

To submit a Special Action request, please provide the following information:

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
1011 E. Tudor Rd. M/S 121 Anchorage, AK 99503

Describe the action you are requesting. Reference the current regulations you wish to change.

The closure of Federal public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally qualified users for August and September, 2021 (see proposed regulations below).

Have there been unusual or significant changes in resource abundance or unusual conditions affecting harvest opportunities that could not reasonably have been anticipated and that potentially could have significant adverse effects on the health of fish and wildlife populations or subsistence users?

The Council is very concerned about the late migration of caribou through Unit 23 because local people rely upon caribou to meet their subsistence needs. The Council stated that the entire region except for Noatak could not harvest caribou in the fall because caribou had not migrated through their areas. During their meeting in early November 2020, Council members stated that caribou were just starting to trickle through Kiana and Ambler, although none had been seen in Selawik yet. Council members stated winter harvest may be possible, but is uncertain, and many local residents are stressed by empty freezers.

The Council is particularly concerned about the effect transporters and non-local hunters are having on the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and believe that transporter activity in Units 23 and 26A may be delaying caribou migration. The Council hopes this request would reduce aircraft traffic, creating an easier path for migrating caribou.

The Council also supports closing moose hunting to non-Federally qualified users because of declining moose populations.

Is the requested action needed to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of fish or wildlife, ensure continued viability of a fish or wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of fish or wildlife, or for public safety reasons?

Yes, the requested action is needed to continue subsistence uses of caribou and to ensure conservation of the moose population.

What are the extenuating circumstances that necessitate a regulatory change before the next regulatory review?

Caribou migration was delayed in 2019 and 2020, and the Council anticipates a delay in 2021 unless action is taken. When the migration is delayed, local subsistence users cannot harvest caribou in the fall, which greatly stresses local residents. Federally qualified subsistence users rely upon caribou to meet their subsistence needs.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

<i>Bulls may be harvested</i>	<i>July 1–June 30</i>
<i>Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14.</i>	<i>July 15–Apr. 30</i>

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

<i>Bulls may be harvested</i>	<i>July 1–June 30</i>
<i>Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14.</i>	<i>July 31–Mar. 31</i>

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23—Moose

Unit 23—that portion north and west of and including the Singoalik River drainage, and all lands draining into the Kukpuk and Ipewik Rivers—1 antlered bull. No person may take a calf. *July 1-Dec. 31.*

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—1 antlered bull. No person may take a calf. *Aug. 1-Dec. 31.*

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—Caribou

Unit 26A—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—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Calves may not be taken

Bulls may be harvested *July 1-Oct. 14.
Dec. 6-June 30.*

Cows may be harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16-Oct. 15 *July 16-Mar. 15.*

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Calves may not be taken

Bulls may be harvested

*July 1-Oct. 15.
Dec. 6-June 30.*

Up to 3 cows per day may be harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16-Oct. 15.

July 16-Mar. 15.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—Moose

Unit 26A—that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage—1 bull

Aug. 1-Sep. 14

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage—1 moose; however, you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Feb. 15-Apr. 15.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—that portion west of 156°00' W longitude excluding the Colville River drainage—1 moose, however, you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

July 1-Sep. 14.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A, remainder—1 bull

Aug. 1-Sep. 14.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.