

Use Area in Unit 23 to provide a consistent description with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

- Increased the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 23 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Established a muskox hunt for portions of Unit 23 (See Seward Peninsula Region above.)

Eastern Interior Region

Seven proposals affecting the Eastern Interior Region were acted on by the Board resulting in changes to the regulations found in § _____.25. The following Board actions affect the Eastern Interior Region and have been incorporated in this final rule:

- Permitted the use of boats and snowmachines to take caribou and moose in Unit 25 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Increased the size of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area to protect the opportunity for subsistence harvest.
- Changed the season for caribou in Unit 20(E) to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Lengthened the moose season and revised subarea boundaries for Units 20(E) and 25(B) to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Converted a November moose hunt to a registration hunt to aid in protecting the viability of the population.
- Closed the sheep season in a portion of Unit 25(A) where no subsistence hunting occurs.
- Established a beaver hunting season in a portion of Unit 25 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.

North Slope Region

Seven proposals affecting the North Slope Region were acted on by the Board resulting in changes to the regulations found in § xxx.24 and § xxx.25. The following Board actions affect the North Slope Region and have been incorporated in this final rule:

- Closed a portion of the Federal lands in Units 26(A) and 26(B) to caribou hunting by non-Federally qualified users in order to protect the opportunity for subsistence users to harvest caribou.
- Revised the seasons and harvest limits for brown bear in Unit 26 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Increased the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 26 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.
- Included Nuiqsut in the list of communities having a customary and traditional use determination for sheep in Unit 26(C).

- Established customary and traditional use determinations for muskox for communities in Units 26(A) and 26(B).

- Increased the hunting harvest limits for wolf and wolverine (two proposals) in Unit 26 to accommodate local customary and traditional use patterns.

Two additional items were also adopted. The first action rectified a customary and traditional use determination that had split the community of Chickaloon. The Board indicated that a community should be treated as a whole without regard for a line that happens to bisect that community. The Southcentral Regional Council supported this action. The second action confirmed a season opening in a portion of Denali National Park that had been instituted last year and was intended to continue in future years. This was also supported by the affected Regional Councils.

Conformance With Statutory and Regulatory Authorities

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that described four alternatives for developing a Federal Subsistence Management Program was distributed for public comment on October 7, 1991. That document described the major issues associated with Federal subsistence management as identified through public meetings, written comments and staff analysis and examined the environmental consequences of the four alternatives. Proposed regulations (Subparts A, B, and C) that would implement the preferred alternative were included in the DEIS as an appendix. The DEIS and the proposed administrative regulations presented a framework for an annual regulatory cycle regarding subsistence hunting and fishing regulations (Subpart D). The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published on February 28, 1992.

Based on the public comment received, the analysis contained in the FEIS, and the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Department of the Interior's Subsistence Policy Group, it was the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, to implement Alternative IV as identified in the DEIS and FEIS (Record of Decision on Subsistence Management for Federal Public Lands in Alaska (ROD), signed April 6, 1992). The DEIS and the selected alternative in the FEIS

defined the administrative framework of an annual regulatory cycle for subsistence hunting and fishing regulations. The final rule for Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subparts A, B, and C (57 FR 22940-22964, published May 29, 1992) implements the Federal Subsistence Management Program and includes a framework for an annual cycle for subsistence hunting and fishing regulations.

Compliance With Section 810 of ANILCA

The intent of all Federal subsistence regulations is to accord subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands a priority over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes, unless restriction is necessary to conserve healthy fish and wildlife populations. A Section 810 analysis was completed as part of the FEIS process. The final Section 810 analysis determination appears in the April 6, 1992, ROD which concluded that the Federal Subsistence Management Program, under Alternative IV with an annual process for setting hunting and fishing regulations, may have some local impacts on subsistence uses, but it does not appear that the program may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Paperwork Reduction Act

These rules contain information collection requirements subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520. They apply to the use of public lands in Alaska. The information collection requirements described above are approved by the OMB under 44 U.S.C. 3501 and have been assigned clearance number 1018-0075.

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average .1382 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to: Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 224 ARLSQ, Washington, D.C. 20240; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1018-0075), Washington, D.C. 20503. Additional information collection requirements may be imposed if Local Advisory Committees subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act are established under Subpart B. Such requirements will be submitted to OMB for approval prior to their implementation.

This rule was not subject to OMB review under Executive Order 12866.