effect on total annual harvest

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

Will eliminate restrictions that have been proven to be unnecessary and will increase opportunity for those currently excluded from this hunt.

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

None.

**WP16-61**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 19, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name/Organization:**

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Existing Regulation:**

**Unit 23 – Caribou**

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

**Unit 23 – Caribou**

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

**Why the regulation should be changed?**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:**

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

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

**WP16-62**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 19, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name/Organization:**

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Existing Regulation:**

**Unit 24 – Caribou**

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

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

**Unit 24B remainder and Unit 24A – Caribou**

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

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

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

**Why the regulation should be changed?**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:**

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

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

**WP16-63**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 19, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name/Organization:**

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Existing Regulation:**

**Unit 26A – Caribou**

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

**Unit 26A – Caribou**

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

**Why the regulation should be changed?**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:**

To reverse the declining population trend of the Teshekpuk Herd.

**Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:**

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

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

**WP16-64**

**Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board**

**Name:** North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Date:** March 19, 2015

**Organization:** Office of Subsistence Management

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

**Contact:** Eva Patton, Council Coordinator

**Phone:** 907-786-3358

**Name/Organization:**

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**Existing Regulation:**

**Unit 26B – Caribou**

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

**Unit 26B – Caribou**

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

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

**Why the regulation should be changed?**

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

**Impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife populations:**

To reverse the declining population trend of the Teshekpuk Herd.

**Impact of proposed regulation change to subsistence uses:**

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

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

## WP16-65

### 2016-2018 Federal Wildlife Regulatory Proposal

**Date:** March 24, 2015

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

**Address:** 101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 236, Fairbanks, AK 99701

**Phone:** 907-456-0250

**Fax:** 907-456-0428

**Email:** [brian\\_glaspell@fws.gov](mailto:brian_glaspell@fws.gov)

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

#### Unit 26 – Moose

*Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota is 5 moose. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 5 Federal registration permits will be issued. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under these regulations* Jul. 1-Jun. 30.

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

#### Unit 26 – Moose

*Units 26B, remainder and 26C—1 moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. The harvest quota ~~is 5 moose~~ will be announced annually by the Manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. You may not take a cow accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only 5 Federal registration permits will be issued. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under these regulations.* Jul. 1-Jun. 30.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WP16-66

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

Name: Kenneth L. Adkisson

Organization: Western Arctic National Parklands

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

Telephone Number: (907) 443-6104

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

Existing Regulation:

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

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

Proposed Regulation:

Customary & Traditional Use Determination	Harvest Limits	Open Season

<p>• Unit 26A-Residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope</p>	<p>Unit 26A-that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) — 1 sheep by Federal registration permit (FS2607). <b>Harvest quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands.</b> [THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF SHEEP IS 8,OF WHICH 5 MAY BE RAMS AND 3 MAY BE EWES ]</p>	<p><b>No Open Federal Season</b></p> <p>[AUG. 10 - APR. 30]</p> <p><i>[IF THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST LEVELS ARE REACHED BEFORE THE REGULAR SEASON CLOSING DATE, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS WILL ANNOUNCE EARLY CLOSURE.]</i></p>
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Why is the change necessary? These changes are necessary for the following reasons: 1) they respond to conservation concerns for sheep in GMUs 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River; 2) they reduce hunter confusion across differing management authorities by better aligning Federal and State regulations; and 3) they better reflect the biological situation while providing flexibility for incrementally increasing harvest opportunity as the sheep population recovers.

Conservation Concerns:

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

Reduce Regulatory Confusion:

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

Increase Management flexibility:

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

Additional information:

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





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